



Field Knockna Gael Battery Energy Storage System

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT on behalf of Field Knockna Gael Ltd

Prepared by Alpaca Communications | June 2024



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report sets out how Field Knocknagael Ltd (“Field”) conducted a programme of public consultation stakeholder engagement with regards to its proposal for a battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure, Field Knocknagael (“the Proposed Development”) on land east of Achvraid Farm, Essich, south of Inverness, IV2 6AJ (“the Site”).
- 1.2 This document provides an overview of the consultation programme, the feedback received, and how the feedback received has been incorporated into the Proposed Development.

Summary of Consultation

- 1.3 Field began consultation by submitting a Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) to The Highland Council on 28 March 2024. It is noted that applications made under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) are not subject to the same statutory requirements set by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (TCPA) and the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation (Scotland) Regulations 2021. The Highland Council (THC) nevertheless recommends that applicants follow the TCPA PoAN process to ensure interested parties are given appropriate time and notice to input into the planning process.
- 1.4 Field also carried out a programme of public consultation in line with the recommendations set out in Section 3.2 of the Energy Consents Unit’s (ECU) Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the ECU Guidance), as well as the Scottish Government’s Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: community engagement.
- 1.5 A suite of consultation material was prepared for the Proposed Development, including information brochures, a website, newspaper advertisements and information boards, all of which are presented in this document.
- 1.6 Two in-person public consultation events were held at Dores Village Hall, Dores, Inverness IV2 6TR; from 2pm-7pm on Tuesday 30th April 2024 and Tuesday 28th May 2024.

Approach to Consultation

- 1.7 Alpaca Communications was appointed by Field to assist with the pre-application public consultation on the Proposed Development. Alpaca Communications is a specialist public consultation agency with broad expertise in advising on and implementing consultation programmes for both private and public-sector clients.
- 1.8 Field recognises the importance of early public consultation to ensure local community perspectives are considered in 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 the local community where possible.
- 1.9 Field’s programme of public consultation ensures the final planning application has been underpinned and informed by an inclusive and thorough consultation process. Field is also committed to continued engagement as the development progresses and after the planning application has been lodged.

2. Policy Guidance

2.1 In designing its programme for consultation, Field has adhered to the recommendations set out in Section 3 of the ECU Guidance and the Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: community engagement.

2.2 In relation to the ECU Guidance, the following recommendations have been followed:

- Holding at least two public consultation events prior to submitting the application, with the final public event held at least 14 days after the first public event.
- Publishing on Field Knocknagael's website and in a local newspaper notice of each event at least seven days beforehand, and which contained the following:
 - A description of, and the location of, the Proposed Development;
 - Details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the Proposed Development;
 - The date and place of the public event;
 - A statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to Field relating to the proposal may do so; and
 - A statement that comments made to Field are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if Field submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Ministers.
- Preparation of this Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

2.3 In accordance with PAN 3/2010, Field has adopted a positive approach to engagement which met the following key aims:

- Community engagement must be meaningful and proportionate.
- Community engagement must happen at an early stage to influence the shape of plans and proposals.
- 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.

3. Scheme Overview

3.1 The Proposed Development is on land to the east of Achvraid Farm, Essich, south of Inverness, IV2 6AJ. The site location can be found below in Figure 1.

3.2 The Proposed Development principally comprises the construction and operation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) with a capacity of up to 200 megawatts (MW). The Proposed Development would charge and discharge from the electricity transmission network via the adjacent, existing Knocknagael substation.

3.3 Whilst the exact battery specifications are still to be determined and will be confirmed as part of the detailed design stage during pre-construction, the principal components of the Proposed Development that form the application for planning consent include:

- Two BESS compounds, each comprising:
 - Individual battery storage units arranged into rows / strings.
 - MV skids (one per battery string), each of which houses two power conversion system (PCS) units and one medium-voltage transformer.
 - Ancillary infrastructure including low-voltage cabinets, auxiliary transformers and underground ducting and cabling.
- A high-voltage substation compound comprising:
 - Two high-voltage grid transformers
 - Auxiliary transformers and low-voltage distribution infrastructure
 - An on-site substation building, comprising a control room, high voltage switch room and welfare facilities.
- 3-4 m high acoustic barriers around noise emitting equipment or 3 m high palisade security fencing in areas where noise mitigation is not required.
- Cut and fill / earthworks and foundational civil structures to create level compounds upon which the batteries, substation and other ancillary structures will be located.
- An underground 132 kV grid connection cable between the substation compound and Knocknagael substation.
- Access arrangements, including two site access points along the site's eastern boundary, parking spaces and 5-metre-wide internal access tracks throughout the site.
- Stockproof fencing around the perimeter of the site.
- CCTV and lighting columns across the battery and substation compounds.
- Drainage infrastructure, including two attenuation ponds.
- Landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement, including earth bunds along the site's northern and eastern boundaries.

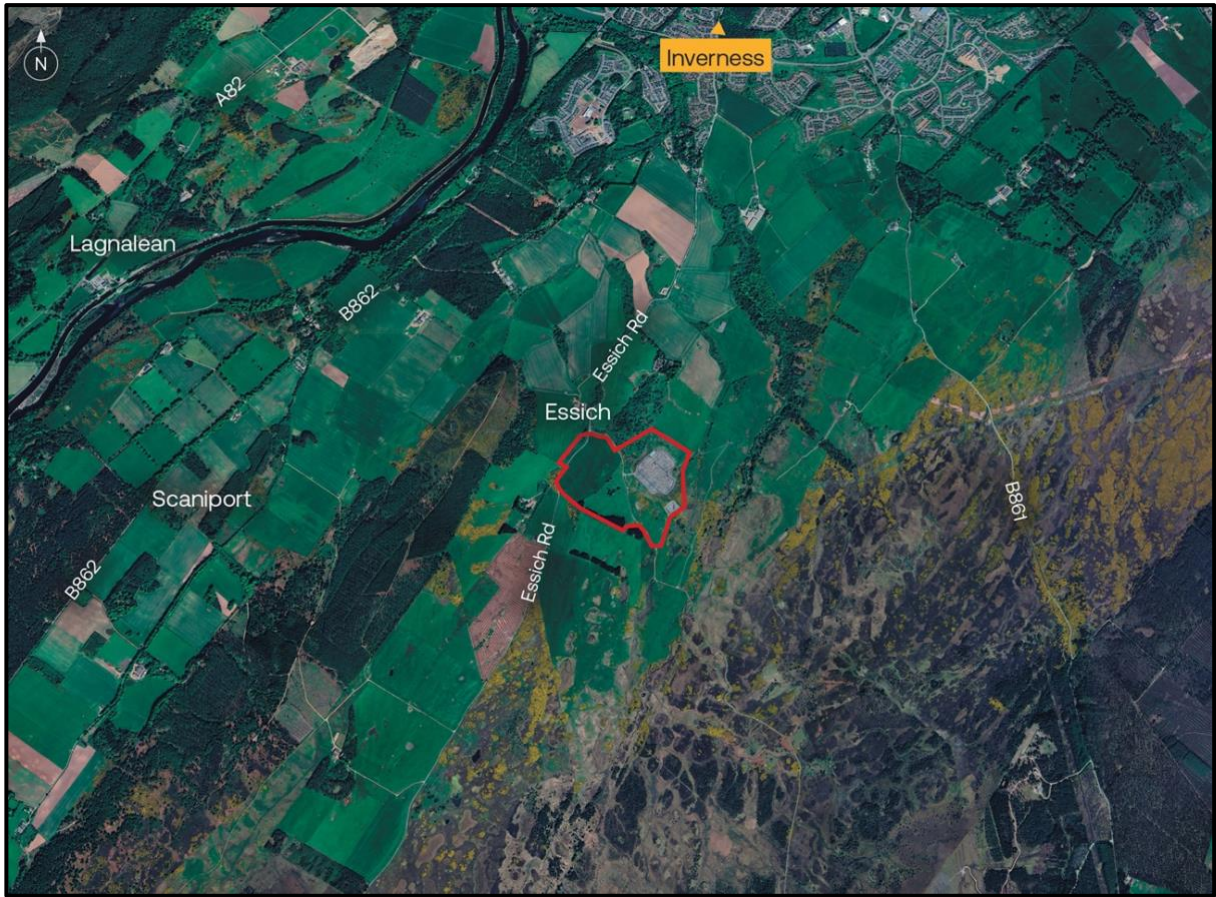


Figure 1: Site location Plan

4. The Consultation

Consultation Aims

4.1 The aims of the consultation were as follows:

- To work with local stakeholders and residents from an early stage of the Project design to provide them the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Development;
- To ensure the local community had the opportunity to give feedback on the proposals;
- To raise awareness of the Proposed Development within the local community and to gain their valuable insight based on their local knowledge;
- To gain a firm understanding of the key issues affecting the local community;
- To provide feedback to the local community based on their comments and concerns; and
- To include their feedback within the final Project design, as far as reasonably practicable.

Consultation Overview

4.2 Consultation on the Proposed Development began on 28th March 2024, when Field submitted a PoAN for the Proposed Development to The Highland Council (**Appendix 1**).

4.3 Field engaged with the site and neighbouring community councils: Dores and Essich CC, Lochardil and Drummond CC, Slackbuie CC, Inverness West CC, and Strathnairn CC, with an invitation to the events, copy of the brochure, and offer of a meeting on 16th April 2024.

4.4 Field also engaged with the local Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey MP Drew Hendry, as well as the Inverness and Nairn MSP Fergus Ewing and the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes on 16th April 2024. All three were offered a briefing and invited to the consultation events.

4.5 Alongside the community councils and local MPs and MSPs, Field also contacted site ward councillors (Inverness Ness-Side Ward) and neighbouring ward councillors (Aird and Loch Ness Ward) on 16th April 2024 with a copy of the brochure, invitation to the public consultation events, and an offer of a personal briefing (**Appendix 2**).

4.6 Members of the Highland Council Leadership Team were also invited to the events, including the Leader of the Council, the Chair of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee, and the Chair of the Climate Change Committee (**Appendix 2**).

4.7 A representative of Ariane Burgess MSP responded to the invitation offering to share the consultation dates on Ariane's social media, as did Cllr David Fraser. A representative of Tim Eagle MSP and Cllr Chris Ballance also responded to confirm receipt of the invitation.

4.8 A website for the Proposed Development (**Appendix 3**) was created, which can be accessed at the following address: www.fieldknocknagael.co.uk. The website includes an overview of the Proposed Development, details of consultation events, copies of all brochures and information boards that were available at the consultation events for those that could not attend, a contact email address and feedback form.

4.9 A brochure and invitation (**Appendix 4**) were sent out on 16th April 2024 to 490 addresses (see **Appendix 5** for postal distribution area) inviting them to the two public consultation events on

Tuesday 30th April 2024 and Tuesday 28th May 2024 at Dores Village Hall, Dores, Inverness IV2 6TR from 2pm-7pm.

4.10 Field advertised the public consultation events in a local newspaper (**Appendix 6**). The first public consultation event was advertised in the *Inverness Courier* on the 19th April 2024. The second public consultation event was advertised in the *Inverness Courier* on the 17th May 2024.

4.11 Attendees were made aware that pre-application consultation does not remove their right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the planning authority. Attendees were informed that details of how to comment on the final application would be made available via the project website.

First Public Consultation Event

4.12 The first public consultation event was held on Tuesday 30th April 2024 at Dores Village Hall, Dores, Inverness IV2 6TR from 2pm-7pm. Nine display boards were presented, including information about Field, an indicative site plan and information about the assessments being undertaken to inform the planning application (**see Appendix 7**).

4.13 The first consultation event was scheduled to take place early in the development programme, ahead of technical assessments and a Field defining a fixed layout so that stakeholders could have a meaningful input into the design.

4.14 Figure 2 below shows a copy of the simple layout which was presented on the information boards. A detailed layout plan was also presented for discussion in A3 printed format.



Figure 2: Simple layout presented at the first Public Consultation Event

4.15 A total of 15 people attended the first consultation event.

4.16 The feedback at the first consultation event can be summarised as follows:

- Positive feedback regarding Field's long-term role in acquiring, developing, and maintaining the proposal;
- Positive feedback regarding the site of the Proposed Development and its proximity to the existing Knocknagael substation;
- Concerns about Field's previous experience constructing battery projects;
- Interest and queries about broader community benefits;
- Concerns about safety and fire risk;
- Concerns about noise, particularly for residents to the west of the site;
- Concerns about visual impacts from the proposal; and
- Concerns over traffic/road conditions

Second Public Consultation Event

4.17 The second public consultation event was held on Tuesday 28th May 2024 at Dores Village Hall, from 2pm-7pm.

4.18 All political stakeholders (**Appendix 2**) were contacted again on 23rd May 2024 to invite them to the second consultation event. Cllr Jackie Hendry and Tim Eagle MSP responded to inform Field they were unable to attend. Dores and Essich Community Council also responded to confirm receipt of the invitation.

4.19 In response to the feedback received at the first consultation event, additional display boards were presented at the second event (**Appendix 8**). These additional boards included 4 new boards with information which had been requested at the first consultation event, as well as an updated layout board (replacing the one presented at the first event). An updated FAQ board was also produced to replace that presented at the first event, alongside one new additional FAQ board. These updates highlighted the design changes which had been made to the application following design progression, ongoing engagement with relevant authorities, as well as the feedback received at the first consultation event.

4.20 In summary, these additional boards included:

- Field's construction experience in the Highlands at Field Auchteraw, and Field's further experience managing battery sites at Field Oldham and Field Gerrards Cross;
- Fire safety management of battery energy storage systems;
- Updated FAQs regarding the need for battery energy storage systems, how these help Scotland, how noise is assessed and managed, and site security;
- What Field's batteries will look like, including a detailed Landscaping Plan; and
- How Field will manage the construction process, including preferred vehicle routing and details of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).

4.21 A total of 7 people attended the second consultation event.

4.22 The feedback at the second consultation event can be summarised as follows:

- Questions and concerns raised on visual impact for nearby receptors;
- Questions and concerns raised on traffic impacts on pedestrians and cyclists;
- Questions raised over planning process and consent regime compared to residential/commercial development in the area under TCPA process.



Figure 3: Landscaping Plan presented at the second Public Consultation Event

5. Consultation Feedback

Feedback forms and online questionnaire

5.1 Two completed feedback forms were received from attendees following the events. The results are presented below.

5.2 The feedback form included two multiple choice tick box questions and a space for additional comments.

Question one: Has this brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal?

YES	NO	NO ANSWER
2	0	0

Question two: With regards to the proposals you have read about within this brochure, are you:

IN FAVOUR	IN OBJECTION	OF NO OPINION
1	1	0

Question three: Additional comments

5.3 Both feedback forms contained additional comments. **Appendix 9** contains those comments in full, in addition to Field's response.

5.4 Overall feedback was mixed, with both respondents finding the brochure and information provided on the proposals to be useful. One respondent was in favour of the proposal, citing the 'right' location in proximity to the substation, while one respondent was in opposition to the proposal due to 'not enough compensation' for local residents.

Summary of feedback and Field's response

5.5 Feedback received during the consultation process for the Proposed Development has provided Field with an understanding of the key concerns of the local community. The key issues raised and a summary of how Field has addressed these issues is provided below.

Key Issues Raised	Response
Concerns about noise, particularly for residents to the west of the site	Field has undertaken detailed noise modelling to identify the level of potential noise impacts associated with the Proposed Development. This has included engagement with The Highland Council's Environmental Health Officer (EHO) to agree suitable noise levels to ensure no adverse impacts. To respond to concerns from neighbours along the site's western boundary, 4-metre-high acoustic barriers are proposed around the western BESS compound and the high voltage transformers to further reduce noise impacts. Following this mitigation, the required noise levels for the site, as agreed with the EHO can be met.

<p>Concerns about whether Field has appropriate experience constructing BESS assets</p>	<p>Field prepared an information board for the second event which provided an overview of Field’s experience in the Highlands, including the construction of their 50 MW battery near Fort Augustus. The information board also provided an overview of Field’s operational assets in Oldham and Gerrards Cross.</p>
<p>Concerns about visual impacts from the proposal</p>	<p>Field prepared a landscaping plan to be presented at the second consultation event. In response to the concerns of the residents to the west of the Proposed Development, dense landscaping treatments have been proposed along the site's western boundary to further reduce visual impact for nearby residential receptors.</p> <p>A simple, linear landscaping bund was presented at the first event. Following feedback, further design work was undertaken to improve the articulation of the landscaping bund so that it better aligns with the existing landform, including the proposed planting of native trees and scrub.</p> <p>A second bund, including native planting, is also proposed along the eastern boundary to screen views from the road, following feedback about the use of Biorraid Road by cyclists.</p>
<p>Concerns about construction traffic and impacts of construction on road conditions</p>	<p>At the second event, an additional information board was presented which outlined the proposed construction route and detailed how Field will manage and mitigate construction-related impacts through the preparation of an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan and Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p>The CTMP will include requirements for pre-construction surveys of the existing road network to assess its suitability to accommodate construction traffic, detail any improvements that may be necessary, and measures to ensure the road is re-instated to a suitable condition following construction.</p>
<p>Questions about the need for batteries and the associated economics</p>	<p>Field provided new FAQs at the second consultation event about the need for battery energy storage systems and how these help Scotland’s energy security.</p> <p>Field was also able to answer questions about the role of batteries within the broader electricity market, including the storage of renewable energy and the provision of voltage support functions.</p> <p>In response to these queries, Field has undertaken further work to provide a robust and comprehensive ‘Needs Case’ section within the Planning Statement.</p>
<p>Concerns about the risks of fire and safety management measures</p>	<p>In response to these concerns, Field provided an additional information board about fire safety at the second public consultation event. This outlined the fire safety measures integrated into battery specifications and design and emergency response measures, all of which would be implemented in accordance with an approved Battery Safety Management Plan.</p>

<p>Concerns about site security and lighting</p>	<p>In response to these concerns, an additional FAQ was added to the information boards for the second consultation event which identifies security management measures, including CCTV, 24/7 monitoring, and security fencing.</p> <p>In response to further concerns about the amenity impacts of security lighting, additional information will be included within the planning application regarding the location and height of lighting columns and operational measures to ensure lighting does not impact surrounding residents.</p>
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6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Overall feedback was mixed, with both respondents finding the brochure and information provided on the proposals to be useful. One respondent was in favour of the proposal, citing the ‘right’ location in proximity to the substation, while one respondent was in opposition to the proposal due to ‘not enough compensation’ for local residents.
- 6.2 Field ensured that the concerns and questions of the local community were addressed through the provision of additional information at the second consultation event, as well as detailing further on the ongoing impact assessments in areas of concern.
- 6.3 Figure 4 below reflects the final layout plan that will accompany the planning application, which has been informed by feedback received during the pre-application consultation process.

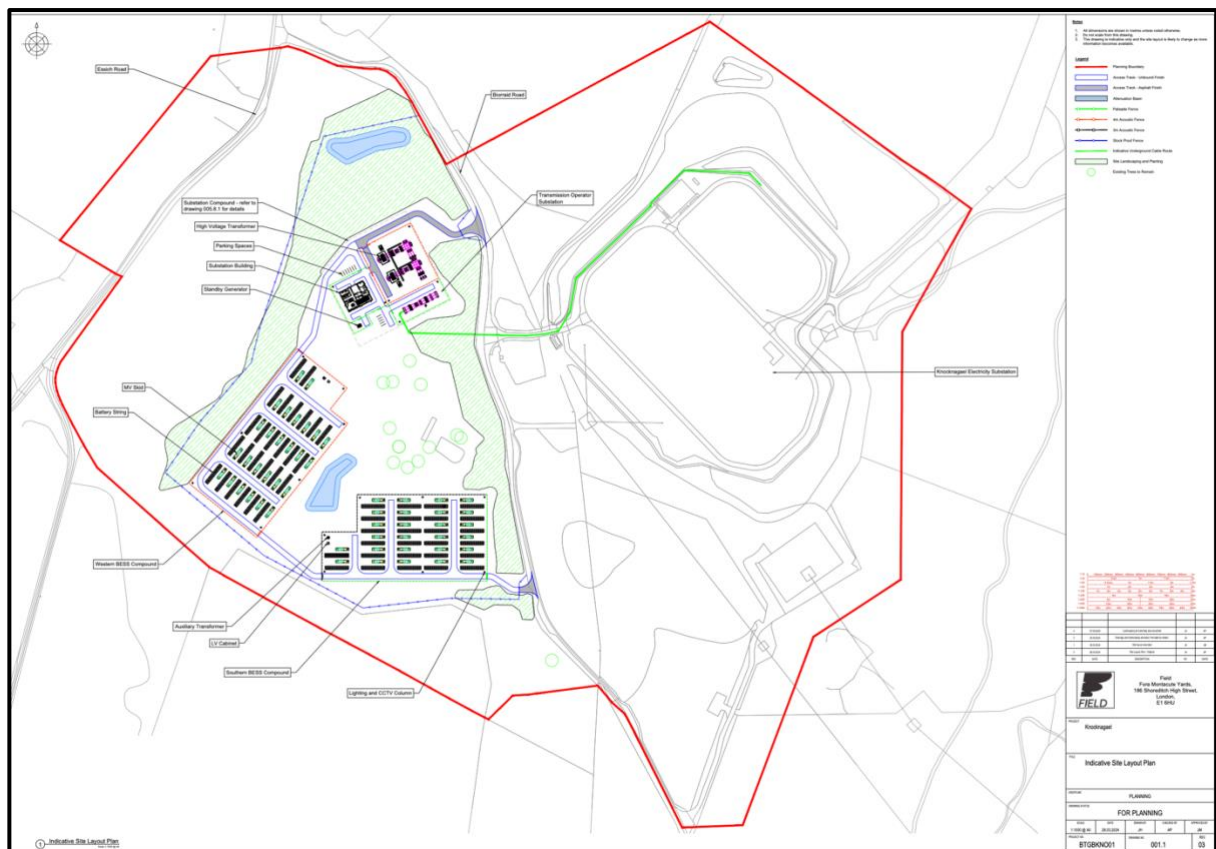



Figure 4: Final Site Layout Plan

7. Appendices

- **Appendix 1:** Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN)
- **Appendix 2:** List of contacted stakeholders
- **Appendix 3:** Field Knocknagael website
- **Appendix 4:** Local resident invite brochure
- **Appendix 5:** Local resident invite brochure distribution area
- **Appendix 6:** Public consultation event newspaper adverts
- **Appendix 7:** First consultation event boards
- **Appendix 8:** Second consultation event boards
- **Appendix 9:** Comments received via feedback form and Applicant's response

Appendix 1: Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN)

 The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd	PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE MOLADH BRATH IARRTAIS		
<p>The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and Planning (Scotland) Act 2019</p> <p>Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2021</p> <p>The Council will respond within 21 days of validation the Notice. It will advise whether the proposed Pre-application Consultation is satisfactory or if additional notification and consultation above the statutory minimum is required.</p> <p>Please note that a planning application for this proposed development cannot be submitted less than 12 weeks from the date the Proposal of Application Notice is received by the Council and without the statutory consultation requirements having been undertaken. The planning application must be accompanied by a Pre-application consultation report.</p> <p>The Proposal of Application Notice will be valid for a period of 18 months from the date of validation of the notice by the Council.</p>			
Data Protection Your personal data will be managed in compliance with the Data Protection legislation. You can read our privacy notice for planning related certificates on the Council's website at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1052173/planning_applications_consents_and_notice_of_review			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read and understood the privacy notice.			
Contact Details			
Applicant	Field Knocknagael Limited	Agent	David Bell Planning Ltd
Address	c/o Agent	Address	[REDACTED]
Phone	c/o Agent	Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	c/o Agent	Email	[REDACTED]
Address or Location of Proposed Development Land generally at Essich, Inverness, IV2 6AJ			
Description of Development			

Construction and operation of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of up to 200 MW with associated infrastructure (including cable route to substation), access and ancillary works (including landscaping and biodiversity enhancement).	
(Section 36 application to Energy Consents Unit (ECU))	
Pre-application Screening Notice	
Has a Screening Opinion been issued on the need for a Proposal of Application notice by the Highland Council in respect of the proposed development? If yes, please provide a copy of this Opinion.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Community Consultation	
State which other parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice.	
Community Council/s	Date Notice Served
Dores and Essich Community Council	28th March 2024
[Neighbouring: Lochardil and Drummond Community Council Slackbuie Community Council Inverness West Community Council Strathnairn Community Council]	
Local Elected Members	Date Notice Served
Cllr Alasdair Christie Cllr Jackie Hendry Cllr Andrew Mackintosh	28th March 2024
[Neighbouring: Cllr Chris Ballance Cllr Helen Crawford Cllr David Fraser Cllr Emma Knox]	
Members of Scottish Parliament and Members of Parliament	Date Notice Served
Drew Hendry MP	28th March 2024
Fergus Ewing MSP Kate Forbes MSP Douglas Ross MSP Edward Mountain MSP Rhoda Grant MSP Tim Eagle MSP	

Ariane Burgess MSP Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP Emma Roddick MSP	
Names / details of other parties	Date Notice Served
N/A	N/A

Details of Proposed Consultation		
Proposed Public Event 1	Venue	Date and Time
	Dores Village Hall, Dores, Inverness, IV2 5TR	30 April 2024 14:00 - 19:00
Proposed Public Event 2 <i>(at least 14 days after Public Event 1)</i>	Venue	Date and Time
	Dores Village Hall, Dores, Inverness, IV2 5TR	28 May 2024 14:00 – 19:00

Publication of Event		
Newspaper Advert	Name of Newspaper	Advert Date
	<i>Inverness Courier</i>	Week commencing 15 April 2024


Details of any other consultation methods (date, time and with whom)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation brochure drop to all properties within 2 km of the site (week commencing 15 April 2024) • Project website (URL TBC). This will be included on the consultation brochure • Meetings with Community Council (date to be agreed with Community Council)

Signed		Date	28/03/2024
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Appendix 2: List of stakeholders contacted

Name	Position
Cllr Raymond Bremner	Leader of the Council
Cllr Ken Gowans	Chair, Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Cllr Karl Rosie	Chair, Climate Change Committee
Cllr Alasdair Christie	Site Ward Councillor (Inverness Ness-Side Ward)
Cllr Jackie Hendry	Site Ward Councillor (Inverness Ness-Side Ward)
Cllr Andrew Mackintosh	Site Ward Councillor (Inverness Ness-Side Ward)
Cllr Chris Ballance	Neighbouring Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness Ward)
Cllr Helen Crawford	Neighbouring Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness Ward)
Cllr David Fraser	Neighbouring Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness Ward)
Cllr Emma Knox	Neighbouring Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness Ward)
Drew Hendry	Site MP (Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey)
Fergus Ewing	Site MSP (Inverness and Nairn)
Kate Forbes	Neighbouring MSP (Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch)
Douglas Ross	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Edward Mountain	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Rhoda Grant	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Tim Eagle	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Ariane Burgess	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Jamie Halcro Johnston	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Emma Roddick	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Dores and Essich Community Council	Site Community Council
Lochardil and Drummond Community Council	Neighbouring Community Council
Slackbuie Community Council	Neighbouring Community Council
Inverness West Community Council	Neighbouring Community Council
Strathnairn Community Council	Neighbouring Community Council

Appendix 3: Field Knocknagael Website Home Page

		Home Proposal Public Consultation FAQs Documents Contact	
<h3>Field builds and operates large batteries which store energy to help create a greener, more stable electricity grid.</h3> <p>We'd like to build one of these batteries, Field Knocknagael, on land to the south-west of Knocknagael Substation.</p> <p>Providing up to 200 MW of electricity to create a greener & more stable grid.</p>			
<p>Thank you to all who attended our public consultation events at Dores Village Hall on Tuesday 30th April and Tuesday 28th May. The boards presented at these events are available for download under the Documents tab.</p>			
<h4>Why do we need big batteries?</h4> <hr/> <h3>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.</h3>			
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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 Knocknagael will help to keep this frequency at the right level, which in turn helps reduce the chances of network disruptions or blackouts.</p>		
		Home Proposal Public Consultation FAQs Documents Contact	
<p>Copyright 2024, Field Knocknagael Ltd T/A Field (CN: 15249773) www.field.energy</p>		Privacy Policy	

Proposal Page

PROPOSAL



Field Knocknagael would be located directly adjacent to the existing Knocknagael substation. The built infrastructure (batteries, cables, access tracks etc.) is proposed to cover an area of approximately 7 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 Knocknagael will be made up of the following components:

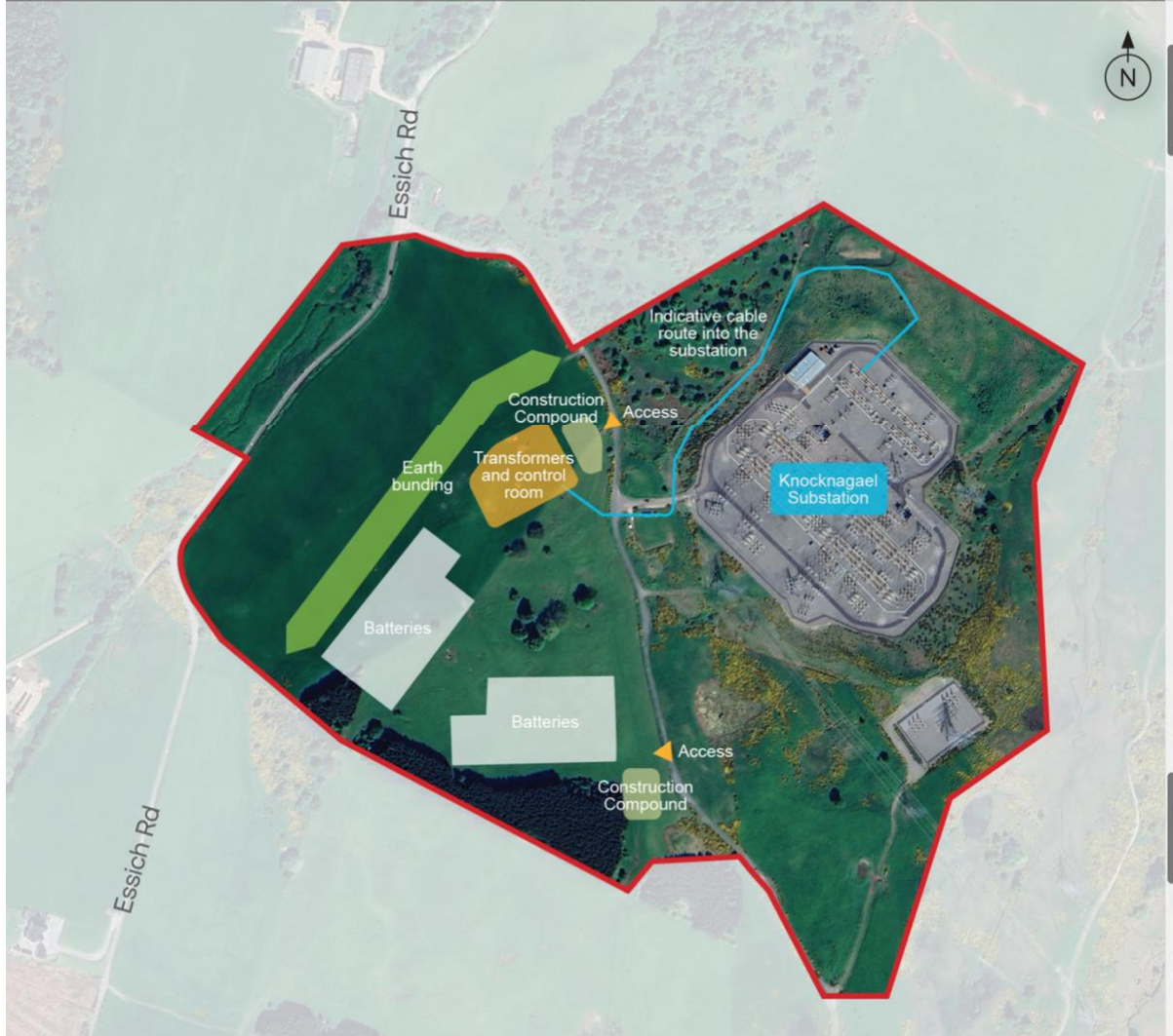
Battery energy storage units, which will be used to store the energy from the grid.

Power conversion systems (including inverters and transformers), which convert energy from alternating current to direct current, so that it can be

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 existing Knocknagael substation.

	stored by the batteries.		
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.



<h3>Working with local communities</h3>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">HomeProposalPublic ConsultationFAQsDocumentsContact	
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Public Consultation Page

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HomeProposalPublic ConsultationFAQsDocumentsContact
<h1>PUBLIC CONSULTATION</h1>	
<p>We're holding two public consultation events on Tuesday 30th April and Tuesday 28th May, 2pm-7pm, at Dores Village Hall, Dores, Inverness, IV2 6TR.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">HomeProposalPublic ConsultationFAQsDocumentsContact	
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FAQs Page

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. This differentiates us from many developers who look to take the project to shovel-ready status – that's securing land, grid connection and planning permission, and then sell the project on.

We will be working with the community during early design and development, construction, and throughout the operation of the project.

— When will Knocknagael be built?

We will be submitting our planning application to the Energy Consents Unit in Summer 2024. If we are granted consent, we would look to start construction in 2027 and it will take about two years to complete.

— How will our local community benefit?

We're currently working with the National Schools Partnership* to deliver a community-based programme in local schools to help educate students about the work that Field is undertaking in renewable energy and energy storage, as well as encouraging and equipping young people to explore careers in STEM and renewable energy. The Field team will work with local schools to provide information to students about how to build a career in the renewable energy sector.

*National Schools Partnership is a unique education network (run by the Brand and Social Impact Agency, We Are Futures) providing free teaching resources to schools across the whole of the UK.

— 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.

<p>— Are the batteries safe and what safety measures will you put in place?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We are also working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to ensure suitable emergency response procedures are in place, including a Battery Fire Safety Management Plan.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Home Proposal Public Consultation FAQs Documents Contact</p>
<p>Copyright 2024, Field Knocknagael Ltd T/A Field (CN: 15249773) www.field.energy</p>	<p>Privacy Policy</p>

Documents Page

	<p>Home Proposal Public Consultation FAQs Documents Contact</p>
<h1>DOCUMENTS</h1>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Knocknagael Brochure Consultation Event 1 Exhibition Boards Consultation Event 2 Exhibition Boards	<p>Home Proposal Public Consultation FAQs Documents Contact</p>
<p>Copyright 2024, Field Knocknagael Ltd T/A Field (CN: 15249773) www.field.energy</p>	<p>Privacy Policy</p>

Contact Page

	Home Proposal Public Consultation FAQs Documents Contact
<h1>CONTACT</h1>	
<p>This website forms part of our pre-planning application process.</p> <p>We would be grateful if you could fill out the feedback form on this page and let us have your contact details for the purpose of informing the project design and our planning application.</p> <p>For further information or to provide comments, please do not hesitate to email us at feedback@fieldknocknagael.co.uk</p> <p>Field is managing this public consultation process in collaboration with Alpaca Communications. Please view Alpaca Communications' privacy policy here.</p>	<p>First name * <input type="text"/></p> <p>Last name * <input type="text"/></p> <p>Email * <input type="text"/></p> <p>Subject * <input type="text"/></p> <p>Message * <input type="text"/></p> <p>protected by reCAPTCHA  Privacy Terms</p> <p>SUBMIT</p>
<p>Home Proposal Public Consultation FAQs Documents Contact</p>	
<p>Copyright 2024, Field Knocknagael Ltd T/A Field (CN: 15249773) www.field.energy</p>	<p>Privacy Policy</p>

Appendix 4: Local resident invite brochure



FIELD KNOCKNAGAEI BATTERY STORAGE

Providing up to 200 MW of electricity to create a greener and more stable grid

We are holding two public consultation events on **Tuesday 30th April 2pm-7pm** and **Tuesday 28th May 2pm-7pm**, at Dores Village Hall, Dores, Inverness IV2 6TR.



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 Knocknagael, on land to the south-west of the existing Knocknagael substation.

Field Knocknagael would connect directly to Knocknagael substation, and would be capable of storing up to 200 MW of electricity. This is expected to avoid up to 14 million tonnes of CO₂e 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.

Our first site was Field Oldham, a 20 MW battery which has been operating since Autumn 2022. Field Knocknagael would join Field Oldham as part of a nationwide network 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 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 enough 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 Knocknagael 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 THE HIGHLANDS

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 Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme. The Highland Council stated in their Net Zero Strategy (2023) that

"The Council's "Future Highland" Programme sets out a vision of Highland, a centre for global renewable energy, by capitalising on our areas of immense natural capital to deliver alternative energy solutions including developing solar, hydrogen, Hydro, wind and wave solutions."

*<https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/>

FIELD KNOCKNAGAEI

Field Knocknagael would be located directly adjacent to the existing Knocknagael substation. The built infrastructure (batteries, cables, access tracks etc.) is proposed to cover an area of approximately 7 hectares.

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

Field Knocknagael 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 existing Knocknagael 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.



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. This differentiates us from many developers who look to take the project to shovel-ready status - that's securing land, grid connection and planning permission, and then sell the project on.

We will be working with the community during early design and development, construction, and throughout the operation of the project.

When will Field Knocknagael be built?

We will be submitting our planning application to the Energy Consents Unit in Summer 2024. If we are granted consent, we would look to start construction in 2027 and it will take about two years to complete.

How will our local community benefit?

We're currently working with the National Schools Partnership* to deliver a community-based programme in local schools to help educate students about the work that Field is undertaking in renewable energy and energy storage, as well as encouraging and equipping young people to explore careers in STEM and renewable energy. The Field team will work with local schools to provide information to students about how to build a career in the renewable energy sector.

*National Schools Partnership is a unique education network (run by the Brand and Social Impact Agency, We Are Futures) providing free teaching resources to schools across the whole of the UK.

June 2024

25

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 Fire 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.

FIELD KNOCKNAGEL
Battery storage

FEEDBACK FORM

To return your completed feedback form please tear it from the brochure and pop it in the post by **Friday 7th June 2024**. Alternatively, you can return your form via email to feedback@fieldknocknagael.co.uk

Title: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____ Postcode: _____
Email: _____ Telephone: _____

- Has this brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal? Yes No Not sure
- With regards to the proposals you have read about within this leaflet, 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 get a response. Any information provided will only be used for the purpose of the planning application to the Local Planning Authority and will not be disclosed with any third parties. Your contact details will not be listed on the planning application documentation. Field is managing this public consultation process in collaboration with Alpaca Communications.

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 written on the front. You don't need any further address or stamp. 0800 11500 0499/100
Any queries or problems? Get in touch via feedback@alpacacommunications.com.

FOUD HERE

Freepost
ALPACA COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

INDICATIVE TIMELINE



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 Knocknagael.

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

We're holding two public consultation events at Dores Village Hall, Dores, Inverness IV2 6TR:

- 2pm - 7pm Tuesday 30th April 2024
- 2pm - 7pm Tuesday 28th May 2024

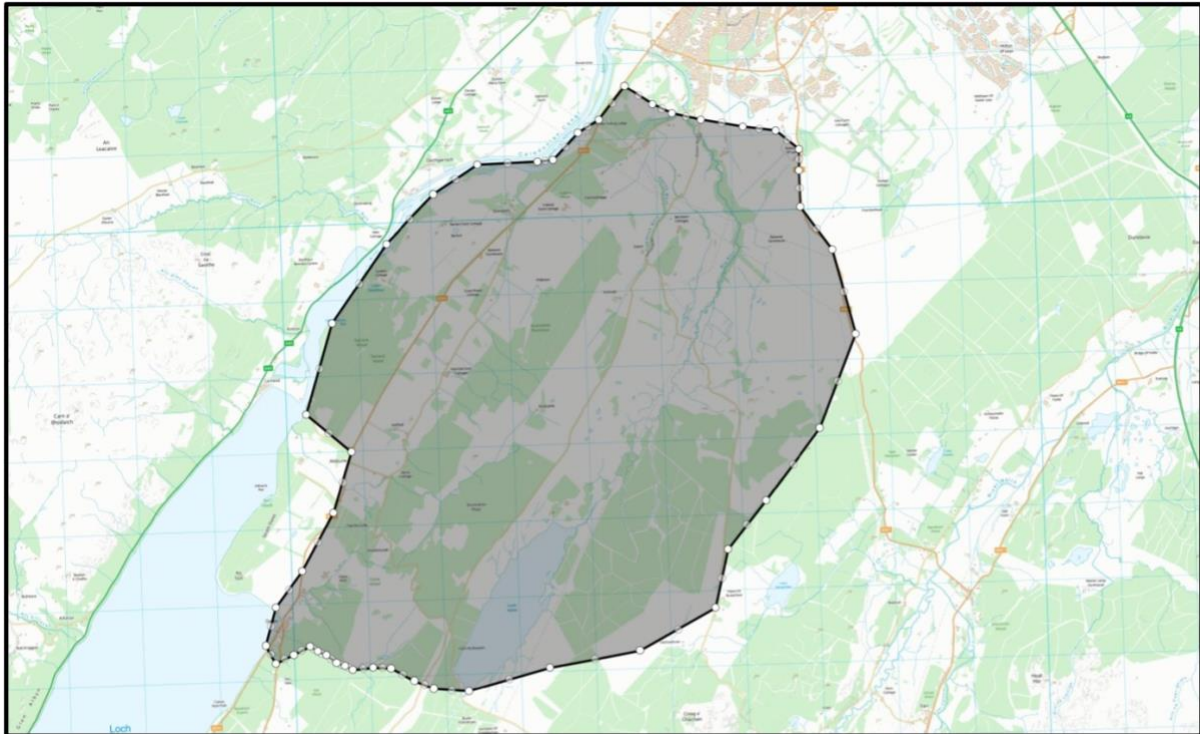
You can submit your feedback to us or write to us via:

Email: feedback@fieldknocknagael.co.uk

Freepost: Alpaca Communications Ltd



Appendix 5: Local resident invite brochure distribution area



A brochure and invite (**Appendix 4**) for the public consultation event was sent out on 16th April 2024 to 590 addresses.

Appendix 6: Public consultation event newspaper adverts

**FIELD
KNOCKNAGAE**

Field Knocknagael Ltd (Field) is preparing to submit a planning application to the Highland Council for a Battery Energy Storage System site on land to the south-west of Knocknagael substation.

The battery would provide up to 200 MW of electricity to create a greener and more stable grid. This is expected to avoid up to 1.4 million tonnes of CO₂e emissions during the first 20 years of operation.

Please visit www.fieldknocknagael.co.uk where we will provide updates on this project. For further information, please do not hesitate to email the project team at feedback@fieldknocknagael.co.uk.

We will be accepting pre-application submission comments until Friday 7th June 2024.

Comments made to Field are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If the Applicant submits a planning application there will be an opportunity for consultees to make representations on the application to the Scottish Ministers.

Join us at our public consultation events on
30th April and Tuesday 28th May
2pm-7pm
Dores Village Hall, Dores, Inverness IV2 6TR

The advert above was posted in the *Inverness Courier* on the 19th April 2024.



**FIELD
KNOCKNAGAE**

Field Knocknagael Ltd (Field) is preparing to submit a planning application to the Highland Council for a Battery Energy Storage System site on land to the south-west of Knocknagael substation.

The battery would provide up to 200 MW of electricity to create a greener and more stable grid. This is expected to avoid up to 1.4 million tonnes of CO₂e emissions during the first 20 years of operation.

Please visit www.fieldknocknagael.co.uk where we will provide updates on this project. For further information, please do not hesitate to email the project team at feedback@fieldknocknagael.co.uk.

We will be accepting pre-application submission comments until Friday 7th June 2024.

Comments made to Field are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If the Applicant submits a planning application there will be an opportunity for consultees to make representations on the application to the Scottish Ministers.

Join us at our public consultation event on
Tuesday 28th May | 2pm-7pm
Dores Village Hall, Dores, Inverness IV2 6TR

The advert above was posted in the *Inverness Courier* on the 17th May 2024.

Appendix 7: First consultation event boards

FIELD FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

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 Knocknagael, on land to the south-west of the existing Knocknagael substation.

Field Knocknagael would connect directly to Knocknagael substation via underground cables and would be capable of providing up to 200 MW of electricity to the national grid.

This is expected to avoid up to 14 million tonnes of CO2e emissions during the first 20 years of operation.

This would be achieved by storing electricity when renewable energy generation is high, and supplying the grid with electricity when renewable energy generation is low, thereby reducing reliance on high carbon energy sources.

Field currently operates two sites, Field Ouhin, a 20 MW battery which has been operating since Autumn 2022, and Field Garrards Cross, which started operating in April 2024. Field Knocknagael would join these sites as part of a nationwide network which, together, will help the UK reach net zero.

FIELD FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

INDICATIVE TIMELINE

- Early 2024**
Early environmental assessments and design work
- 30 April 2024**
Public consultation event 1
- May 2024**
Ongoing detailed environmental assessments and design updates based on stakeholder feedback
- 28 May 2024**
Public consultation event 2
- June 2024**
Final design updates based on assessments and stakeholder feedback
- Summer 2024**
Submission of planning application
- Early 2025**
Determination of planning application
- 2027 onwards**
Construction and operation

FIELD FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

FIELD KNOCKNAGAE

Field Knocknagael would be located directly adjacent to the existing Knocknagael substation. The built infrastructure (batteries, cables, access tracks, etc.) is proposed to cover an area of approximately 7 hectares.

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

Field Knocknagael 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, so that it can be transferred to or from the grid.

- An **underground cable connection** to connect the battery to the existing Knocknagael 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**, including earth bunds and native species mix planting, to reduce visual impacts and contribute to biodiversity enhancement.

FIELD FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

STORING ENERGY IN THE HIGHLANDS

Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045.* 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 they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme. The Highland Council stated in their Net Zero Strategy (2023) that:

"The Council's "Future Highland" Programme sets out a vision of Highland, a centre for global renewable energy, by capitalising on our areas of immense natural capital to deliver alternative energy solutions including developing solar, hydrogen, Hydro, wind and wave solutions."

We currently farm gas power plants during peak periods such as between 7 am and 8 pm. Battery storage will help reduce our gas use in an anticipation of peak demand.

Wind and solar energy rely on weather conditions, meaning they can often generate significant amounts of energy when demand is low. It is important the excess energy is stored for times when demand is greater than supply.

Batteries are essential for managing energy demand and ensuring a steady supply of electricity. They store energy when demand is low and release it when demand is high. This helps to balance the grid and ensures that there is always enough electricity to meet demand.

Battery storage allows us to harness the potential of renewable energy sources and store it when energy demand is highest. This has been a key focus for the Highland Council, and helps lower greenhouse gas emissions.

FIELD FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

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 (such as when the wind isn't blowing, the sun isn't shining, or we aren't able to import enough energy from elsewhere). This ensures plenty of electricity 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 the electrical frequency. This needs to be closely monitored, as if frequency is too high or too low, the network can't operate properly. Field Knocknagael will help to keep this frequency at the right level, which in turn helps reduce the chance of network disruptions or blackouts.

Batteries are essential for managing energy demand and ensuring a steady supply of electricity. They store energy when demand is low and release it when demand is high. This helps to balance the grid and ensures that there is always enough electricity to meet demand.

Battery storage allows us to harness the potential of renewable energy sources and store it when energy demand is highest. This has been a key focus for the Highland Council, and helps lower greenhouse gas emissions.

FIELD FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

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.

We will own and operate Field Knocknagael throughout its lifetime. 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 and operate 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.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Field is working with the National Schools Partnership (NSP)* to design a community-based education programme which invites and encourages young people to explore the diverse range of careers that exist within the renewable energy industry.

The programme is currently in development and will be initially rolled out to local schools surrounding Field Knocknagael.

Field aims to support educators by providing key insights about the diverse types of jobs that exist, the education or training required, and the ways that young people can take to pursue local careers in the renewable energy industry.

WHY WE'RE DOING IT

The Highland Council recognises that the renewable energy industry is a future growth sector for the Highlands and offers significant local employment opportunities.

With 65% of young people stating that they don't understand the skills employers need**, Field recognises that educators need support to prepare young people for the jobs of the future.

WHEN WILL IT LAUNCH?

The programme will launch across several pilot catchment areas across the Highlands at end of August, for the start of the new academic term. Depending on feedback, the programme could be rolled out in other areas.

* The National Schools Partnership is a collaboration network run by the Board and Social Impact Agency. We are a future providing free learning resources to schools across the whole of the UK.
** Learning Strategy to Create a Future Workforce - A Strategy and the Economy for the Highland Council (2023).
*** Youth Skills Census Report (2022).

FIELD FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

WHO WE ARE

Field is a leading developer, owner and operator of grid-scale batteries across the UK and Europe. Field's aim is to develop battery projects that reduce climate change emissions, support the stable operation of the electricity grid, and bring down electricity prices for consumers.

We're responsible for all stages of project development, from initial landowner engagement through to concept design, planning, construction and operation. We're committed to designing, building and operating projects that are safe, environmentally sustainable and have as little impact as possible on the communities around them.

We value ongoing engagement with our communities to understand and respond to local perspectives and concerns, and will work with local communities throughout every stage of the project.

Field Knocknagael would form part of Field's extensive portfolio of battery projects across the UK and Europe. In the UK, we have several projects at varying stages of development:

- Solihull (300 MW)**
- Dumfries (50 MW)**
- Knocknagael (200 MW)**
- Halton (50 MW)**
- Withers (25 MW)**
- Repsport (20 MW)**
- Operating (40 MW)**
- In construction (10 MW)**
- Consented / Pre-Construction (25 MW)**
- Planning / Development (500 MW)**

FIELD FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will Field Knocknagael be built?
We will be submitting our planning application to the Scottish Government in summer 2024. We are granted consent to start construction in 2027 and it will take about two years to complete construction.

How will our local community benefit?
We're currently working with the National Schools Partnership to deliver a community-based programme in local schools to help reduce students' carbon footprint. This will include encouraging and enabling young people to explore careers in STEM and renewable energy. The Field team will work with local schools to provide information to students about how to build a career in the renewable energy sector.

Are battery energy storage sites noisy?
The main noise associated with batteries are the cooling fans, which keep the batteries from overheating. 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 mitigation measures in our project design. These measures, such as acoustic fencing and building, ensure that noise impacts are acceptable at nearby sensitive locations.

Will the project impact trees or ecology?
The main objective of our design is to minimise any impact on the site, wherever possible. At Knocknagael, there are several sensitive trees located on an area of ancient woodland. It is important that these trees are not removed. We are also aware of all local ecological areas and will ensure that any potential impacts are minimised. We are also aware of all local ecological areas and will ensure that any potential impacts are minimised.

Will the project impact local traffic?
One of our main objectives is to minimise any impact on local traffic, with only occasional visits required for maintenance.

When the battery is being built, construction traffic will be managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan.

When the battery is being built, construction traffic will be managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan.

The site will include details of construction traffic, routes, 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.

Will the project impact heritage assets?
There are several non-designated heritage assets located across the site, wherever possible. We will work closely with the Highland Council to ensure that any heritage assets are appropriately managed and recorded in accordance with relevant legislation.

Will the project cause flooding or impact drains?
Because our projects contain electricity sensitive equipment, flood risk is a key consideration during site selection and design. We carry out detailed flood modelling to ensure equipment is located outside or above any protected flood depth, which also ensures there is no increase in flood risk on or off-site.

We'll also build appropriate drainage infrastructure to ensure surface water runoff is managed across the site. These will include sustainable drainage systems which can collect and discharge water into existing drains at an appropriate run-off rate.

Are the batteries safe and what safety measures will you put in place?
Large batteries are safe facilities. We work hard throughout the design, construction and into operation to ensure the safety of our sites. We only use batteries that have been in use for many years and will be compliant with all relevant fire safety standards.

The batteries will be constantly monitored and in the event of an emergency, we will have a dedicated fire safety team on-site. We will also have fire safety equipment on-site, including fire extinguishers and fire alarm systems.

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

To keep our sites secure, all our projects include perimeter fencing and gated access. We will also have security cameras and CCTV in use to monitor our sites.

FIELD FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

PLANNING APPLICATION

To support our planning application, we are proposing to submit the following documents and assessments:

- Ecology Statement
- Ground Condition Risk Assessment
- Landscaping and Visual Impact Assessment
- Flood Risk Assessment / Drainage Strategy
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Statement
- Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Outline Battery Safety Management Plan
- Socio-Economic Benefits Assessment
- Design Statement
- Planning / Sustainable Place Statement
- Pre-application Consultation Report

Following submission, these documents will be available to the public via the Energy Consents Unit's website.

Please note that comments made during this pre-application consultation phase are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. Following submission of the planning application to the Energy Consents Unit, there will be an opportunity to make representations directly to the Scottish Ministers.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We're holding a second consultation event at Cross Village Hall on 28 May 2024. We'll continue accepting feedback via post or email until 7 June 2024.

We'll then integrate your feedback into the final planning application and submit this to the Scottish Government in summer 2024.

After it's submitted, you will have the opportunity to make a representation about the application to the Scottish Ministers, via the Energy Consents Unit.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information, please visit www.fieldknocknagael.co.uk

If you have any questions or you'd like to provide comments, please do not hesitate to email us at feedback@fieldknocknagael.co.uk

Appendix 8: Second consultation event boards

The boards below were presented at the second event, and include a number presented at the first event (Appendix 7).

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'll be building one of these batteries, Field Knocknagael, on land to the south-west of the existing Knocknagael substation.

Field Knocknagael would connect directly to Knocknagael substation via underground cables and would be capable of providing up to 200 MW of electricity to the national grid.

This is expected to avoid up to 14 million tonnes of CO₂e emissions during the first 20 years of operation.

This would be achieved by storing electricity when renewable energy generation is high, and supplying the grid with electricity when renewable energy generation is low, thereby reducing reliance on high carbon energy sources.

Field currently operates two sites, Field Cahirin, a 20 MW battery which has been operating since Autumn 2022, and Field Gannoch Creek, which started operating in April 2024. Field Knocknagael will join these sites as part of a network of batteries which, together, will help the UK reach net zero.



STORING ENERGY IN THE HIGHLANDS

Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highlands" Programme. The Highland Council stated in their Net Zero Strategy (2023) that:

"The Council's "Future Highland" Programme sets out a vision of Highland, a centre for global renewable energy, by capitalising on our areas of immense natural capital to deliver alternative energy solutions including developing solar, hydrogen, Hydro, wind and wave solutions."

Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045. 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 they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highlands" Programme. The Highland Council stated in their Net Zero Strategy (2023) that:

"The Council's "Future Highland" Programme sets out a vision of Highland, a centre for global renewable energy, by capitalising on our areas of immense natural capital to deliver alternative energy solutions including developing solar, hydrogen, Hydro, wind and wave solutions."



WHO WE ARE

Field is a leading developer, owner and operator of grid-scale batteries across the UK and Europe. Field's aim is to develop battery projects that reduce climate change emissions, support the stable operation of the electricity grid, and bring down electricity prices for consumers.

We're responsible for all stages of project development, from initial landowner engagement through to concept design, planning, construction and operation. We're committed to designing, building and operating projects that are safe, environmentally sustainable and have as little impact as possible on the communities around them.

We value ongoing engagement with our communities to understand and respond to local perspectives and concerns, and will work with local communities throughout every stage of the project.

Field Knocknagael would form part of Field's extensive portfolio of battery projects across the UK and Europe. In the UK, we have several projects at varying stages of development.



INDICATIVE TIMELINE

- Early 2024**
Early environmental assessments and design work
- 30 April 2024**
Public consultation event 1
- May 2024**
Ongoing detailed environmental assessments and design updates based on stakeholder feedback
- 28 May 2024**
Public consultation event 2
- June 2024**
Final design updates based on assessments and stakeholder feedback
- Summer 2024**
Submission of planning application
- Early 2025**
Determination of planning application
- 2027 onwards**
Construction and operation

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 fit 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 enough energy from elsewhere). This means plenty of electricity is available for people to make their morning cups, 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.

Wind and solar energy only work when the sun is shining, meaning they can't always generate significant amounts of energy when we need it. Big batteries store the excess energy so it's there when we need a greater than usual supply.

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 can't operate properly. Field Knocknagael will help to keep this frequency at the right level, which in turn helps reduce the chances of network disruptions or blackouts.

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Battery storage allows us to maximise the potential of renewable energy sources and store energy when it's abundant and release it when demand is high. This has benefits for the environment, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We can only run on gas-powered plants during peak periods such as between 6pm and 10pm. Battery storage can help reduce energy demand at these times, which means we can avoid up to 10% of gas-powered plants during peak periods.

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PLANNING APPLICATION

To support our planning application, we are proposing to submit the following documents and assessments:

- Ecology Statement
- Ground Condition Risk Assessment
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Flood Risk Assessment / Drainage Strategy
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Statement
- Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Outline Battery Safety Management Plan
- Socio-Economic Benefits Assessment
- Design Statement
- Planning / Sustainable Place Statement
- Pre-application Consultation Report

Following submission, these documents will be available to the public via the Energy Consents Unit's website.

Please note that comments made during this pre-application consultation phase are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. Following submission of the planning application to the Energy Consents Unit, there will be an opportunity to make representations directly to the Scottish Ministers.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We're holding a second consultation event at Dones Village Hall on 28 June 2024. We'll continue receiving feedback via post or email until 7 June 2024.

We'll then integrate your feedback into the final planning application and submit this to the Energy Consents Unit in Summer 2024.

After it's submitted, you will have the opportunity to make a representation about the application to the Scottish Ministers, via the Energy Consents Unit.

For more information, please visit our website at www.fieldknocknagael.co.uk. If you have any questions or you'd like to provide comments, please do not hesitate to email us at feedback@fieldknocknagael.co.uk.



FIELD KNOCKNAGAE

Field Knocknagael would be located directly adjacent to the existing Knocknagael substation. The built infrastructure (batteries, cables, access tracks, etc.) is proposed to cover an area of approximately 7 hectares.

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

Field Knocknagael 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, so that it can be transferred to or from the grid.

- An **underground cable connection** to connect the battery to the existing Knocknagael 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**, including earth bunds and native species planting, 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.

We will own and operate Field Knocknagael throughout its lifetime. 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 and operate better battery sites.

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

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Field is working with the National Schools Partnership (NSP)¹ to design a community-based education programme which invites and encourages young people to explore the diverse range of careers that exist within the renewable energy sector.

The programme is currently in development and will be initially rolled out to local schools surrounding Field Knocknagael.

Field aims to support education by providing job opportunities about the diverse range of jobs that exist, the education or training required, and the areas that young people can take to pursue local careers in the renewable energy industry's local employment opportunities.^{2,3}

With 65% of young people stating that they don't understand the skills employers need⁴, Field recognises that education needs support to prepare young people for the jobs of the future.

The programme will search across several job categories across the Highlands, at end of August to the start of the new academic term. Depending on feedback, the programme could be rolled out in other areas.

¹The National Schools Partnership is an initiative run by the Board for Scotland's Education. It has been awarded funding from the Scottish Government.

²Renewable Energy Skills Strategy - A Strategy and Framework for All, The Highland Council 2023.

³Scottish Skills Action Plan 2022.



HOW WE'LL MANAGE THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

The construction of Field Knocknagael will involve careful planning and management to minimise disruption to local communities and roads.

Before we start building, we'll develop detailed management plans and agree these with the Highland Council to ensure works are carried out responsibly, and all impacts are reduced as much as possible.

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

Our CEMP will set out procedures and mitigation measures to manage and monitor environmental impacts during construction such as:


- Noise, dust and vibration controls
- Measures to prevent mud and stone on roads
- Waste management and recycling
- Pollution prevention guidance
- Ecological protection.

Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)

Our CTMP will be implemented to effectively manage all construction traffic to and from the site, including:

- Agreed routes for construction vehicles to avoid sensitive areas.
- Agreed construction working hours.
- Details of any road signage or warning works if required.
- It is possible for monitoring road conditions and warning works if required.
- Measures to encourage workers to avoid peak times or vehicle share where possible.
- Contact details to raise any road safety issues; and
- Coordination with any other planned developments in the area to manage cumulative traffic impacts.

We'll work closely with the Highland Council and other stakeholders to agree the detailed CEMP requirements.



FIELD

FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

FIRE SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Safety is our top priority. We take a comprehensive approach to the fire risk management through careful design, operating processes, and emergency planning.

Battery Design and Safety Systems

- Batteries must be compliant with all relevant fire codes and safety standards, and we only use batteries with the highest fire safety ratings and performance.
- Battery containers are fitted with early fault and fire detection technology, internal fire suppression systems, and reinforced casing to ensure fires do not spread to other units.
- Appropriate separation distances are provided between battery strings, access roads, and surrounding features like security fencing, planting schemes) to ensure firebreaks are in place.

Emergency Planning and Response

- A detailed Battery Safety Management Plan is being developed, which will be agreed with relevant authorities before the project starts operating. This identifies potential hazards and associated safety mechanisms for the long-term operation of the Project. The outline version of the Plan will be submitted with the planning application.
- Field is continuing to engage with the National Fire Chiefs Council and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service across our portfolio of projects, including regular on-site consultations and site familiarisation visits. An Emergency Response Plan will be prepared in consultation with the Fire and Rescue Service for use in the unlikely event that there is an emergency on site.

Construction & Operation Oversight

- 24-hour surveillance and fault detection systems will ensure any faults are identified, isolated and responded to as quickly as possible, including de-energisation where necessary.
 - Field will undertake routine site inspections, maintenance and testing throughout the life of the project.
- Field is committed to implementing industry best practices and working closely with the authorities to ensure the safety of our facilities, our staff, and local communities. We welcome any further inputs as we finalise the fire safety approach for Field Knocknagael.



FIELD

FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

OUR OTHER BATTERY SITES

Field's experienced team manages each battery storage project's full lifecycle. With projects going through every stage of development and operation, we apply learnings and best practices across our portfolio to ensure reliable, safe and sustainable facilities. A brief overview of three of these sites is included below.



Field Auchenair
20 MW, near Fort Augustus
In construction

Field Auchenair will be made of conducting up to 20 MW of capacity once completed. The site is located in a residential area in the Greater Manchester region.

The project demonstrates Field's expertise in developing battery storage in operational sites and the importance of understanding and managing the surrounding environment. We've worked closely with the local community to manage traffic impacts, including implementing measures to limit the number of construction vehicles on the site and ensuring that all necessary permits are obtained from the community.



Field Oldham
20 MW, near Manchester
Operational

Field Oldham started operating in 2022 and can produce up to 20 MW of capacity. The site is located in a residential area in the Greater Manchester region.



Field Gerrards Cross
20 MW, Buckinghamshire
Operational

Field Gerrards Cross started operating in April 2023 and can produce up to 20 MW of capacity. The site is located in a residential area in the Greater Manchester region.

FIELD

FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

WHAT OUR BATTERIES WILL LOOK LIKE

Our battery units will be housed in secure cabinets, similar to those shown in the images below, which were taken at our Field Newport site. These allow for a modular design where individual battery racks can be easily accessed during routine inspections and maintenance.

Field Knocknagael will comprise multiple battery cabinets arranged in rows, known as 'strings'. These will be connected via underground cables to other important electrical infrastructure like transformers, an on-site substation, and underground cabling to the main grid connection point at the existing Knocknagael substation.

To reduce visual impacts of the proposal, the batteries will be set back from roads and properties as much as possible. Earthworks and native landscaping will also be incorporated to help screen and soften views of the site.

The visualisation shows how Field Knocknagael storage could look from surrounding viewpoints, once operational. While the infrastructure will be visible, our design aims to minimise impacts on the local landscape as much as possible.



FIELD

FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will Field Knocknagael be built?

We'll be submitting our planning application to the Scottish Government in Summer 2024. If we are granted consent, we would look to start construction in 2027 and it will take about two years to complete construction.

How will our local community benefit?

Field is currently working with the National Skills Partnership* to deliver a community-owned programme of local training and employment opportunities to support careers in STEM and renewable energy. Field will work with local schools to provide information to students about how to build a career in the renewable energy sector.

Will the project impact trees or wildlife?

Tree and wildlife removal will be avoided where possible. At Knocknagael, there are several sensitive trees located on-site which we have carefully designed around so that these trees can be retained. We also carry out full ecological surveys to identify any potential impacts on trees and wildlife. We will also carry out assessments to compensate for any impacts that do occur. This is typically through the planting of native species as part of our landscaping, which will also help to improve any potential visual impacts.

Will the project impact archaeology?

There are several non-designated heritage assets located across the site, comprising possible hut circles. What we hope to find these assets if possible, excavation may be required if excavation is required, we'll work closely with The Highland Council to ensure any excavations are appropriately investigated and recorded in accordance with relevant protocols.

Will the project cause flooding or impact drains?

Because our projects are designed to be resilient, we will also build appropriate drainage infrastructure to ensure surface water run-off is managed across the site. These will include sustainable drainage solutions which can collect and discharge water into existing drains at an appropriate run-off rate.

*National Skills Partnership is a unique education network run by the Bored and Social Impact Agency. We are future-proofing the training pipeline to include across the energy of the UK.

FIELD

FIELD KNOCKNAGAE BATTERY STORAGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will noise impacts be assessed and managed?

The main noise associated with batteries are the cooling fans, which keep the batteries from overheating. For Field Knocknagael, we'll carry out a detailed noise assessment to model the predicted noise levels from the operational battery equipment against existing background levels.

This assessment will identify any potential noise impacts on nearby noise-sensitive receptors like homes. Where potential impacts are identified, we'll incorporate mitigation measures into the design, such as acoustic fencing, earth bunding, and careful orientation of equipment to ensure operational noise meets relevant regulations.

How does this help Scotland's energy security?

Scotland has set an ambitious target of becoming net zero by 2045. Achieving this will require a massive increase in renewable energy generation and widespread electrification of transport and heating.

How will the site security be managed?

The security and safety of our battery storage facilities is extremely important. Field Knocknagael will have robust security measures in place, including:

- Perimeter fencing and secure gated access to prevent unauthorised entry
- 24/7 CCTV monitoring of the site
- Appropriate security lighting to aid CCTV coverage
- Routine inspections and maintenance of Field's operational staff.

Why do we need batteries in this area?

The Highland has an abundance of renewable energy resources like wind, hydro and tidal power. Locating the batteries in close proximity to the Highland's renewable assets like wind farms ensures this stored energy can be utilised as efficiently as possible, with minimal transmission losses.

Will the project impact local traffic?

Once operational, the project will have minimal impact on local traffic, with only occasional visits required for maintenance.

When the project is being built, construction traffic will be 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 will work closely with the local community to help reduce any impact on local roads where possible.

A pre-condition survey of the local roads will be carried out to assess the ability of the local road network to accommodate the construction, operational and maintenance traffic associated with the project and any necessary upgrade works will be undertaken ahead of construction. Remediation works will be carried out post-construction if required.

Appendix 9: Comments received via feedback form question 3 and Applicant's response.

COMMENTS RECEIVED	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
<p>The company taking the project from cradle to grave is a massive plus. The location is where these projects should be.</p>	<p>Field thanks the respondent for their comment.</p>
<p>Not enough compensation to local community for extra traffic, environmental impact, offsetting CO2 on construction, wildlife etc</p>	<p>While community benefit is not considered a material planning consideration, Field are currently working with the National Schools Partnership to deliver a community-based programme in local schools to educate students about the work that varying jobs that exist in renewable energy, as well as encouraging and equipping young people to explore careers in these sectors.</p> <p>To maximise benefits for the local area, Field will continue to work closely with residents and its key stakeholders to understand the specific needs and priorities of the community in relation to skills and education to ensure the schools programme is meaningful, impactful and relevant to the local community.</p> <p>It is also noted that potential impacts relating to transport and the environment will be managed via an approved Construction Traffic Management Plan and Construction Environment Management Plan; and measures will be in place to ensure local biodiversity quality is enhanced in the long-term.</p>