

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

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

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

### NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT

#### Comment(s) received:

*“Important development to secure energy supply”*

#### RES response:

Energy storage will be a key part in managing the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century.

Enabling and accelerating the rollout of renewable energy is needed to support the UK’s energy security and net-zero emissions target, however, they generate electricity intermittently depending on weather conditions. This causes problems for the national grid network which must be finely balanced; electrical demand must match electrical generation at all times. If this balance is not achieved, it can lead to blackouts and the failure of grid circuits. Energy storage helps National Grid to achieve this balance by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the grid network when demand exceeds generation.



### GRID CONNECTION

#### Comment(s) received:

*“What wind farms will feed into the site, and through what transmission means i.e. over or under ground connections?”*

#### RES response:

The proposed Corshellach Energy Storage project is a standalone system, which means it is directly connected to the grid network rather than to a specific generation source, such as the adjacent wind farms.

The system would store energy taken directly from the grid network which consists of a national mix of generation sources. However, given the proximity of multiple windfarms, it is logical that the mix will be predominantly wind.

The system will be connected via underground cables to Berryburn substation.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Comment(s) received:

*“Who will assess and determine the radiological impact of the site”*

*“What fire protection will exist, considering the dangers of l-on batteries of all sizes and especially when a site like this is placed in a rural area with a surrounding high fuel load (i.e. flora) that has already been subject to serious wild fires in recent years?”*

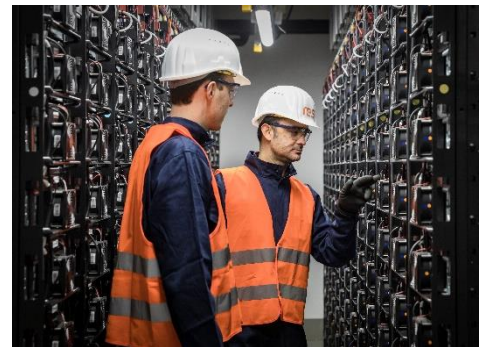
*“Regarding fire precautions, adjacent undergrowth of heather, broom and gorse should be removed”*

### RES response:

RES has commissioned a large number of environmental and technical surveys, utilising external experts where required. The results of all surveys will be included in the formal planning submission.

The proposed development would use Lithium-ion battery technology which has already been deployed on multiple storage projects across the UK and in a wide range of other uses including electric vehicles to smartphones. There are significant mitigation measures in place to reduce any potential fire risk considerably. These include:

- Battery technology must pass an industry test standard which ensures there is no likelihood of explosion, fire would be contained within the affected battery rack and wall surfaces around the affected battery rack would not reach temperatures 60 degrees above existing temperature.
- Battery systems must also comply with a European Standard (IEC 62485-5:2020) containing tests to ensure no external fires are allowed outside of the affected battery rack.
- Fire suppression systems are fitted on each battery container.
- 24/7 monitoring undertaken from an offsite control centre.
- Battery enclosures will have a fire rating of a minimum of 90 minutes.
- Any battery failures are repaired offsite with a new sealed module to replace the faulty module
- A fire management response plan will be prepared in conjunction with the battery supplier and the local Fire Service, if the scheme is consented.



## RECYCLING

### Comment(s) received:

*“I would like to know what plans are envisaged for disposal and/or recycling of the materials to be deployed in the scheme at the end of their operating life?”*

### RES response:

The Corshellach Energy Storage Project would use Lithium-ion battery technology which has already been deployed on multiple storage projects across the UK and in a wide range of other uses including electric vehicles to smartphones.

To support sustainable energy storage, the industry is working hard to establish a circular economy for industrial batteries. It is now widely accepted that lithium cannot remain a ‘throwaway’ material; it must be a circular material, recycled and reused indefinitely. 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, reducing 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.

## LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

### Comment(s) received:

*“Screening of structures are a good idea, hopefully to the benefit of the local houses. As long as the site does not expand further.”*

*“Ensure the site is well screened visually”*

### RES response:

The site is well contained by the existing woodland to the north and northwest. There is a general fall across the site toward the south, leaving it partially exposed to views from this angle. However, there is a patch of woodland to the immediate south which will reduce exposure from this direction.

Any views of the scheme will be seen in conjunction with the existing Berryburn Electrical Substation and pylons/overhead lines which cross this area, as well as the operational Hill of Glaschyle Windfarm located approximately 750m to the northwest of the site.

Additional screening will be proposed in the form of grassed soil bunds, the infilling of hedgerows and new native woodland planting which would further reduce potential visibility. Any formal planning application will be supported by a detailed Landscape Masterplan.

Given the location of the development in relative isolation from built up areas, the proposed development is unlikely to create any significant impacts on the landscape character or visual amenity of the local area and is unlikely to change the area’s key landscape characteristics.

## CONSULTATION

### Comment(s) received:

*“Larger scale maps to show location with respect to communities”*

*“Info gleaned online as couldn’t attend the drop-in session - regarding the actual event itself, more should’ve been done to advertise the event”*

*“More notice of the event.”*

*“Earlier notification of consultation meeting, wider area of community to be notified.”*

### RES response:

Newsletters advertising the first consultation event were sent to all properties within 2km of the project and an advertisement was also placed in the Forres Gazette.

We have taken account of the feedback from the first consultation event and for the second consultation event, advertising has also taken place via the Funderne Development Trust and the Edinkillie Hall social media.

As presented at the consultation event, we have also produced a site location plan showing the proposed scheme in context with neighbouring communities.

## FLOOD RISK AND DRAINAGE

### Comment(s) received:

*“Ensure run-off pond is adequate to catch drainage”*

### RES response:

The site is not located within a flood risk zone. The nearest watercourse is the Stripe of Corshellach to the south, which according to the SEPA flood risk map shows a 0.5-10% chance of annual river flooding, though the area affected is localised to the watercourse itself.

Aside from this, there are localised areas of surface water flooding within the area, though none of these occur within the site boundary.

As part of any full planning application, a Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Management Plan will be submitted, incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) best practise principles, to ensure no significant impacts are created by the development. Drainage measures will also be incorporated into the construction phase as well as any Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure that the rate of run-off during construction will not increase the flood risk beyond the site boundary.

These measures will also include methods to prevent any suspended sediment entering the watercourse mentioned above. Once completed, the project will increase the impermeable area slightly due to the hardstanding area of the battery compound. A surface water attenuation pond and drainage scheme will therefore be incorporated into any final development design, identified through the Surface Water Management Plan, to ensure that the risk of flooding on and off site is not increased.

With mitigation measures in place, significant impacts associated with flood risk and surface water are not anticipated.

## About RES

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

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



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