

# CONTULLICH ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT

## Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report



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## 1. Introduction

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report outlines how RES (the Applicant) has engaged with the local community to inform them about the proposed Contullich Energy Storage Project, hereinafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'.

It explains how and when the community was consulted before the planning application was submitted to The Highland Council (hereinafter referred to as THC) and how this consultation has shaped the Proposed Development.

The PAC 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.

### 1.1 Proposed Development

The development consists of a 45MW<sup>1</sup> Battery Energy Storage System located approximately 1km north of Alness. The nearest postcode is IV17 0YA.

## 2. The Applicant's Commitment to Consultation

The Applicant is the world's largest independent renewable energy company. At the forefront of the industry for over 40 years, the Applicant has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 12GW worldwide for a large client base. The Applicant is active in 14 countries working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen and transmission and distribution.

The Applicant is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of consulting 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 wants to be good neighbours to the communities that host our projects and will listen to and address questions or concerns that interested parties might have. A comprehensive process that engages with local people and stakeholders at an early stage allows an informed debate that helps the Applicant identify issues of potential concern, explore solutions and design a project that will be welcomed as a positive asset by the local community.

## 3. Statutory Requirements and Best Practice Guidance

The requirement for pre-application consultation is set out in Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, (as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021) and sections 35A & B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

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 the 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 and the decision is then effective for a period of 12 months from its date of issue.

The Applicant originally submitted a PAN to The Highland Council on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The submitted information included details of the site location, the type of consultation methods that would be

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<sup>1</sup> During the consultation period, the Applicant had been exploring the potential for a 49.9MW energy storage project. Through the iterative design process, the size of the Proposed Development has reduced to 45MW.

undertaken, with whom and within what distance from the site. An updated PAN was submitted to The Highland Council on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 due to an error regarding newspaper advertising dates.

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

The stakeholder groups identified included:

- Alness and Ardross Community Councils
- Elected representatives for Cromarty Firth ward of The Highland Council
- Member of Parliament for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
- Member of the Scottish Parliament for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross
- Residential properties within a 2.5km radius of the proposed site

### 4.2 Consultation

As set out in section 3, the formal consultation began on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 when the PAN was issued to The Highland Council. A combination of the following methods was used to inform stakeholders (listed in section 4.1) about the Proposed Development, and subsequently to ascertain their views.

In line with the legislative requirements the public notice also included a statement advising that comments made to the Applicant are not representations to the determining authority (The Highland Council), and if the Applicant submits an application there will then be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the determining authority at a later stage.

#### 4.2.1 Email to Elected Representatives - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023

The Applicant wrote to all elected representatives for Cromarty Firth ward of The Highland Council, Ardross and Alness Community Councils, the MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross and the MSP for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross 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 newsletter distribution, a dedicated project website and public exhibitions. 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 PAN was enclosed with each letter. A copy of the letter can be found at **Appendix A**.

#### 4.2.2 Project Website - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023

On 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023, a project website was launched at [www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk/](http://www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk/) containing information on the Proposed Development, information regarding the forthcoming public exhibition 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 Community Pre-Exhibition Mailing - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023

On 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023, the Applicant sent a newsletter, advertising the upcoming public exhibition, to 118 properties identified within 1km of the Proposed Development. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix B**.

#### 4.2.4 Pre-Exhibition Advertising - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023

The Applicant placed an advertisement which appeared in the Ross-Shire Journal on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to help raise awareness of the upcoming exhibition. A copy of the advertisement can be found at **Appendix C**.

#### 4.2.5 Email to Elected Representatives - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023

The Applicant sent an email to all elected representatives for Cromarty Firth ward of The Highland Council, Ardross and Alness Community Councils, the MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross and the MSP for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross enclosing the newsletter regarding the upcoming public exhibition. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix B**. A copy of the updated PAN as referred to in section 3 was also enclosed.

#### 4.2.6 Public Exhibition - 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

The public exhibition took place between 3pm and 7.30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at the Ardross Community Hall, Ardross, Ross-shire, IV17 OXW. Approximately 9 people attended the public exhibition. A copy of the exhibition boards presented at the public exhibition can be found at **Appendix D**.

All of the information provided on the exhibition boards at the public exhibition was also published on the project website at [www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk/) from 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

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

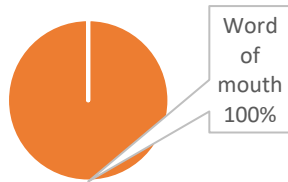
A comment form was provided as part of the public exhibition and online, to encourage feedback from attendees about renewable energy in general and the project design specifically. The comment form was made available as a hard copy at the exhibition or as a downloadable version on the project website. A copy of the comment form can be found at **Appendix E**.

One completed comment form was received by the Applicant. Below is a summary of the answers received to the questions on the comment form.

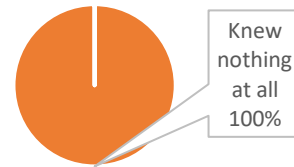
At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (THC) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once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

### 4.2.7 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment form

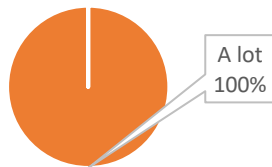
Q1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?



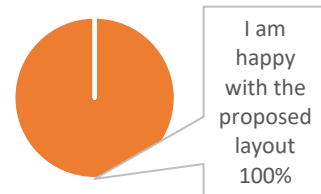
Q1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Contullich Energy Storage System?



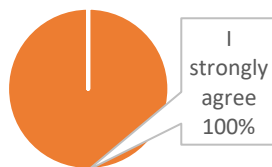
Q1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Contullich Energy Storage System?



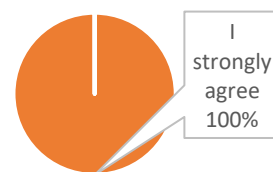
Q2.1 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of Contullich Energy Storage System?



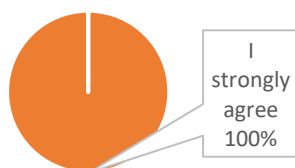
Q3.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?



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 Scotland?



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 Community Pre-Exhibition Mailing - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the Applicant sent a newsletter, advertising the upcoming second public exhibition, to 2601 properties identified within 2.5km of the Proposed Development. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix F**.

#### 4.2.9 Pre-Exhibition Advertising - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The Applicant placed an advertisement which appeared in the Ross-Shire Journal on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to help raise awareness of the upcoming second public exhibition. A copy of the advertisement can be found at **Appendix G**.

#### 4.2.10 Email to Elected Representatives - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The Applicant sent an email on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to all elected representatives for Cromarty Firth ward of The Highland Council, Ardross and Alness Community Councils, the MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross and the MSP for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross enclosing the newsletter regarding the upcoming second public exhibition. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix F**.

#### 4.2.11 Public Exhibition - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The second public exhibition took place between 3pm and 7.30pm on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the Ardross Community Hall, Ardross, Ross-shire, IV17 OXW. Approximately 21 people attended the public exhibition.

A copy of the exhibition boards presented at the public exhibition can be found at **Appendix H** along with a Report on Feedback which refers to the written feedback received from the August 2023 exhibition and how the Applicant has responded to it.

All of the information provided on the exhibition boards at the public exhibition was also published on the project website at [www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk) from 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

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

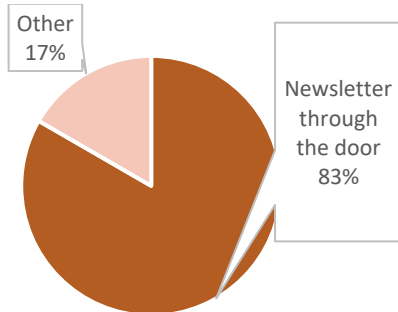
A comment form was provided as part of the public exhibition and online, to encourage feedback from attendees about renewable energy in general and the project design specifically. The comment form was made available as a hard copy at the exhibition or as a downloadable version on the project website. A copy of the comment form can be found at **Appendix I**.

Six completed comment forms were received by the Applicant. Below is a summary of the answers received to the questions on the comment form.

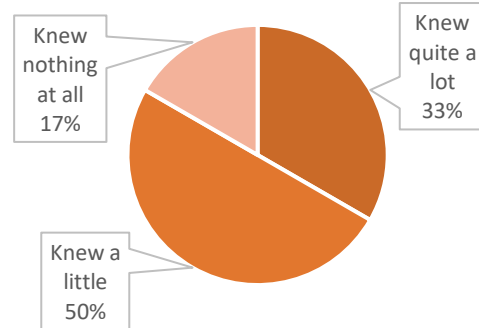
At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (THC) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once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

### 4.2.12 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment forms

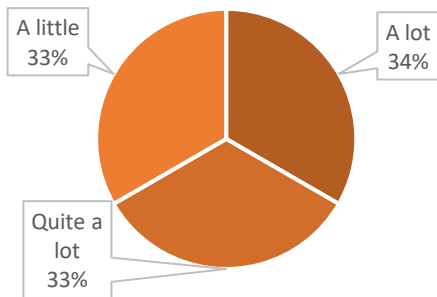
**Q1.1** How did you find out about our public exhibition?



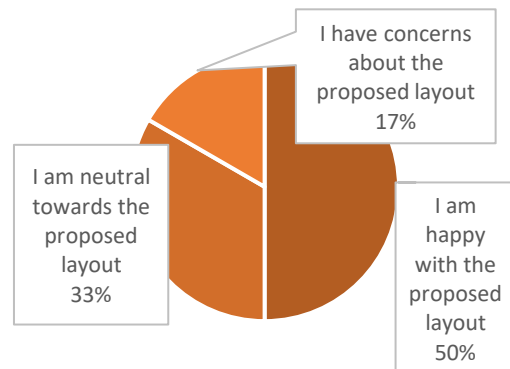
**Q1.2** Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Contullich Energy Storage System?



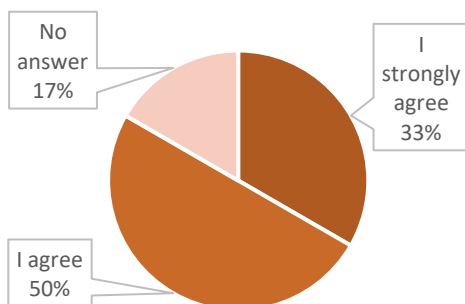
**Q1.3** Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Contullich Energy Storage System?



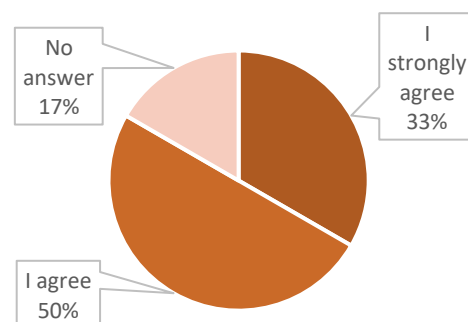
**Q2.1** What do you think about the proposed design layout of Contullich Energy Storage System?



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

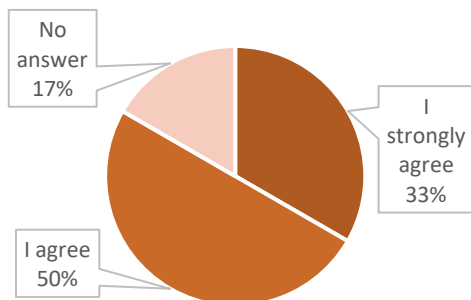


**Q3.2** Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?

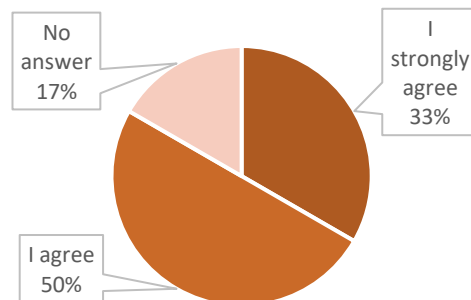




Q3.3 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources will provide greater energy independence and security for Scotland?



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?



#### 4.2.13 Project Update - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Applicant updated the project website at [www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk/faqs/](http://www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk/faqs/) to include some FAQs which were developed in response to common questions and comments raised during the consultation periods.

#### 4.2.14 Other consultation

In addition to the activities outlined in sections 4.2.1 to 4.2.13, the Applicant has been receiving and responding to enquiries and comments from Ardrross Community Council, Maree Todd MSP and Cllr Nolan via email.

### 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 nearest neighbours to the site as well as audiences in the wider area. This activity included:

- Letters to Elected Representatives;
- Advertisements for the public exhibitions in the local press;
- Two newsletters informing local residents about the public consultations;
- Two public exhibitions; and
- Project website.

All feedback received during the pre-application community consultation, 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 is considered, as part of the iterative design process. A summary of the feedback received, and the Applicant's response is below.

Sample of Comments Received	Applicant's Response to Issue/Concern
<p><b><u>Traffic and Transport</u></b></p> <p><i>"We would much prefer that the existing substation entrance to the site was used rather than the alternative route that winds around the perimeter and uses a field entrance."</i></p> <p><i>"As long as access is kept away from Corkscrew Road/Boath Road crossroads"</i></p>	<p>Access for the Proposed Development will be taken from the existing access that serves the field on the B9176 road. This access sits c.240m south of the access to Alness Substation and is currently used for agricultural purposes. This access was chosen as it allows better visibility from the north and south. Visibility splays of 215m are more easily achieved, and there is a clear view from the entrance from further away and has been discussed with the Transport Team at THC.</p> <p>A <b>Transport Statement</b> 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 construction phase, delivery vehicles will be comprised of a combination of HGVs and cars/vans with all contractors encouraged to car/van share to reduce vehicle movements.</p> <p>Parking for the workforce will be fully accommodated on site. 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>If consented, construction of the energy storage system is expected to take around 12-18 months, with peak HGV traffic movements expected in the first few weeks.</p>
<p><b><u>Fire Risk</u></b></p> <p><i>"Given the runaway nature of battery fires and the consequent pollution we are yet to be convinced that such a facility is actually 100% safe"</i></p> <p><i>"Don't seem to be any major hazards or concerns to the local population"</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. 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"> <li>• No flaming outside the initiating battery rack observed.</li> <li>• Surface temperatures of modules within the</li> </ul>

	<p>target battery rack adjacent to the initiating battery rack do not exceed the temperature at which thermally initiated cell venting occurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wall surface temperature rise does not exceed a specified temperature above ambient.</li> <li>• Explosion hazards are not observed during the test.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• Equipment spacing</li> <li>• Protection systems</li> <li>• Access to battery enclosure</li> <li>• Location of Proposed Development</li> <li>• Access for emergency services.</li> </ul> <p>A <b>Fire Risk Statement</b> accompanies the planning application which provides further information.</p>
<p><b>Site Location</b></p> <p><i>“Will be built on marginal land”</i></p> <p><i>“We would like specific details as to why this particular site was chosen and not a brownfield site for instance”</i></p> <p><i>“The use of arable land to construct these facilities is especially concerning.”</i></p> <p><i>“Seems an ideal site close to substation and power lines.”</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development has been specifically located close to the existing Alness electrical substation where the Proposed Development will connect to the wider grid network. An energy storage system needs to be able to both import and export energy and whilst the availability of sites with sufficient import and export capacity is diminishing, the existing substation at Alness has a viable amount of both import and export capacity available. 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.</p> <p>Energy storage systems also 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. No alternative sites have been identified in the local area that offer a grid connection at such a short distance. The land is outside of any local or national designations and is located a good distance from residential properties. The total site area of the Proposed Development is not expected to exceed 6 hectares inclusive of the access track, landscaping, planting and any other mitigation measures proposed.</p> <p>Whilst located on land currently used for agricultural purposes, the Proposed Development would not pose a risk to food security. One of the biggest risks to food security is the changing climate. Already in 2023, we are seeing the effects of climate change with more extreme weather events, the UK's hottest June on record and the world's average temperature</p>

	reaching a new high for the third time in a week. Energy storage schemes like Contullich can enable and accelerate the rollout of renewable energy, directly tackling the effects of climate change.
<p><b>Visual Impact</b></p> <p><i>“Concerned about visual impact”</i></p> <p><i>“Specific details of landscaping should be contained in any subsequent planning application”</i></p> <p><i>“Glad aesthetics of area considered and some camouflaging will be installed”</i></p> <p><i>“Tree screening would help to reduce visual impact”</i></p> <p><i>“We would expect that the neighbouring battery storage proposal .....are better discussed....including the cumulative landscape effects”</i></p>	<p>The site of the Proposed Development is outside of any local or national landscape designations and is located a good distance from residential properties.</p> <p>Given the relatively low heights of the proposed development, potential visibility will be largely limited by the existing woodland and vegetation.</p> <p>A <b>Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVA)</b> provides an assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the existing landscape 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"> <li>• Planting of riparian woodland, pine and birch around the Proposed Development to the south, west and northern sides.</li> <li>• Planting of a wild-flower meadow with parcels of native scrub between the woodland planting and the Proposed Development.</li> </ul> <p>These species are all planted to reduce potential visibility of the Proposed Development from key visual receptors.</p> <p>Any potential cumulative visual impact with the neighbouring energy storage proposal has been considered as part of the Contullich Energy Storage System planning application.</p>

## 6. Summary

This PAC report sets out the consultation in respect of a full planning application for the Contullich Energy Storage System near Alness.

The PAC report 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.

There was limited response from stakeholders and the local community. The main concerns raised from the consultation were in relation to the delivery route and access for the Proposed Development and fire safety.

Analysis of the comment forms from the second public exhibition has shown that 83% of respondents were happy with or were neutral towards the proposed layout.

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

The Proposed Development's website at [www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contullich-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 THC, 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 THC's Planning Department, should they wish to submit a formal representation.

## Appendices

- Appendix A. Letter to elected representatives
- Appendix B. First public exhibition newsletter
- Appendix C. First public exhibition newspaper advert
- Appendix D. First public exhibition boards
- Appendix E. First public exhibition comment form
- Appendix F. Second public exhibition newsletter
- Appendix G. Second public exhibition newspaper advert
- Appendix H. Second public exhibition boards
- Appendix I. Second public exhibition comment form

**Appendix A. Letter to elected representatives**



27/07/2023

Dear 

## RE: Contullich Energy Storage System Proposal

I am writing to let you know that RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage project on land immediately adjacent to the Alness substation, approximately 1.5km north-west of Alness - please see enclosed plan.

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company and has been operating from offices in Glasgow since 1993, employing around 120 local people. 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, construction and asset management of Scotland's first utility-scale battery storage facility, the 20MW Broxburn Energy Storage facility in Broxburn, West Lothian.

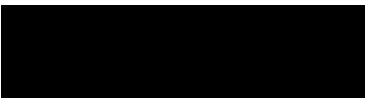
Energy storage helps support National Grid by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the national grid network when demand exceeds generation, thus creating a more stable and secure electricity system. Increasing the installed capacity of energy storage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

At this early stage of the project, we have submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to The Highland 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. We will begin a number of consultation activities, including setting up a dedicated project website and holding public exhibitions 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,



Milo Amsbury-Savage  
Development Project Manager



E: [milo.amsburysavage@res-group.com](mailto:milo.amsburysavage@res-group.com) M: +44 1923 299 277

Appendix B. First public exhibition newsletter

# CONTULLICH ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

AUGUST 2023



RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land immediately adjacent to the Alness substation, approximately 1.5km north-west of Alness.

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 share information on the preliminary design and to enable you to provide us with your feedback.

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



**Thursday 17th August 2023**  
**3pm to 7:30pm**

Ardross Community Hall  
Ardross, Ross-shire, IV17 OXW

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at

[www.contulich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contulich-energystorage.co.uk)

from 17th August 2023.

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 1st September 2023.**

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](mailto:carey.green@res-group.com). Hard copies can be sent by post to RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

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

## What is an Energy Storage System?

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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.



Renewable energy technologies are needed to replace electricity generation from fossil fuels, however, they generate electricity intermittently depending on weather conditions. This causes problems for the national grid network which must be finely balanced; electrical demand must match electrical generation at all times. If this balance is not achieved, it can lead to blackouts and the failure of grid circuits.

Our electricity system is in a transitional period to manage these increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century, and energy storage systems will play a key part by maintaining this balance.

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. Electricity is not physically generated on site.

## About RES

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RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. 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.

At the forefront of renewable energy development for 40 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 23GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide including the development, construction and asset management of Scotland's first utility-scale battery storage facility, the 20MW Broxburn Energy Storage facility in Broxburn, West Lothian.



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Community Relations Manager

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RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

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

Appendix C. First public exhibition newspaper advert

# Fans flock to book signing

By Niall Harkiss  
niall.harkiss@hnmmedia.co.uk

INSPIRATIONAL strongman brothers Tom and Luke Stoltman all but dried out the inkwells at Waterstones Inverness at the weekend as they welcomed fans in great numbers for their first book signing.

The duo's new autobiographical book, "Lifting: Becoming the World's Strongest Brothers", hit the shelves on Wednesday.

Lengthy queues formed in the Eastgate Shopping Centre store in anticipation of the brothers' arrival, as fans of the Invergordon-based strongmen waited in line for the chance to have their copy signed.

Such was the turnout, the signing actually started 20 minutes earlier than planned.

Waterstones Inverness book shop manager Toby Ritty said: "We were delighted to have Tom and Luke with us. They are Highland heroes after all. Everything has gone really smoothly, and they are both so nice and so accommodating.

"There's such a warmth towards them and people are really keen to support them because they



Brothers Luke and Tom Stoltman at the very well-attended signing.

represent us in the Highlands so well. We maybe don't get the same representation that places in other parts of the country do, so to have people from the Highlands who are so famous and at the top of their game, it is absolutely brilliant.

"There has been many people who have come for the signing

saying things such as, 'I see them in the local supermarket,' or 'I have visited their house once before,' or 'I lived around the corner from them.' Everyone has a little story connected to them - but they still want to come along and stand in a queue and have their book signed. I think this is because it isn't just



Toby Ritty of Waterstones: 'It's about people from the Highlands who have made a success of things.'

about getting a book signed, it's about supporting people from the Highlands who have made a success of things.

"The interest and response to the launch of the book has been great. People who have had advance copies have said they have found it inspirational, and uplifting. This isn't just a sports autobiography, but more a story about two guys finding a place in the world and overcoming their own difficulties to go on to do fantastic things."

The new book tells the story of Tom Stoltman, two-time World's Strongest Man, and brother Luke, a five-time winner of Scotland's Strongest Man and former Europe's Strongest Man, growing up in a small Highland town.

An "uplifting" story of overcoming adversity and achieving goals, the Stoltman story tackles the brothers' various challenges,

including Tom's autism journey and the devastating loss of their mother in 2016.

The brothers, who are deeply proud of their Easter Ross upbringing, say the book has provided them with "the opportunity to celebrate the things that mean the most" to them - family, community and strength.



**STUCK IN THE WRONG JOB?**

Jobs North offers the best service for employers, recruitment agencies and job seekers searching for jobs in Inverness, Highland and Moray.

Visit - [jobs-north.co.uk](http://jobs-north.co.uk)

**jobsnorth**

**HNM**  
Highland News & Media

**BLYTHSWORDS**

*Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:10-11*

Add good things to the faith you have and you'll be sure of it and of the welcome from Jesus. Or do you want to fall?

[blythswords@blythswood.org](mailto:blythswords@blythswood.org)

Christian care for  
body & soul

**Ross-shire Journal**

Telephone us on  
**01349 863436**

**CONTULLICH ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM**

**RES**  
power for good

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land immediately adjacent to the Alness substation, approximately 1.5km north-west of Alness.

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 early stage 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 17th August 2023**  
3pm to 7:30pm

Ardrross Community Hall  
Ardrross, Ross-shire, IV17 OXW

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at [www.contulich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contulich-energystorage.co.uk) from 17th August 2023.

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 1st September 2023.**

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](mailto:carey.green@res-group.com). Hard copies can be sent by post to RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (The Highland 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.contulich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contulich-energystorage.co.uk)

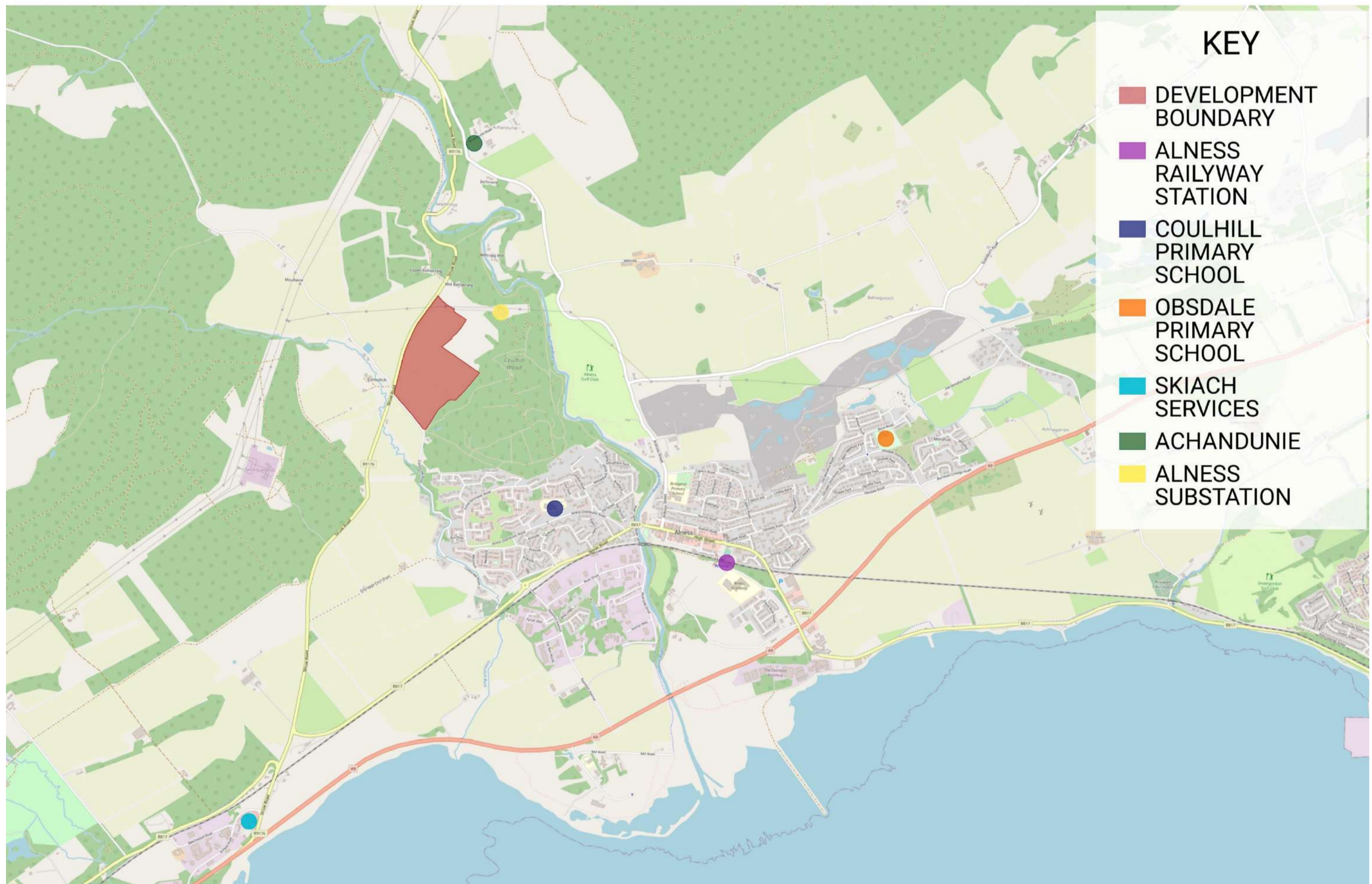
Appendix D. First public exhibition boards

## About the Project

RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage project on land adjacent to the Alness substation, approximately 1.5km north-west of Alness.

CONTULLICH ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT

LOCATION PLAN



500 m  
Scale 1:15000 (at A2)

The energy storage project is expected to cover a total area of 2 to 3 hectares and have a capacity of 49.9MW.

The site lies outside of any international, national or local environmental designations and there are no nationally important heritage designations in the immediate vicinity.

[www.contulich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contulich-energystorage.co.uk)



## 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
- Landscape
- Heritage & Archaeology
- Flood Risk & Surface Water Management
- Cumulative Impacts
- Noise & Vibration
- Transport
- Arboricultural Survey



*Image for illustrative purposes only*

The Contullich 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.

## 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 Consultation Report (PAC), that documents the community engagement process and any steps we have taken to adapt our proposal.

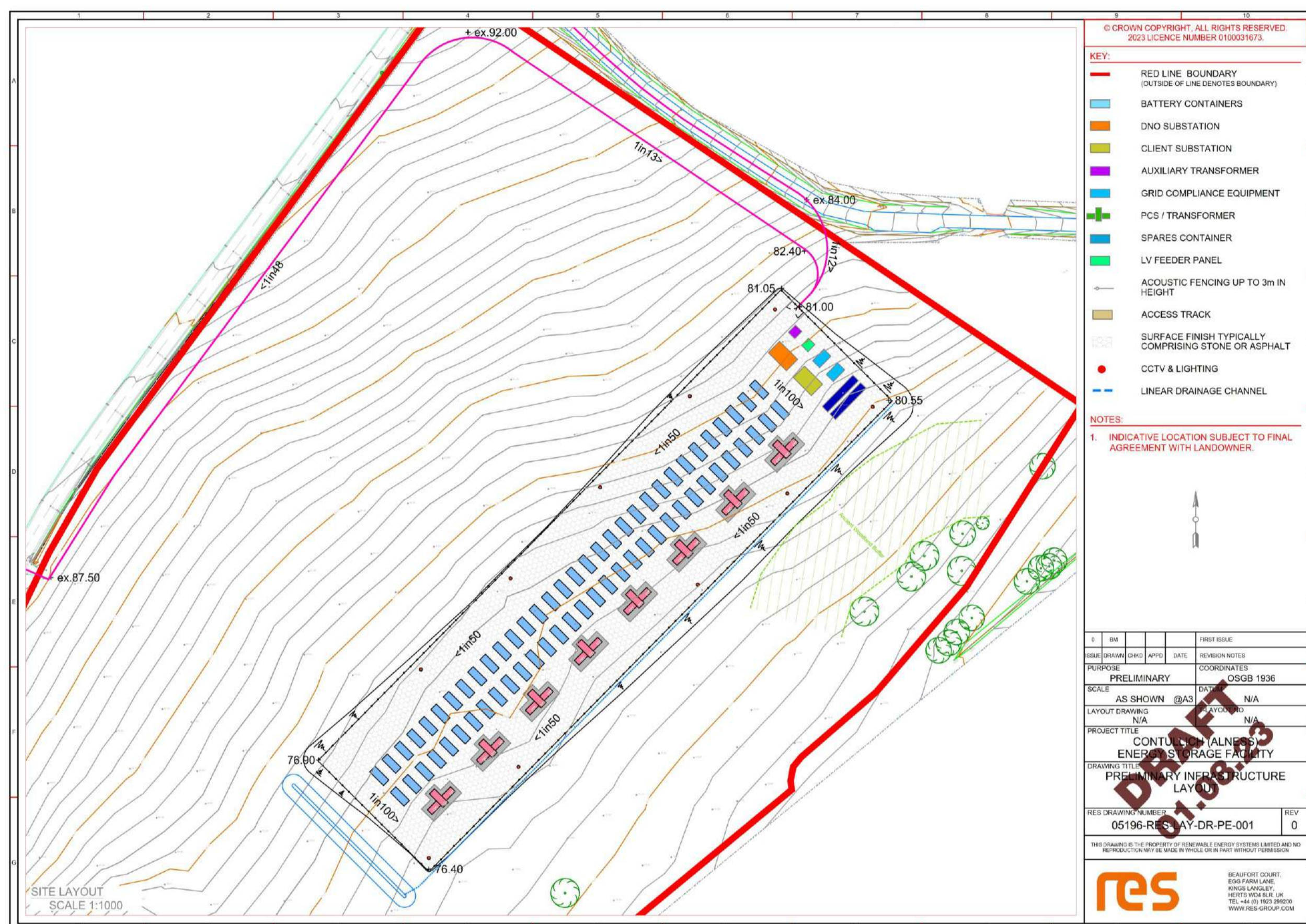
At this stage we are inviting the local community to submit comments directly to RES. If an application is submitted there will be the opportunity to submit representations to the determining Planning Authority at that time.

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.

## About the Project

The plan below shows the preliminary layout for the 49.9MW Contullich Energy Storage project. We are currently consulting on this layout and as such it is subject to change.



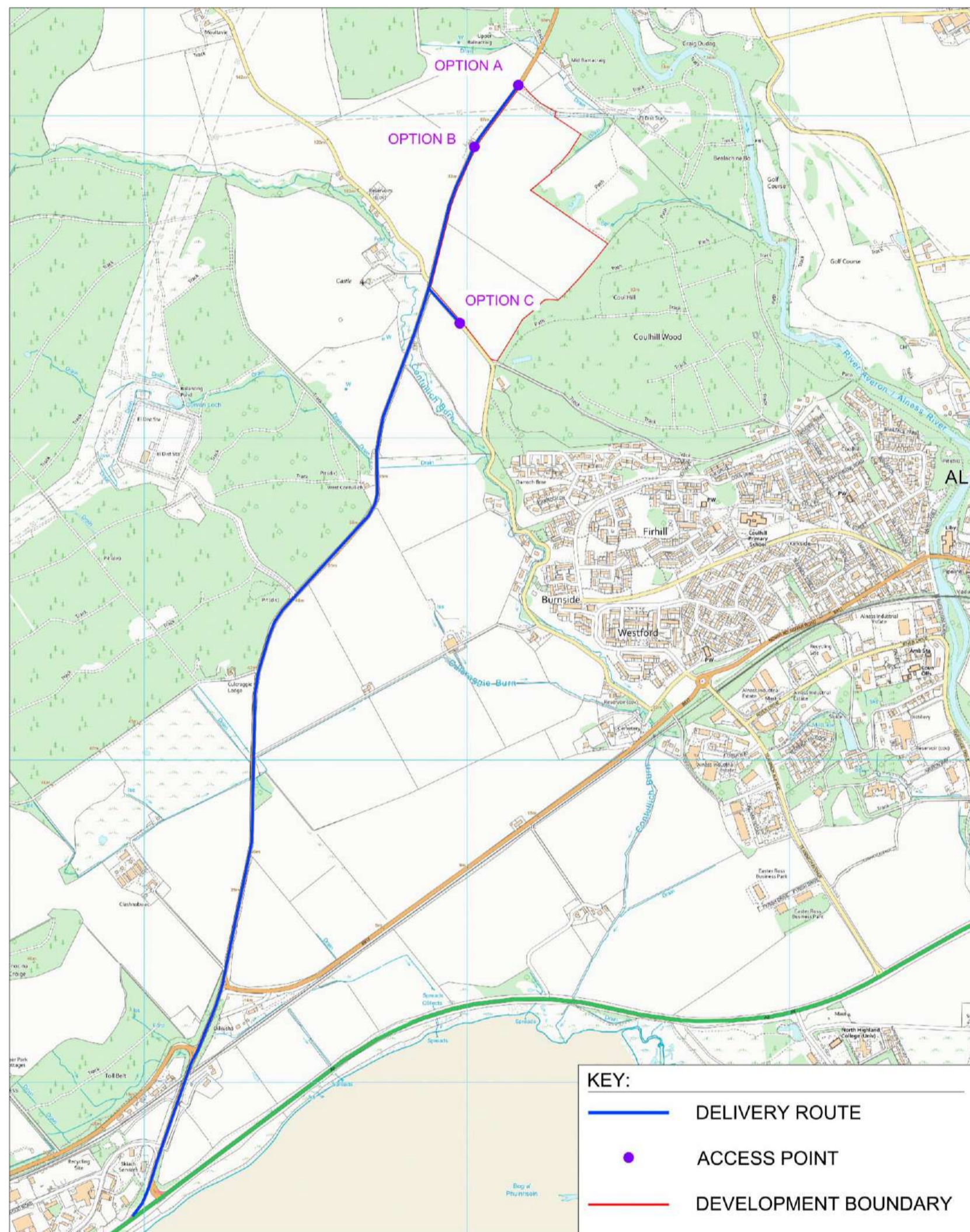
The proposed system is a containerised scheme, involving proven lithium ion battery technology which RES has deployed at multiple projects around the world.

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

## Traffic and Access

All delivery traffic will access the site from the B9176 Struie Road. At this early stage we are considering 3 options for the access point to site, as shown on 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 any planning application, which will outline 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.

## 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.

Electricity is not physically generated on site.

Appendix E. First public exhibition comment form

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.

At the Public Exhibition we have presented preliminary design drawings. 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 **1<sup>st</sup> September 2023**. 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 (The Highland Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.*

### 1 Contullich 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.contullich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk)
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

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

Your views on the Contullich 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 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of Contullich 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 Contullich 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 Scotland?

- 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:

#### 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](mailto:carey.green@res-group.com) or by post to: Contullich Energy Storage System Project Team, RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

A summary of all feedback received, and how RES has responded to it, will be presented at a second public exhibition to be held later this year.

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

Appendix F. Second public exhibition newsletter

# CONTULLICH ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

SEPTEMBER 2023



RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land adjacent to the Alness substation, approximately 1.5km north-west of Alness.

In August, we held a public exhibition consulting, at an early stage, with the properties closest to the proposed project. As part of our continuing pre-application consultation, we are holding a second public exhibition in the local area which will enable the wider community to find out more about the project and to provide feedback, ahead of submitting a planning application later this year.

## Public Exhibition

Since the first public exhibition we have been refining the design of the project, taking into consideration feedback from the community and stakeholders, along with the results of site surveys and assessments.

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

**Thursday 28th September 2023**  
**3pm to 7:30pm**

Ardross Community Hall  
Ardross, Ross-shire, IV17 OXW



All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at

[www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk)

from 28th September 2023.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. **Please provide feedback on the updated design by Friday 13th October 2023.**

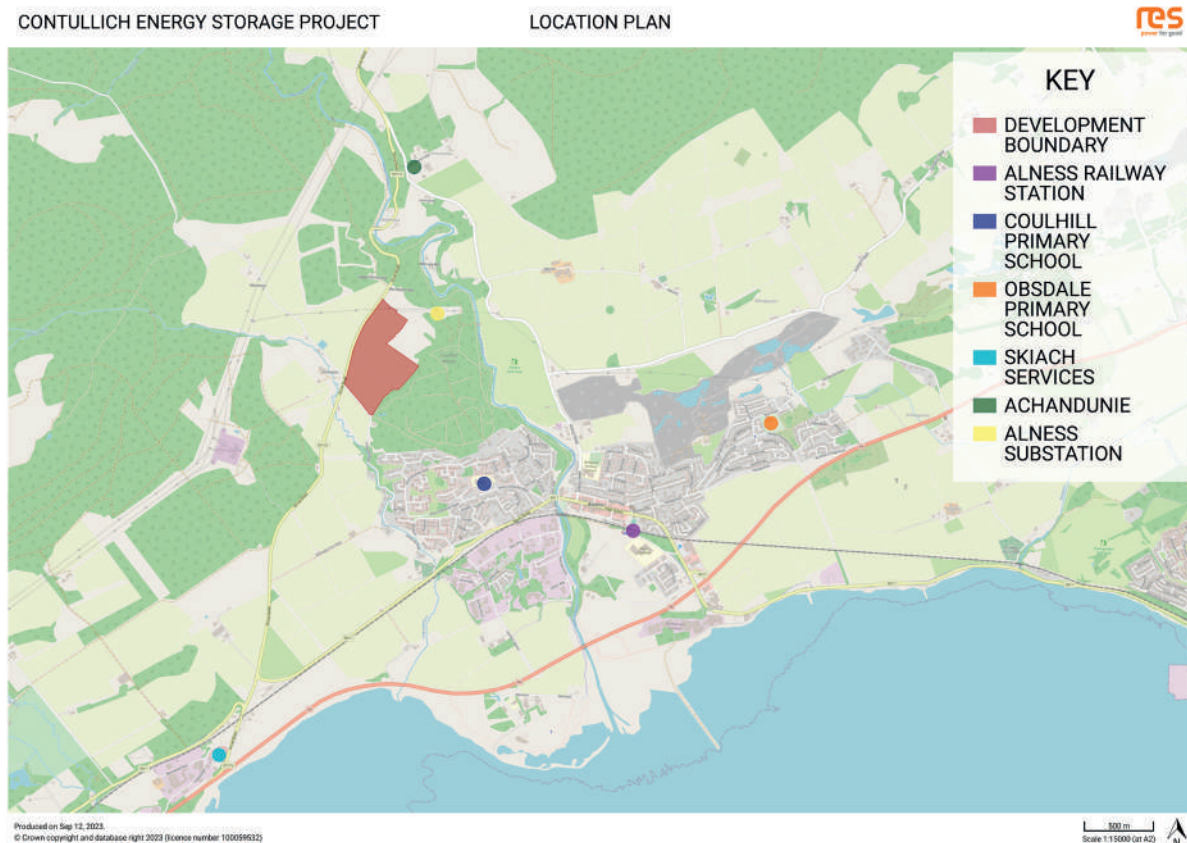
Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development. Comments forms will be available at the public exhibition. Comment forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via email to [carey.green@res-group.com](mailto:carey.green@res-group.com). Hard copies can be sent by post to RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

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

## Contullich Energy Storage System at a Glance

The Contullich Energy Storage System would comprise a number of battery storage enclosures and associated infrastructure to provide 49.9MW of storage capacity. Contullich would 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. Electricity is not physically generated on site.

The Contullich 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 Asia-Pacific. 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.

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 including the development, construction and asset management of Scotland's first utility-scale battery storage facility, the 20MW Broxburn Energy Storage facility in Broxburn, West Lothian.



**Milo Amsbury-Savage**

Development Project Manager

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☎ 01923 299 277



**Carey Green**

Community Relations Manager

✉ [carey.green@res-group.com](mailto:carey.green@res-group.com)

☎ 01872 226 931

RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

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

Appendix G. Second public exhibition newspaper advert

## POLICING CHALLENGES

# unavoidable'



Chief Superintendent Rob Shepherd.



## Pushing for changes

ONE area where local police are pushing for change is around reports of missing people.

Ch Supt Shepherd said that was particularly around children being reported missing from care placements.

"There are a number of care homes in the area with a lot of young people in them having had difficult lives - they have seen things most of us haven't and wouldn't want to and, not surprisingly, like any young people, want to have their freedom and we often see them going 'missing' at the weekend.

"Because of their age and vulnerability we of course take that seriously, but on the other hand, working with those care homes, we have to ask are they fulfilling their parental responsibility appropriately by immediately calling the police as soon as a young person isn't home by their curfew?

"If your child was told to be home by 10pm would you be calling the police at 10.05pm if they weren't back by then or would you be calling friends,

maybe hospitals? Most of us I think would probably do a lot of other things before contacting the police.

"As I say, if a vulnerable young person is reported missing we swing into action on that, but it is not our role to be de facto parents."

He is now leading conversations with care homes, he says, to help make sure they are undertaking basic checks first, before making it a police matter, adding that it was also about speaking with young people themselves to make sure they understand the impact of not being home by agreed times.

On that impact he shared an experience from his previous policing career down south.

"I remember we had a kid in Croydon who was reported 'missing' 300 times in one year," he said.

"Investing time in a conversation with the care home there saved tens of hours of officer time.

"It also meant less chance of us missing the 'genuinely' missing young person among that."



## Labour call for fair pay deal

A FAIR deal for both police and the fire service in the upcoming Scottish budget has been called for by Labour politicians.

MSPs on the Criminal Justice Committee were told on Wednesday that the police are currently having to make £18.9 million of additional savings between August and March to balance the books this financial year.

Their budget pressures are being dealt with partly by cutting officer numbers and closing 30 police stations.

The force warned that they were "going to have to take a lot of pain" and that the changes required are "going to impact on our ability to respond."

They refused to rule out expanding a controversial pilot scheme currently taking place in the north east of Scotland where some crimes are not investigated, attributed to a lack of resources.

Police Scotland's deputy chief also said

that a pledge by First Minister Humza Yousaf to roll out body cams for officers might not take place this year, again due to budget pressures.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service also has to make £11 million of savings in this financial year.

They are warning that if further savings are expected next year they will have to cut firefighter numbers and reduce the number of fire appliances.

Scottish Labour justice spokeswoman Pauline McNeill, speaking on Wednesday, said: "If the SNP do not listen to the shocking evidence the Criminal Justice Committee heard this morning, they will be presiding over devastating police officer and staff cuts and undermining the ability of our police and fire services to keep our communities safe.

"The SNP must listen to these stark warnings and act now to address this turmoil."

### CONTULLICH ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM PUBLIC EXHIBITION



RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land adjacent to the Alness substation, approximately 1.5km north-west of Alness. In August we held a public exhibition consulting, at an early stage, with the properties closest to the proposed project. As part of our continuing pre-application consultation, we are holding a second public exhibition in the local area which will enable the wider community to find out more about the project and to provide feedback, ahead of submitting a planning application later this year.

Since the first public exhibition we have been refining the design of the project, taking into consideration feedback from the community and stakeholders, along with the results of site surveys and assessments.

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

**Thursday 28th September 2023** Ardross Community Hall  
3pm to 7:30pm  
Ardross, Ross-shire, IV17 OXW

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at [www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk) from 28th September 2023.

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*Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (The Highland 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.contullich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk)

## Appendix H. Second public exhibition boards

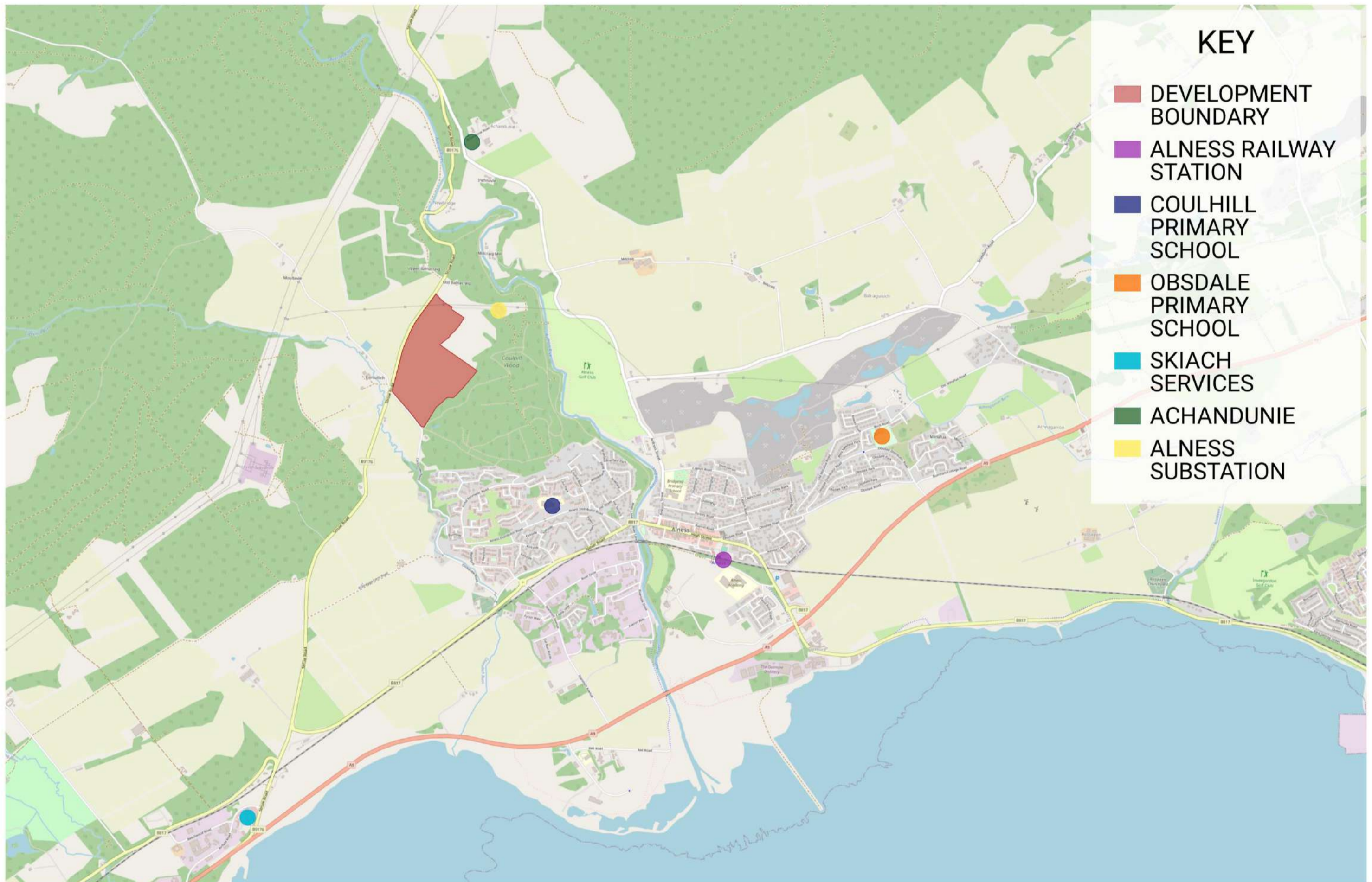


## About the Project

RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage project on land adjacent to the Alness substation, approximately 1.5km north-west of Alness.

### CONTULLICH ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT

### LOCATION PLAN



Produced on Sep 12, 2023.  
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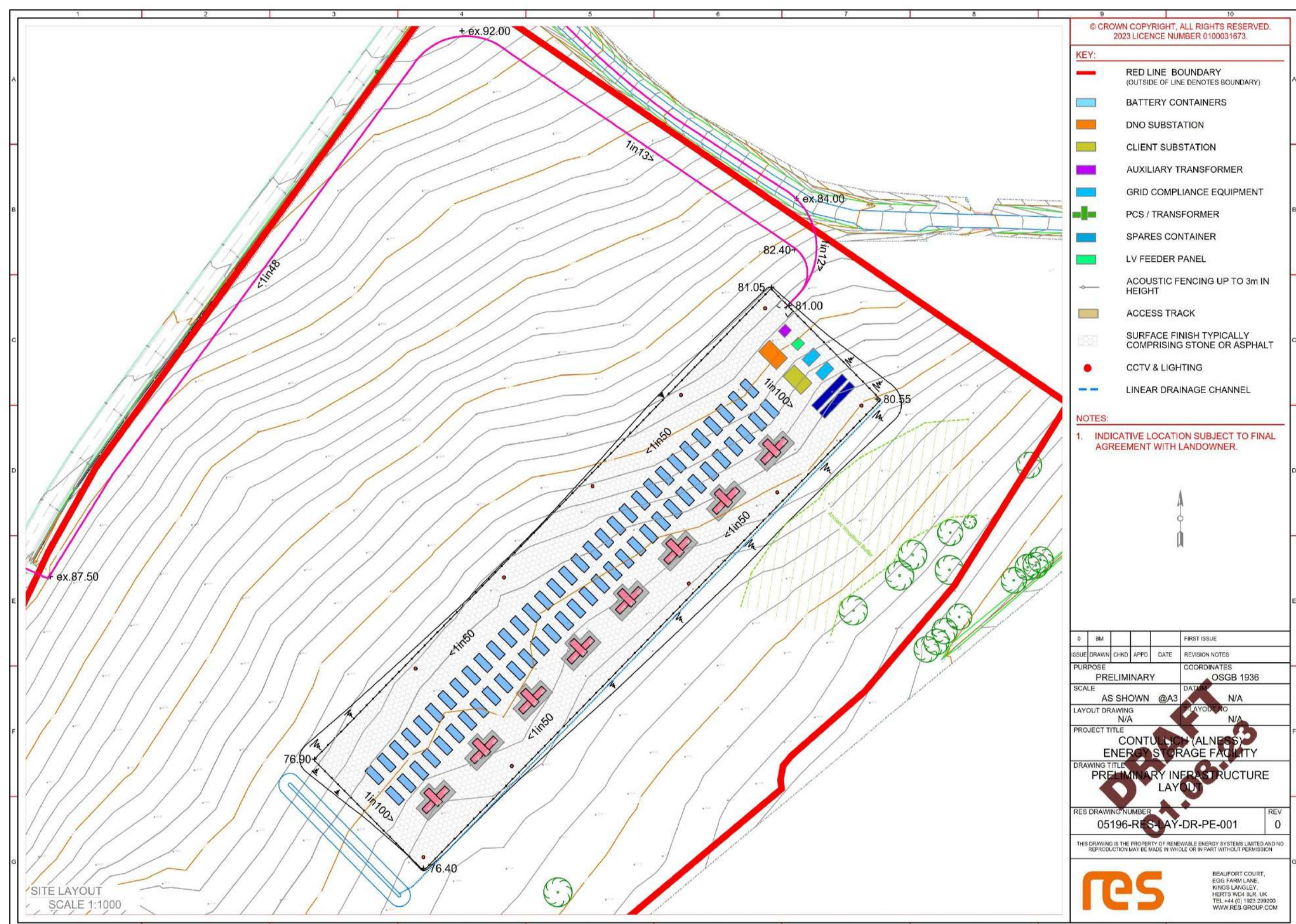
500 m  
Scale 1:15000 (at A2)

The energy storage project is not expected to exceed 4 hectares in size and will have a capacity of 49.9MW.

The site lies outside of any international, national or local environmental designations and there are no nationally important heritage designations in the immediate vicinity.

## About the Project

The plan below shows the current layout for the 49.9MW Contullich Energy Storage project. We are still consulting on the layout and as such it is still 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 are designing the energy storage system so that it will fit sensitively in the surrounding landscape.

A number of surveys and assessments have been carried out to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated.

These assessments 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

The specific objectives of this assessment is to set 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.

### Flood Risk & Surface Water Management

A review of flood risk from various sources is being 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.

### Noise & Vibration

Noise is an important consideration, and the 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.

### 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.

### Arboricultural Survey

Through the Arboricultural Survey, trees and shrubs on or near the site, have been taken into consideration to ensure they are adequately protected from damage during the construction or operation of the energy storage project, if it is consented.

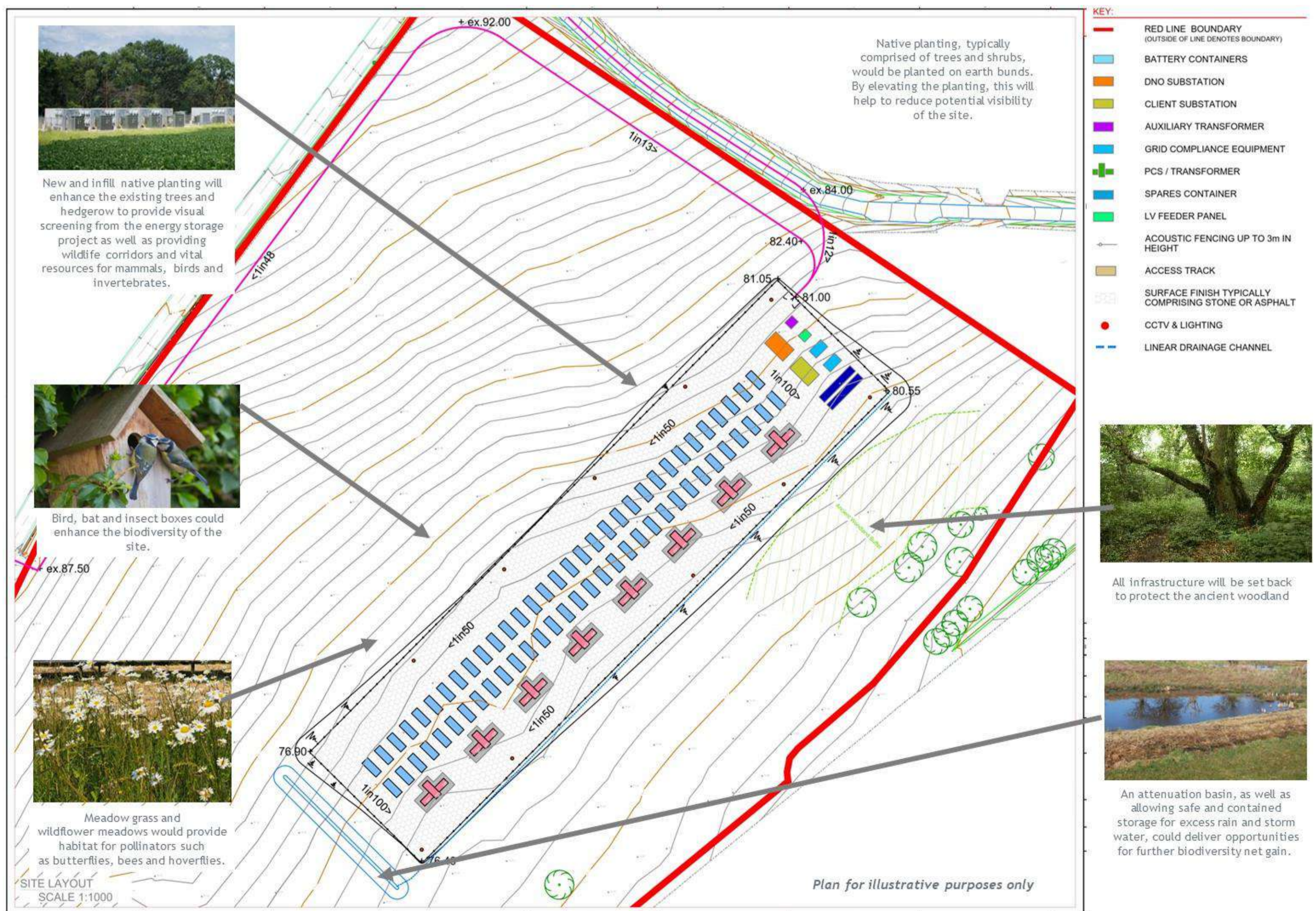


### Landscaping and Biodiversity Enhancement

The Contullich 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.



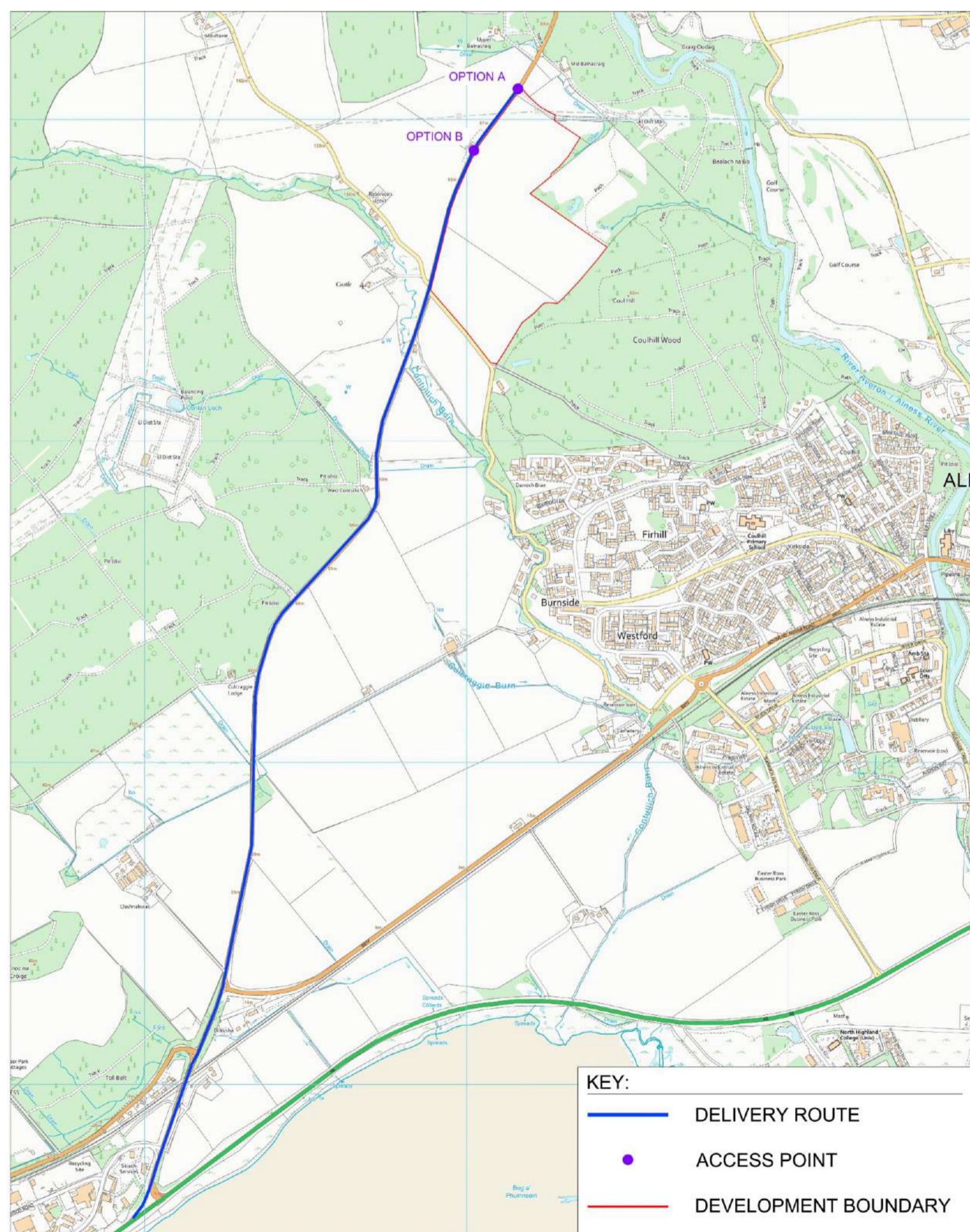
## Traffic and Access

Component and material deliveries are a key phase in the construction of any energy storage project. Throughout the construction phase there would be a combination of HGVs 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.

It is proposed that all equipment deliveries would be from the southwest, via the B9176 Struie Road thus avoiding the Dal-Neigh Bridge.

At this stage we are still investigating two options for accessing the site, as shown in the plan below.

A Transport Statement will accompany the planning application, which will outline 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.



## 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 Consultation Report (PAC), 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.

RES has considerable experience in developing energy storage projects throughout the UK and believes in the importance of community consultation to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which can be considered when developing and designing a project.

We encourage early involvement with the community and invite feedback on the proposal, at a time when it can inform the project design.

At our public consultation event in August 2023, we asked visitors to complete a comment form regarding the proposed Contullich Energy Storage project. This information sheet refers to the feedback we received and how we have responded to it.

### NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT

Our energy system is in a transitional period.

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Electricity is not physically generated on site.



## TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

It is proposed that all equipment deliveries would be from the southwest, via the B9176 Struie Road thus avoiding the Dal-Neigh Bridge.

At this stage we are still investigating two options for accessing the site, as shown in the plan below.

Following feedback from the exhibition in August, we are no longer looking at potential for accessing the site off the Corkscrew Road, instead looking to take access from either the existing agricultural entrance, or the access to Alness Substation.



A Transport Statement will accompany the planning application and outlines details of the proposed transport management arrangements during the construction of the project, and also provides details of transport movements during both construction and operation of the project.

Throughout the construction phase, delivery vehicles will be comprised of a combination of HGVs and cars/vans with all contractors encouraged to car/van share to reduce vehicle movements.

Parking for the workforce will be fully accommodated on site. 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.

If consented, construction of the energy storage system is expected to take around 12 months, with peak HGV traffic movements expected in the first few weeks.

## FIRE RISK

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.

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:

- 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 temperature at which thermally initiated cell venting occurs.
- Wall surface temperature rise does not exceed a specified temperature above ambient.
- Explosion hazards are not observed during the test.

A number of mitigation measures will also be implemented to further reduce risk from fire. These include:

- Equipment spacing
- Protection systems
- Access to battery enclosure
- Location of Proposed Development
- Access for emergency services.

Further information will be available in a Fire Risk Assessment which will accompany the planning application.

## FLOOD RISK

The site has been carefully located to avoid any flood zones.

A Flood Risk Statement and Drainage Management Plan will accompany the planning application and will incorporate 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 as well as a Construction Environmental Management Plan to ensure that the rate of run-off during construction will not increase the flood risk beyond the site boundary. These measures will also include methods to prevent any suspended sediment entering the watercourse mentioned above.

Once completed, the project will increase the impermeable area slightly due to the hardstanding area of the battery compound. A surface water attenuation pond and drainage scheme will therefore be incorporated into any final development design to ensure that the risk of flooding on and off site is not increased.



*An attenuation basin, as well as allowing safe and contained storage for excess rain and storm water, could deliver opportunities for further biodiversity net gain.*

## LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

The site of the Contullich Energy Storage project is outside of any local or national landscape designations and is located a good distance from residential properties.

Given the relatively low heights of the proposed development, potential visibility will be largely limited by the existing and proposed new woodland and vegetation. The Contullich 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.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will accompany the planning application and will provide an assessment of the potential effects of the project on the existing landscape and visual amenity of the site and the surrounding area and accompanies the planning application.

## NOISE

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.

The main sources of sound from the project are from the cooling fans for the inverters housed within the power conversion system (PCS) units, air conditioning for the battery enclosures and the transformers. An acoustic assessment has been undertaken and the project designed to operate within strict noise limits, as agreed with the determining authority.

To minimise any potential acoustic impact of the project we are planning to install acoustic walls around the PCS units, as well as attenuators on the actual PCS units themselves that will reduce the noise. We are also considering installing a 4m high acoustic wall along the north and north-east sides of the site to reduce potential acoustic impact further. The acoustic walls will be screened by planting on bunds to minimise potential visibility.

## ABOUT RES

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

RES has been operating from offices in Glasgow since 1992 employing over 100 people. RES has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects of outstanding quality such as Scotland's first utility-scale battery storage facility, the 20MW Broxburn Energy Storage facility in Broxburn, West Lothian.



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

[www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk)

Appendix I. Second public exhibition comment form

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 project 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 **13<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. 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 (The Highland Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.*

### 1 Contullich 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.contullich-energystorage.co.uk](http://www.contullich-energystorage.co.uk)
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

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

Your views on the Contullich Energy Storage System proposal - specifically the design 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 What do you think about the proposed design layout of Contullich 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 Contullich 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 Scotland?

- 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:

#### 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](mailto:carey.green@res-group.com) or by post to: Contullich Energy Storage System Project Team, RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

A summary of all feedback received, and how RES has responded to it, will be presented at a second public exhibition to be held later this year.

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