Welcome

Welcome to Galileo's community consultation event on the proposed installation of a Grid Battery Energy Storage System ('BESS') (up to 50MW) with associated development at land adjacent to the A801, circa 375m north west of Bathgate Substation, Bathgate, West Lothian.

This event forms part of the formal pre-application consultation process which is being undertaken prior to the submission of a formal planning application to West Lothian Council ('the Council') in the coming months. This consultation event gives you the chance to view our current plans for the Project, meet the project team, and provide feedback for us to consider as we develop our proposals.

Our first event was held on Thursday 15th August 2024 at Bathgate Community Centre, and this second event is intended as a follow up and includes a summary of feedback received at the first event.

Please take as much time as you need to review the information presented. Members of the project team are on hand to provide you with answers to any questions or to discuss any comments on the Project.

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Please note the deadline for feedback is **12th September 2024**

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Leave Feedback

We would very much value your feedback as we seek to review and refine our plans, and would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to share your views and any comments on our proposal by completing a feedback form before you leave the exhibition.

Alternatively, you can return these by:

Email: middleriggbess@galileoenergy.co.uk
Or by calling Stantec: 0141 352 2360.
Or by post: Stantec, 5th Floor, 9 George Square, Glasgow, G2 1DY

Thank you for taking the time to visit today's event.

Please scan the QR code with your mobile device to view our website.

www.middleriggbess.co.uk

Proposals

Proposed Development

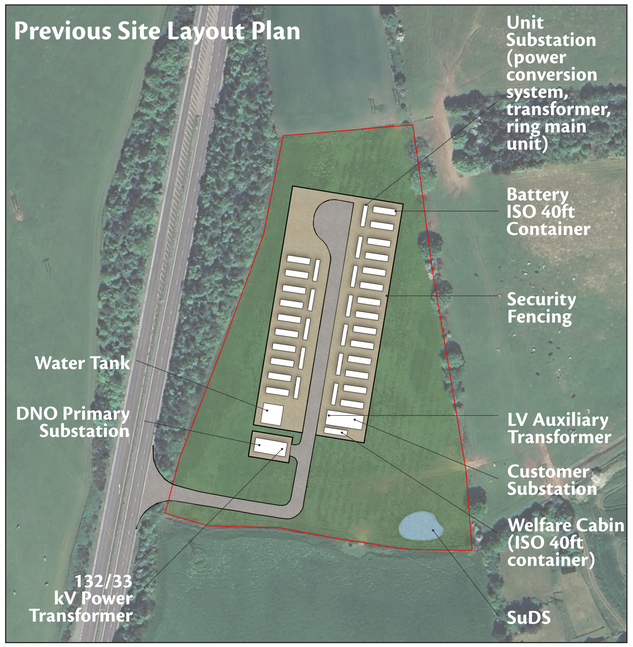
The site layout has been amended following receipt of further constraints information, feedback and technical information. The access has been moved further to the north (to allow for required visibility splays) and the battery compound has been moved further east to provide a safe clearance from overhead lines which run across the site. The SuDS (drainage) feature has also been re-designed

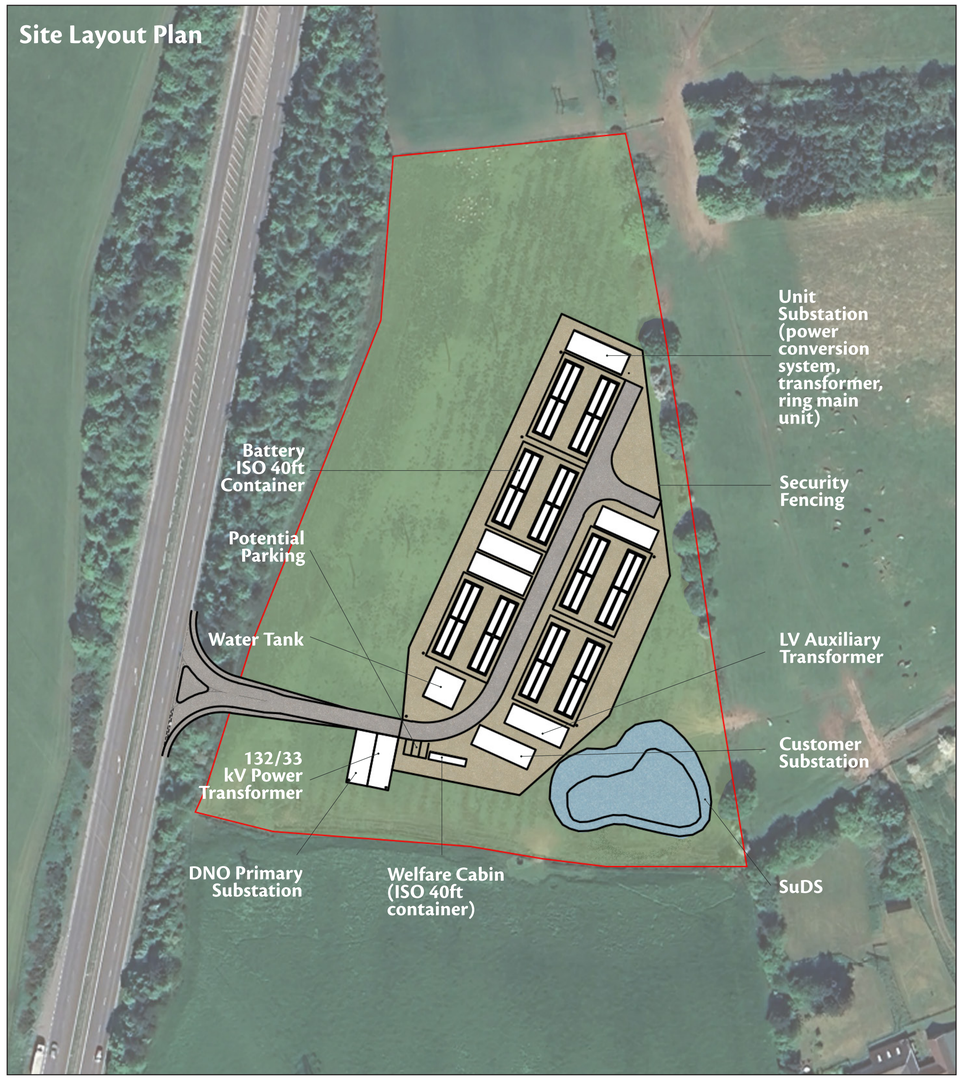
We consider a range of factors when evaluating land available to deliver a utility-scale BESS, including planning and environmental factors, existing use and quality of land, as well as any designations and constraints. The key elements of the proposed BESS facility and associated development are as follows:

- Battery energy storage modular racks, typically with indicative size of c.3m high;
- MV Skids (Power Conversion System, Transformer and Ring Main Unit together) with an indicative size of c.3.5m high;
- A switch room, control room and welfare container with an indicative height of c.3.5m
- Fencing around the site boundary, which will be 2.4m high “V” mesh security fence;
- Security lighting and infrared CCTV columns with an indicative height of 4.5m; and
- Associated infrastructure (access, drainage, landscaping etc).

One of the factors ultimately informing site choice when looking at potential locations for new utility-scale battery storage development is available capacity on the local grid. BESS developments have to be located within close proximity of a viable grid connection that has sufficient capacity to import and export power, storing this and releasing it into the grid at times of peak demand.

It is anticipated that the development will connect into the existing substation which is located on the south side of the A89, close to the site. Delivery and installation of the cable route will be carried out by a party holding a licence under Section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989 utilising their ‘Permitted Development’ rights. Accordingly, the cable route does not form part of the proposed development for which planning permission is being sought.





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Environmental & Technical Considerations

A range of technical assessments are being undertaken to allow our team to understand and respond positively to the opportunities and constraints of the site. These reports will be available when the formal planning application is submitted, however, initial baseline work suggests that there are no significant constraints to development that cannot be appropriately mitigated.

Transportation & Access

Although the access point to the site is yet to be fully confirmed, discussions are ongoing with West Lothian Council Roads Service and it is anticipated that a new vehicular access to the site will be formed via a new left in/ left out junction directly from the A801 dual carriageway, to the west of the site.

During the construction of the development there are anticipated to be up to 4 HGV movements and 30 light vehicle (Cars/Vans) movements per day. Once operational the traffic movements are expected to be minimal - i.e. four two-way vehicle movements per month.

Construction traffic will join the A801 from the north or eastbound junctions of the M8 travelling north towards the Heatherfield Roundabout and then continuing on the A801 until the proposed site access is reached. Current estimates suggest that the construction period for the development will be c.36-40 weeks.

Noise

A comprehensive noise impact assessment is currently being undertaken for the scheme, with a baseline noise survey completed in July. The assessment is being undertaken in consultation with West Lothian Council Environmental Health Department to ensure that their stringent standards for noise impact are adhered to throughout the assessment process. Any noise generated by the BESS will be assessed in accordance with British Standard 4142, which requires noise to be limited in relation to the background noise level within the area, ensuring that local circumstances are taken into account.

Noise from BESS is not constant as it is generated only when cooling of the batteries is required, during warm weather and when the BESS is charging and discharging. Charging and discharging generally occur in discrete periods when demand or generation is high.

Flooding & Drainage

SEPA flood maps identify that all land within the site is outwith any areas of medium to high risk of coastal, river or surface water flooding. Surface water from the development will be mitigated and managed using Sustainable Drainage Systems ('SuDS') which will be designed in accordance with best practice measures. SuDS techniques aim to mimic pre-development runoff conditions, control flows to the rate of runoff that might have been experienced at the site prior to the development and mitigate potential increase in flood risk to downstream receptors as a result of the development. Further details of flood risk and the outline drainage strategy will be presented in a Flood Risk Assessment ('FRA') and Drainage Impact Assessment ('DIA') report which will accompany the planning application.

Ecology

An ecological desk study has been undertaken and found there are no statutory designated sites within 2 km of the proposed development with ecological connectivity to the site. There are a total of 11 non-statutory designated sites within 2 km of the proposed development. The closest site is Colinshiel Wood, a Local Biodiversity Site, located approximately 180 m from the site boundary which has no ecological connectivity to the site. There are total of 43 notable woodland areas (ancient and native) woodlands within 2km.

The site is dominated by semi-improved grazed grassland with native woodland to the west of the field and scattered mature broadleaved trees located along the eastern edge of the field. A Tree Survey will be submitted with the planning application and all practicable means to avoid any impact to the trees will be taken.

Bespoke ecological enhancement measures for the development, incorporated within the design, along with long-term management requirements will inform the planning application, along with a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy. The planning application will demonstrate that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention.

Given the scale of the development and the distance between the site and the areas of conservation designation, no direct or indirect impacts are expected.

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Community Benefits

At Galileo, we seek to ensure that those communities nearest the battery energy storage facility can share in the benefits arising from it.

In addition to the employment opportunities on offer, we will seek to deliver a community benefit fund amounting to around £400,000 over the project's lifetime for the local communities of Bathgate and Armadale.

We envisage that this will focus on two key priorities – health/physical activity and training/education.

We encourage individuals, local community groups and charities, to apply for this community benefit offering, and are keen to gain an understanding of what this funding could be used for.

Please let one of the team know what you think or respond to the question in the feedback form provided.

Feedback from First Event

The previous consultation event was held on Thursday 15th August between 2pm and 7pm and a total of 25 people attended the event. Feedback was recorded both through discussion with those in attendance and through the submission of completed feedback forms (3 were received).

The main comments received were in relation to:

- Loss of greenfield – coalescence between Armadale and Bathgate – should be built on brownfield sites
- Noise
- Fire safety
- Road unsuitable for construction traffic
- Undermining of the site

It is considered that these issues were all covered in the boards displayed at the first event, although we could comment as follows:

- Loss of greenfield land / coalescence – the site has been chosen by Galileo following a site selection process which has looked at various land parcels across the country. There is no blanket policy restriction of BESS developments on such sites and it is considered that the existing screening, and sub-station which is very close to the site, make the site an ideal choice for a BESS development. Due to the scale and nature of the proposal, coalescence is not likely to be an issue and is not something which has been identified in the Landscape Assessment.

- Noise – a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) is currently being undertaken and will look to ensure that the required noise limits are adhered to. Given the low number of residential dwellings near the site, it is not anticipated that there will be any adverse impacts on residential amenity.

- Fire safety – we have already included information on fire safety on the 'FAQ' board, and confirmed that a Fire Safety Management Plan will be submitted, to set out the design specifics of the scheme and details of fire identification, suppression and mitigation systems that will be used in managing and operating the site.

- Construction traffic – as stated on an earlier board, construction traffic will primarily use the M8, then A801, to reach the proposed site access and there should not be a requirement for the A89 to be used. Should planning permission be granted, a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) would be provided by Galileo prior to any works starting on site, and this would outline the steps that need to be followed to manage the flow of traffic around the site safely.

- Mining Instability – as stated on an earlier board, there are no records of mine entries or mine workings on the site, and a Coal Mining Risk Assessment will be undertaken to investigate this further. The engineers responsible for carrying out the assessment of ground conditions are confident that historic site conditions will not act as a constraint to development of the site

Comments from the first consultation:

'Intentions look good, plan seems sustainable'

'I feel better about coming and seeing the proposals for myself, understand the development better'

'Found the presentation interesting'

'Good that some monies will come back to local communities'

NEXT STEPS & TIMELINE

We continue to progress a number of surveys and information from these and from this community consultation event will inform further refinements to the Project layout and design prior to submission of the formal planning application.

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April/May 2024

Initial Site assessment and surveys underway

June 2024

Submission of pre-application enquiry to West Lothian Council

August 2024

Community consultation events

October 2024

Submission of planning application to West Lothian Council

June 2024

Submission of proposal of application notice

June 2024

Environmental Impact Assessment screening request issued

September/ October 2024

Further refinement of proposals in light of community feedback and technical work

March 2025

Determination of application (estimated)

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