POWER FOR GOOD

June 2025

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System

Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) Report

Contents

1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

1.1 Proposed Development

Construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, consisting of battery storage enclosures, PCS/inverter units, associated substation infrastructure, CCTV and lighting columns, palisade and acoustic fencing, access tracks, drainage systems including attenuation ponds and other ancillary works.

2 The Applicant's commitment to consultation

The Applicant is the world's largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24 countries and active in wind, solar, battery energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, the Applicant has delivered more than 28GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports 43GW of operational assets worldwide for a large client base.

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

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

3 Statutory requirements and best practice guidance

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

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

The Applicant submitted a PAN to the LPA on 11 December 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 11 December 2024, the Applicant received a response stating that the LPA had reviewed the PAN and considered that it contained sufficient information with regards to community consultation measures and, therefore, it was compliant with Section 27 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

4 Consultation methodology

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

4.1 Community and stakeholder mapping

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

The stakeholder groups identified included:

- Members for Knockagh District Electoral Area (DEA) of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
- Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Member of Parliament (MP) for the East Antrim constituency
- Residential and business properties within 2.5km of the site
- Community groups within a minimum radius of 5km from site.

4.2 Consultation

As set out in Section 3 of this report, the formal consultation began on 11 December 2024 when the PAN was issued to the LPA. A combination of methods was used to inform the community and stakeholders about the Proposed Development and, subsequently, to ascertain their views.

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

4.3 Letter emailed to elected representatives – 11 December 2024

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

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

4.4 Project website – 11 December 2024

On 11 December 2024, a project website was launched at **www.ballyross-energystorage.co.uk** containing information on the Proposed Development as well as contact details for the project team to facilitate direct engagement.

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

4.5 Newsletter emailed to elected representatives – 8 January 2025

On 8 January 2025 the Applicant emailed a copy of the newsletter found at **Appendix B**, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event, to the Knockagh DEA members and MLAs and MP for the East Antrim constituency.

4.6 Pre-exhibition advertising – 9 January 2025

The Applicant placed an advertisement which appeared in the Larne Times on 9 January 2025 to help raise awareness of the upcoming public exhibition event. A copy of the advertisement can be found at **Appendix C**.

4.7 Community pre-exhibition newsletter mailing – 9 January 2025

On 9 January 2025 the Applicant sent a newsletter, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event, to 472 residential and business properties identified within 2.5km and 12 community groups within 5km of the Proposed Development. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix B**.

4.8 Public Exhibition – 23 January 2025

The public exhibition took place on 23 January 2025 between 4 and 8pm at Gleno Young Farmers Club, Gleno, Larne, BT40 3LJ.

Approximately 32 people attended the public exhibition, and a copy of the information boards presented at the public exhibition can be found at **Appendix D**.

Figure 1 – public exhibition at Gleno Young Farmers Club

All of the information provided on the information boards at the public exhibition was also available on the project website at **www.ballyross-energystorage.co.uk** from the date of the exhibition on 23 January 2025.

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

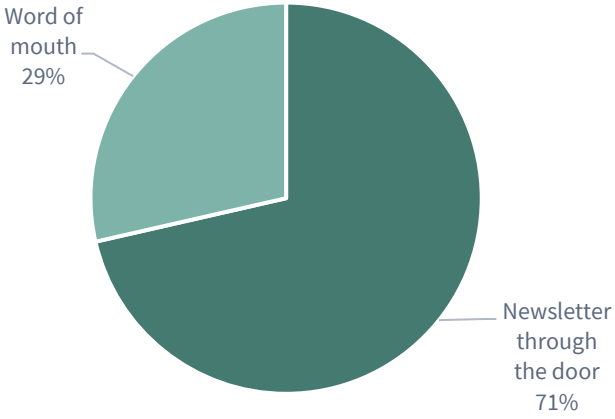
To encourage feedback from people about renewable energy and battery energy storage in general a comment form was available. This form was made available as a hard copy to submit at the public exhibition as well as on the project website where it could be submitted online, by email or by post. A copy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

The consultation period for feedback on the proposal ran from 23 January 2025 to 7 February 2025. A total of seven completed comment forms were received by the Applicant. A summary of the answers received to the closed questions on the comment form is provided in section 4.2.8.

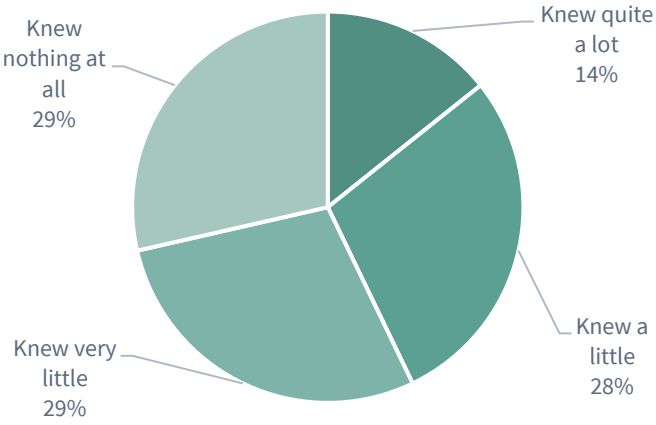
At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (the LPA) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority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

4.9 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment form – seven respondents

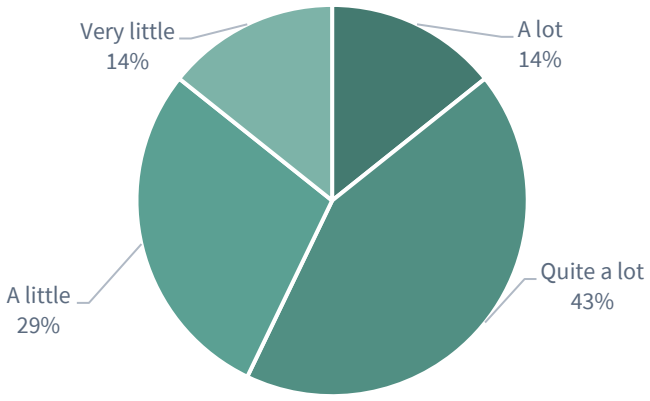
1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?



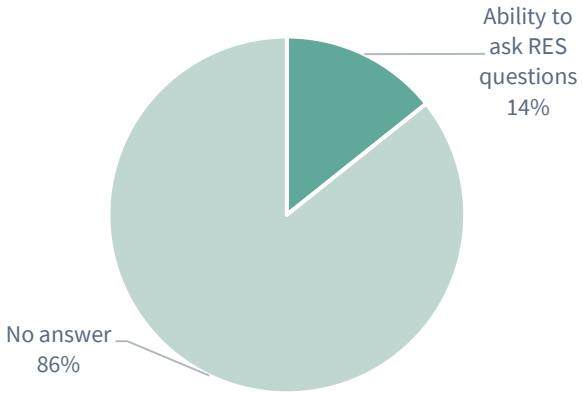
1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System?



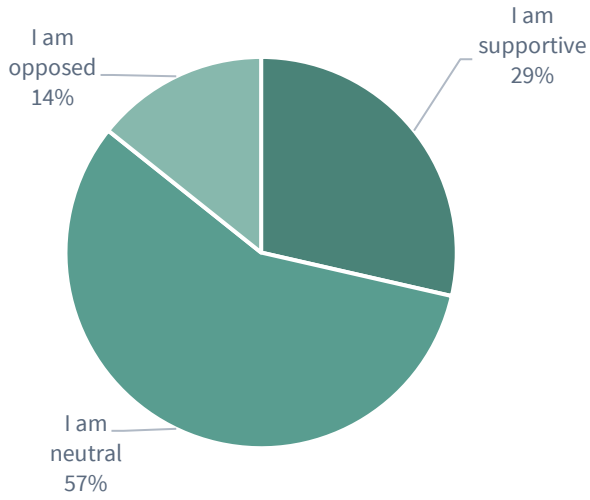
1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding of the proposed Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System?



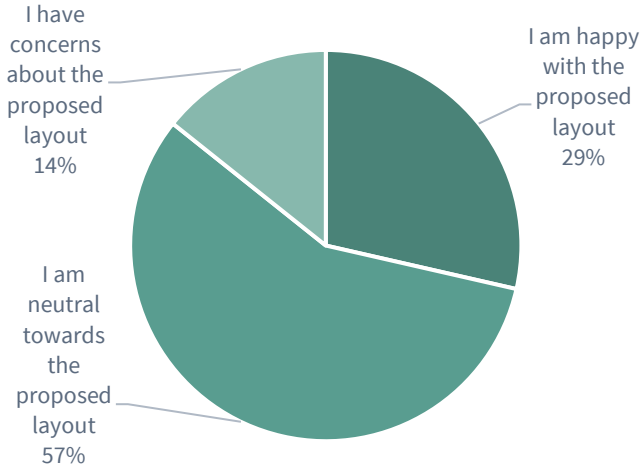
1.4 What part of the public exhibition did you find most useful?



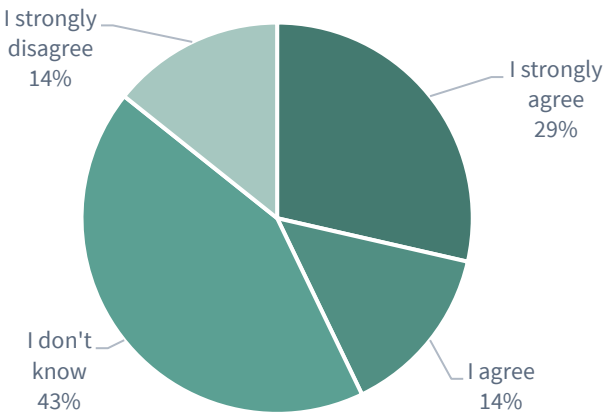
2.1 How do you feel in general about the Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System proposal?



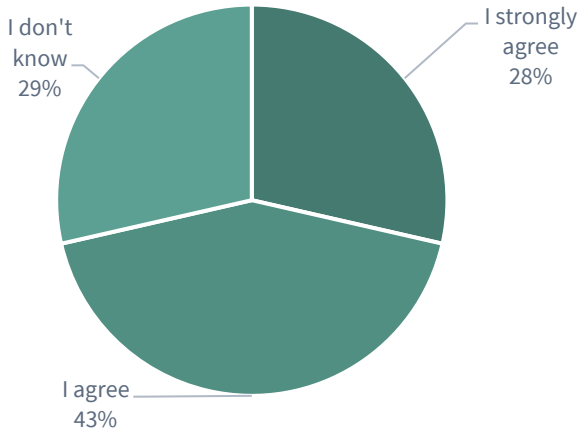
2.2 What do you think about the proposed preliminary layout of the Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System?



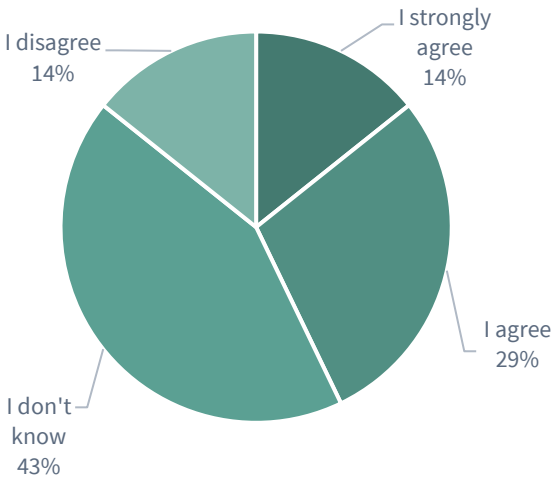
4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?



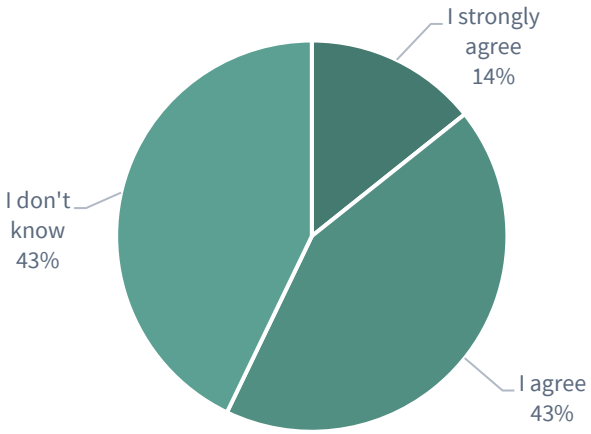
4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?



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



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



4.10 Letter emailed to elected representatives – 14 March 2025

On 14 March 2025, the Applicant wrote to the Knockagh DEA members and MLAs and MP for the East Antrim constituency advising that since the public exhibition in January 2025, where the Applicant presented the preliminary plans for the Proposed Development, they had been refining and improving the preliminary design, which would continue to sit sensitively within the existing landscape whilst maximising the battery energy storage potential. The letter went on to advise that the Applicant was now bringing forward a revised scheme and have submitted a new Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to the LPA.

On 14 March 2025 the LPA confirmed they had reviewed the new 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.

4.11 Newsletter emailed to elected representatives – 16 April 2025

On 16 April 2025 the Applicant emailed a copy of the newsletter found at **Appendix F**, advertising an upcoming public exhibition event, to the Knockagh DEA members and MLAs and MP for the East Antrim constituency.

4.12 Pre-exhibition advertising – 17 April 2025

The Applicant placed an advertisement which appeared in the Larne Times on 17 April 2025 to help raise awareness of the upcoming public exhibition event. A copy of the advertisement can be found at **Appendix G**.

4.13 Community pre-exhibition newsletter mailing – 17 April 2025

On 17 April 2025 the Applicant sent a newsletter, advertising the upcoming public exhibition event, to 472 residential and business properties identified within 2.5km and 12 community groups within 5km of the Proposed Development. A copy of the newsletter can be found at **Appendix F**.

4.14 Public Exhibition – 29 April 2025

The public exhibition took place between 4pm and 8pm on 29 April 2025 at Gleno Young Farmers Club, Gleno, Larne, BT40 3LJ.

Approximately 25 people attended the public exhibition, and a copy of the information boards presented at the public exhibition can be found at **Appendix H**.

Figure 2 – public exhibition at Gleno Young Farmers Club

All of the information provided on the information boards at the public exhibition was also available on the project website at **www.ballyross-energystorage.co.uk** from the date of the information sessions on 29 April 2025.

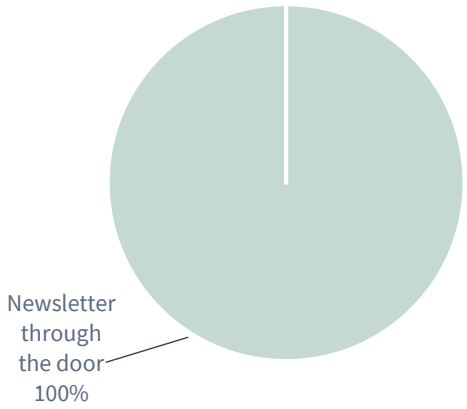
A comment form was provided at the public information sessions as well as online, to encourage feedback from people about the updated proposal. The comment form was made available as a hard copy to submit at the public information sessions as well as on the project website where it could be submitted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

The consultation period for feedback on the proposal ran from 29 April 2025 to 17 May 2025. A total of four completed comment forms were received by the Applicant. A summary of the answers received to the closed questions on the comment form is provided in section 4.2.11.

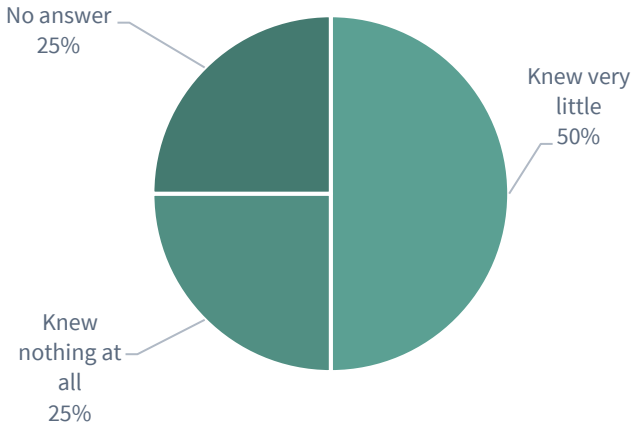
At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (the LPA) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority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

4.15 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment form – four respondents

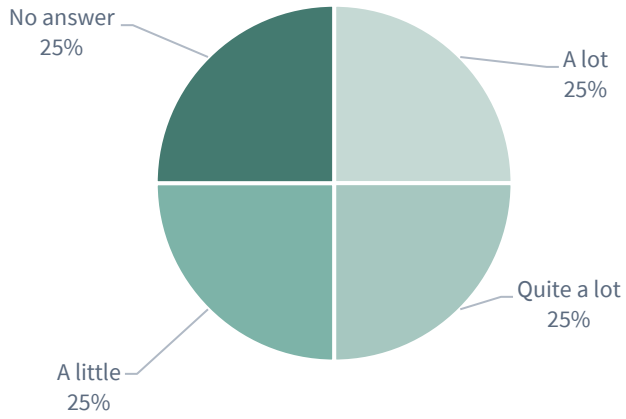
1.1 How did you find out about our public exhibition?



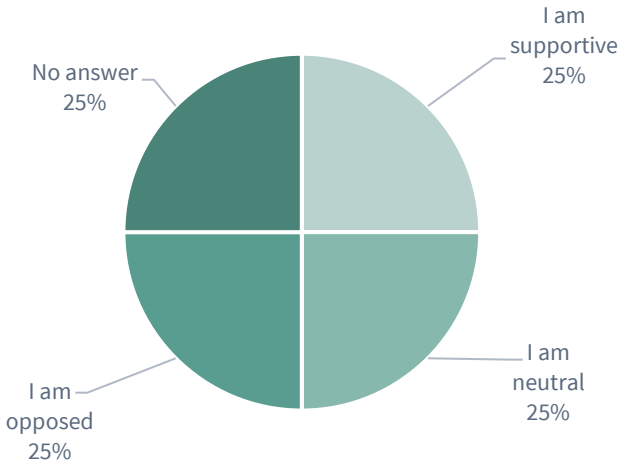
1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System?



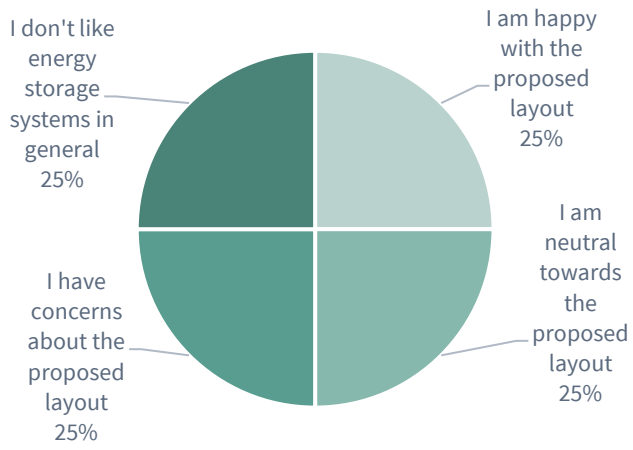
1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding of the proposed Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System?



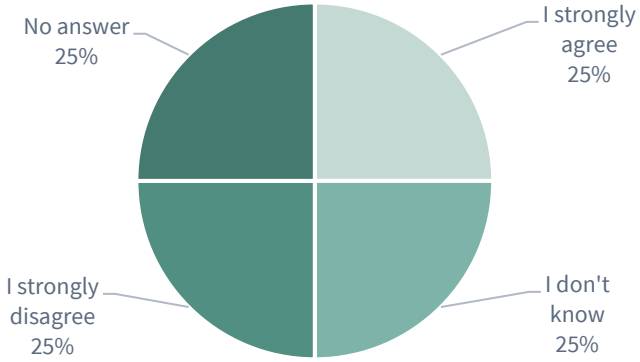
2.1 How do you feel in general about the revised Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System proposal?



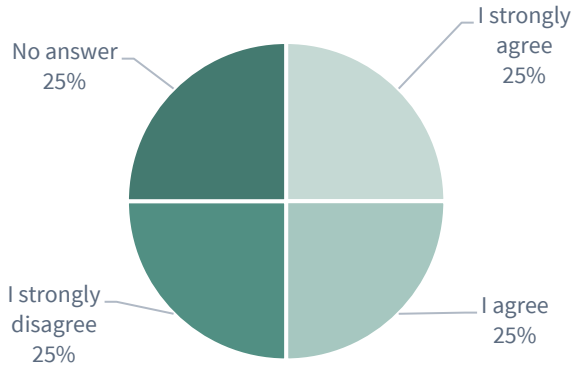
2.2 What do you think about the revised layout of the Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System?



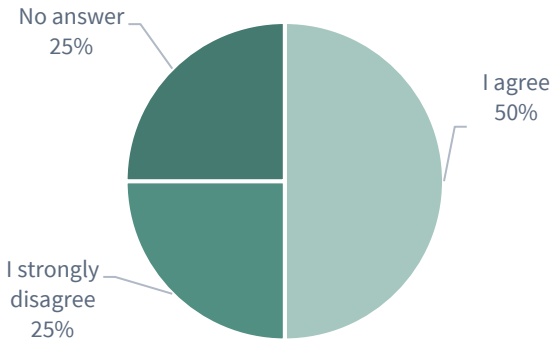
4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?



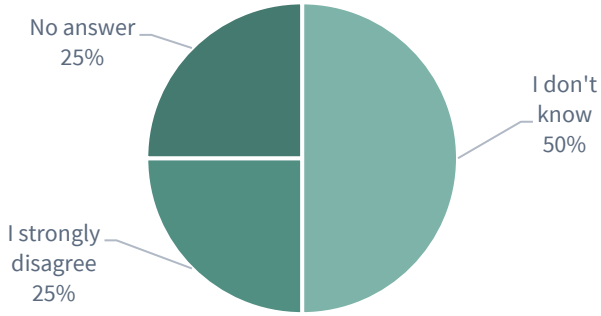
4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?



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



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



4.16 Meetings with elected representatives – 7 January, 24 January, 2 May & 11 June 2025

On 7 and 24 January 2025 respectively, the Applicant met with two MLAs to discuss the preliminary Proposed Development, answer any questions and listen to feedback. A copy of the presentation given by the Applicant at the meeting can be found at **Appendix J**.

On 2 May 2025, the Applicant met with the MP for the East Antrim constituency to discuss the revised Proposed Development, answer any questions and listen to feedback.

On 11 June 2025, the Applicant met for a second time with a MLA to discuss the revised Proposed Development, answer any questions and listen to feedback. A copy of the presentation given by the Applicant at the meeting can be found at **Appendix K.**

4.17 Other consultation responses

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

5 Summary of consultation

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

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

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

All feedback received during the pre-application consultation period, through all consultation activities, has been considered by the Applicant throughout the design iteration and pre-planning stages of the Proposed Development. A summary of feedback, issues and concerns raised, together with the Applicant's response to each can be found in section 7.

6 Feedback and applicant's response

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

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

Sample of comments received	**Applicant's response to feedback**
<u>Need for the development</u> *"I understand the need. I think with anything like this, you feel apprehensive."* *"I strongly agree that energy storage is particularly important to facilitate the use of wasted wind energy."* *"Waste of money as customers will have to pay extra"*	The way in which we use, and generate, electricity is changing. Our electricity system is in a transitionary period to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century, and battery energy storage systems (BESS) provide an important role in this. BESS technology supports the variable generation of renewable energy technologies by playing an important balancing and grid stability role. BESS helps support the network operator by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the grid network when demand exceeds generation. Battery energy storage is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply. BESS can also provide grid stability (frequency of the grid) services on a second-by-second basis as well as providing additional network capacity, particularly at times of network stress. BESS is essential to enabling and accelerating the rollout of zero carbon energy. Increasing its installed capacity will be vital to deliver a reliable, resilient, decarbonised electricity system for the future. BESS has a key role in cost-effectively decarbonising the power sector by 2030. They help to balance the electricity system at a lower cost by maximising the output of variable generation as well as minimising both network upgrades and the need for new infrastructure. Short-duration flexibility offered by technologies such as BESS, could reduce energy system costs by up to £10bn per year by 2050[1] through minimising the need for new peaking generation, such as expensive gas, and network assets.

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

Traffic and access *"[What are] the expected traffic implications for nearby residents"* *"What happens if there is damage to the road?"*	A **Transport Statement** accompanies the planning application, which outlines the overall framework for managing the safe movement of construction and delivery traffic. The Applicant has taken account of feedback from the local community, altering the proposed delivery route to use the B58 Carrickfergus Road instead of the Castle Road through Ballynure. It is proposed that all equipment and construction material deliveries shall take the following route to site: • Leave A8 towards B58 • Follow B58 until it turns into Watch Hill Rd • Turn into Ballyvallagh Road • Approach site through new site access tracks During pre-application consultation with stakeholders, the need for passing places/widened sections has not been identified within the proposed delivery transport route. Narrower sections of the Ballyvallagh Road could accommodate passing places/widened sections if required, any such locations would be identified and agreed prior to the start of construction. The Transport Statement sets out expected vehicle movements throughout the anticipated 20-month construction period. It is expected that there will be a daily maximum of approximately 20 HGV deliveries (40 HGV movements). The construction contractor will conduct a pre-construction and post-construction road condition survey to the agreed extents either side of the access point, with the contractor liable to repair any damage caused to the public roads as result of the construction of the Proposed Development. Once operational, the Proposed Development will be remotely controlled and as such will be unmanned. Operational vehicle movements are on average once a month by car, van or light goods vehicle, to carry out regular inspections and routine maintenance. Parking for these visits will be accommodated on site.

Landscape and visual *"Hope I can't see it too well from my house"* *"With the ecological planting, etc, I would think that the site would not be too visible in the local environment"*	A **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)** accompanies the planning application identifies and determines the effects on landscape character, landscape features, visual receptors, and visual amenity associated with the construction of the Proposed Development. The LVIA has concluded that the Proposed Development will not t have any significant effect on any landscape character areas or designations. A total of six viewpoints have been assessed for the Proposed Development. Three viewpoints are predicted to experience no change from the Proposed Development, due to the existing topography and mature vegetation in the surrounding landscape providing visual screening. The three other viewpoints are predicted to experience no significant effects because of the Proposed Development. Whilst no significant landscape or visual effects are predicted to be experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development, a detailed **Landscape Mitigation Plan (LMP)** accompanies the planning application. The LMP will aid the integration of the Proposed Development into the surrounding landscape context. In direct response to feedback from the local community and the results of site assessments, in particular landscape planting has been included to the western and northern boundary of the Proposed Development site to reduce the visual effects for residential properties with partial views within the closest proximity of the Proposed Development. Existing boundaries of either timber post and wire fence with some gappy planting is proposed to be enhanced with native hedgerow, woodland and specimen tree planting.
Decommissioning and Restoration *"Would like to see a full ethical sourcing statement and more information on disposal/recycling of batteries and other components."* *"Will there be a decommissioning bond?"*	The Applicant has proven experience in the decommissioning of battery storage projects, returning the site to its original use in a safe and efficient manner. The Proposed Development would be returned to its original use at the end of its life. Traditionally, decommissioned materials end up in landfill, contributing to environmental degradation. The Applicant aimed to break this cycle, in the recent

	decommissioning of two projects, by prioritising reuse and recycling for each of the batteries, in addition to the transformers, cabling and components that had further useful life and also concrete which was repurposed by crushing it into aggregate. By demonstrating the feasibility of a nearly waste free decommissioning process and meeting the goal of recycling 98% of all materials of the project, the Applicant has created a blueprint for future decommissioning projects, paving the way towards a more sustainable energy landscape. There are current directives to ensure battery producers are responsible for minimising harmful effects of waste batteries on the environment and they must accept batteries for recycling and disposal at the end of life. Recovered materials can be used to make new batteries from recycled batteries. This reduces manufacturing costs, the quantity of materials sent to landfill and our reliance on mining. Decommissioning obligations will be set out within agreements with the landowner. It is also common for decommissioning to be secured through a planning condition which may include a decommissioning bond or escrow account. It is the norm that decommissioning bonds/sums are reviewed regularly – usually every 5 years – to ensure they remain sufficient for the purpose. The Applicant is committed to sourcing products in a sustainable and responsible way. It is vital that workers involved in making the goods are safe and working in a sustainable environment free of fraud, corruption, and bribery, that human rights are respected, and workers are paid a living wage and treated fairly. The Applicant's Supply Chain Code of Conduct lays out minimum behavioural standards that it expects of all partners and suppliers which may extend beyond national laws or other applicable standards. The requirements are based upon the UN Global Compact. The Applicant has also worked with external consultants to map the sustainability and traceability across our technology supply chain
<u>Grid connection</u> *"I presume you will connect to the grid at Ballyvallagh Substation but how do you propose to do this?"*	The Proposed Development will connect directly into the nearby Ballyvallagh substation. Although a grid connection is an integral, requisite part of any BESS project, it follows a separate consenting

	route undertaken on consent of the BESS project. The Applicant will apply to NIE/SONI for a grid connection should the Proposed Development be consented. Whilst NIE/SONI will be responsible for the grid connection, it is expected that all cabling will be underground, along the Ballyvallagh Road, to the substation.
Safety *"[concerned about] radiation"* *"[What are the details of the safety protocols to be put in place, particularly regarding fire risk, hazardous materials, and emergency response?"* *"[I] presume the containers will have reliable fire suppression? What is the major incident plan?"* *"Battery type – Presumably either LFP (Lithium Iron Phosphate) or NMC (Nickel Manganese Cobalt)? Preferable LFP which is more thermally stable?"* *"Would like more information on potential air pollution"* *"The fire service would use water in event of a fire, what is incorporated in the design regarding supply?"* *"Will it be a gas -based fire suppression system?"* *"Concerned about EMR"*	Batteries do not cause electromagnetic radiation. There are elements of the proposed installation such as transformers and overhead cables, indeed, wherever electricity flows, some electromagnetic radiation is produced. All components are designed in accordance with stringent directives and codes which ensure that any electromagnetic emissions are kept to safe levels. All equipment relating to the Proposed Development 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. The Proposed Development has been developed to address and mitigate against the risk of fire ignition and propagation, in a number of ways. The proposed battery technology for the Proposed 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. A number of control measures will also be implemented to further reduce risk from fire. These include: • Equipment spacing – the design allows for adequate spacing between the battery storage enclosures to mitigate against the risk of fire spread • Protection systems - comprising flammable gas detection and venting, fire detection and alarm, and a gaseous (clean agent), or an aerosol based automatic fire suppression system. • Access to battery enclosure – all battery enclosures will be accessed via external doors only.

	• Access for emergency services – the design incorporates wide access routes through north and south corridors and through the centre, allowing the fire service to access the Proposed Development in the unlikely event of an incident. In addition, two access points are proposed to the compound from the highway An **Outline Fire Risk Management Plan (OFRMP)** accompanies the planning application. If consented, a full Fire Safety Management Plan will be developed for the Proposed Development, in liaison with all relevant parties including the local fire and rescue services. It is intended that an onsite water supply would not be required to achieve the fire response strategy outlined within the OFRMP. However, if agreed as necessary, a sufficient water supply in line with NFCC Guidance could be achieved through provision of either a piped hydrant sourcing the water from an existing water main at the Ballyvallagh Road, or a permanent storage tank on-site. In the event of a thermal run-away incident hydrogen fluoride gas can be produced. If released, this gas will form a cloud presenting a toxicity hazard. As an appendix to the OFRMP, a toxic cloud assessment is included which shows that no occupied premises are located within this cloud radius therefore the potential risk to the public is low.
<u>Acoustics</u> *"[concerned about] noise"* *"Will destroy the peace and quiet of the landscape with noise pollution"* *"Will there be noise from the batteries?"*	The main sources of sound from the Proposed Development would be from the cooling fans for the inverters housed within the Power Conversion System (PCS) units, air conditioning for the battery enclosures, and the transformers. The Proposed Development has been designed to comply with strict noise limits set by the LPA, to ensure residential properties are not affected. A detailed **Acoustic Assessment** has been carried out, in conjunction with the LPA's Environmental Health team. The results indicate that the sound emitted by the Proposed Development, operating in isolation and in a cumulative context, can be considered to have 'No Observed Effect Level' in terms of government policy and guidance provided within the Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland during the daytime and night-time.

Proximity to properties and property value *"Value to my house"* *"How close is it to houses?"* *"Will lose my view, peace and tranquillity from property and land"* *"Very close to my house"*	The Proposed Development has been specifically located close to the existing Ballyvallagh electrical substation where the project will connect to the wider grid network via an underground connection. BESS need to be located as close as possible to the substation from which its grid connection is provided in order to limit electrical losses and ensure efficiency of the system. By locating the Proposed Development here, there is also minimum requirement for additional overhead and/or undergrown cables to connect the project to the grid network, therefore limiting any environmental impacts. The project compound is located a minimum of 200m from the nearest occupied residential property. Property value is subjective and can be affected by a range of factors. At this time, there is no firm evidence on whether BESS do or do not affect house prices.
Environment and ecology *"[What] measures [are] being taken to mitigate environmental impact during both the construction and operational phases of the project?"* *"[Are there] any anticipated effects on local waterways, including potential risks to water quality and natural habitats, and what protections are being put in place?"* *"I don't anticipate this having any detrimental effect on the local environment. Especially if all the environmental steps are completed."* *"Keep the 2 water sources for my cattle intact plus prevent any pollution to them"* *"Too big a risk of damaged cells and leakage of toxins into the water table"*	The planning application is supported by an **Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)**. EcIA is the process of identifying, quantifying and evaluating the potential effects of the Proposed Development on ecological features. The EcIA concludes, with the implementation of mitigation measures, there will be no significant impact on biodiversity at a site level with an increase in hedgerow and grassland species diversity. The proposed planting regime set out in the LMP aims to connect the site to habitat in the surrounding environment by planting continuous lines of trees, or hedgerows which are not obstructed by infrastructure or illuminated and allow the free movement of mammals. Hedgerow planting will occur, using a native species hedgerow mix to aid in developing a more established, dense and species diverse understory which many hedgerows on the site currently lack. An estimated 180m of hedgerow will be created, replacing the existing fencing on site. All hedgerow or treelines removed will be compensatory planted at a 2:1 ratio, ensuring a net-gain of habitats. The Proposed Development is hydrologically connected to a number of designated sites. All construction works will be carried out in accordance with DAERA Pollution Prevention Guidance (DAERA, 2024).

	A 10m land buffer will be maintained between all construction works and nearby watercourses in order to avoid and/or minimise adverse effects from pollution and runoff. In addition, an **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP**) and **Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (sHRA)** have been prepared and accompany the planning application, detailing methods for reducing impact on waterbodies from sedimentation and potential hydrocarbon spills. Fire water containment is incorporated into the overall site drainage design for the Proposed Development. Although the use of water is not anticipated while responding to an unlikely fire incident, boundary cooling may be employed to minimise the risk of propagation between adjacent containers. Since water would then not be applied directly to the battery enclosure it is anticipated that this run-off water would have a low concentration of contaminants. Runoff water used to cool the units will be initially intercepted and contained within the gravel bases. This will allow a compartmentalised approach to the containment of water in the unlikely event of fire. Penstocks will be installed to allow further containment of potentially contaminated water for testing prior to either tanking offsite if contaminated or alternatively discharged in accordance with the approved drainage strategy.
<u>Community benefit</u> *"Any community funding available to support community projects as part of the development?"* *"What will be the mechanism for the community benefit?"* *"Just attempting to bribe local people to support the project"*	Whilst noting that community benefits are a voluntary contribution and not a material planning consideration, the Applicant seeks to be a Power for Good in communities that neighbour their projects by working openly and constructively to deliver tangible local benefits. The Applicant believes that the Proposed Development should provide direct, lasting benefits aligned to the priorities and aims of the local communities. As part of our pre-application consultation, the Applicant sought feedback on ideas, from the local community and stakeholders, for local benefits and priority projects that they would like to see supported or delivered in their community from the Proposed Development, should it receive consent. Ideas received from the local community include:

	• Support for small and/or start-up local businesses • Support for community organisations • Footpath improvements The Applicant looks forward to continuing these conversations with stakeholders and the local community, should the Proposed Development receive consent.
Consultation and engagement *"Any long-term monitoring or community engagement plans post-installation?"*	As set out within the OCEMP, throughout the construction period of the Proposed Development, an open dialogue will be maintained with local residents, stakeholders and all other interested parties. The local community will be provided with regular updates on construction progress and upcoming activities through appropriate channels. There will be a nominated point of contact for local residents in connection with any issues that may arise during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Any change to the appointed person shall be communicated to the planning authority and the local community representatives as required.

7 Summary

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

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

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

Analysis of the comment forms from the first public exhibition shows that 87% of respondents supported or were neutral to the Proposed Development. Analysis of the comment forms from the second public exhibition shows that 50% of respondents supported or were neutral and 25% of respondents had concerns about the Proposed Development. 25% did not provide an answer.

Wherever possible, the Applicant has considered the feedback that was received as the design was refined and finalised. This included:

- Changing the proposed delivery route to avoid impact on Ballynure
- Additional visual screening to the north and west of the Proposed Development, to further minimise potential visibility

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

Appendices

Appendix A Letter emailed to elected representatives – 11 December 2024

RES
Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne
County Antrim BT40 2SF, United Kingdom
www.res-group.com

[redacted]

11th December 2024

Dear [redacted]

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal

I am writing to let you know that RES is exploring the potential for a battery energy storage project on land approximately 2km southwest of Gleno and 8.5km southwest of Larne.

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

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

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

We will shortly be submitting a Screening Request to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, and alongside this we are undertaking a number of technical and environmental surveys to ensure any potential impact on the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated. This includes any potential cumulative effects from other developments in the area.

RES is committed to engaging early with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate constructive consultation. We have submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, setting out a range of consultation activities we will undertake for the wider community including a public exhibition in the local area. We have also launched a dedicated project website for the proposal at www.ballyross-energystorage.co.uk.

POWER FOR GOOD res-group.com

We would welcome the opportunity to arrange a meeting with you at a convenient time, should you wish to discuss the project further or ask any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Deeney
Development Project Manager
E peter.deeney@res-group.com
M 07828 175520

2

Appendix B Community pre-exhibition newsletter mailing – 9 January 2025

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System

RES is exploring the potential for a battery energy storage system on land approximately 2km southwest of Gleno and 8.5km southwest of Larne, Co. Antrim.

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

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

Public Exhibition

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

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at **www.ballyross-energystorage.co.uk** from 23rd January 2025.

Thursday 23rd January 2025
4pm to 8pm
Gleno Young Farmers Club
Gleno, Larne, BT40 3LJ

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. **To participate, please provide feedback on the preliminary design by Friday 7th February 2025.**

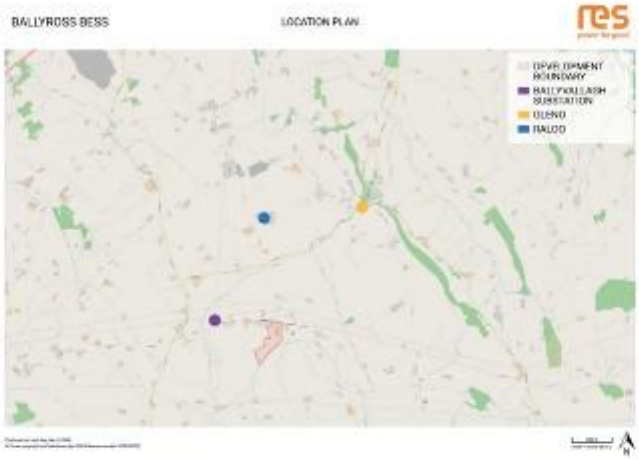
Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development. Comments forms will be available to complete and submit during the public exhibition. Forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the public exhibition and can submitted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

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

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System at a Glance

The Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System would comprise a number of battery storage enclosures and associated infrastructure to provide up to 75MW of storage capacity. Ballyross 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 Ballyross project will be specifically designed to include planting of native trees, hedgerows and wildflower grass areas. These will not only reduce potential visibility of the scheme but also help to enhance biodiversity by providing wildlife corridors and vital resources for mammals, birds, and insect species.



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

About RES

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

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

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

Peter Deeney
Development Project Manager
peter.deeney@res-group.com
00353 85 1758144
RES, Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, Co. Antrim, BT40 2SF

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

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

Appendix C Pre-exhibition advertising – 9 January 2025

NEWS

Grace McGuigan and Shannon Massey from Ballyclare took part in the sponsored swim at Carnlough Harbour

Big splash for charity

Valerie Martin

Megan Clements from Ballymena takes part in the New's Year Day swim

Around 100 hardy participants made a big splash for a worthy cause at Carnlough harbour on New Year's Day in the annual charity swim organised by the Ballymena branch of the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association.

This was the 53rd year of the annual event, which saw Geoff Bell leading a total of 97 swimmers at 12 noon into the harbour to the cheers of many spectators.

Geoff, who has taken part in all the previous swims, was accompanied with the young generation very much on show as well as the not so young.

Those participating and not for the first time included Hugo Carlin who took part in his first swim 52 years ago.

Families were very much in evidence including Bert Kernohan and family, Andrew Moss and family, Darren Donnell and family, Angela McClements and the Murphy family, the O'Rawe family, the Crawford family, the Erwin family, the Ash family and Raymond Abram and his young friends.

In attendance on his yearly pilgrimage from Glasgow was Arthur Chatfield who this time was accompanied by his family Lyra Chatfield, Alana Rodgers, Scott Williamson, Kyle Williamson, Jay Williamson and Raymond Chatfield.

SPECTATORS

There was the usual large number of spectators with lots of visitors from further afield among them.

All participants were under the watchful eye of members of the Larne Branch of the St John Ambulance the organisers extend their grateful thanks to them for their attendance over the years.

Following the swim, everyone enjoyed a social event under the leadership of Bert Kernohan, which gave the opportunity for some to show off their dancing skills and a choir singing competition.

The treasurer reported the magnificent sum of £3,195 was raised on the day and with more sponsorship to come in, it is expected the 2024 total of £5,396 will be reached.

The organisers extend their thanks to all who took part and their supporters and to everyone who helped make this year's swim such a success.

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal

res power for good

RES is exploring the potential for a battery energy storage system on land approximately 2km southwest of Gleno and 8.5km southwest of Larne, Co. Antrim.

We are keen to engage with the local community and as part of our pre-application consultation we are holding a public exhibition in the local area to enable people to find out more about the proposal and provide us with their views. Our team will be on hand to answer any questions and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

Thursday 23rd January 2025
4pm to 8pm
Gleno Young Farmers Club
Gleno, Larne, BT40 3LJ

All information provided during at the public exhibition will also be available at www.ballyross-energystorage.co.uk from 23rd January 2025.

The exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. To participate, please provide feedback on the proposal by Friday 7th February 2025.

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

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

CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

2024 Families First School of the Year for the Northern Region

KNOWLEDGE · OPPORTUNITY · RESPECT

OPEN EVENING

Carrickfergus Grammar school is a thriving school community with a warm, positive atmosphere which values the academic promise of each individual child who joins us.

Our Open Evening this year will be held on Thursday 16th January 2025. 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Self-guided tours (school maps provided)
OR book a pupil-led guided tour via the QR code

www.carrickfergusgrammar.com
www.facebook.com/carrickfergusgrammar
www.twitter.com/@carrickgrammar

Appendix D Public exhibition information boards – 23 January 2025

Welcome to our public consultation

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

We are seeking your views on the preliminary design for a battery energy storage proposal that we are exploring on land approximately 2km south west of Gleno and 8.5km southwest of Larne, Co. Antrim.

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

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

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

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

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

Image for illustrative purposes only

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

ballyross-energystorage.co.uk

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The need for battery energy storage

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

BESS supports the variable generation of renewable energy technologies by playing an important balancing and grid stability role. It helps support the network operator by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the grid network when demand exceeds generation.

BESS is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply. BESS can also provide grid stability (frequency of the grid) services on a second-by-second basis as well as providing additional network capacity, particularly at times of network stress.

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

Image for illustrative purposes only

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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The world's largest independent renewable energy company

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

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

RES in Ireland

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

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

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

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal
ballyross-energystorage.co.uk

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Project Overview

The proposed Ballyross Battery Energy Storage site is located on land approximately 2km southwest of Gleno and 8.5km southwest of Larne, Co. Antrim.

The site is not expected to exceed 8 hectares including the site tracks, landscaping and surface water management measures.

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

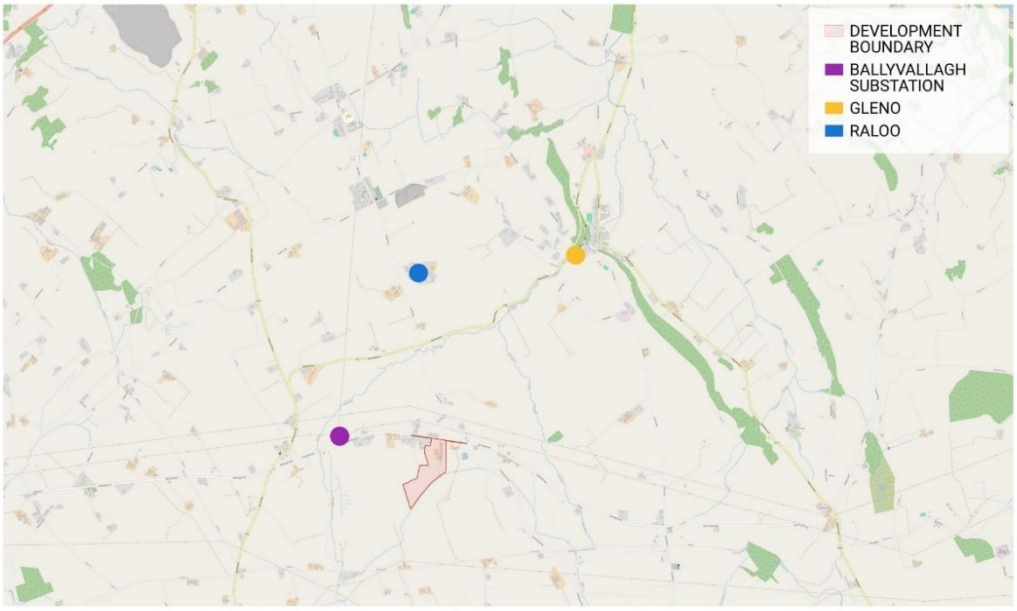
If consented, the project would connect directly into the Ballyvallagh substation.

The Ballyross proposal will be capable of providing up to 75MW of storage capacity. That's the equivalent of fully charging around 3,000 electric vehicles.

The planning application will be submitted to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, and we currently expect to submit the application around Spring 2025.

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

BALLYROSS BESS LOCATION PLAN



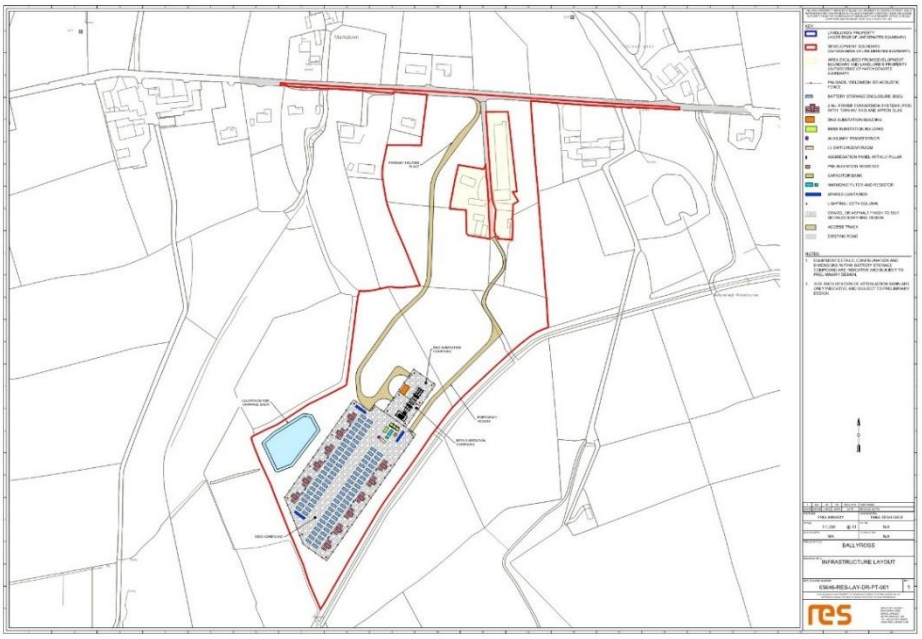
We are still consulting on the development boundary and as such, it is subject to change.

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

ballyross-energystorage.co.uk

Infrastructure and layout

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



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

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

The site would comprise of approximately 128 battery containers. The typical dimensions of the battery containers are 6.1 metres long by 2.4m wide by 2.9 metres high.

The tallest infrastructure is expected to be part of the 110kV substation equipment, which would have a maximum height of around 7 metres.

The infrastructure would include:

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

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

ballyross-energystorage.co.uk

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Traffic and access

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

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

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

A Transport Statement will accompany the planning application, which outlines the overall framework for managing the safe movement of construction and delivery traffic.

The Transport Statement will also itemise the estimated number of deliveries over an approximate 15-month construction period, the indicative spread of these vehicle movements during the construction phase and expected timing restrictions.

BALLYROSS BESS DELIVERY ROUTE

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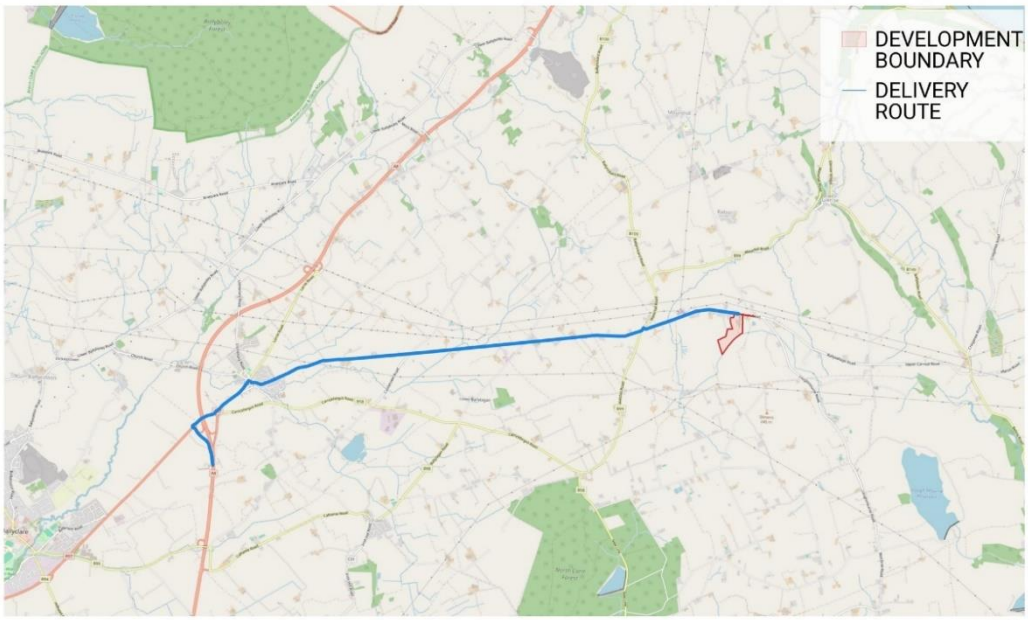

Produced on Land App, Dec 20, 2024.
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1000 m
Scale 1:35000 (at A3)
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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

ballyross-energystorage.co.uk

res power for good

Environmental considerations

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

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

The assessments to be carried out will include:

Ecology

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

Acoustics

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

Flood risk & surface water management

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

Landscape

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

Heritage & Archaeology

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

Image for illustrative purposes only

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

ballyross-energystorage.co.uk

res power for good

Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement

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

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

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

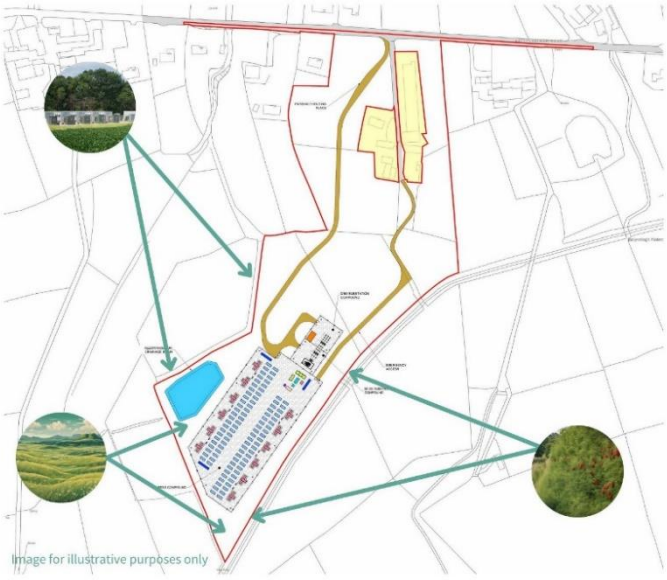
The landscaping plan will also provide information on the timings and aftercare regime for all planting.

Whilst there are currently no statutory targets for biodiversity protection, restoration or enhancement in Northern Ireland, for the Ballyross proposal we aim to deliver a project which will enhance biodiversity, where possible, as part of the development.

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

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

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



Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

ballyross-energystorage.co.uk

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Our approach to safety

At RES, safety is of the utmost importance.

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

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

Monitoring and Remote Access

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

Battery Selection

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

Equipment Spacing

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

Protection Systems

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

Access to Battery Enclosure and for Emergency Services

All battery enclosures will be accessed via external doors only. The fenced compound will have a wide access route through north and south corridors and through the centre, allowing the fire service to access the site in the unlikely event of an incident. In addition, two site access points will be proposed to the battery energy storage compound.

A Fire Risk Statement will accompany any planning application.

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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Decommissioning and restoration

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

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

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

By demonstrating the feasibility of a nearly wastefree decommissioning process and meeting our goal of recycling 98% of all materials of the project, we hope to set a precedent for sustainable practices in the industry.

This aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship but also serves as a blueprint for future decommissioning projects, paving the way towards a more sustainable energy landscape.

There are current directives to ensure battery producers are responsible for minimising harmful effects of waste batteries on the environment and they must accept batteries for recycling and disposal at the end of life.

Recovered materials can be used to make new batteries from recycled batteries. This reduces manufacturing costs, the quantity of materials sent to landfill and our reliance on mining. As the battery markets grows, we are already seeing the number of techniques available for recycling increase.

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

Image for illustrative purposes only

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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A Power for Good

Working with the local supply chain

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a project like Ballyross are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities.

These opportunities can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the local area.

Such services and suppliers include groundworks, electrical works, plant operators, labourers, cleaners, fencers, landscapers and accommodation and other hospitality services.

RES is keen to hear from local businesses who are interested in learning more about the opportunities associated with the construction and operation of our energy projects.

Local benefits

RES seeks to be a Power for Good in communities that neighbour our projects by working openly and constructively to deliver tangible local benefits.

We believe that our projects should provide direct, lasting benefits aligned to the priorities and aims of the local communities.

As part of our pre-application consultation, we are seeking feedback on ideas, from the local community and stakeholders, for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from Ballyross, should it receive consent.

If you have any suggestions for such benefits the project may be able to support, please let us by filling in a comment form.

Some examples from other communities that we've worked with include:

- business start-up initiatives
- road safety initiatives
- apprenticeships/educational schemes
- improvements to village halls
- improved broadband provision
- improvements to local footpaths

Any feedback which may tie into the project design is particularly important for us to capture at this early stage, so that it can be considered in relation to the development and refinement of the scheme over the coming months.

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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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 battery 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.

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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Appendix E Comment form – 23 January 2025

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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

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

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

Please provide feedback by **Friday 7th February 2025**. 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 (Mid and East Antrim Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

1 Ballyross Battery 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.ballyross-energystorage.co.uk
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other (please specify)

☐

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

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

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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

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

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

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

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

2 Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal

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

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

- ☐ I am supportive
- ☐ I am neutral
- ☐ I am opposed

Further comments:

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

- ☐ I am happy with the proposed layout
- ☐ I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- ☐ I have concerns about the proposed layout (please provide further details below)
- ☐ I don't like battery energy storage systems in general

Further comments:

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

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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

3 Local Benefits

3.1 RES believe our projects should deliver meaningful local benefit.

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

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

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

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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

4 Climate Change, Energy Security and Renewables

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

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

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

Further comments:

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

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

Further comments:

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

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

Further comments:

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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

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

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

Further comments:

5 Your details

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

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

Name	
Email	
Address	
Postcode*	

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

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

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

Appendix F Community pre-exhibition newsletter mailing – 17 April 2025

Ballyross Energy Storage System

RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land approximately 2km southwest of Gleno, Co. Antrim.

Since our public exhibition in January where we presented our preliminary plans for the project, we have been refining and improving the preliminary design, which would continue to sit sensitively within the existing landscape whilst maximising the battery energy storage potential.

We are now bringing forward a revised scheme and are holding a public exhibition in the local area to enable people to find out more and provide us with their views. Our team will be on hand to answer any questions and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

Tuesday 29 April 2025
4pm to 8pm
Gleno Young Farmers Club
Gleno, Larne, BT40 3LJ

All information provided at the public exhibition will also be available at www.ballyross-energystorage.co.uk from 29 April 2025.

The public exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. To participate, please provide feedback on the preliminary design by **Friday 17 May 2025**.

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

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

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System at a Glance

The Ballyross Energy Storage System would comprise a number of battery storage enclosures and associated infrastructure to provide up to an approximate maximum of 120MW capacity.

Battery energy storage technology supports the variable generation of renewable energy technologies by playing an important balancing and grid stability role. Battery energy storage helps support the network operator by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the grid network when demand exceeds generation. Increasing battery energy storage installed capacity will be vital to support Northern Ireland's net-zero emissions target and help to deliver a reliable, resilient, decarbonised electricity system for the future.

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

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

About RES

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

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

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

Peter Deeney
Development Project Manager
peter.deeney@res-group.com
00353 85 1758144
RES, Willowbank Business Park, Millbrook, Larne, Co. Antrim, BT40 2SF

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

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

Appendix G Pre-exhibition advertising – 17 April 2025

1 Larne Times
URN: IBC6047827 Date: 2025-04-17 Section: ROP
Advertiser: Renewable Energy Systems Ltd (N.I) ** (O/N) Page: 5/40

NEWS

Approval of Greenisland public right of way

By Michelle Weir
Local Democracy Reporter
Follow us on Twitter

Mid and East Antrim councillors have agreed to the assertion of a public right of way in Greenisland between Upper Road and Farm Lodge Park.

A report presented to the council's Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee at a meeting in The Braid, Ballymena, last Tuesday evening, indicated the lane runs adjacent to Greenisland War Memorial Sports Club, known locally as part of Herdman's Lane.

District councils are obliged to "assert, protect, keep open and free from obstruction or encroachment any public right of way" under the Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order. The council must also investigate queries relating to the Order.

Carrick Castle Alliance Councillor Lauren Gray proposed accepting the officer's recommendation to authorise interim chief executive Valerie Watts and Mayor Alderman William McCaughey to "execute an assertion statement" to finalise the procedure.

Councillors were told it would provide a route to residential areas and a local sports club.

Cllr Gray's proposal was seconded by Knockagh Ulster Unionist Alderman Andrew Wilson who said he has received correspondence from Greenisland Heritage and Environment Group advising of letters from the legacy Carrickfergus Borough Council that it had been "asserted as a right of way".

General view over Greenisland, from Knockagh

"Historically, council has such a shameful track record with any sort of right of way," Ald Wilson claimed. He asked if there has been any consultation with local people.

"My concern would be if we are asserting, should we not be doing the whole route?" An officer said "historically the route would have run from Marshallstown Road to the foreshore".

The report said the council was informed in December by members of the public that a route, believed to be a right of way, was being obstructed due to a development being constructed along the path.

A request was brought to councillors at a committee meeting the following month for a temporary closure order. However, it was indicated there was "no assertion statement for this site".

The report continues: "Due to a lack of an assertion statement, the lane was not legally asserted as a public right of way."

However, a historical file showed there was a letter from the previous landowner confirming the existence of the public right of way as well as a minute from the legacy Carrickfergus Borough Council from 1998 "authorising an officer to assert but there is no evidence of an assertion statement having been completed".

"Despite Herdman's Lane being recognised as a public right of way by residents, it has never been formally asserted in accordance with the recommended procedure," the report stated.

Councillors were advised that last month, the council received consent from the current landowner to assert.

Ballyross Energy Storage System Proposal

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RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land approximately 2km southwest of Glenoe, Co. Antrim.

Since our public exhibition in January where we presented our preliminary plans for the project, we have been refining and improving the preliminary design, which would continue to sit sensitively within the existing landscape whilst maximising the battery energy storage potential.

We are now bringing forward a revised scheme and are holding a public exhibition in the local area to enable people to find out more and provide us with their views. Our team will be on hand to answer any questions and comment forms will be available to gather feedback.

Tuesday 29 April 2025
4pm to 8pm
Glenoe Young Farmers Club
Glenoe, Larne, BT40 3LJ

All information provided during at the public exhibition will also be available at www.ballyross-energystorage.co.uk from 29 April 2025.

The exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. To participate, please provide feedback on the proposal by Friday 17 May 2025.

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

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

Appendix H Public exhibition information boards – 29 April 2025

Welcome to our public consultation

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

Since our public exhibition in January where we presented our preliminary plans for the project, we have been refining and improving the preliminary design, which would continue to sit sensitively within the existing landscape whilst maximising the battery energy storage potential.

We are now seeking your views on a revised scheme.

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

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

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

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

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

Image for illustrative purposes only

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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The need for battery energy storage

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

BESS supports the variable generation of renewable energy technologies by playing an important balancing and grid stability role. It helps support the network operator by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the grid network when demand exceeds generation.

BESS is considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply. BESS can also provide grid stability (frequency of the grid) services on a second-by-second basis as well as providing additional network capacity, particularly at times of network stress.

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

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The world's largest independent renewable energy company

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

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

RES in Ireland

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

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

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

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal
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Project Overview

The proposed Ballyross Battery Energy Storage site is located on land approximately 2km southwest of Gleno and 8.5km southwest of Larne, Co. Antrim.

Our revised scheme will be capable of providing up to an approximate maximum of 120MW of storage capacity. That's the equivalent of fully charging around 4,800 electric vehicles.

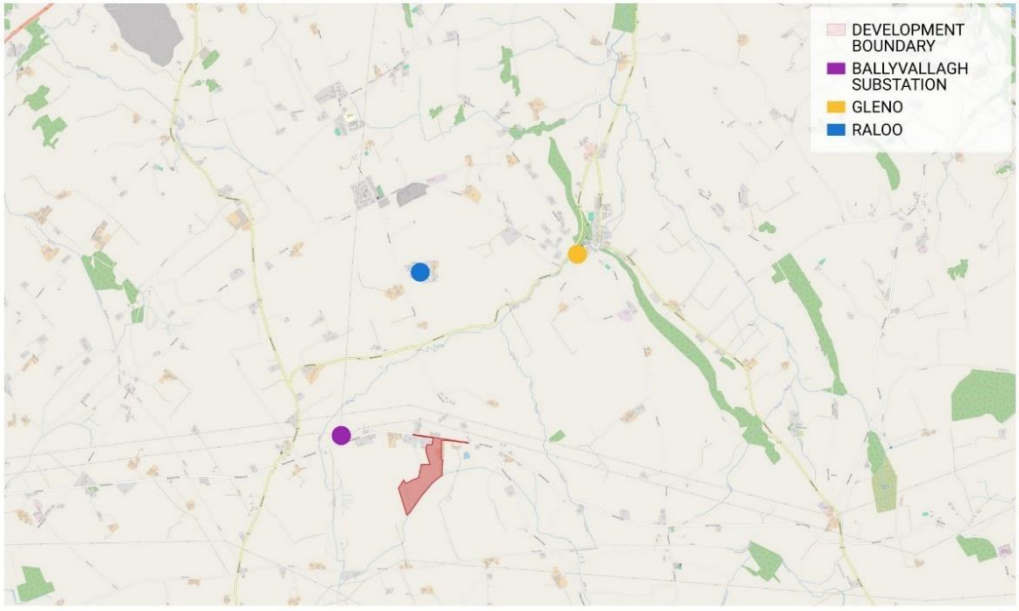
The site is not expected to exceed 8.35 hectares including the site tracks, landscaping and surface water management measures.

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

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

The planning application will be submitted to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, and we currently expect to submit the application in Summer 2025.

BALLYROSS BESS LOCATION PLAN



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

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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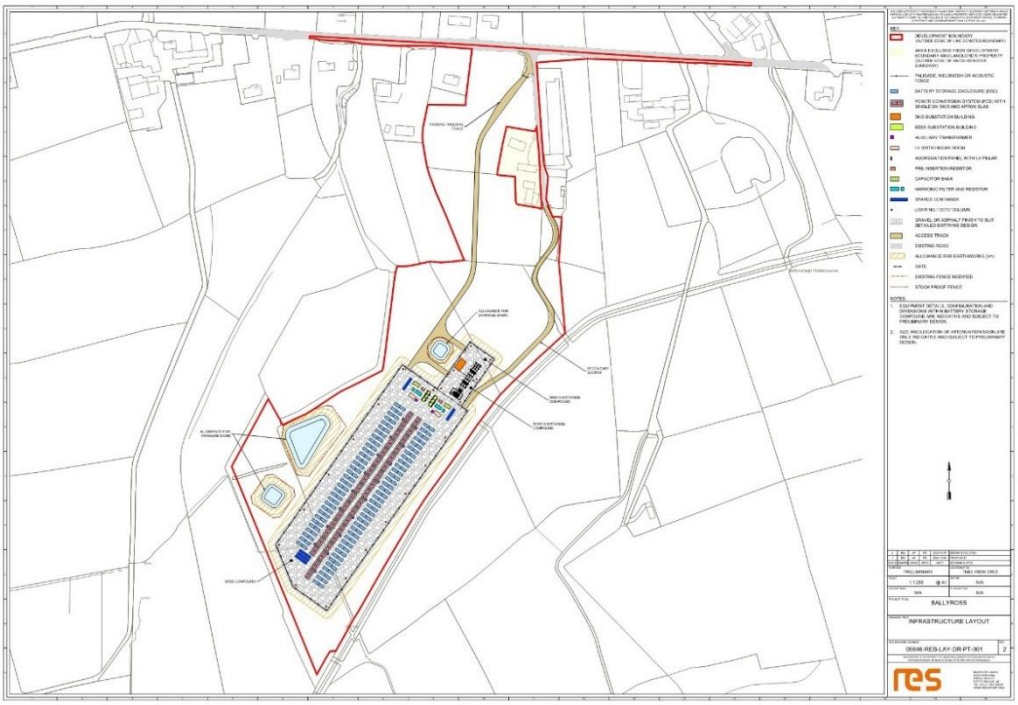
Infrastructure and layout

The plan below shows the revised layout for the Ballyross Battery Energy Storage project.



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

The site would comprise of approximately 136 battery containers. The typical dimensions of the battery containers are 6.1 metres long by 2.4m wide by 2.9 metres high.

The tallest infrastructure is expected to be part of the 110kV substation equipment, which would have a maximum height of around 7 metres.

The infrastructure would include:

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

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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Traffic and access

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

Safety is the key consideration and we will be undertaking a detailed analysis of the delivery route, as well as careful assessment of the site access points.

Following feedback from our public exhibition in January 2025, we are considering two delivery route options as shown on the map below.

Peak HGV movements typically take place during the first few months 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 approximate 20-month construction period, the indicative spread of these vehicle movements during the construction phase and expected timing restrictions.

BALLYROSS BESS DELIVERY ROUTE

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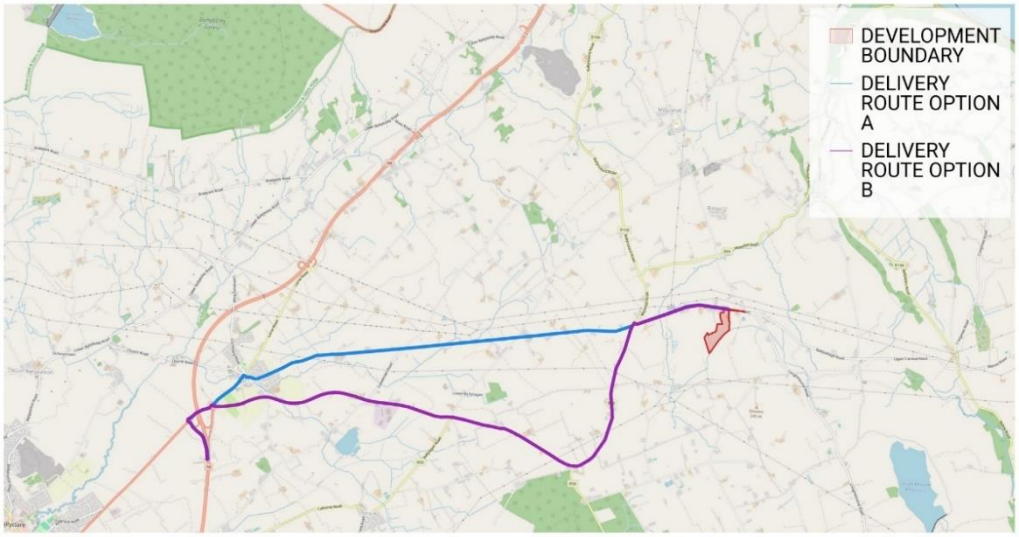

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Environmental considerations

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

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

The assessments to be carried out will include:

Ecology

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

Acoustics

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

Flood risk & surface water management

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

Landscape

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

Heritage & Archaeology

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

Image for illustrative purposes only

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement

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

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

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

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

Whilst there are currently no statutory targets for biodiversity protection, restoration or enhancement in Northern Ireland, for the Ballyross proposal we aim to deliver a project which will enhance biodiversity, where possible, as part of the development.

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

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

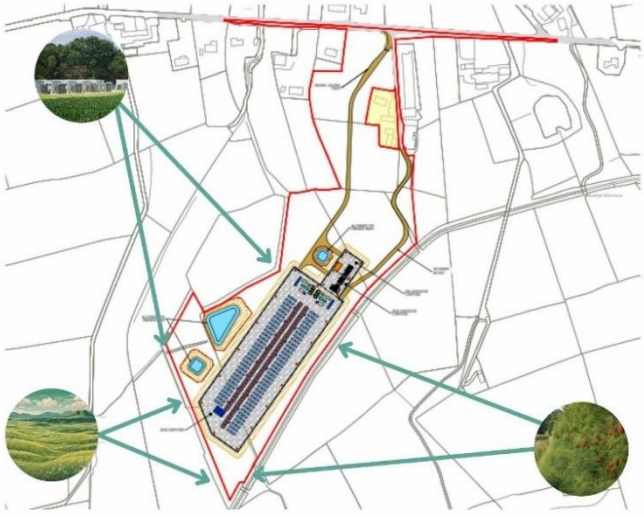

Image for illustrative purposes only

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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Our approach to safety

At RES, safety is of the utmost importance.

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

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

Monitoring and Remote Access

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

Battery Selection

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

Equipment Spacing

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

Protection Systems

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

Access to Battery Enclosure and for Emergency Services

All battery enclosures will be accessed via external doors only. The fenced compound will have a wide access route through north and south corridors and through the centre, allowing the fire service to access the site in the unlikely event of an incident. In addition, two site access points will be proposed to the battery energy storage compound.

A Fire Risk Statement will accompany any planning application.

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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Decommissioning and restoration

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

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

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

By demonstrating the feasibility of a nearly wastefree decommissioning process and meeting our goal of recycling 98% of all materials of the project, we hope to set a precedent for sustainable practices in the industry.

This aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship but also serves as a blueprint for future decommissioning projects, paving the way towards a more sustainable energy landscape.

There are current directives to ensure battery producers are responsible for minimising harmful effects of waste batteries on the environment and they must accept batteries for recycling and disposal at the end of life.

Recovered materials can be used to make new batteries from recycled batteries. This reduces manufacturing costs, the quantity of materials sent to landfill and our reliance on mining. As the battery markets grows, we are already seeing the number of techniques available for recycling increase.

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

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Working with the local supply chain

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a project like Ballyross are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities.

These opportunities can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the local area.

Such services and suppliers include groundworks, electrical works, plant operators, labourers, cleaners, fencers, landscapers and accommodation and other hospitality services.

RES is keen to hear from local businesses who are interested in learning more about the opportunities associated with the construction and operation of our energy projects.

Local benefits

RES seeks to be a Power for Good in communities that neighbour our projects by working openly and constructively to deliver tangible local benefits.

We believe that our projects should provide direct, lasting benefits aligned to the priorities and aims of the local communities.

As part of our pre-application consultation, we are seeking feedback on ideas, from the local community and stakeholders, for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from Ballyross, should it receive consent.

If you have any suggestions for such benefits the project may be able to support, please let us by filling in a comment form.

Some examples from other communities that we've worked with include:

- business start-up initiatives
- road safety initiatives
- apprenticeships/educational schemes
- improvements to village halls
- improved broadband provision
- improvements to local footpaths

Any feedback which may tie into the project design is particularly important for us to capture at this early stage, so that it can be considered in relation to the development and refinement of the scheme over the coming months.

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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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 battery 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.

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage Proposal

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Appendix I Comment form – 29 April 2025

Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

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

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

Please provide feedback by **Saturday 17 May 2025**. 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 (Mid and East Antrim Borough Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

1 Ballyross Battery 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.ballyross-energystorage.co.uk
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other (please specify)

☐

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

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

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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

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

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

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

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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

2 Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal

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

2.1 How do you feel in general about the revised Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System proposal?

- ☐ I am supportive
- ☐ I am neutral
- ☐ I am opposed

Further comments:

2.2 What do you think about the revised layout of the Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System?

- ☐ I am happy with the proposed layout
- ☐ I am neutral towards the proposed layout
- ☐ I have concerns about the proposed layout (please provide further details below)
- ☐ I don't like battery energy storage systems in general

Further comments:

2.3 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the revised Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System.

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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

3 Local Benefits

3.1 RES believe our projects should deliver meaningful local benefit.

We welcome feedback and ideas for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from the Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System, should it receive consent.

At our public exhibition in January 2025, we received a number of suggestions which have been listed below. To help us better understand how Ballyross could support the local area and deliver benefits aligned with the communities' priorities, please rate the below suggestions by their importance to you (with 1 being of the highest importance and 6 being of the lowest importance):

Grants for start-up and local small businesses	
Children's play park	
Funding for community facilities	
Another defibrillator for the village	
Footpath improvements	
Supporting young & small businesses	

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

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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

4 Climate Change, Energy Security and Renewables

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

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

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

Further comments:

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

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

Further comments:

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

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

Further comments:

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Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System Proposal
Comment Form

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

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

Further comments:

5 Your details

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

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

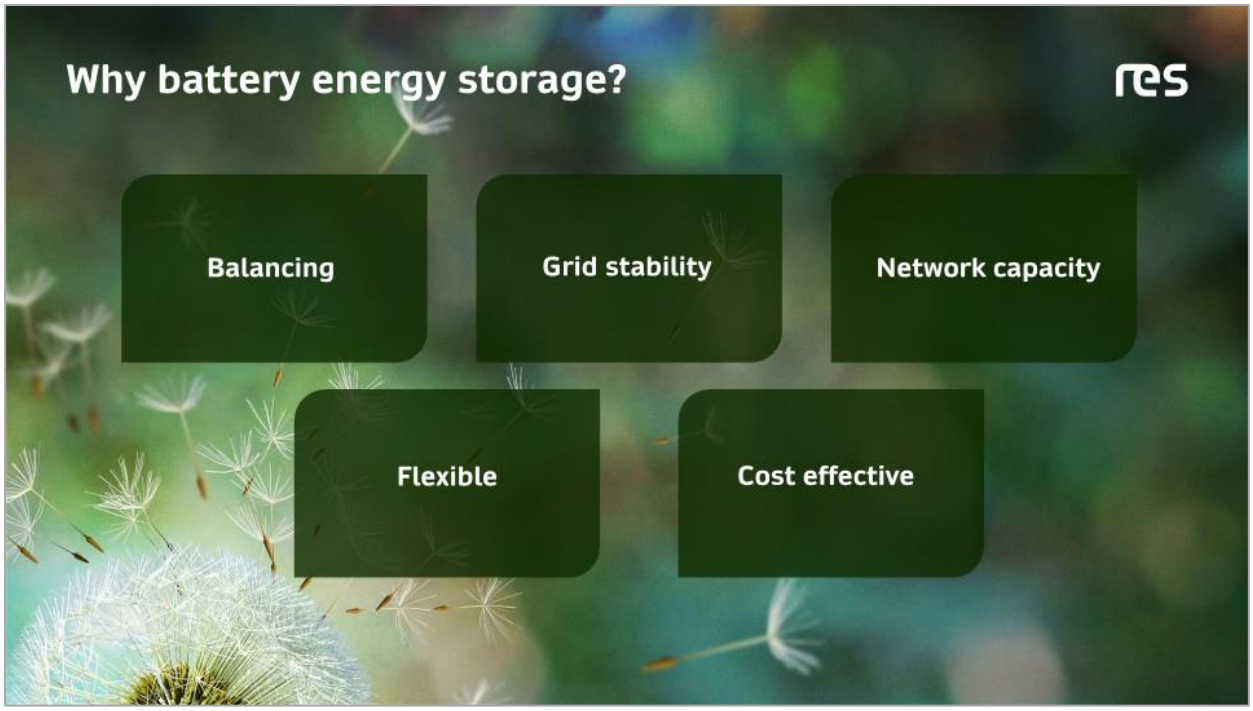
Name	
Email	
Address	
Postcode*	

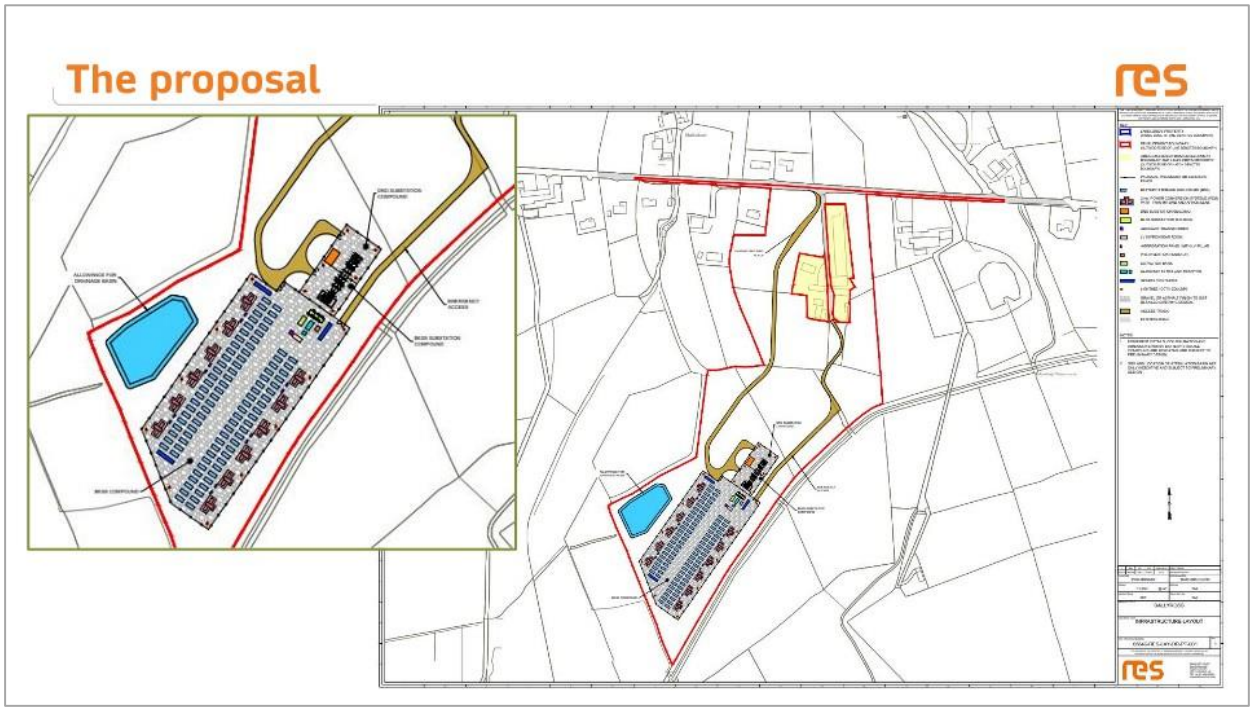
If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please tick this box ☐

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

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

Appendix J MLA presentation - 7 January and 24 January 2025


Why battery energy storage?
res
Balancing
Grid stability
Network capacity
Flexible
Cost effective


The proposal
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Environmental considerations

Ecology

Acoustics

Heritage

Flood risk

Traffic & access

Landscape & visual

Our approach to safety

Monitoring/remote access

Protection systems

Battery selection

Access

Equipment spacing

Fire risk statement

Decommissioning

- Proven experience
- Recycling and re-use
- Return to existing use
- Planning condition/land agreement

7

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- Skills and training
- Inward investment
- Business rates
- Community benefit

8

Next steps

- Surveys and assessments
- Liaison with M&EABC
- Consultation
- Planning application

9

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Thank you

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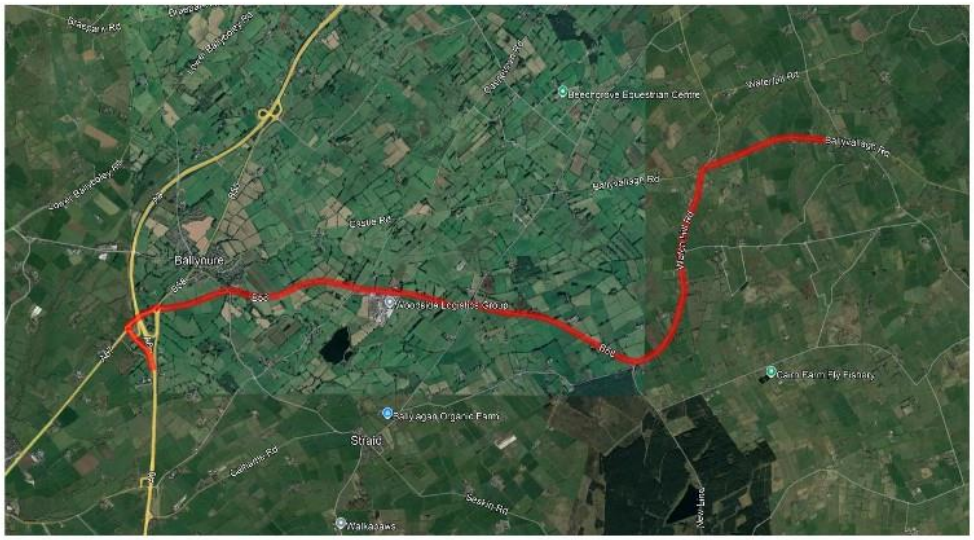
Appendix K MLA presentation – 11 June 2025

Traffic and access



Environmental considerations

Ecology

Acoustics

Heritage

Flood risk

Safety

Landscape & visual

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- Feedback
- Gleno Community Association

5

Planning application

- Target date for submission
- Project website
- Communication

6