FIELD

# PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT

*BTGBNDE02 New Deer*

*MARCH 2025*

# Document Control Record

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# *Contents*

# *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

Field New Deer Ltd (Field) has undertaken pre-application consultation activities to inform an application for consent under Section 36 of the **Electricity Act 1989** for a 400 megawatt (MW) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure on land approximately 500 metres west of the proposed Greens (New Deer 2) substation (the Proposed Development).

The primary objective of the public consultation has been to work with local residents from an early stage, raise awareness about the Proposed Development, gain an understanding of key issues and concerns, and incorporate this feedback into the final design where possible.

Pre-application public consultation activities were undertaken in accordance with the Scottish Government's **Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989** (the ECU Guidance), including two public consultation events held at least 14 days apart (25 February 2025 and 18 March 2025, i.e. 21 days apart). The events were advertised via letter drops to surrounding residents, in a local newspaper, and on a dedicated website.

Key issues raised by the local community during the consultation period included fire risk and emergency management, the cumulative effects of the various energy developments proposed in the area, construction traffic impacts and landscape and visual impacts. Field has addressed these concerns as follows:

- Preparation of an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan to address fire risks and emergency management;
- Re-routing of construction traffic to come from a different direction based on community feedback
- Preparation of an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan;
- Introduction of design elements, including landscaping bunds and woodland planting, to enhance visual screening from nearby viewpoints;
- Ensuring cumulative and combined effects have been appropriately considered in relevant technical assessments.

In summary, Field has engaged with the local community in accordance with the ECU Guidance to ensure that they are informed about the Proposed Development, its design is informed by their feedback where practicable, and community members are aware of the planning process and how to make representations.

# *1 INTRODUCTION*

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report has been prepared by Field, supported by Alpaca Communications, to accompany the application for consent under Section 36 of the **Electricity Act 1989** for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of up to 400 megawatts (MW) and associated infrastructure on land at Wagglehill North and South, Cuminestown, Turriff AB53 8JJ (the Proposed Development).

## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- Summarise the pre-application consultation activities undertaken by Field in relation to the Proposed Development, including the method and extent of consultation;
- Summarise the responses received during the pre-application consultation period;
- Describe how pre-application feedback has been considered and addressed, including how the feedback has informed the design of the Proposed Development;

## 1.2 The Applicant

### 1.2.1 Field

Field is a leading renewable energy developer, owner and operator of grid-scale BESS across the UK and Europe. Field's aim is to develop, manage and operate BESS that reduce climate change emissions, support stable grid operation, increase energy security and bring down electricity prices for consumers.

Field has an extensive portfolio of BESS across the UK and Europe. In the UK, Field currently owns and operates three BESS, with three more projects in construction (one of which is in Scotland, close to the Fort Augustus substation) and over 3 GW progressing through pre-construction and planning.

Field is responsible for all stages of project delivery, from initial site identification and landowner engagement through design, planning, construction and operation. As long-term operators, Field is committed to developing projects that are safe, environmentally sustainable and have minimal impacts on local communities; achieved through careful site design and stakeholder engagement.

Field recognises the importance of early and meaningful public and stakeholder consultation to ensure stakeholder perspectives are considered from the initial stages of project planning and design. By proactively seeking feedback in the pre-application stage, Field has been able to adapt its proposal to address the concerns of, and feedback from, the local community and other relevant stakeholders where possible.

### 1.2.2 Alpaca Communications

Alpaca Communications is a specialist public consultation advisory agency with broad expertise in the implementation of public and community consultation programmes for private and public sector clients across the UK.

Field has appointed Alpaca Communications to assist with and advise on pre-application public consultation and community engagement matters in relation to the Proposed Development.

## 1.3 Proposed Development

The Proposed Development principally comprises a BESS with a generation capacity of 400 MW of electricity, which will charge and discharge from the adjacent proposed Greens (New Deer 2) substation. The Proposed Development includes:

- Battery storage units / containers arranged into rows;
- Medium-voltage (MV) skids and ancillary low-voltage (LV) equipment;
- High-voltage (HV) grid transformers;
- Air insulated switchgear;
- A substation building comprising welfare facilities, a switch room and control room;
- An underground 400 kV grid connection cable; and
- Site-wide supporting infrastructure including cabling, access tracks, fencing, an attenuation basin, and landscaping measures.

Whilst the exact specifications are subject to detailed design, the principal components described form the basis of the planning application to allow environmental assessments and mitigation to be appropriately scoped. The indicative site layout for the Proposed Development which informs this application for consent is included in Figure 1.

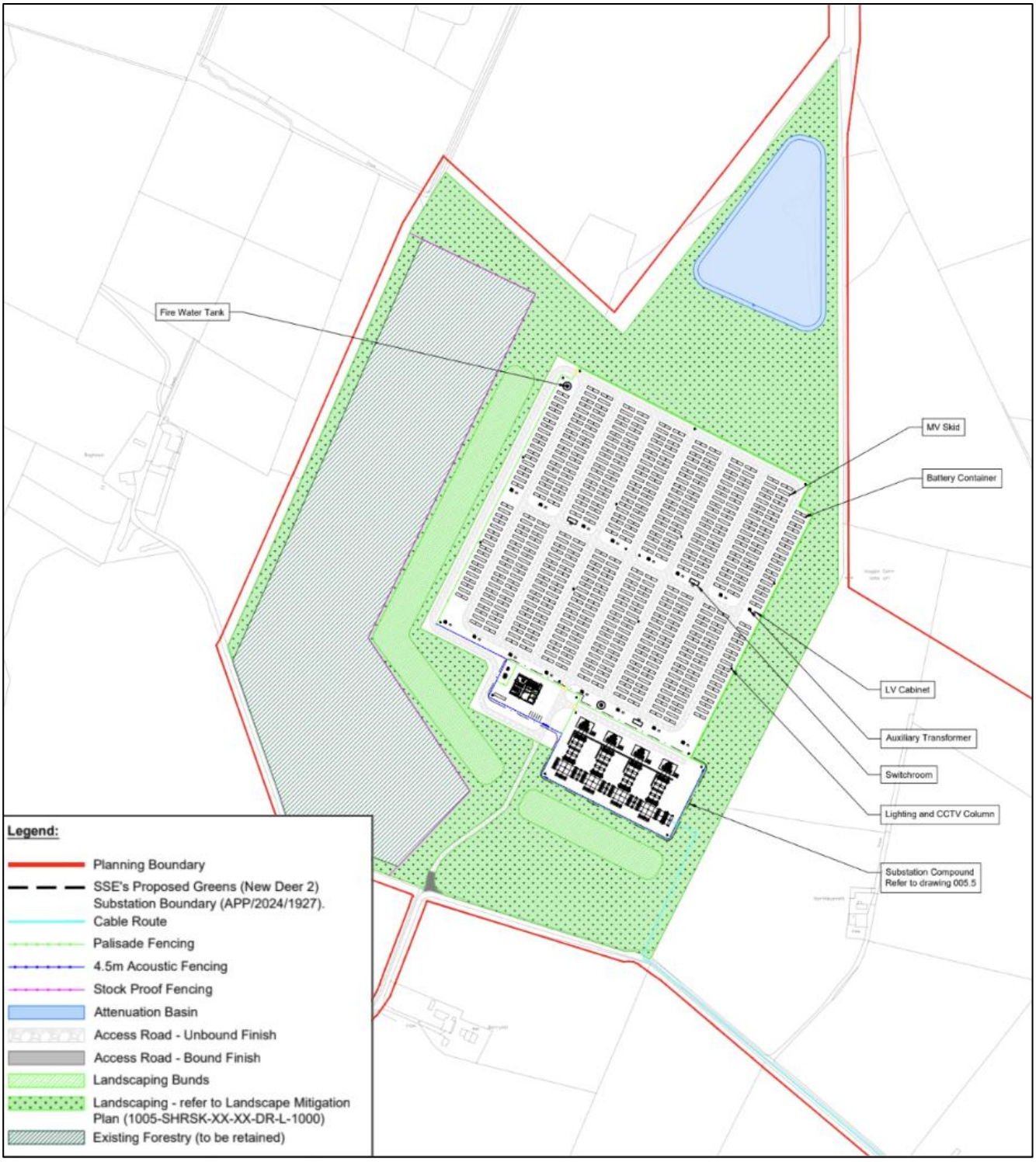


**Figure 1: Indicative site layout for the Proposed Development**

# 2 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

## 2.1 Electricity Act 1989

There are no statutory requirements for pre-application consultation for applications under Section 36 of The **Electricity Act 1989**. The processes and expectations for pre-application consultation is instead described under relevant Scottish Government policies and guidance, as discussed in section 2.1.1.

### 2.1.1 Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Scottish Government, 2022)

Whilst not a statutory requirement, the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) does encourage applicants to undertake meaningful engagement at the earliest possible stage with communities or groups affected by an application. Section 3.2.2 of the Scottish Government's **Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989** (the ECU Guidance) outlines the minimum amount of pre-application consultation expected to be undertaken for Section 36 applications. This is summarised in Table 2.1 below.

**Table 2.1: Minimum expected pre-application consultation outlined in the ECU Guidance**

| Stage | Consultation |
|---|---|
| **Pre-application consultation events** | The applicant is expected to hold at least two public consultation events prior to submitting the application. The final public event should be held at least 14 days after the first public event.<br>The public events are to give members of the public the opportunity to make comments to the applicant as regards the proposed development.<br>At the final public event, the applicant should provide feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received by the applicant as regards the proposed development. |
| **Notice of the pre-application consultation events** | At least seven days before holding a public event, the applicant should publish on the applicant's website and in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated a notice containing:<br>• A description of, and the location of, the proposed development;<br>• Details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development;<br>• The date and place of the public event; A statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and |

| Stage | Consultation |
|---|---|
| | • A statement that comments made to the applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if the applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Ministers. |
| **Details of the pre-application consultation events** | The applicant should provide the following details at the public event and publish these details on the applicant's website:<br>• A description of the development to be carried out;<br>• A plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify that site; and<br>• Details as to how the applicant may be contacted and corresponded with. |
| **Content of public event and pre-application consultation report** | The applicant is expected to prepare a pre-application consultation report ("PAC Report") setting out what has been done to accord with the guidance set out above. The PAC Report should be submitted with the application.<br>The PAC Report should contain the following information:<br>• The dates on which and places where public events were held;<br>• A description of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with members of the public regarding the development;<br>• A list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the applicant and a description of how they were consulted;<br>• A description of any materials sent to consultees and materials provided to those attending public events;<br>• Copies of any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event, and photographs of any display boards or models at public events;<br>• Confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the Scottish Ministers;<br>• A summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events;<br>• An explanation of how the applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process; and<br>• An explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process. |

## 2.2 Planning Advice Note 3/2010: Community Engagement

The Scottish Government's **Planning Advice Note 3/2010: community engagement** provides advice and information on the processes for effective community engagement. In accordance with this Planning Advice Note, community engagement should align with the following key aims:

- Be meaningful and proportionate;
- Occur at an early stage to influence the shape of plans and proposals; and
- It is essential for people or interest groups to get involved in the preparation of development plans as this is where decisions on the strategy, for growth or protection, are made.

## 2.3 Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2021

The **Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2021** applies to applications for planning permission made under the **Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997** (TCP(S)A) and establishes the statutory requirements and procedures relating to consultation on applications made under the TCP(S)A.

These statutory requirements do not apply to applications made under Section 36 of the **Electricity Act 1989**.

# 3 COMMUNITY / PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## 3.1 Aims of Consultation

The primary aims of the consultation activities were to:

- Work with local stakeholders and local residents from an early stage of the Project design to provide them the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Development;
- Raise awareness of the Proposed Development within the local community and to gain their valuable insight based on their local knowledge;
- Gain a firm understanding of the key issues and areas of concern affecting the local community and other key stakeholders;
- Work with key stakeholders to agree key topic areas and associated scopes and methodologies of assessments;
- Ensure the local community and key stakeholders had the opportunity to give feedback on the Proposed Development;
- Provide feedback to the local community based on their comments and concerns;
- Include their feedback within the final Project design, as far as reasonably practicable; and
- Provide a robust planning application including comprehensive assessments and reporting.

## 3.2 Timeline of Consultation

Pre-application consultation activities ran between February 2025 and March 2025 and comprised the delivery of letters to local residents, the publication of a website, in-person consultation events and invitations to provide feedback.

A timeline of consultation events is described in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1 Timeline of public consultation activities for Field New Deer**

| Date | Consultation |
|---|---|
| **13 February 2025**<br>Website go-live | A website for the Proposed Development was created and went live (fieldnewdeer.co.uk). The website includes an overview of the Proposed Development, copies of information brochures that were sent to local residents, and details of consultation events (including information boards for those that could not attend).<br>The website also includes a feedback form and contact email address. A copy of the website is included in **Appendix C**. |
| **13 February 2025**<br>Outreach to local residents | A hardcopy information brochure (**Appendix B**) was sent to surrounding addresses. This included an overview of the Proposed Development and an invitation to both |

| Date | Consultation |
|---|---|
| | public consultation events which were being hosted at Cuminestown Community Hall, Cuminestown, Turriff AB53 5YJ on the following dates:<br>• 2:00PM – 7:00PM, Tuesday 25 February 2025; and<br>• 2:00PM – 7:00PM, Tuesday 18 March 2025.<br>The postal distribution area for this outreach is included in **Appendix D**. |
| **14 February 2025**<br>First newspaper advertisement | Both public consultation events were advertised in the *Press and Journal*. This included a brief overview of the location and description of the Proposed Development, the time and location of each event, an email address, and confirmation that comments made are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. A copy of the newspaper advertisement is included in **Appendix E**. |
| **25 February 2025**<br>First public consultation event | The first public consultation event occurred from 2:00PM – 7:00PM on Tuesday 25 February 2025 at Cuminestown Community Hall, as advertised in all material.<br>Display boards were presented at the first event, including an indicative site layout, proposed timeline for the Proposed Development, information about Field, how batteries work and frequently asked questions about battery projects. Copies of these display boards are included in **Appendix F**.<br>A total of 25 people attended the first event. Key issues raised at the event which are relevant to planning can be summarised as follows:<br>• Access to the site and construction traffic;<br>• Loss of the informal walking track within the site;<br>• Potential impacts on groundwater and nearby watercourses;<br>• Fire risk and emergency management;<br>• Cumulative impact of energy projects; and<br>• Loss of forestry land. |
| **7 March 2025**<br>Second newspaper advertisement | The second public consultation event was again advertised in the *Press and Journal* and contained the same information as the first advert.<br>A copy of the newspaper advertisement is included in **Appendix E**. |
| **18 March 2025**<br>Second public consultation event | The second public consultation event occurred from 2:00PM – 7:00PM on Tuesday 18 March 2025 at Cuminestown Community Hall, as advertised in all outreach material, and at least 14 days after the first event in accordance with the ECU Guidance.<br>Display boards were presented at the second event, including the boards that were presented at the first event, but also including an updated site layout. These boards were included to respond to concerns raised at the first consultation event. |

| Date | Consultation |
|---|---|
| | A total of 34 people attended the second event. Copies of these display boards are included in **Appendix G**. Feedback at the event material to planning can be summarised as follows:<br>• Concerns about fire risk and emergency management;<br>• Remaining concerns about the quantity of energy projects in the local area, leading to the industrialisation of the area;<br>• Remaining concerns about the impact of construction traffic on local roads; and<br>• Concerns about flood risk and drainage.<br>An image taken at the consultation event is included in Figure 2.<br>  <br>**Figure 2:** Image taken at consultation event. |
| **24 March 2025**<br>End of pre-application consultation period | All consultation material requested that feedback forms be provided by 24 March 2025 to ensure it can be given appropriate consideration in the final planning application.<br>A total of six feedback forms were received at the end of the consultation period. The answers received to multiple choice questions on each feedback form are included below:<br>• **Has this brochure been helpful in understanding the proposal?**<br>  ○ Yes (0), No (0), No Answer (0).<br>• **With regards to the proposal, are you:** |

| Date | Consultation |
|---|---|
| | ○ In favour (0), In objection (0), Of no opinion (0).<br>All feedback forms received included additional commentary, which can be summarised as follows:<br>• Concerns about fire risk and emergency management;<br>• Concerns about flood risk and drainage;<br>• Concerns about the impact of construction traffic on local roads; and<br>• Concerns about loss of forestry land.<br>Consultation material also made clear that any comments made to Field during the pre-application consultation period are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and would not be considered as representations during the planning process, and that there would be an opportunity for consultees to make representations on the application to the Scottish Ministers if a planning application is submitted. |

## 3.3 Response to Public Consultation

Feedback received during the pre-application public consultation period has provided an overview of the key concerns of the local community. The key issues raised and a summary of how Field has addressed or intends to address these issues is provided in Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2 Summary of Field's response to key issues raised at public consultation events**

| Key issue | Written response | Design response |
|---|---|---|
| Fire risk and emergency management | Field is committed to best practice fire safety management by ensuring that these matters are considered throughout site design, procurement and operational activities. Relevant to the planning stage of development, the design for the Proposed Development ensures that the National Fire Chiefs Council's fire safety guidance for BESS schemes is adhered to.<br>Field has prepared an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (OBSMP) to support the planning application, which describes how the Proposed Development will effectively manage fire risks and emergency management procedures in line with relevant policies and guidance. | • The Proposed Development has been designed with relevant UK and international standards and guidance in mind, with a particular focus on the National Fire Chiefs Council's fire safety guidance for BESS schemes, as discussed in the submitted OBSMP.<br>• Following consultation events, two fire water tanks are proposed within the site compound to ensure appropriate water is available for boundary cooling in the rare event of a fire emergency.<br>• Prior to construction, consultation would be carried out with the local fire and rescue service to further ensure appropriate fire safety responses are in place and understood by all relevant parties. |

| Key issue | Written response | Design response |
|---|---|---|
| Quantity of energy projects in the local area, leading to the industrialisation of the area | Field acknowledges the community's concerns about the potential for cumulative effects arising from the development of multiple energy projects in the local area.<br><br>In response to these concerns, Field has ensured that all technical assessments consider potential cumulative impacts, as relevant to each discipline. This ensures that cumulative impacts are considered, and appropriate mitigation measures are applied. | • Earth / landscape bunds have been introduced along the BESS Compound's western and southern boundaries to screen views toward the Proposed Development from western and southern viewpoints.<br>• Proposed landscaping has been carefully considered to adhere to the surrounding rural character of the area. Native planting is proposed along all boundaries of the BESS Compound which will further ameliorate the visual impact of the Proposed Development. |
| Impact of construction traffic on local roads | In response to concerns about construction traffic, Field prepared an additional information board for the second consultation event that explains how construction traffic would be managed during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.<br><br>Field has also prepared a combined Transport Statement and Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) to support the planning application, which describes estimated traffic types, volumes and required mitigation measures to ensure traffic impacts are appropriately managed. This technical document also considers potential cumulative traffic impacts.<br><br>The final detailed CTMP, which would be prepared prior to construction start, would also require that traffic management activities be coordinated alongside other developments in the area to ensure cumulative traffic management impacts are reduced as far as practicable. | • The preferred access route was initially planned to be from the site's west, however following consultation, this is now proposed from the site's east to avoid construction traffic travelling through Cuminestown. |
| Loss of recreational walking track | Field acknowledges the local value of the walking track that currently runs through the site and is committed to ensuring that | • A re-routed recreational walking track will be provided along the site's |

| Key issue | Written response | Design response |
|---|---|---|
| through the site | this is not lost as a result of the Proposed Development. | western boundary and will connect to the existing Bailey's Walk. |
| Flood risk and drainage | Flood risk was a key consideration during site selection and the proposed site was selected on the basis that it is at a very low risk of flooding, either from heavy rainfall events or nearby water course.<br>Field has commissioned the preparation of a Flood Risk Assessment, Drainage Impact Assessment and associated Surface Water Drainage Strategy (SWDS) to support the planning application for the Proposed Development to ensure that it does not lead to an increased risk of flooding. | • The drainage design for the Proposed Development includes underground drainage infrastructure and an on-site attenuation basin which will ensure any surface water run-off is released at its pre-development greenfield rate.<br>• The attenuation basin will be capable of accommodating a 1-in-200 year event, including provisions for climate change.<br>• Drainage infrastructure will also be fitted with penstock valves to prevent any contaminated water from entering the broader water environment, including fire water in the event of a fire. |

# *4 CONCLUSION*

Pre-application public consultation activities for the Proposed Development have been undertaken in accordance with the Scottish Government's ECU Guidance, including two public consultation events, held at least 14 days apart (25 February 2025 and 18 March 2025). Pre-application feedback was accepted until 24 March 2025.

A total of 59 people attended across the two events, including returning attendees. Key issues raised included concerns about fire risk and emergency management, the cumulative impact of energy developments in the area, the impact of construction traffic and flood risk.

Field has addressed these concerns by:

- Providing additional information about these matters at the second consultation event;
- Design changes to reduce impacts raised by members of the community; and
- Ensuring all concerns have been appropriately considered in the technical assessments that will support the planning application.

Field has engaged with all consultees in accordance with the ECU Guidance to ensure that the local community and relevant government stakeholders have had appropriate opportunities to inform the design of the Proposed Development. As a result, Field has been able to prepare a comprehensive planning application that has been appropriately informed by the feedback of the community and relevant government stakeholders.

# *APPENDIX A – OUTREACH TO POLITICAL STAKEHOLDERS*

Relevant political stakeholders were invited to the consultation events. The relevant stakeholders that were contacted are listed below.

- Fyvie, Rothienorman and Monquhitter Community Council
- Deer Community Council
- Turriff Community Council
- Aberdeenshire Councillor Simpson
- Aberdeenshire Councillor Powell
- Aberdeenshire Councillor Crowson
- Aberdeenshire Councillor Chapman
- Aberdeenshire Councillor Taylor
- Aberdeenshire Councillor Lang
- Aberdeenshire Councillor Stirling
- Aberdeenshire Councillor Forsyth.

# *APPENDIX B – INFORMATION BROCHURE SHARED WITH THE COMMUNITY*

FIELD

# FIELD NEW DEER BATTERY STORAGE

Storing electricity to create a greener and more stable grid.

We are holding two public consultation events on
**Tuesday 25th February 2025 from 2pm-7pm**
at Cuminestown Village Hall, Main Street, Cuminestown, Turriff, AB53 5YJ.

The second event will be held on the **Tuesday 18th March 2025 from 2pm-7pm**
at Cuminestown Village Hall, Main Street, Cuminestown, Turriff, AB53 5YJ.


# *WHAT ARE WE PROPOSING TO BUILD AND OPERATE?*

Field builds and operates large batteries which store energy to help create a greener, more stable electricity grid.

We'd like to build one of these batteries, Field New Deer, on land to the north west of the planned Greens (New Deer 2) Substation.

Field New Deer would connect directly to Greens Substation, and would be capable of storing energy to generate up to 400 MW of electricity. This is expected to avoid up to 1.4 million tonnes of $CO_2e$ emissions during the first 20 years of operation. This would be achieved by supplying the grid with electricity stored when renewable energy generation is high, therefore reducing reliance on high carbon energy sources when renewable generation is low.

Field has several battery sites across Great Britain in operation and construction, including our 200 MW battery in Hartmoor which will commence construction in 2026. Field New Deer would join a nationwide network of batteries which, together, will help the UK reach net zero.

# *WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES*

Our batteries will provide huge benefits to the UK, and we take great care to make sure this is not to the detriment of the communities that host them.

As a responsible developer and operator, listening to local communities matters to us, as it allows us to understand and respond to local issues, and ultimately build better battery sites.

We engage early with communities throughout the development process, oversee the construction on-site and we're responsible for the project once it's in operation. We're part of communities for the long-term.

# *WHY DO WE NEED BIG BATTERIES?*

To reach net zero, increase energy security and help reduce energy bills, we need to decarbonise our energy supply, store renewable energy and improve the electricity grid's stability and reliability.

Our batteries are designed to fill gaps in the UK's electricity supply by charging up when renewable energy is being produced (such as on windy, sunny days) and discharging energy back into the grid when needed (e.g. when the wind isn't blowing, the sun isn't shining, or we aren't able to import energy from elsewhere). This ensures plenty of energy is available for people to make their morning cuppa, even on a calm, overcast winter's day.

These batteries work a lot like the batteries you use at home, only instead of using our batteries to power a torch or TV remote, we operate large, 'grid scale' batteries. This means we can rely more on renewable energy and less on expensive fossil fuels to provide electricity to thousands of homes and businesses.

Batteries are also very good at keeping the grid stable, by maintaining a constant and predictable supply of electricity to the grid, at the right frequency.

Changes in the supply and demand of electricity on the network create changes in this electrical frequency. This needs to be closely monitored, as if frequency is too high or too low, the network cannot operate properly. Field New Deer will help to keep this frequency at the right level, which in turn helps reduce the chances of network disruptions or blackouts.

# *STORING ENERGY IN ABERDEENSHIRE*

Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045, with a reduction in greenhouse gases of 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. Batteries enable much greater use of renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping Scotland reach net zero.

Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why we believe that they can play a part in the Aberdeenshire Council's route map to 2030 and beyond. Below is the council's statement regarding to their drive for net zero within Aberdeenshire.

*"On 18 March 2020 Aberdeenshire Council, agreed a Climate Change Declaration committing to working towards a carbon free society by reducing its own emissions by 75% (2010/11 baseline) by 2030 and to work with others across the region to ensure that Aberdeenshire reaches Net Zero by 2045."*

# *FIELD NEW DEER*

Field New Deer would be located to north west of the planned Greens (New Deer 2) Substation. The built infrastructure (batteries, cables, access tracks, etc.) is proposed to cover an area of approximately 30 hectares. This would also include landscaping and biodiversity enhancements to ensure we are having a positive impact on the land we use and its local setting.

Field New Deer will be made up of the following components:

- **Battery energy storage units**, which will be used to store the energy from the grid.
- **Power conversion systems** (including inverters and transformers), which convert energy from alternating current to direct current, so that it can be stored by the batteries.
- **An on-site substation**, which either steps up or steps down the voltage of the energy being stored.

- An underground **cable connection** to connect the battery to the planned Greens (New Deer 2) Substation.
- Site **access tracks** to allow vehicles (including emergency vehicles) to safely get around the site.
- **Drainage arrangements** to allow surface water to drain from the site at the same rate as the existing fields.
- **Site security**, including CCTV, fencing and lighting.
- **Landscaping** to provide visual screening of the site and contribute to biodiversity enhancement.


# *FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*

## What makes Field a committed and responsible developer for the long term?

Many developers look to take the project to shovel-ready status - that's securing land, grid connection and planning permission, and then sell the project on.

Field is a developer/owner/operator, which means we are responsible for the project throughout its entire lifecycle. We will be working with the community during early design and development, construction, and throughout the operation of the project.

We work with a select number of planning and environmental consultants, including specialists in archaeology, landscape, and ecology. We're a UK founded business who cares about each project we develop and the communities we work with.

## When will Field New Deer be built?

We will be submitting our planning application to the Energy Consents Unit in Spring 2025. If we are granted consent, we would look to start construction in 2028 and it will take about two years to complete.

## Will the project impact local traffic?

Once operational, the battery will have minimal impact on local traffic, with only occasional visits required for maintenance. When the battery is being built, construction traffic is managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan. This will include details of construction traffic numbers, vehicle routing and working hours. As with all aspects of the development, we welcome input from the local community to help reduce any impact on local roads where possible.

## Are battery energy storage sites noisy?

The main noise associated with batteries are the cooling fans, which keep the batteries from overheating. This noise level is low and the batteries are not expected to be audible beyond the site boundary. Noise is measured against existing background noise levels and noise levels are required to meet the relevant British Standards and World Health Organisation Noise Guidelines.

We conduct thorough noise evaluations for each site and implement various noise mitigation measures in our project plans. These measures, such as acoustic fencing and bunding, ensure that noise impacts are acceptable at nearby sensitive locations.

## Are the batteries safe and what safety measures will you put in place?

Large batteries are safe facilities. We work hard throughout site design, construction and into operation to ensure the safety of our sites. We would only use batteries that have best-in-class fire safety performance and will be compliant with all relevant fire safety standards.

The batteries will be constantly monitored and in the unlikely event that a fire does occur, the facility will employ automatic fire detection and suppression systems.

We are also working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to ensure suitable emergency response procedures are in place, including a Battery Safety Management Plan.

To keep our sites secure, all our projects include perimeter fencing and gated access. During operation, our sites are unmanned and CCTV is used to monitor activities.



# *FEEDBACK FORM*

To return your completed feedback form please tear it from the brochure and pop it in the post by **Monday 24th March 2025**. Alternatively, you can return your form via email to **feedback@fieldnewdeer.co.uk**.

Title: Name:

Address: Postcode:

Email: Telephone:

Gender: ❑ Male ❑ Female ❑ Other:

Age: ❑ Under 18 ❑ 18-24 ❑ 25-34 ❑ 35-44 ❑ 45-54 ❑ 55-64 ❑ 65 and over

1. Has this brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal? ❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

2. With regards to the proposals you have read about within this brochure, are you:
   ❑ In favour ❑ In objection ❑ Of no opinion

3. Please use this space to provide any comments on the proposal. We would welcome your feedback on all aspects of the emerging design shown in the brochure.

Please provide your contact details if you wish to receive a response. Any personal contact information provided will only be used in relation to the planning application to the Local Planning Authority and will not be shared with any third parties. Your contact details will not appear on the planning application documentation.

As part of this consultation process, Field, in collaboration with Alpaca Communications, may use anonymised responses and data for internal analysis and reporting purposes. Any information used in this way will be fully anonymised and will not be attributable to any individual.

# *INDICATIVE TIMELINE*

| *Late 2024* | *Tuesday 25th February 2025* | *Tuesday 18th March 2025* | *Spring 2025* | *Autumn 2025* | *2028* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Early environmental assessments and design work | Public consultation event 1 | Public consultation event 2 | Submission of planning application | Determination of planning application | Construction and operation |

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**Instructions**

To return your feedback form, please fold and put it in the post to us.

If you'd like more space to share your thoughts, send us an email, or just write your comments down and pop them in an envelope with 'FREEPOST ALPACA COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED' written on the front. You don't need any further address or stamp.

Any queries or problems? Get in touch via feedback@alpacacommunications.com.

# *JOIN US AT OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS*

We're on a mission to build the renewable energy infrastructure needed to reach net zero, starting with battery storage. Your feedback can help us to improve our proposals for Field New Deer.

For further information, please visit our website at **www.fieldnewdeer.co.uk**.

**We're holding two public consultation events. Our first event will be held on Tuesday 25th February 2025 from 2pm to 7pm, at Cuminestown Village Hall, Main Street, Cuminestown, Turriff, AB53 5YJ.**

**Tuesday 18th March 2025 from 2pm-7pm at Cuminestown Village Hall, Main Street, Cuminestown, Turriff, AB53 5YJ.**

You can submit your feedback to us or write to us via:

Email: **feedback@fieldnewdeer.co.uk**

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# *APPENDIX C – PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION WEBSITE*

# Field builds and operates large batteries which store energy to help create a greener, more stable electricity grid.

We'd like to build one of these batteries, Field New Deer on land north west of the planned Greens (New Deer 2) Substation, Aberdeenshire, AB53 5YQ.

Providing up to 400 MW of electricity to create a greener & more stable grid.

## Why do we need big batteries?

## To reach net zero, increase energy security and help reduce energy bills, we need to store renewable energy and improve the electricity grid's stability and reliability.

Our batteries are designed to fill gaps in the UK's electricity supply by charging up when renewable energy is being produced (such as on windy or sunny days) and discharging energy back into the grid when needed (e.g. when the wind isn't blowing, the sun isn't shining, or we aren't able to import energy from elsewhere). This ensures plenty of energy is available for people to make their morning cuppa, even on a calm, overcast winter's day.

These batteries work a lot like the batteries you use at home, only instead of using our batteries to power a torch or TV remote, we operate large, 'grid scale' batteries. This means we can rely more on renewable energy and less on expensive fossil fuels to provide electricity to thousands of homes and businesses.

Batteries are also very good at keeping the grid stable, by maintaining a constant and predictable supply of electricity to the grid, at the right frequency.

Changes in the supply and demand of electricity on the network create changes in this electrical frequency. This needs to be closely monitored, as if frequency is too high or too low, the network cannot operate properly. Field New Deer will help to keep this frequency at the right level, which in turn helps reduce the chances of network disruptions or blackouts.

# PROPOSAL


## Field New Deer would be situated northwest of the planned Greens (New Deer 2) Substation and south of Thornhill Rd at Greens, Aberdeenshire, AB53 5YQ. The built infrastructure (batteries, cables, access tracks etc.) is proposed to cover an area of approximately 30 hectares.

We'll also provide landscaping to reduce visual impacts and biodiversity enhancements so we are having a positive ecological effect on the land we use.

Field New Deer will be made up of the following components:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Battery energy storage units,** which will be used to store the energy from the grid. | **Power conversion systems** (including inverters and transformers), which convert energy from alternating current to direct current, so that it can be stored by the batteries. | An **on-site substation**, which either steps up or steps down the voltage of the energy being stored. | An underground **cable connection** to connect the battery to the planned Greens (New Deer 2) substation. |
| Site **access tracks** to allow vehicles (including emergency vehicles) to safely get around the site. | **Drainage arrangements** to allow surface water to drain from the site at the same rate as the existing fields. | **Site security**, including CCTV, fencing and lighting. | **Landscaping** to reduce visual impacts and contribute to biodiversity enhancement. |


## Working with local communities

Our batteries will provide huge benefits to the UK, and we take great care to make sure this is not to the detriment of the communities that host them.

As a responsible developer and operator, listening to local communities matters to us, as it allows us to understand and respond to local issues, and ultimately build better battery sites.

We engage early with communities throughout the development process, oversee the construction on-site and we're responsible for the project once it's in operation. We're part of communities for the long-term.

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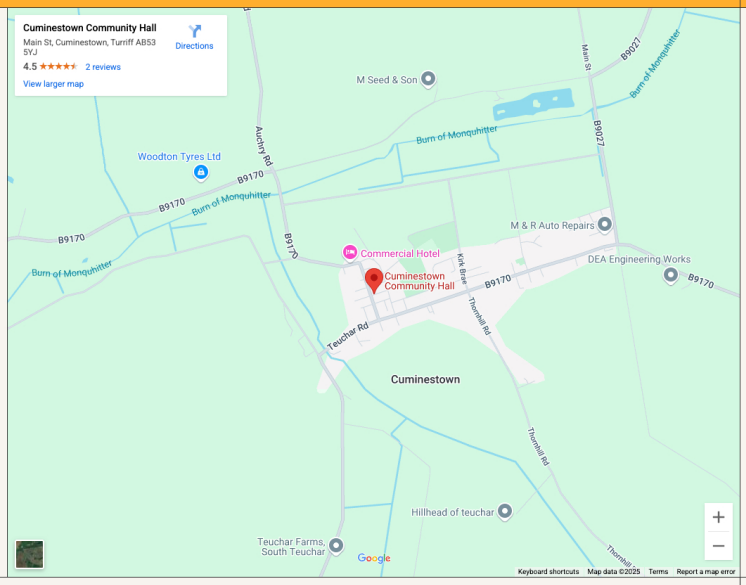
# PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Thank you to all who attended our first event on the 25th of February at Cuminestown Village Hall, the second event will also be taking place on Tuesday 18th of March from 2pm-7pm at Cuminestown Village Hall, Main Street, Cuminestown, Turriff, AB53 5YJ.

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- + What makes Field a committed and responsible developer for the long term?
- + When will Field New Deer be built?
- + Will the project impact local traffic?
- + Are battery energy storage sites noisy?
- + Are the batteries safe and what safety measures will you put in place?

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