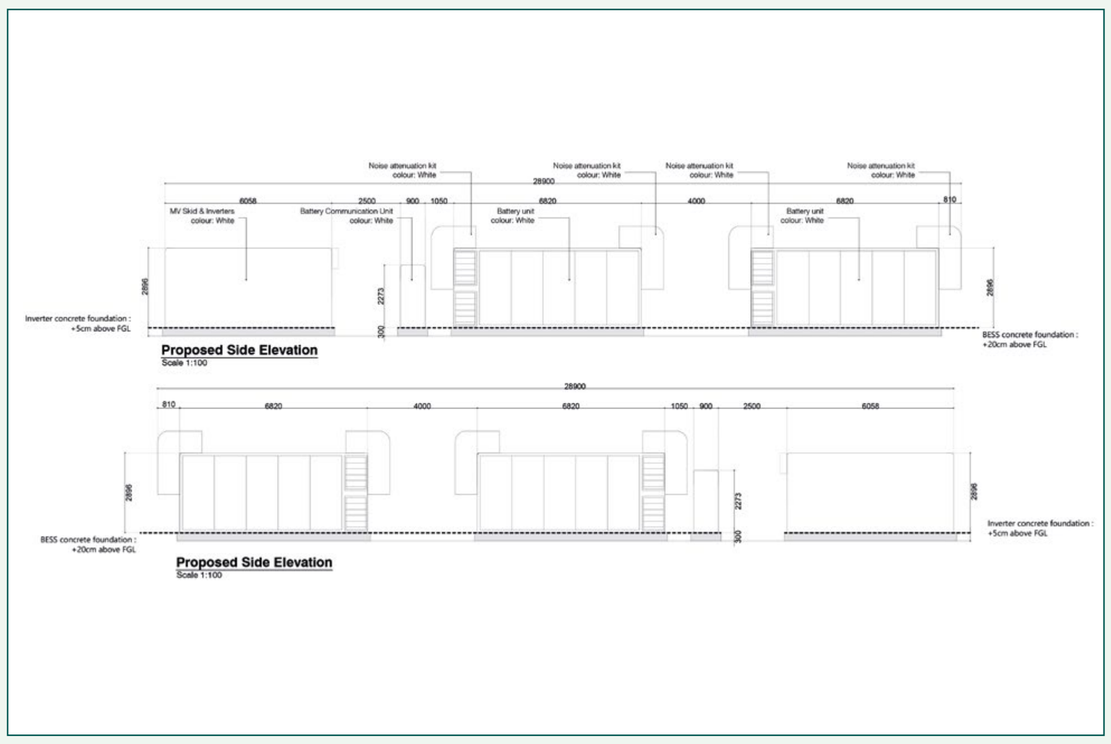
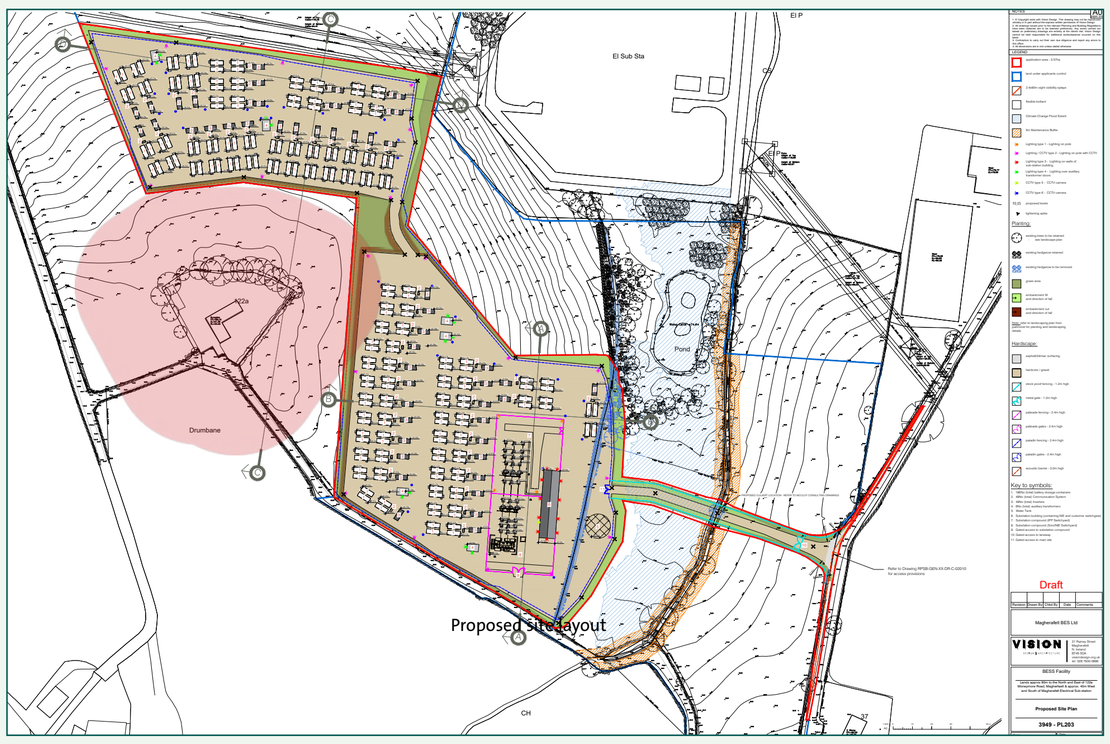
What is being proposed?



Proposed side elevations



Proposed site layout

The proposed development involves amendments to a previously approved application for a battery energy storage system (LA09/2023/0724/F) at the site.

LA09/2023/0724/F was granted on 17 April 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.

As previously proposed it will be connected to the adjacent 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:

49no. battery container blocks

Each battery block will comprise of 4no. battery containers (198no. total containers – an increase from previously approved 160no. 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.

275kV electricity substation building and compound

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

Creation of new access onto Ballymoughan Road and internal tracks

As previously approved under the extant permission LA09/2023/0724/F, a new access with visibility splays of 2.4m x 90m is proposed onto Ballymoughan Road to serve the facility. The access onto Ballymoughan Road 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.

Water tank

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

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.

A 3.5m closed board acoustic fence is proposed along the southern boundary of the northwestern portion of the site and along the western elevation of the southeastern portion of the site.

Landscaping

The existing landscaping to the east will be retained where possible and augmented. As per the extant permission, new native species landscaping will be proposed where appropriate along the remaining boundaries of the site to aid integration and screening.

Lighting and CCTV

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

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