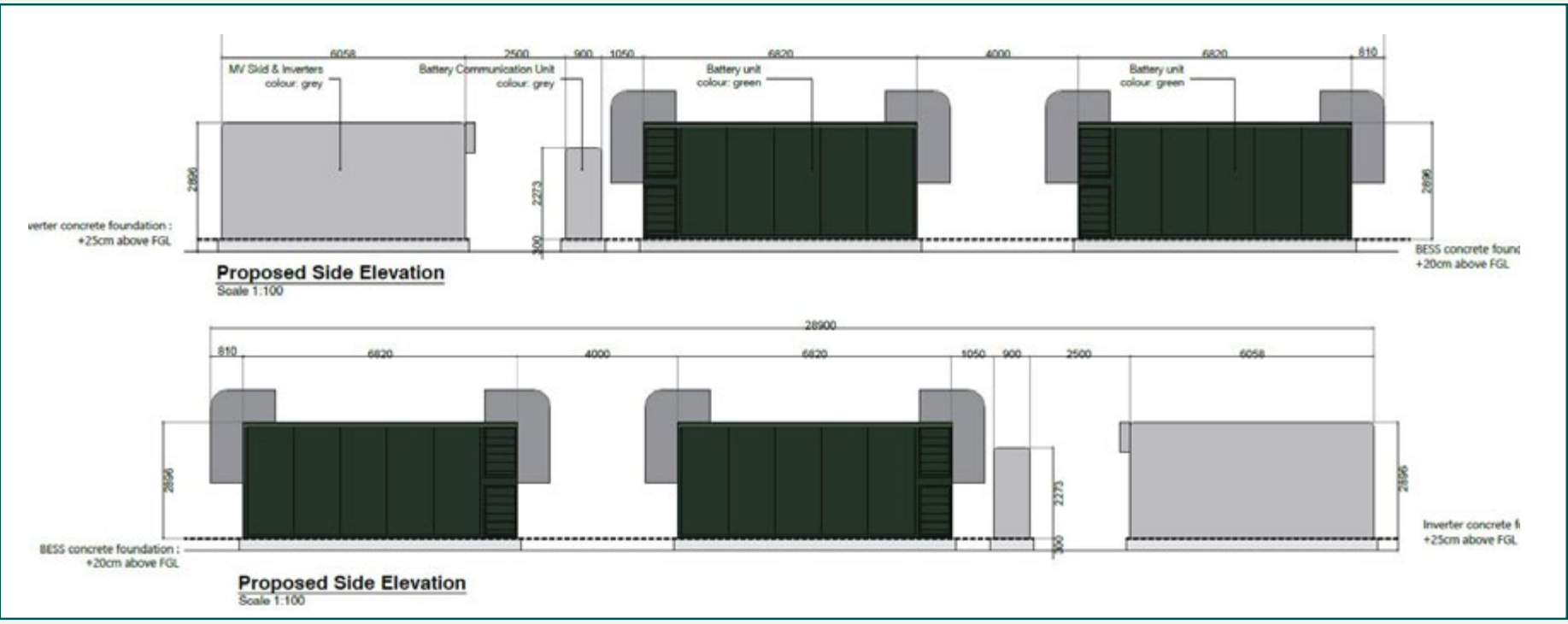


What is being proposed?



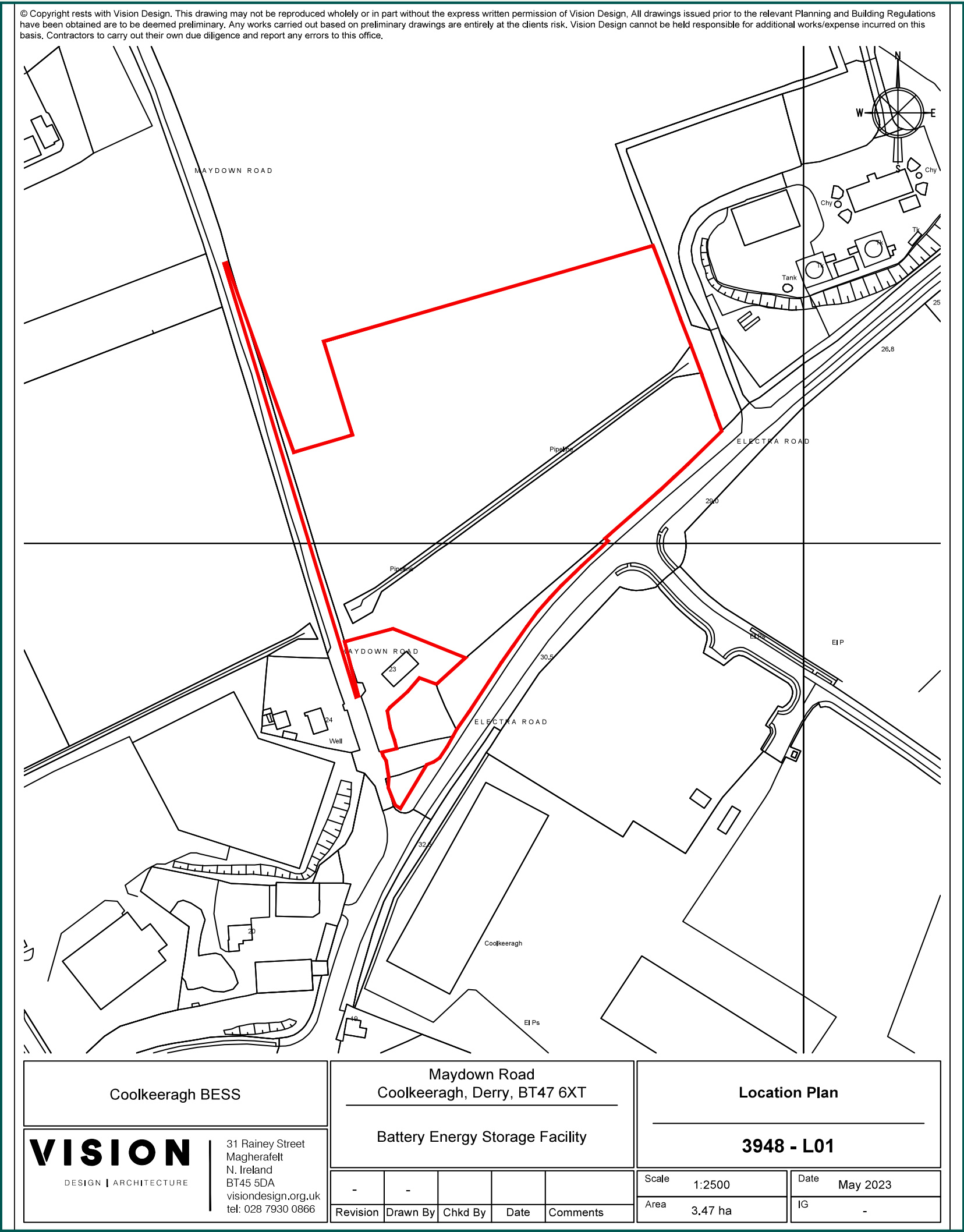
Proposed side elevations

The proposed development involves amendments to a previously approved application for a battery energy storage system (LA11/2023/1679/F) at the site.

LA11/2023/1679/F was granted on 2 July 2024 for ‘proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility including electrical substation building, CCTV/lighting columns, security fencing, new access and ancillary site works’. The permission remains extant.

It is important to note that the site area and proposed access remain unchanged from the previous approval. The internal changes to the site layout are required as result of a need to change the proposed battery technology from Nickel Manganese Cobalt to Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) because of market changes and efficiency of LFP battery technology and to allow for the duration of the BESS to increase from 2 hours to 4 hours.

Longer duration storage is required to help meet Northern Ireland’s renewable electricity consumption target of at least 80% by 2030 and help achieve security of electricity supply.



Proposed site layout

As previously proposed it will be connected to the substation by way of underground cabling. The route will be identified and cabling installed and controlled by NIE Networks.

The proposed BESS will comprise of the following development:

36no. battery container blocks

Each battery block will comprise of 4no. battery containers (144no. total containers). The container units will house lithium-ion batteries and ancillary electrical equipment. The battery containers will be grey / white in colour. Advances in BESS technology means this increase in containers can be accommodated within the same site area as the previously approved project.

Associated electrical equipment

The associated electrical equipment comprises inverters, auxiliary transformer, and communication systems.

110kV electricity substation building and compound

This proposal includes relocating the substation compound within the site from its previously approved location on east of the site to the south-west of the site. The substation will be designed to SONI/ NIE Networks specifications and will be secured via a gated 2.4m palisade fence.

Water tank

A water tank is proposed with this application to provide additional means for firefighting in the unlikely scenario of a fire emergency.

Creation of new access onto Maydown Road

As previously approved under application LA11/2023/1679/F, a new access with visibility splays of 2.4m x 120m will be created onto Maydown Road to service the facility. The access onto will be finished in bitmac with a 2.4m gate set back from the road for security. The internal access track within the site will be finished in permanent gravel. .

Security fencing around the site perimeter

A security gate and fencing to the perimeter of the site, comprising a mix of stock proof, paladin and palisade fence up to 2.4m in height, will be installed to limit unauthorised access to the site as per the extant permission.

Landscaping

Mature tree belt of existing landscaping to the south/south-east will be retained where possible and augmented. Additional planting will be incorporated to the remaining boundaries.

Lighting and CCTV

Lighting and CCTV cameras will be strategically placed within the site at heights between 2.5m to 6m to provide surveillance