

KILLYMALLAGHT ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Pre-application Community Consultation (PACC) Report



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1. Introduction

This Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) Report outlines how RES (the Applicant) has engaged with the local community to inform them about the proposed Killymallaght 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 Derry City and Strabane District Council (hereinafter referred to as DCS Council) 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 Proposed Development consists of an up to 50MW Battery Energy Storage System located on land close to Killymallaght substation, in the townland of Disertown, approximately 2.5km southeast of Newbuildings, Co. Derry/Londonderry.

The landholding on which the development is proposed is not expected to exceed 4 hectares and would comprise a number of battery storage enclosures and other associated infrastructure including an on-site substation.

The site lies outside of any international, national or local environmental designations.

2. The Applicant's Commitment to Consultation

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.

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 1st 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)' 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 DCS Council on 18th January 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 25th January 2024 the Applicant received a response stating that DCS Council 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 Faughan District Electoral Area (DEA) of DCS Council
- 129 local properties within 1km of the site
- Community groups within a minimum radius of 1km from site plus groups within Derry/Londonderry

4.2 Consultation

As set out in Section 3, the formal consultation began on 18th January 2024 when the PAN was issued to DCS Council. A combination of methods was used to inform the 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 prospective Applicant were not representations to the determining authority (DCS Council) 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 – 18th January 2024

The Applicant wrote to the Faughan DEA members to advise them that the Applicant was investigating the potential for an 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 – 25th January 2024

On 25th January 2024, a project website was launched at www.killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk containing information on the Proposed Development, details of the upcoming consultation activities 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 made, to include links to all planning application documentation.

4.2.3 Pre-Exhibition Advertising – 25th and 26th January 2024

The Applicant placed an advertisement which appeared in the Londonderry Sentinel on 25th January 2024 and in the Derry Journal on 26th January 2024 to help raise awareness of the upcoming public exhibition event. A copy of the advertisement can be found at **Appendix B**.

4.2.4 Community Pre-Exhibition Newsletter Mailing – 30th January 2024

On 30th January 2024 the Applicant sent a newsletter, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event, to 129 properties identified within 1km of the Proposed Development. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix C**.

4.2.5 Newsletter emailed to elected representatives – 6th February 2024

On 6th February 2024 the Applicant emailed a copy of the newsletter, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event, to Faughan DEA members.

4.2.6 Public Exhibition – 8th February 2024

The public exhibition took place on 8th February 2024 between 3pm and 7.30pm at Newbuildings Community Centre, 4 Duncastle Road, Newbuildings, Londonderry, BT47 2QS.



A total of 14 people attended the public exhibition and a copy of the information boards presented at the public exhibition can be found at **Appendix D**.

All of the information provided on the information boards at the public exhibition was also published on the project website at www.killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk from the date of the exhibition on 8th February 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 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 by email or by post. A copy of the comment form can be found at **Appendix E**.

The consultation period for feedback on the proposal ran from 8th February 2024 to 23rd February 2024. A total of 12 completed comment forms were received by the Applicant (in addition to other feedback received by email or post). A summary of the answers received to the closed questions on the comment form is provided in section 4.2.7.

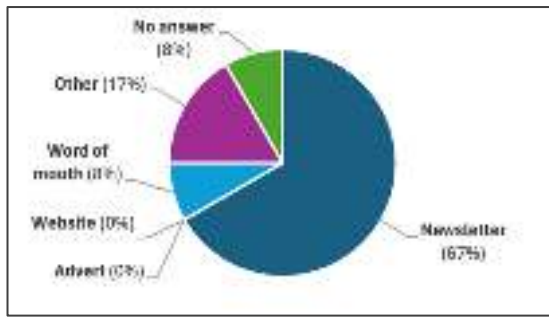
At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (DCS Council) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority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

4.2.6 Community Post-Exhibition Newsletter Mailing – 6th March 2024

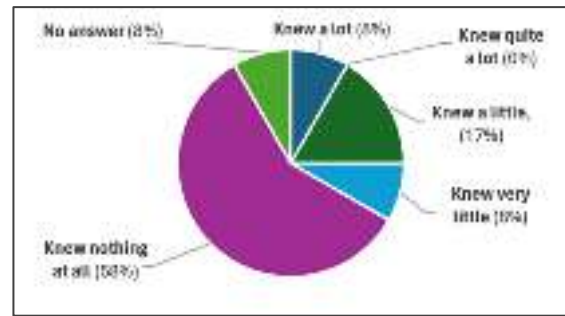
On 6th March 2024 the Applicant sent a post-exhibition newsletter, to 134 local properties as well as Faughan DEA members, responding to key questions, comments or concerns raised at the public exhibition. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix F**.

4.2.7 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment form

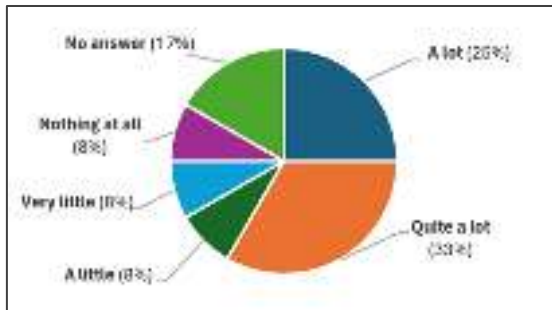
Q1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?



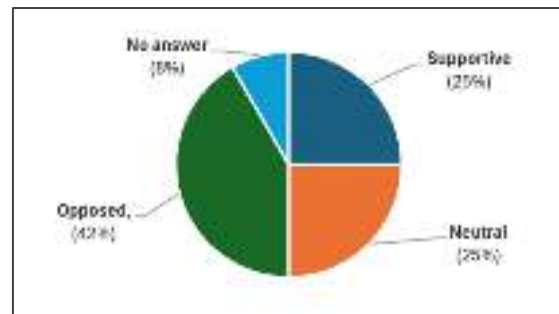
Q1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Killymallaght Energy Storage System?



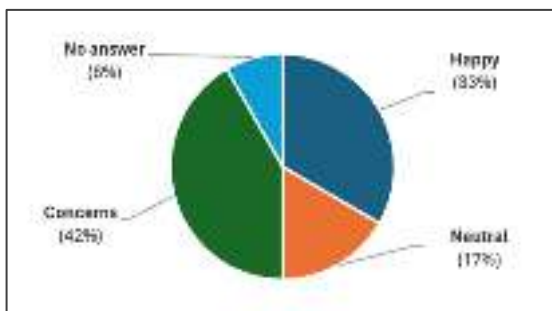
Q1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Killymallaght Energy Storage System?



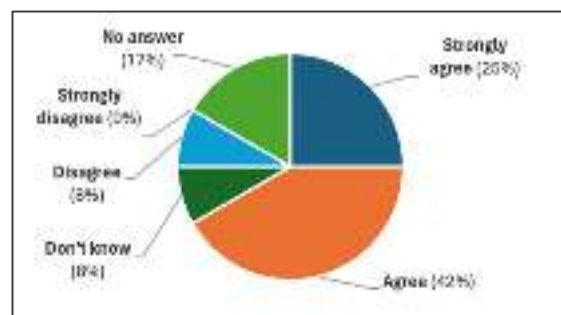
Q2.1 How do you feel in general about the Killymallaght Energy Storage System proposal?



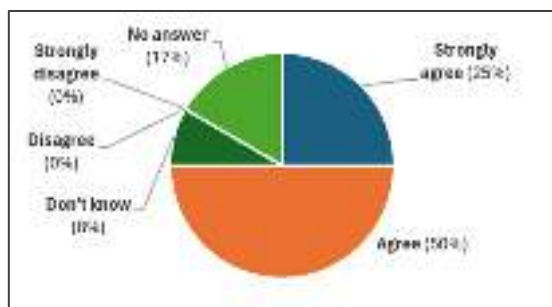
Q2.2 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of Killymallaght Energy Storage System?



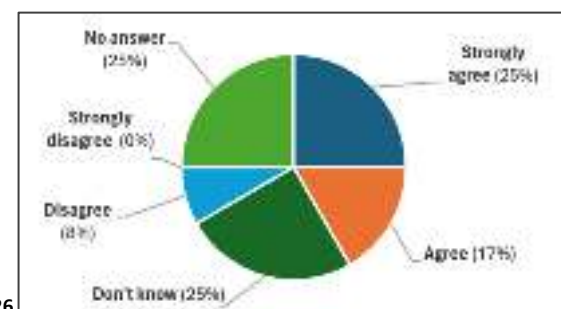
Q3.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?



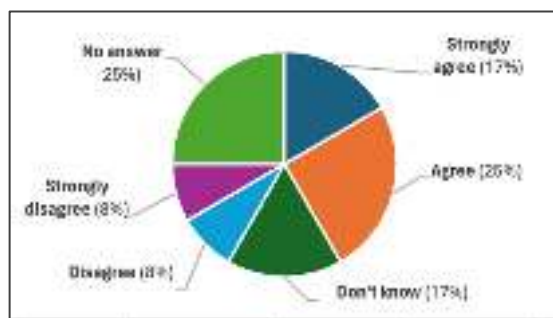
Q3.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?



Q3.3. Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources will provide greater energy independence and security for Northern Ireland?



Q3.4 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?



4.2.8 Other consultation responses

In addition to the feedback from the 12 comment forms, summarised above, the Applicant also received an additional 51 pieces of feedback during the consultation period, received by email or post. This feedback is summarised below in section 5. Most of this feedback (around 65%) comprised proformas and either opposed or raised concerns about the Proposed Development.

The applicant also received an enquiry from a local business regarding business opportunities in relation to the Proposed Development and with the Applicant generally. The Applicant is committed to ensuring that, wherever reasonably practical, local contractors are used in all aspects of the project development and the businesses contact details will be kept on file should a relevant opportunity arise on any of the Applicant's developments.

In addition to the consultation activities outlined above, the Applicant 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 activity was 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
- Project website information.

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.

A summary of the feedback received from both the 12 comment forms (excluding answers to the closed questions which are summarised in section 4.2.6 above), and the 51 pieces of additional feedback received by email or post, are summarised below together with the Applicant's response.

Sample of comments received	Applicant's Response to Issue/Concern
<p>Landscape and visual impact This topic received the most comments across the following main themes:</p> <p>General visibility: <i>“Visually this project will detract from what is a stunning and pleasant section of the countryside.”</i></p> <p>Screening: <i>“The screening of the site, with trees and vegetation, will take several years to mature.”</i></p> <p>Tourism: <i>“As you know Ireland (in a whole) is the number 1 destination for Americans and Canadians, who lavish on the wild views of unspoiled rolling countryside and tranquility”</i></p> <p>View from home: <i>“The fact that many of the properties in Curryfree look down on the site will mean that the battery storage enclosures and substation buildings will be clearly visible.”</i></p>	<p>The 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. A detailed landscape proposal is included in the LVA with measures which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing field boundary vegetation, such as hedgerows and hedgerow trees, would be retained and enhanced through additional planting and improved management to maximise their landscape (screening) and biodiversity benefits; • Planting along the length of the south-western boundary; • Re-siting of the proposed access track to accommodate earthworks and planting for screening; • The south-western edge of the site includes a substantial area of tree planting to create a shelter belt of trees and woodland which both contribute to the pattern of vegetation in the local landscape whilst also providing screening; • Earthworks proposals include the formation of a practical development platform which is lowered slightly into the contours of the site, resulting cut and fill can accommodate the creation of a screening bund to the south-east, east and northeast to provide screening. • Proposed scrub planting across the earth mounding to add further to screening whilst also contributing to biodiversity net gain; • Grassland areas will be subject to a programme of enhancement through seeding with appropriate grassland mixes, also contributing to biodiversity net gain. <p>The site of the Proposed Development is outside any ecological or landscape designations and is located a good distance from residential properties.</p>

<p>Location This topic received the second highest number of comments across the following main themes:</p> <p>Move next to substation: <i>“Should be positioned adjacent to substation.”</i></p> <p>Description of location: <i>“I would like to first of all point out that the name of the project ‘Killymallaght Energy Storage System Project’ is highly misleading as while it is storing energy from the power plant in Killymallaght, the proposed site of installation is neither on nor close to the townland of Killymallaght.”</i></p> <p>On arable land: <i>“Were other brown land, low productive farmland or less obtrusive sites considered and rejected?”</i></p> <p>Proximity to housing: <i>“Housing very close to proposed site.”</i></p> <p>Connection to generation: <i>“Why isn’t the project located at the windfarms”</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development has been specifically located as close as possible – approximately 500 metres - to the existing Killymallaght electrical substation. By locating the Proposed Development here, there is minimum requirement for additional overhead and/or underground cables to connect the Proposed Development to the grid network, therefore limiting any environmental impacts. At an earlier stage, the Applicant had explored the potential to site the Proposed Development on land directly adjacent to the substation. This land shows on DFI Flood Maps NI as having issues with surface and river waters, therefore, would not be viable for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Proposed Development, if consented, would be located on land currently used for livestock/grazing and would not pose a risk to food security. One of the biggest risks to food security is the changing climate. According to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), climate change could reduce the UK’s stock of high-grade agricultural land by nearly three-quarters by 2050. Energy storage schemes like the Proposed Development can enable and accelerate the rollout of renewable energy, directly tackling the effects of climate change.</p> <p>The site sits on agricultural land just off Trench Road near the necessary electrical infrastructure and sufficient distance from residential areas.</p> <p>Like most energy storage systems of this size, the Proposed Development would not be directly linked to an electricity generating station. The Proposed Development would be connected directly to the wider grid network and the frequency and timing of when the system charges and discharges is therefore dictated by the status of the grid network. The energy storage system will be utilised by National Grid to balance peaks and troughs in energy demand and generation.</p>
<p>Health and safety This topic received a medium to high number of comments across the following main themes:</p> <p>Fire risk: <i>“Given the substantial number of fires and explosions that are well documented worldwide from these battery systems. How exactly has this risk been mitigated?”</i></p> <p>Interference from batteries/cables: <i>“Will there be any interference from the batteries/buried cables?”</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Batteries will be specified to be tested and certified to UL 9540A, demonstrating resistance to thermal runaway. Successful testing in accordance with the current edition of U950A will show that, at a unit level following deliberate initiation of thermal runaway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No flaming outside the initiating battery rack observed. Surface temperatures of modules within the target battery rack adjacent to the initiating battery rack do not exceed the

<p>Pollution risk: “What is the risk of toxicity from the equipment?”</p>	<p>temperature at which thermally initiated cell venting occurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wall surface temperature rise does not exceed a specified temperature above ambient. • Explosion hazards are not observed during the test. <p>A number of mitigation measures will also be implemented to further reduce risk from fire. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment spacing • Protection systems • Access to battery enclosure • Access for emergency services. <p>A Fire Risk Statement accompanies the planning application which provides further information.</p> <p>Any equipment installed on a project in the UK will be required to conform to local regulations. Specifically, energy storage equipment will comply with the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive 2014/30/EU. The (EMC) Directive 2014/30/EU limits electromagnetic emissions from equipment to ensure that, when used as intended, such equipment does not disturb radio and telecommunication, as well as other equipment.</p> <p>The risk of pollution from the Proposed Development is very low and may only occur in the unlikely event of a fire. The Applicant is confident that the control measures in place reduces the risk of fire to very low.</p> <p>In the unlikely event of a fire, water would be applied to the adjacent battery enclosures (boundary cooling) rather than the damaged battery enclosure as such minimising any risk of polluted water run-off.</p> <p>A Construction Environmental Management Plan accompanies the planning application and outlines mitigation measure to control water and contaminants on site during the construction phase.</p>
<p>Noise There were a number of general concerns raised about the potential noise impact:</p> <p><i>“With my farm being situated in the close proximity of the site the noise pollution is of concern. The constant drone/whine of these battery units given the substantial number is going to mean that this carries a substantial distance.”</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The energy storage system has been designed to comply with strict noise limits set by the local authority, to ensure residential properties are not affected.</p> <p>A detailed Acoustic Assessment has been carried out, in conjunction with DCS Council’s Environmental Health team and accompanies the planning application. This assessment shows that during both</p>

	the daytime and night-time, the predicted impact is low at all houses. Therefore, no adverse impacts are predicted to occur at any time of day.
<p>Hydrology There were a number of comments regarding Hydrology across the following main themes:</p> <p>Drainage: <i>“At present this site has no run off drainage system installed.”</i></p> <p>Potential pollution to drinking water: <i>“Potential leakage/pollution will impact wildlife and farm animals and possibly tributaries to the Faughan River which supplies local drinking water.”</i></p>	<p>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 development. This assessment accompanies the planning application.</p> <p>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 two infiltration basins.</p> <p>Drainage measures have also been incorporated into the construction phase through a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure that the rate of run- off during construction will not increase any flood risk beyond the site boundary and to prevent any impact on any watercourses and private water supplies.</p>
<p>Environment There were a number of comments regarding potential impact on the environment across the following main themes:</p> <p>Wildlife: <i>“This project is certain to have a massive impact on the local wildlife. Has you Company done an accurate survey of the wildlife?”</i></p> <p>General concerns: <i>“How do RES propose to mitigate the environmental impact of all phases of the project from construction to being operational? What will be the environmental legacy?”</i></p>	<p>The Applicant takes the protection of the environment and surrounding area’s ecology seriously and an Ecological Impact Assessment forms part of the planning application to ensure that any potential impact on the environment and ecology is appropriately assessed and mitigated, where necessary.</p> <p>Through planting measures proposed as part of the Proposed Development, a biodiversity net gain (BNG) of 38.71% in habitat units can be achieved and a BNG in hedgerow units of 56.42%. The Proposed Development would also create watercourse units, a new habitat type for the application site. Whilst there is currently no legislation in Northern Ireland making Biodiversity Net Gain a mandatory requirement, this exceeds standards in other parts of the UK and is considered to be a significant increase in value of the site overall. Further information can be found in the Ecological Impact Assessment.</p>

<p>Needs case There were a number of comments regarding the needs case for the project:</p> <p>Energy storage: <i>“I would like to begin this letter by acknowledging that there is a need for green energy storage.”</i></p> <p>Renewables: <i>“I understand the need for renewable energy.”</i></p>	<p>Our energy system is in a transitional period.</p> <p>Ageing infrastructure is being replaced and greater flexibility introduced into our networks via technological advances, such as energy storage, to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century.</p> <p>Energy storage is crucial in enabling the rollout of zero carbon energy and supporting the UK’s net-zero emissions target. Renewable energy technologies are needed to replace electricity generation from fossil fuels, however, they can generate electricity intermittently depending on weather conditions, which can cause imbalances in the electricity network.</p> <p>Energy storage works by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and then releasing electricity back to the electricity network when demand exceeds generation. Energy storage is also considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply.</p>
<p>Traffic and Transport There were a number of comments regarding the needs case for the project:</p> <p>Access route suitability: <i>“The Trench Road is already an issue of concern with large concrete/oil lorries trying to avoid the congestion of the city – the road is not wide enough comfortably allow passing in over 75% of it and the increased construction traffic will only add to this problem.”</i></p> <p>Disruption: <i>“Traffic: Increased volume of HGV’s and machinery on an already overused road.”</i></p>	<p>Engineering assessments indicate that the proposed delivery route is suitable for the vehicles required during the construction phase of the Proposed Development, if it is consented.</p> <p>A Transport Statement accompanies the planning application and outlines details of the proposed transport management arrangements during the construction of the Proposed Development, and also provides details of transport movements during both construction and operation of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Throughout the anticipated 12-month 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 few months of construction with traffic during the remainder of the construction period generally limited to personnel getting to and from site.</p> <p>The Applicant understands cattle and farm workers cross the road on a regular basis and will liaise with any affected parties, prior to construction if the Proposed Development is consented, to ensure this is managed safely. The Applicant will also make every reasonable effort to ensure that there is no disruption to local services e.g., bin collections and school buses.</p>

	<p>There will be no vehicle movements on Sundays or bank holidays and deliveries, where possible, will be scheduled to avoid peak times where relevant, e.g. avoiding rush hours and after school drop off and pick up times.</p> <p>The Applicant does expect there to be any road closures related to the construction phase. Traffic management may be required for the grid connection.</p> <p>Operational traffic movements are generally low, on average once a month for maintenance purposes and site inspections. Active monitoring is carried out by the Operations & Maintenance team and site manager which can reduce site attendance through early fault detection.</p>
<p>Exhibition and consultation</p> <p>There were a number of comments received about the exhibition across the following main themes:</p> <p>Location description: <i>“In addition the scheme description does not accurately reflect the actual area where this industrial storage is to be facilitated.”</i></p> <p>Website information: <i>“The website does not provide much more relevant information or help.”</i></p> <p>Quality of maps: <i>“Your map of the location of the BESS units was very poor. The roads could almost not be seen on it, so it didn’t give a very clear indication of where you proposed it for.”</i></p> <p>Scale of proposal: <i>“I also note the absence of any size measurements of the proposed facility itself on the drawings provided.”</i></p> <p>Exhibition event: <i>“The man was very helpful.”</i></p> <p>Consultation process: <i>“what I would consider to be a substandard effort of consulting with the local community including that of Derry City.”</i></p> <p>Advertising: <i>“In relation to the latter, the correspondence was sent to residents at short notice regarding the planned public event on 8th February, with residents given little opportunity to attend.”</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development takes its name from and has been specifically located as close as possible – approximately 500 metres - to the existing Killymallaght electrical substation.</p> <p>The website information reflected that which was presented at the public exhibition, so that people could access the information online if preferred and in their own time.</p> <p>The two key maps presented at the public exhibition (and on the project website) comprised a high level ‘Location Plan’ which showed the development boundary in context with key local reference points as well as a more detailed ‘Preliminary Infrastructure Layout’ map (which included a ‘Site Location’ inset map). Both maps included local roads, however, people’s feedback on the need to see more detail regarding local roads is noted.</p> <p>The scale of the proposal was described in the public exhibition information as ‘not expected to exceed 4 hectares’ and demonstrated on the indicative Preliminary Infrastructure Layout’ map which showed 64 battery storage enclosures.</p> <p>The Applicant is pleased that the majority of people who answered the comment form question (1.4) ‘Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our exhibition?’ confirmed that they did not have any suggestions for improvements.</p> <p>With regards to the consultation process, the applicant has undertaken consultation in line with pre-application consultation requirements.</p> <p>The public exhibition event held met pre-application consultation requirements, however, feedback regarding the number of events is noted.</p>

<p>Number of events: <i>“May I suggest hosting another information evening to allow residents and other key stakeholders to get a better understanding of the proposed project in its’ entirety as sometimes I feel a lot of information is lost in translation.”</i></p>	
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6. Summary

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

The Applicant has engaged proactively on the proposal 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 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.

During the consultation period, 12 comment forms were submitted in addition to 51 pieces of feedback received by email or post (around 65% of this additional feedback comprised proformas). In total, feedback was received from 59 people (as 4 people submitted both comment forms and additional feedback by email or post).

Analysis of the comment forms from the public exhibition shows that 50% of respondents supported or were neutral to the Proposed Development, with 42% opposed and 8% not answering the question. The additional feedback received by email or post stated people’s opposition or concerns regarding the proposal.

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.killymallaght-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 DCS Council, 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 DCS Council’s Planning Department, should they wish to submit a formal representation.

Appendices

- Appendix A. Letter to stakeholders (January 2024)
- Appendix B. Public exhibition newspaper advert (January 2024)
- Appendix C. Public consultation newsletter (January 2024)
- Appendix D. Public exhibition information boards
- Appendix E. Public consultation comment form
- Appendix F. Project update newsletter (March 2024)

[REDACTED]

18th January 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

RE: Killymallaght Energy Storage System Proposal

I am writing to let you know that RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage project on land close to the Killymallaght substation, in the townland of Disertowen, approximately 2.5km southeast of Newbuildings, Co. Derry/Londonderry - please see enclosed plan.

RES is 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 23GW 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 the UK's net-zero emissions target.

At this early stage of the project, we have submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to Derry City and Strabane 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 Deeney
Development Project Manager
E: peter.deeney@res-group.com M: +44 7828 175520

NEWS

Almost 2,000 potholes & defects reports in 10 weeks

Brendan McDaid
 Brendan.McDaid@derryjournal.com

The wettest October in over 153 years and a funds deficit have had an impact on the state of the roads here, the Department for Infrastructure has said.

Department figures show there were over 570 public complaints/reports about potholes in Derry and Strabane from November 1 to January 10 - some of the complaints concerning the same areas. On top of this, DfI's own staff recorded 1,408 potholes and defect incidents on the network in that same 10 week period.

There have been growing concerns over the deteriorating state of many roads locally.

The SDLP's Mark H Durkan says that the failure to adequately address the growing number of potholes across the road network "is putting road users at risk of injury or worse".

Responding to data released earlier this week by CompareNI.com - which detailed a 9% increase in potholes across NI - the Foyle MLA said he has been "inundated with complaints and concerns" about various areas including Northland Rd, Victoria Rd and Buncrana Rd.

"We're talking about the main arterial routes into the city," he said.

Mr Durkan warned that "pothole clusters on roads that resemble the surface of the moon have become all too familiar, with that 'crater-effect',"



Mark H. Durkan.

can only repair those which

meet the requisite depth. DfI confirmed that pothole enquiries are initially

categorised and measured and, if this meets the intervention criteria, then the

category, depth dimension, traffic volume and environment are used to set a priority with respective target completion date.

A spokesperson told the Journal: "The estimated value of the shortfall in funding between what was needed to maintain the network and what was actually available to be spent between 2014 and 2023 is approximately £920m; it is readily apparent the difference in quality that should be expected when such a significant shortfall in maintenance spending occurs.

"NI experienced the wettest October in over 153 years of records which caused severe damage to some roads and we have been progressing repairs as quickly as possible subject to available resources."



Derry Well Women is a Health Centre for Women and Children.

Applicants are invited for the post Creche Leader

Creche Leader

30 hours per week/Funded to 31st October 2024

Starting Salary £20,695.20 including Pension

Essential Criteria:

- Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Children's Care, Learning and Development or evidence of being enrolled on Level 5.
- 2 years' experience of working with the age group 0-6 in a Play, Education or Youth Setting

Desirable

- Supervision of Staff
- Current Paediatric First Aid Certificate.
- Current training in Safeguarding Children
- Current Health and Safety Certificate
- Current Food Hygiene

Application Form, Job Description and Personnel Specification may be obtained from:

Oonagh Butler,
 Derry Well Women,
 17 Queen Street, Derry,
 BT48 7EQ

Telephone Number 02871360777 – email Oonagh@derrywellwoman.org

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 16th February 2024 at 12 Noon

Interviews will be held during week commencing Monday 19th February 2024

This position is supported by Children in Need and The Pathway Fund




Killymallaght Energy Storage System Public Exhibition



RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land close to the Killymallaght substation, in the townland of Disertowen, approximately 2.5km southeast of Newbuildings, Co. Derry/Londonderry.

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. RES staff will be on hand to answer any questions and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

Thursday 8th February 2024
 3pm to 7.30pm

Newbuildings Community Centre
 4 Duncastle Road, Newbuildings, Londonderry BT47 2QS

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at www.killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk from 8th February 2024.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. **Please provide feedback on the preliminary design by Friday 23rd February 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 at the public exhibition. Comment forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via post or email to carey.green@res-group.com. Hard copies can be sent by post to 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 (Derry City and Strabane Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

For more information, please visit our website at www.killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk

NEWS

NWRC work with Cork firm on productivity lift

Staff Reporter
news@londonderrysentinel.co.uk
northernirelandworld.com

Staff at North West Regional College's XR Hub in Londonderry have worked in partnership with Cork-based company Water Technology to help it become more productive and profitable.

The XR Hub team partnered with the firm to aid in the implementation and integration of a new Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) with the support of InterTradeIreland's Innovation Boost programme.

Jim Murray explained: "InterTradeIreland Innovation Boost Consultant Joe Kelleher contacted our Business Support Centre (BSC) about an exciting innovation project

with Water Technology and we met with Diarmaid Ryan to discuss the project which led to our application. With the support of Joe, we undertook the 12-month project and we gained an excellent candidate in Sarah Casey who quickly adapted to the role's challenges.

"With the support of NWRC and Water Technology, Sarah was able to implement new processes that connects departments and allows the sharing of information, managing of accounts and targeting new markets. The project also allowed NWRC to expand and apply its knowledge in IT and process improvement which it will share with its students."

Diarmaid Ryan, Head of Sales at Water Technology, added: "Thanks to this project, we have been able to map out business process flows and make improvements



NWRC XR Hub Manager Jim Murray with Water Technology and InterTradeIreland reps.

throughout the business. It has allowed our management team to become more

involved in active projects. "We have identified new opportunities and markets.

"We would not have achieved this without the support of NWRC and InterTradeIreland."

InterTradeIreland Innovation Boost Graduate Sarah Casey said: "I was delighted to have been chosen by Water Technology to deliver this project and I'm very grateful for the InterTradeIreland Innovation Boost programme and the collaboration with NWRC.

"The project has meant we now have a system that allows the company to connect to its various departments and provides accurate information that informs business decisions and increases productivity."

For more information on how the BSC can help your business, email businesssupport@nwrc.ac.uk



Protect the appliances that make your house a home

Cover available up to a maximum of £7,500



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Contact us: +44 20 4587 5280



Killymallaght Energy Storage System Public Exhibition



RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land close to the Killymallaght substation, in the townland of Disertowen, approximately 2.5km southeast of Newbuildings, Co. Derry/Londonderry.

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. RES staff will be on hand to answer any questions and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

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All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at www.killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk from 8th February 2024.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. Please provide feedback on the preliminary design by Friday 23rd February 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 at the public exhibition. Comment forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via post or email to carey.green@res-group.com. Hard copies can be sent by post to 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 (Derry City and Strabane Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

For more information, please visit our website at www.killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk

KILLYMALLAGHT ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

JANUARY 2024



RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land close to the Killymallaght substation, in the townland of Disertowen, approximately 2.5km southeast of Newbuildings, Co. Derry/Londonderry.

Environmental and technical surveys will be completed over the coming months to ensure any impact of the development upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated and to inform a preliminary layout and design.

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.

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.

RES staff will be on hand to answer any questions or for more information, and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

Thursday 8th February 2024

3pm to 7.30pm

**Newbuildings Community Centre
4 Duncastle Road, Newbuildings,
Londonderry BT47 2QS**



All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at www.killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk from 8th February 2024.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. **Please provide feedback on the preliminary design by Friday 23rd February 2024.**

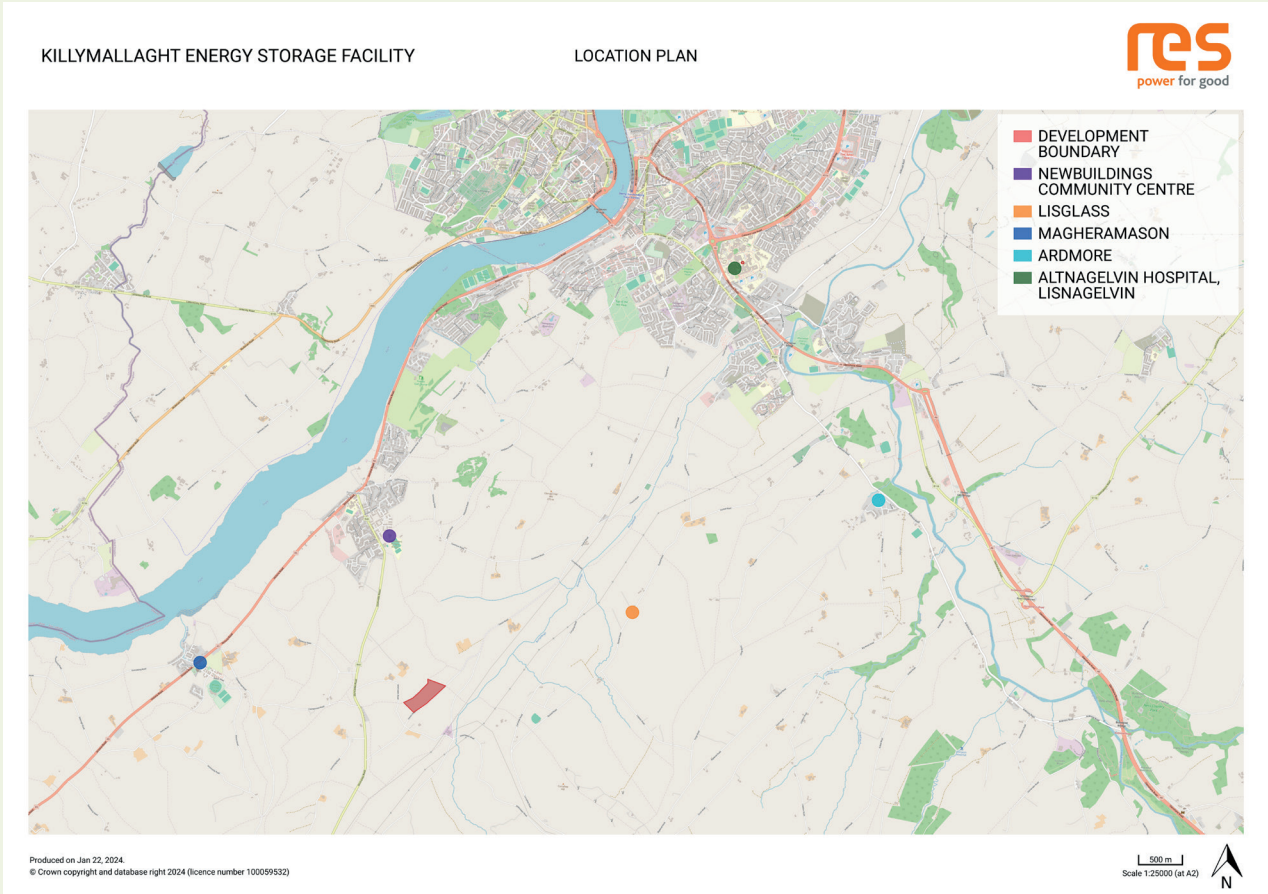
Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development. Comments forms will be available at the public exhibition. Comment forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via post or email to carey.green@res-group.com. Hard copies can be sent by post to 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 (Derry City and Strabane Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

Killymallaght Energy Storage System at a Glance

The Killymallaght Energy Storage System would comprise a number of battery storage enclosures and other associated infrastructure including an on-site substation. Killymallaght 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 Killymallaght 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.



ABOUT RES

RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company with operations across Europe, the Americas and Australia. At the forefront of renewable energy development for over 40 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 23GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide.

RES is committed to improving everyday life and long-term futures. We are driven by our vision to create a future where everyone has access to affordable zero-carbon energy.

Across the UK and Ireland, RES has developed over 700MW of energy storage projects including the development and construction of the 50MW Gorman Energy Storage project in Co. Meath



Peter Deeney
Development Project Manager
✉ peter.deeney@res-group.com
☎ 07828 175 520



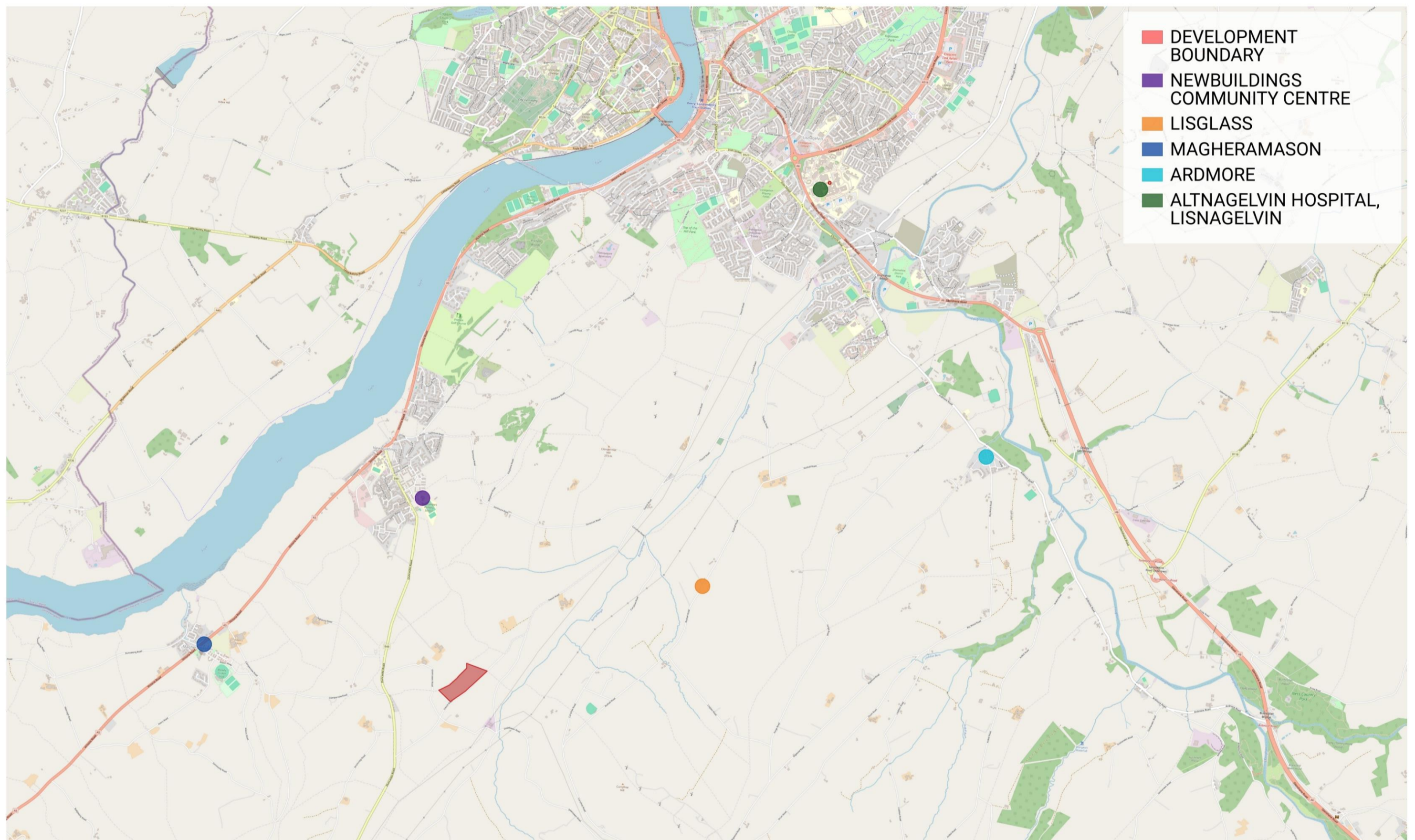
Carey Green
Community Relations Manager
✉ carey.green@res-group.com
☎ 01872 226 931

About the Project

RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage project on land close to the Killymallaght substation, in the townland of Disertowen, approximately 2.5km southeast of Newbuildings, Co. Derry/Londonderry.

KILLYMALLAGHT ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY

LOCATION PLAN



Produced on Jan 22, 2024.
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500 m
Scale 1:25000 (at A2)
N

The energy storage project is not expected to exceed 4 hectares and would comprise a number of battery storage enclosures and other associated infrastructure including an on-site substation. Electricity is not physically generated on site.

The site lies outside of any international, national or local environmental designations.

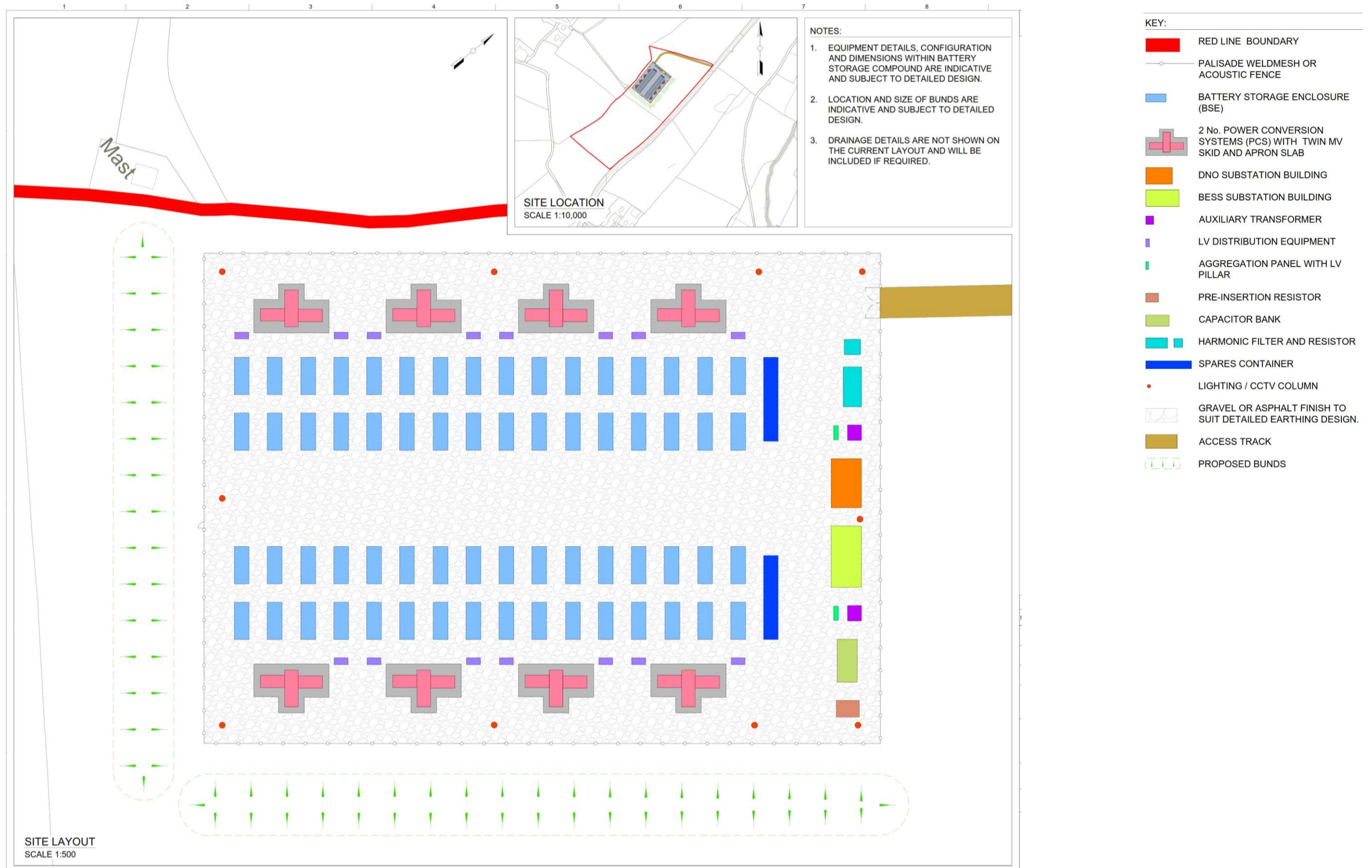
We expect to submit an application for planning consent to Derry City and Strabane District Council this year.

www.killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk

Design Layout and Infrastructure

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

We are still consulting on this layout and as such it is subject to change.



The proposed system is a containerised scheme, involving proven lithium-ion battery technology which RES has deployed at multiple projects around the world.

The infrastructure would include:

- Battery enclosures
- Power Conversion Systems and Transformers
- Customer Substation
- Auxiliary Transformer
- Grid Compliance Equipment
- Grid Connection Infrastructure
- Security System
- Drainage Scheme
- Landscaping

Environmental Considerations

RES will design the 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.

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.

Landscape

A Landscape and Visual Appraisal considers the site and its surrounding context in both landscape and visual terms, to assess the potential effects of the proposed 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.

Noise & Vibration

Noise is an important consideration, and the energy storage system is 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

A review of flood risk from various sources has been undertaken to ensure the proposed development will not increase flood risk anywhere on or off site. The report will also set out the proposed surface water drainage solution.

Transport

The Transport Statement will provide details of the proposed transport management arrangements during the construction of the project, if it is consented. It will also provide details of transport movements during construction and operation of the project.



Landscaping and Biodiversity Enhancement

The Killymallaght project is being 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 seek to enhance biodiversity by providing wildlife corridors and vital resources for mammals, birds, and insect species.

The illustrative plan below shows how landscape planting could be delivered along with other measures to protect and enhance the biodiversity around the site.

A Landscaping Masterplan will form part of the planning application and will also provide landscaping specifications for new vegetation in accordance with relevant standards. It will also provide information on the timings and aftercare regime for all planting.



Traffic and Access

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

All delivery traffic will access the site from the A6 Glenshane Road onto Belt Road before turning left onto Trench Road to the site entrance. At this stage we are still investigating two options for accessing the site, as shown in the plan 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 few 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 the 12-month construction period, if the project is consented, the indicative spread of vehicle movements during the construction phase and timings restrictions.



Produced on Jan 29, 2024.
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500 m
Scale 1:15000 (at A2)
N

Why Energy Storage?

Our energy system is in a transitional period.

Ageing infrastructure is being replaced and greater flexibility introduced into our networks via technological advances, such as energy storage, to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century.

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



Renewable energy technologies are needed to replace electricity generation from fossil fuels, however, they can generate electricity intermittently depending on weather conditions, which can cause imbalances in the electricity network.

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

Electricity is not physically generated on site.

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.

Renewables

Good for Northern Ireland's environment, economy & consumers

RES has been playing a pivotal role in providing Northern Ireland with renewable energy since the early 1990s. Working together with businesses based in Northern Ireland our projects contribute to the local economy and utilise our home-grown energy sources.

With the urgent need to escalate decarbonisation, RES remains committed to being part of Northern Ireland's energy future and business growth, through maximising contributions from renewable energy.



WIND



SOLAR



STORAGE

www.res-group.com

For more information

028 2844 0580 | info@res-group.com

res
power for good

RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation, 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 can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

Feedback from the local community on the preliminary design is an important part of our pre-application consultation and we would be grateful if you could take the time to fill out this comment form with your feedback. Please provide feedback by **23rd February 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 (Derry City and Strabane District Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

1 Killymallaght 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.killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Killymallaght 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 exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Killymallaght Energy Storage System?

- A lot
- Quite a lot
- A little
- Very little
- Nothing at all

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

2 Killymallaght Energy Storage System Proposal

Your views on the Killymallaght Energy Storage System proposal - specifically 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 Killymallaght 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 design layout of Killymallaght Energy Storage System?

I am happy with the proposed layout

I am neutral towards the proposed layout

I have concerns about the proposed layout

Further comments:

- 2.2 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Killymallaght Energy Storage System

3 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.

- 3.1 Do you agree 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:

- 3.2 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?

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

Further comments:

3.3 Do you agree 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:

3.4 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?

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

Further comments:



Killymallaght Energy Storage System Proposal

Comment Form

4 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below.

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	
Telephone Number	

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 place it in the box provided. Comment forms can also be sent by email to carey.green@res-group.com or by post to: Killymallaght Energy Storage System Project Team, RES, Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, County Antrim BT40 2SF.

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

KILLYMALLAGHT ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM PROPOSAL

RES are exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land close to Killymallaght Substation in the townland of Disertowen.

In February 2024, RES held a public exhibition to share more information about our early-stage proposal and to enable people to provide us with their feedback. Advertisements for the public exhibition were placed in the Londonderry Sentinel

SITE SELECTION

The site sits on agricultural land just off Trench Road near the necessary electrical infrastructure and sufficient distance from residential areas.

The Killymallaght Energy Storage System takes its name from and has been specifically located as close as possible - approximately 500 metres - to the existing Killymallaght electrical substation. By locating the project here, there is minimum requirement for additional overhead and/or underground cables to connect the project to the grid network, therefore limiting any environmental impacts. Energy storage systems need to be located as close to the substation from which its grid connection is provided in order to limit electrical losses and ensure efficiency of the system.

At an earlier stage, we had explored the potential to site the energy storage project on land directly adjacent to the substation. This land shows on DFI Flood Maps NI as having issues with surface and river waters, therefore, would not be viable for the Killymallaght project.

Most of RES' new onshore wind and solar development proposals incorporate co-located energy storage systems, however, there is also significant need for standalone

and the Derry Journal on 25th and 26th January 2024 respectively, in addition to newsletters which were sent to over 100 local properties. All of the information presented at the public exhibition is still available to view on the dedicated project website at <https://killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk/consultation/>

We have developed this newsletter in response to questions, comments and

concerns raised during the consultation.

We are still at an early stage in the design process for the project and as such, there have been some questions we are unable to answer until further surveys and assessments are completed. We will circulate a further newsletter when this additional information is available.

This newsletter is also available to view at www.killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk

energy storage systems to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century. An energy storage system needs to be able to both import and export energy. The availability of sites with sufficient import and export capacity is extremely limited with the lack of grid capacity a serious threat to net zero and energy security targets. The Killymallaght scheme is located in an area with sufficient capacity on the grid network.

RES have considered the gas main in all aspects of the design process, to date, and we are engaging with the gas operator, SGN. SGN have raised no concerns to date and RES will remain in close contact with them throughout the design evolution process.

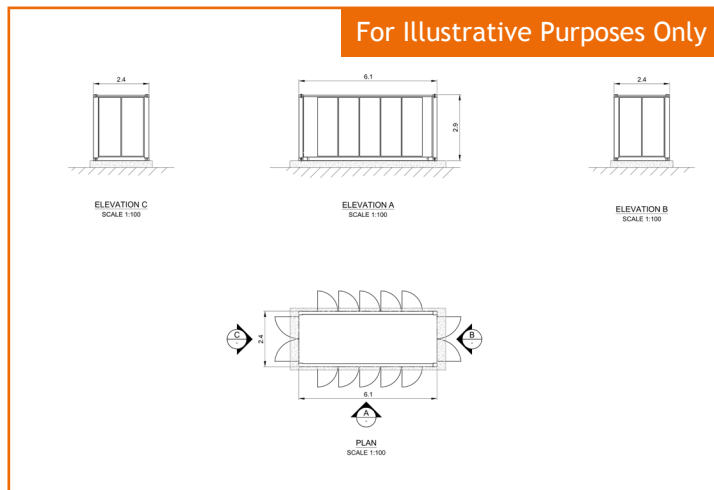
RES are not proposing an extension to the Killymallaght project, if it is consented.



LAND USE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Our preliminary layout, as presented at the public exhibition and available to view at <https://killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk/consultation/> shows the development area denoted by a red line encompassing two fields. This area allows flexibility during the design evolution phase allowing for possible relocation of infrastructure as site constraints are considered through surveys and assessments. When the design is finalised, we expect this area to not exceed approximately 4 hectares.

The site would comprise of up to 64 battery containers which would be one of two types depending on the final choice of supplier - either shipping containers or modular battery containers. The drawing below shows the typical dimensions of the battery enclosure. Please note all dimensions are in metres unless otherwise stated, the location of doors is indicative only - access to batteries may be external from side doors and battery container foundations are indicative only and subject to detailed design.



Other infrastructure would include power conversion systems (PCS) and transformers, a customer substation, auxiliary transformer, grid compliance equipment, grid connection infrastructure, security system, drainage scheme and landscaping. The tallest infrastructure is expected to be the DNO Control Building which would have a maximum height of 4.5 metres.

The project, if consented, would be located on land currently used for livestock-grazing and would not pose a risk to food security. One of the biggest risks to food security is the changing climate. This is clear from reports on the 2022 heatwave in the UK affecting fruit and vegetable harvests and according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), climate change could reduce the UK's stock of high-grade agricultural land by nearly three-quarters by 2050¹. Energy storage schemes like Killymallaght can enable and accelerate the rollout of renewable energy, directly tackling the effects of climate change.

The lighting within the proposed development would be passive infrared (PIR) lighting associated with the CCTV system plus PIR external lights mounted above doorways. The proposed development does not incorporate any visible, permanent artificial lighting to avoid any potential light pollution.

There are a number of similar sized energy storage schemes in operation across Northern Ireland including the Drumkee project in Co. Tyrone and Mullavilly project in Co. Armagh².

SAFETY

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and design safe storage systems using proven Lithium-ion technology.

Unlike electric scooters and cars, for example, RES managed battery systems are monitored 24/7. Any fluctuation in temperature, even by 1 degree, will be picked up through the monitoring and any necessary action, such as shutting down an individual battery rack, can be done remotely. RES have a 24/7/365 control centre

based in Glasgow. There are also other control measures implemented which reduce the risk of fire significantly.

All batteries must be tested and certified to an industry standard (UL 9540A), demonstrating resistance to thermal runaway, and which ensures there is no likelihood of explosion, with any fire contained within the affected battery rack. In addition, each battery enclosure will be fitted with fire suppression and protection systems and the project design will also take into account equipment spacing, access to battery enclosures and access for emergency services. A Fire Risk Statement will accompany the planning application.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

A Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVA) will be undertaken to assess the potential effects of the proposed energy storage system upon landscape features, landscape character and visual amenity. The LVA will also inform a landscaping plan which sets out measures to reduce potential visibility.

Typically, native planting is introduced on earth bunds and our preliminary layout, available to view at

<https://killymallaght-energystorage.co.uk/consultation/> shows bunds to the south and west, although this is subject to change as the design evolves. We will also consider existing hedgerow to the north and east as visibility screening in terms of infill planting and maintained hedgerow height. Further information will be provided on the landscape plan in our next newsletter.

PROPERTY VALUES

Queries are often raised in relation to the potential of energy storage projects to impact upon the value of house prices as there can be a perception that there must be a negative effect on house prices. Property value is subjective and can be affected by a range of factors. There is no firm evidence on whether such projects do or do not affect house prices.

NOISE

The main sources of sound within the proposed development are from the cooling fans for the inverters housed within the PCS units, air conditioning for the battery enclosures and the transformers.

At this early stage, our initial noise modelling indicates there will be no impact on residential properties within the local area.

Detailed acoustic modelling is due to commence shortly with noise monitoring equipment to be deployed at locations to be agreed with the principal EHO. The noise monitoring will be carried out 24/7 over a number of weeks to capture various wind directions and will determine the baseline background sound levels. Predicted sound levels from the project will then be assessed against the baseline in order to determine the level of any potential impact. The energy storage system will be designed to comply with strict noise limits set by the local authority, to ensure residential properties are not affected.

BIODIVERSITY

RES take the protection of the site and surrounding area's ecology seriously and an ecological assessment will form part of the planning application which ensures any potential impact on ecology is appropriately assessed and mitigated, where necessary.

Initial findings from the ecologist site walkover noted there was no evidence of badgers recorded, no features suitable for roosting bats recorded and moderate levels of bird activity. We acknowledge the current grasslands provide suitable pasture for livestock-grazing, in biodiversity terms they are classified as species-poor. Further detailed ecological assessment will be undertaken over the coming months.

In addition, for the Killymallaght proposal, as with all RES developments, our goal is to deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10% as a minimum and higher wherever possible. We aim to retain all existing hedgerow and woodland and create new hedgerow and woodland to benefit a

range of local species. Areas around the compound are typically sown with a wildflower meadow mix and riparian woodland planted around any surface water and drainage systems. Where appropriate we would also introduce bird, bat and reptile housing.

There is likely to be some temporary noise during the construction phase of the development, largely associated with site activities and vehicle movements, however, this noise can be controlled to a negligible level through a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The acoustic assessment will also accompany the planning application.

FLOOD RISK AND SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

A Flood Risk Statement and Drainage Impact Assessment will be undertaken incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) best practise principles, to ensure no significant impacts are created by the development.

Drainage measures will also be incorporated into the construction phase through a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure that the rate of run-off during construction will not increase any flood risk beyond the site boundary and to prevent any impact on any watercourses and private water supplies.

At this early stage, we are still working on surface water management measures to be incorporated into the design and further information will be provided in our next newsletter.

The Flood Risk Statement and Drainage Impact Assessment will accompany the planning application.



TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Our engineering assessments to date, indicate the proposed delivery route is suitable for the vehicles required during the construction phase of the project, if it is consented.

Throughout the anticipated 12-month 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 few months of construction with traffic during the remainder of the construction period generally limited to personnel getting to and from site.

A transport statement will be developed to accompany the planning application, which sets out the overall framework for managing the safe movement of construction and

delivery traffic as well as itemising the expected number of traffic movements and timing restrictions.

We understand cattle and farm workers cross the road on a regular basis and we will liaise with any affected parties, prior to construction if the project is consented, to ensure this is managed safely. RES will also make every reasonable effort to ensure that there is no disruption to local services e.g., bin collections and school buses.

We do not expect there to be any road closures related to the construction phase. Traffic management may be required for the grid connection.

Operational traffic movements are generally low, on average once a month for maintenance purposes and site inspections. Active monitoring is carried out by the Operations & Maintenance team and site manager which can reduce site attendance through early fault detection.

OPERATIONS

It is common across the industry for projects to change hands over their operational lifetime. However, planning consent goes with the land, not the developer, therefore, all conditions associated with the planning application must be followed by any new owner to ensure that the project is operated and maintained to the agreed standard. This includes decommissioning of the site.

As well as development services, RES provide construction and asset management services and would seek to maintain an interest in the scheme, throughout its

operational life. RES currently manage and operate over 600MW of energy storage projects across the UK and Ireland.

RES provide full-scope operations and management and asset management services and support 12GW of operational assets around the globe. Our people-first approach and decades of experience has led to the development of robust systems of work, ensuring assets perform safely and reliably.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

As the Killymallaght project design is refined and more information is available from site surveys and assessments, we will send out another newsletter with additional information.

Should a planning application be made, this will be publicly available on the Planning Register and will also be available in full on the Killymallaght website. Copies of all technical and environmental surveys and assessments will accompany the application.



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ABOUT RES

As a British family-owned firm, RES has a proud history in Northern Ireland where we have been operating from offices in Larne since the early 1990s.

RES is committed to improving everyday life and long-term futures. We are driven by our vision to create a future where everyone has access to affordable zero-carbon energy.

Across the UK and Ireland, RES has developed over 700MW of energy storage projects including the development and construction of the 50MW Gorman Energy Storage project in Co. Meath.

For more information about RES, visit www.res-group.com

WWW.KILLYMALLAGHT-ENERGYSTORAGE.CO.UK