

STONEWORTHY ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Report



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1. Introduction

This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Report outlines how RES (the Applicant) has engaged with the local community to inform them about the proposed Stoneworthy Energy Storage Project, **hereinafter referred to as the ‘Proposed Development’**.

It explains how and when the community was consulted before the planning application was submitted to Torridge District Council (hereinafter referred to as TDC) and how this consultation has shaped the Proposed Development.

The SCI summarises those activities undertaken, details how comments received from the community were considered and sets out if any consequent changes or mitigating measures have been included in the proposal.

1.1 Proposed Development

Stoneworthy Energy Storage System is a proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) comprising approximately 32no. battery enclosures, 16no. PCS (power conversion systems), 16no. MV skids (PCS transformer and switchgear), a 33kV substation building with a high voltage area containing auxiliary transformer and grid compliance equipment, a 132kV grid transformer with associated equipment and a grid connection to a National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) overhead line. It is located on land south of Pyworthy substation, approximately 1.3km southwest of the village of Pyworthy.

2. The Applicant’s Commitment to Consultation

The Applicant **is the world’s largest independent renewable energy company, working across 24** countries and active in wind, solar, energy storage, biomass, hydro, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, the Applicant has delivered more than 24GW of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 41GW worldwide for a large client base.

Drawing on decades of experience in the renewable energy and construction industries, the Applicant has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects of outstanding quality which contribute to a low carbon future by providing a secure supply of sustainable, low cost, clean green energy.

The Applicant is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of engaging with all its stakeholders, including local residents and businesses, and believes that the views of local people are an integral part of the development process. The Applicant is also committed to developing long term relationships with the communities around its projects, proactively seeking ways in which it can support and encourage community involvement in social and environmental projects near its developments.

The Applicant is the power behind a clean energy future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. The applicant brings together global experience, passion, and the innovation of 4,500 people to transform the way energy is generated, stored and supplied.

3. Statutory Requirements and Best Practice Guidance

Conducting an early and transparent pre-application public consultation is consistent with the guidance within the NPPF (2023). Paragraph 39 of the NPPF states that:

*“**Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality preapplication discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community.**”*

The NPPF goes on to state that:

“[Local Authorities] should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications.”

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act of 2004 ensures Local Authorities develop strategies to engage the local community in the planning process. These strategies must be set out in a document called a ‘Statement of Community Involvement’ and must be aimed at all sections of society - including identified ‘hard to reach’ groups - and encourage engagement in the planning process. The aim is to encourage ‘ownership’ of the planning process by the community.

As a result, this SCI (for the Proposed Development) also fulfils a recommendation of TDC, as the Local Planning Authority (LPA), by undertaking public consultation prior to submitting a planning application.

TDC’s Statement of Community Involvement¹ sets out how early public consultation should take place on planning issues. Paragraph 7.9 states:

“...also encourage applicants to undertake public consultation prior to submitting a planning application, as supported in national planning policy(24) . Such consultation could be with the town or parish councils, neighbouring properties or interest groups local to the development site and include methods such as a public exhibition or meeting/discussions with affected individuals.”.

In addition to the above, the Applicant recognises that local people can make a valuable contribution to the proposals by offering their local knowledge and raising issues that may not have been considered by the project team, in many cases resulting in a stronger proposal.

Consistent with advice in TDC’s Statement of Community Involvement, this document forms a consultation supporting statement that summarises the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant, a summary of comments received, and issues raised, and how the Applicant has had regard to these comments.

Throughout the pre-application public consultation, the Applicant has:

- Invited comments at a time when they can inform the process;
- Provided sufficient information to describe the subject matter of the consultation;
- Given notice of the consultation in advance;
- Clearly described how to submit comments and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (TDC) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted; and
- Considered the representations received prior to submitting the planning application.

4. Consultation Methodology

The purpose of pre-application public consultation is to improve, where possible, the quality of the proposed planning application by considering public opinions and addressing, wherever possible, any issues raised by stakeholders. It is also intended that any interested stakeholders have access to up-to-date and accurate information regarding the Proposed Development and the opportunity to provide feedback to be considered prior to the proposed planning application being finalised and submitted.

¹ https://www.torridge.gov.uk/media/24912/Adopted-North-Devon-and-Torridge-SCI/pdf/Adopted_North_Devon_and_Torridge_SCI.pdf?m=1658409137150

4.1 Community and Stakeholder Mapping

This section details the key local stakeholders the Applicant identified and engaged with during the pre-application public consultation process. Prior to the start of the consultation, the Applicant undertook detailed desktop research to develop a comprehensive understanding of the key stakeholders to engage with during pre-application public consultation. This research involved identifying local stakeholders located around the site of the Proposed Development.

The stakeholder groups identified included:

- Pyworthy Parish Council
- Ward members for Milton and Tamarside ward of Torrridge District Council
- Ward member for Holsworthy Rural ward of Devon County Council
- Local properties within 1.7km of the site

4.2 Consultation

A combination of the following methods was used to inform stakeholders (listed in section 4.1) about the Proposed Development, and subsequently to ascertain their views.

In line with the legislative requirements, any public notices also included a statement advising that comments made to the Applicant are not representations to the determining authority (TDC), and if the Applicant submits an application there will then be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the determining authority at a later stage.

4.2.1 Email to Elected Representatives - 1st March 2024

The Applicant sent an email to all elected representatives as listed in section 4.1 to advise them that the Applicant was investigating the potential for an energy storage development at the site location and would commence a number of consultation activities shortly including newsletter distribution, a dedicated project website and public consultation sessions. The letter also invited these representatives to contact the Applicant if they wished to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal. A copy of the letter can be found at Appendix A.

4.2.2 Project Website - 4th March 2024

On 4th March 2024, a project website was launched at www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk/ containing information on the Proposed Development, information regarding upcoming consultation activities as well as contact details for the project team to facilitate direct engagement.

The project website remains live and will be updated when the planning submission is made, to include links to all planning application documentation.

4.2.3 Community Pre-consultation Mailing - 8th March 2024

On 8th March 2024, the Applicant sent a newsletter, advertising upcoming public consultation sessions, to 248 properties identified within 1.7km of the Proposed Development. A copy of the newsletter can be found at Appendix B.

4.2.4 Email to Elected Representatives - 8th March 2024

The Applicant sent an email to all elected representatives as listed in section 4.1 enclosing the newsletter regarding the upcoming public consultation sessions. A copy of the newsletter can be found at Appendix B.

4.2.5 Pre-Exhibition Advertising - 13th March 2024

The Applicant placed an advertisement which appeared in the Holsworthy Post on 13th March 2024 to help raise awareness of the upcoming public consultation sessions. A copy of the advertisement can be found at Appendix C.

4.2.6 Public Consultation Sessions - 20th March 2024

The public consultation sessions took place between 12pm and 7.45pm on 20th March 2024 at the Pyworthy Village Hall, Derriton Road, Pyworthy, EX22 6JJ. 13 people attended the public consultation sessions. A copy of the information boards presented at the public consultation sessions can be found at Appendix D.

All of the information provided on the information boards at the public consultation sessions was also published on the project website at www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk from 20th March 2024.

For people without internet access, hard copies of the public consultation session material were available upon request. No requests for hard copies were received.

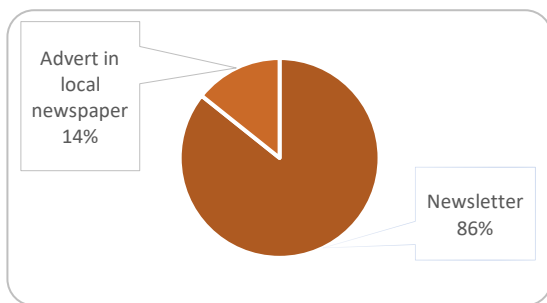
A comment form was provided as part of the public consultation sessions and online, to encourage feedback from attendees about renewable energy and energy storage in general and the project design specifically. The comment form was made available as a hard copy at the public consultation sessions or could be submitted online on the project website. A copy of the comment form can be found at Appendix E.

7 completed comment forms were received by the Applicant. Below is a summary of the answers received to the questions on the comment form.

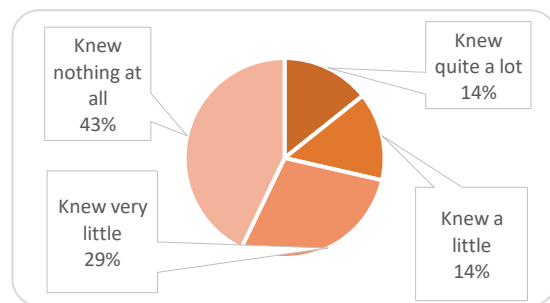
At all stages of the consultation process the Applicant set out clearly the purpose of the consultation and emphasised that comments made were not representations to the determining authority (TDC) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to be made to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted.

4.2.7 Summary of responses to questions on submitted comment form

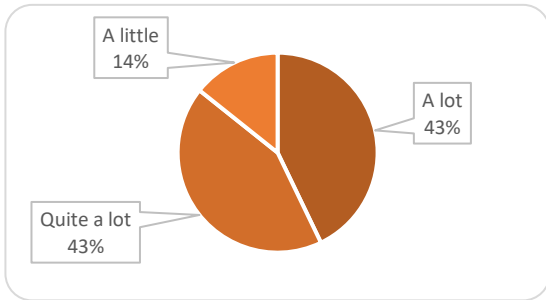
Q1.1 How did you find out about our public consultation sessions?



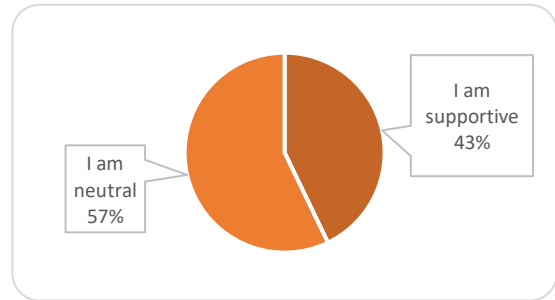
Q1.2 Before visiting the public consultation session how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Stoneworthy Energy Storage System?



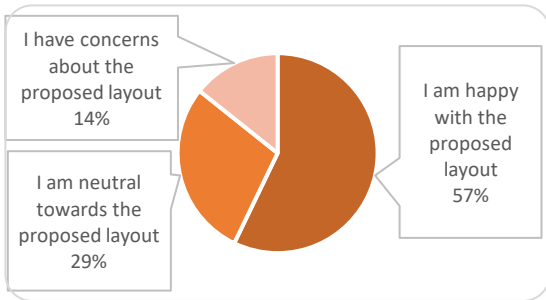
Q1.3 Having visited the public consultation session, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Stoneworthy Energy Storage System?



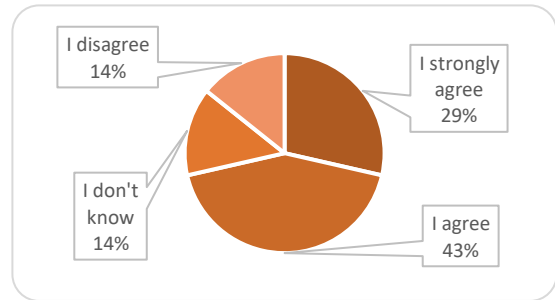
Q2.1 How do you feel in general about the Stoneworthy Energy Storage System proposal?



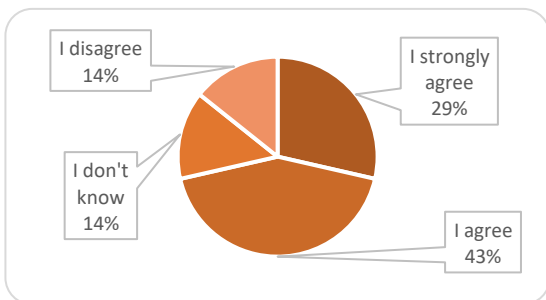
Q2.2 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of Stoneworthy Energy Storage System?



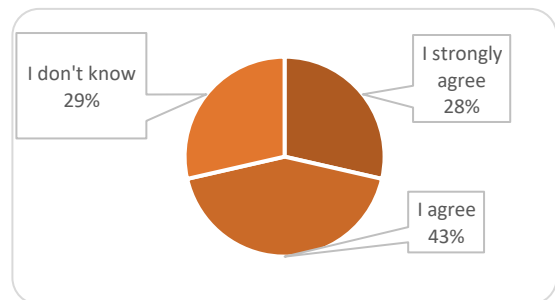
Q4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?



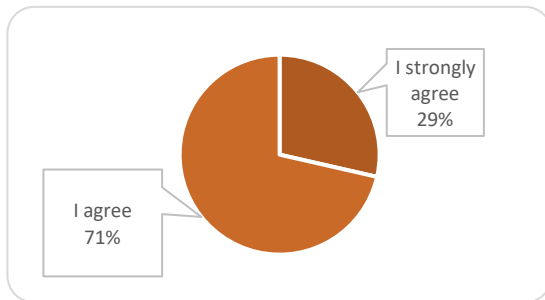
Q4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?



Q4.3 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources will provide greater energy independence and security for the UK?



- Q4.4 Do you agree that we need to develop energy storage projects to create a more stable and secure electricity system, supporting the rollout of zero carbon energy?



4.2.8 Other consultation

In addition to the activities outlined in sections 4.2.1 to 4.2.7, the Applicant has been receiving and responding to enquiries and comments from a ward member for Milton and Tamarside via email.

4.3 Summary of Consultation

In summary, a range of engagement and communication activity was undertaken as part of the pre-application public consultation - reaching both local stakeholders as well as audiences in the wider area. This activity included:

- Letters to Elected Representatives;
- Advertisement for the public consultation sessions in the local press;
- Newsletter informing local residents about the public consultation sessions;
- Public consultation sessions; and
- Project website.

All feedback received during the pre-application public consultation, through all consultation activities, has been considered by the Applicant throughout the design iteration and pre-planning stages of the Proposed Development. A summary of feedback, issues and concerns raised, together **with the Applicant's response to each can be found in section 5.**

5. Feedback and Applicant's Response

The Applicant believes in meaningful and effective consultation, to facilitate constructive dialogue with stakeholders and the community. All feedback received through the pre-application consultation activities is considered, as part of the iterative design process. A summary of the **feedback received, and the Applicant's response is below.**

Sample of Comments Received	Applicant's Response to Issue/Concern
<p><u>Need for the development</u></p> <p><i>"I think the battery storage makes sense"</i></p> <p><i>"Suggesting that the battery storage proposal is "separate" to the Derril Water site we all know that is a nonsense"</i></p> <p><i>"We all know that the way RES and other self-styled solar power companies make their money is not by generating energy but by having an industrial size battery storage facility that enables you to take our electricity when it is cheap and sell it back to us when it is more expensive"</i></p>	<p>Our energy system is in a transitional period.</p> <p>Ageing infrastructure is being replaced and greater flexibility introduced into our networks via technological advances, such as energy storage, to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century.</p> <p>Energy storage is crucial in enabling the rollout of zero carbon energy and supporting the UK's net-zero emissions target. Renewable energy technologies are needed to replace electricity generation from fossil fuels, however, they can generate electricity intermittently depending on weather conditions, which can cause imbalances in the electricity network.</p> <p>Energy storage works by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and then releases electricity back to the electricity network when demand exceeds generation. Energy storage is also considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply.</p> <p>Like most energy storage systems of this size, the Proposed Development would not be directly linked to an electricity generating station. The Proposed Development would be connected directly to the wider grid network and the frequency and timing of when the system charges and discharges is therefore dictated by the status of the grid network. The energy storage system will be utilised by National Grid to balance peaks and troughs in energy demand and generation.</p>
<p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <p><i>"I am concerned about the state of the roads in the area prior to the projects starting"</i></p> <p><i>"We are worried that surrounding roadways will be overwhelmed, while local traffic tries to avoid the work"</i></p>	<p>The delivery route for the Proposed Development is expected to approach site from the A30, heading northwest onto the A388 at Clawton. Vehicles will then turn off the A388 onto Bodmin Street, and later turn off Bodmin Street onto the unnamed road passing Derriton. Closer to the site itself, vehicles will turn off the unnamed road passing Broadshell Cottage/The Old Rectory leading to the site entrance.</p> <p>A Transport Statement accompanies the planning application and outlines details of the proposed transport management arrangements during the construction of the Proposed Development, and also provides details of transport movements during both</p>

	<p>construction and operation of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Throughout the construction phase, delivery vehicles will be comprised of a combination of HGVs and cars/vans with all contractors encouraged to car/van share to reduce vehicle movements. Parking for the workforce will be fully accommodated on site.</p> <p>There will be no vehicle movements on Sundays or bank holidays and deliveries, where possible, will be scheduled to avoid peak times where relevant, e.g. avoiding rush hours and after school drop off and pick up times.</p> <p>If consented, construction of the energy storage system is expected to take around 12-18 months, with peak HGV traffic movements expected in the first few weeks.</p> <p>Pre and post condition surveys of the local road network will be undertaken and the Applicant will be liable for any damage attributable to the Proposed Development.</p>
<p><u>Scale of the development</u></p> <p><i>“We are concerned about the size of the development, a 25MW site would be less obtrusive”</i></p> <p><i>“It’s smaller than I thought”</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development will not exceed 3.6 hectares, including site tracks, landscaping, attenuation basin and substation compound.</p> <p>The project infrastructure will be enclosed by stock-proof fencing which will enable the land not in use by the project, to be grazed.</p>
<p><u>Visual Impact</u></p> <p><i>“Too little detail on the impact on the landscape to form a view”</i></p> <p><i>“I am looking for assurance and physical measures to minimise/eliminate visual impact”</i></p>	<p>The site of the Proposed Development is outside of any local or national landscape designations and is located a good distance from residential properties.</p> <p>Given the relatively low heights of the proposed development, potential visibility will be largely limited by the existing woodland and vegetation.</p> <p>A Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVA) provides an assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the existing landscape and visual amenity of the site and the surrounding area and accompanies the planning application. A detailed landscape proposal is included in the LVIA with measures which include new native hedgerow planting along the northern and western sections of the BESS compound to help screen the proposed development, and wildflower grassland planting.</p> <p>These species are all planted to reduce potential visibility of the Proposed Development from key visual receptors.</p> <p>Any potential cumulative visual impact with the neighbouring projects has been considered as part of the Proposed Development’s planning application.</p>

<p><u>Noise</u></p> <p><i>“I am looking for assurance and physical measures to minimise/eliminate noise”</i></p>	<p>The main sources of sound from the Proposed Development would be from the inverter cooling fans, air conditioning units and the transformers.</p> <p>A detailed Acoustic Assessment has been carried out, in conjunction with TDC’s Environmental Health team and accompanies the planning application.</p> <p>The results indicate that sound from the site, operating in isolation and cumulatively with the neighbouring operational and consented solar farms can be considered ‘present and not intrusive’ in terms of government policy and guidance during the daytime and night-time.</p>
<p><u>Biodiversity</u></p> <p><i>“Important to restore the wildlife as best as possible”</i></p>	<p>An Ecological Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment has been undertaken and accompanies the planning application.</p> <p>The Ecological Assessment, as well as ensuring any potential impact from the proposed development is appropriately assessed and mitigated, identifies opportunities for biodiversity enhancement as part of the project.</p> <p>The Proposed Development has been specifically designed to include new native hedgerow planting along the northern and western sections of the BESS compound, and wildflower grassland planting.</p> <p>Combined, these measures will lead to a BNG of 21.90% in habitats units and 34.06% in hedgerow units.</p> <p>Full site monitoring of the biodiversity enhancement measures will be undertaken by a suitability qualified ecologist/botanist at regular intervals to ensure the benefits are maintained throughout the life of the Proposed Development, if consented.</p>
<p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p><i>“Hold an open public meeting at the village hall and not a series of “one on one” meetings by booked appointment and also allow a reasonable period of notice”</i></p>	<p>In the Applicant’s experience, public consultation sessions, each session being for 8 - 10 participants, are more effective for gathering individual questions, comments and concerns than public meetings which tend to be dominated by those with the strongest views.</p> <p>The Applicant feels the public consultation session format chosen was more constructive as it enabled every visitor, to share their questions, comments and concerns with the Applicant had they wished to. This more structured setting (as opposed to a drop-in public exhibition) also ensured the staff in attendance could spend more dedicated time with each visitor and tailor the discussion to any specific topic(s) raised.</p>

6. Summary

This SCI sets out the consultation in respect of a full planning application for the Proposed Development.

The SCI confirms that all necessary statutory pre-application consultation has been undertaken and shows that the Applicant engaged with the local community to encourage a constructive consultation process.

Analysis of the comment forms from the public consultation sessions has shown that 100% of respondents supported or were neutral to the Proposed Development. 84% of respondents were happy with or neutral to the proposed layout with 14% of respondents having concerns about the Proposed Development, relating to potential noise and visual impact. Where possible, these concerns have been addressed within the application and fed into the design.

The Applicant is committed to continuing the open dialogue it has established with the local community during pre-application public consultation as the application process continues, as outlined within this SCI.

The **Proposed Development's** website at www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk will be updated regularly to enable people to keep up to date with the latest news about the Proposed Development as it progresses. Once the planning application has been validated by TDC, the Applicant will write to stakeholders and members of the community who have asked to be kept updated on the Proposed Development, to provide them with the planning reference number and contact details for TDC's Planning Department, should they wish to submit a formal representation.

Appendices

- Appendix A. Letter to elected representatives
- Appendix B. Public consultation newsletter
- Appendix C. Public consultation newspaper advert
- Appendix D. Public consultation information boards
- Appendix E. Public consultation comment form



29th February 2024

Dear 

RE: Stoneworthy Energy Storage Proposal

I am writing to let you know that RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land south of Pyworthy substation, approximately 1.3km southwest of the village of Pyworthy.

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and design safe storage projects using proven Lithium-ion technology. RES has developed over 700MW of energy storage projects across the UK and Ireland and currently manage over 600MW of operational storage projects with 24/7/365 monitoring provided from our control centre in Glasgow.

As well as storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the grid network when demand exceeds generation, energy storage systems help with system constraints on the grid network, thus creating a more stable and secure electricity system. Increasing the installed capacity of energy storage is essential to enabling and accelerating the rollout of zero carbon energy to support **the UK's** net-zero emissions target.

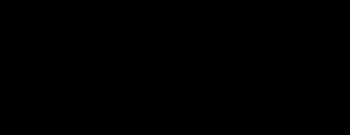
At this early stage of the project, we are liaising with Torridge District Council and will shortly be submitting a Screening Request. We are undertaking a number of technical and environmental surveys to ensure that any potential impact from the development is appropriately assessed and mitigated. These detailed studies are due to be completed in the coming months ahead of preparing a planning application for submission later this year.

RES recognise that local people can make a valuable contribution to the proposals by offering their local knowledge and raising issues that may not have been considered, in many cases resulting in a stronger proposal. We will begin a number of consultation activities, in the coming weeks, including public consultation sessions for people to find out more and provide feedback on the proposal. We will also shortly launch a dedicated project website which will be updated regularly.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed Stoneworthy Energy Storage project in more detail with you and would be happy to arrange a meeting at a convenient time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Yours sincerely,



John Hills
Project Development Manager
E: john.hills@res-group.com

STONEWORTHY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM PROPOSAL



RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land south of Pyworthy substation, approximately 1.3km southwest of Pyworthy village.

Environmental and technical surveys will be completed over the coming months to ensure any impact of the development upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated and to inform a preliminary layout and design.

Public Consultation Sessions

RES is inviting local residents and interested parties to **participate in our public consultation sessions to find out** more and provide feedback on the proposal.

RES staff will be able to talk visitors through the plans and answer any questions during the following sessions:

- 12pm to 12.45pm
- 1pm to 1.45pm
- 2pm to 2.45pm
- 3pm to 3.45pm
- 4pm to 4.45pm
- 5pm to 5.45pm
- 6pm to 6.45pm
- 7pm to 7.45pm

Spaces are limited so we are asking visitors to book their preferred session in advance via our online booking form at www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk or by calling 01872 226931.

All information provided at the public consultation sessions will also be available at www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk from 20th March 2024.



Wednesday 20th March 2024

Pyworthy Village Hall
Derriton Road, Pyworthy, EX22 6JJ

These sessions initiate a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. To participate, **please provide feedback on the proposal by Friday 5th April 2024.**

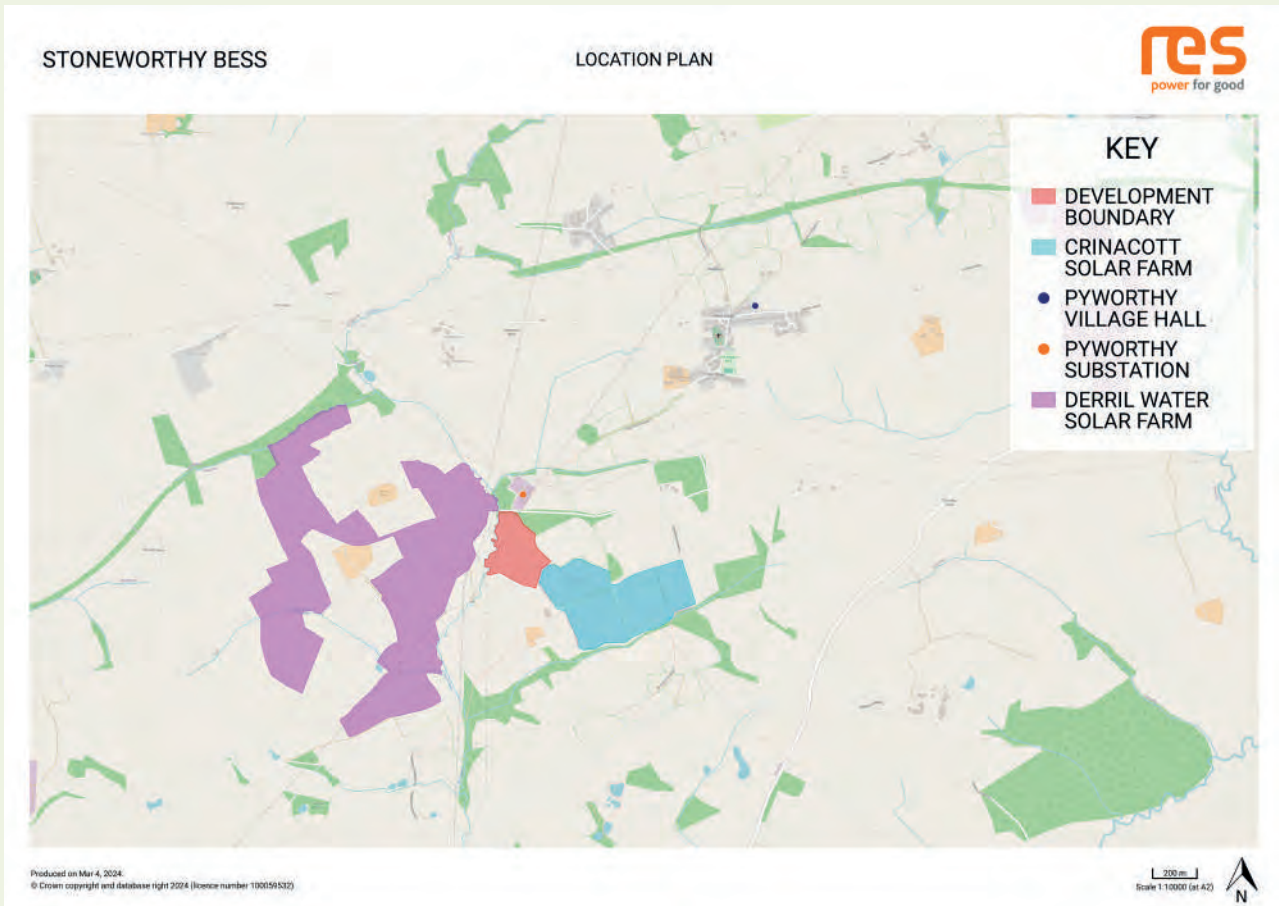
Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development. Comments forms will be available to complete and submit during the public consultation sessions. Forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the public consultation sessions and can be submitted online or downloaded and submitted via email to john.hills@res-group.com. Hard copies can be sent by post to RES, Ground Floor, Falcon House, Charles Street, Truro, TR1 2PH.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Torridge District Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

Stoneworthy Energy Storage System at a Glance

The Stoneworthy Energy Storage System would comprise a number of battery storage enclosures and associated infrastructure to provide 49.9MW of storage capacity. Stoneworthy would support the grid network by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the national grid network when demand exceeds generation. Electricity is not physically generated on site.

The Stoneworthy project will be specifically designed to include planting of native trees, hedgerows and wildflower grass areas. These will not only reduce potential visibility of the scheme but also help to enhance biodiversity by providing wildlife corridors and vital resources for mammals, birds, and insect species.



ABOUT RES

RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company. At the forefront of renewable energy development for over 40 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 23GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide.

RES is committed to improving everyday life and long-term futures. We are driven by our vision to create a future where everyone has access to affordable zero-carbon energy.

RES has been working in the battery energy storage market for a decade and design safe storage systems using proven Lithium-ion technology.

Across the UK and Ireland, RES has developed over 700MW and currently operates over 600MW of energy storage projects.

For more information, visit www.res-group.com.

CONTACT US



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☎ 07880 315 863

RES, Ground Floor, Falcon House,
Charles Street, Truro, TR1 2PH

For more information on the proposal please visit our project website at www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk or contact us by using the details above.

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please get in touch with us.

News

Cornish produce on display in Westminster

A number of producers from Cornwall were invited to Westminster last week to bring a taste of Cornwall to Parliament.

The event coincided with St Piran's celebrations and saw producers from across the county display their wares.

In attendance were Cornish Charcuterie from the Norton Barton Artisan Food Village near Bude, Tarquin's Gin from Padstow, St Austell Brewery and Cornish Orchards near Liskeard.

MP for North Cornwall Scott Mann said: "It's always a shame when St Piran's Day falls on a day

when I am in Westminster, but that doesn't stop my MP colleagues and I bringing the festival spirit to London. This year we hosted a celebration of Cornish produce in Parliament - The Taste of Cornwall. Two producers were welcomed into Parliament from each constituency.

"I nominated Cornish Charcuterie from the Norton Barton Artisan Food Village near Bude, and Tarquin's Gin from down Padstow. We had a get together after votes for a sing song with Cornish colleagues, the Cornish diaspora, and other invited guests.

"Thank you to Richard, Fionagh,

Chris and Tarquin for their generosity and for making the journey up to London and thank you to everyone who helped organise the event."

Head cider maker Chris Newton from Cornish Orchard was among those to attend and provided a talk on their product and how it is made.

MP for South East Cornwall Sheryll Murray said: "I would particularly like to thank Cornish Orchards from South East Cornwall for coming to Westminster and taking part.

"The cider was very popular among all those who sampled it and it was good to have the head

cider maker Chris Newton who was able to explain the production techniques they use to make this excellent product."

The day ended with all joining together in song with Cornish colleagues, the Cornish diaspora, and other invited guests.



MPS Sheryll Murray (South East Cornwall) and Scott Mann (North Cornwall) with Cornish Orchards in Westminster



MP for North Cornwall Scott Mann and Cornish MPs on St Piran's Day

Free parking will not increase

By AARON GREENAWAY

A REQUEST by a resident for Bodmin Town Council to increase the amount of free parking it offers in its Priory Car Park to an hour has been declined by the council.

It comes after Premier Parking Solutions (PPS), which manages the car park under a five-year contract with the council, said that the revenue which would be lost if the changes went ahead would potentially necessitate a 'business review' of the contract.

The request from the resident comes amid a petition calling on the council to allow an hour's parking, with claims that 'multiple' parents have received parking tickets while collecting their children from St Petroc's C of E Primary School.

After the correspondence from the resident, Bodmin Town Council sent an enquiry to Premier Parking Solutions to assess and ascertain whether such a request was feasible.

In a response to Bodmin Town Council, Premier Parking Solutions told the council that parking fines during the times of the school run were 'simply not an issue'.

They said only 22 penalty notices had been issued during the

school pick up time, adding that some of those could be vehicles unrelated to those dropping off and collecting children from the primary school.

The operator added that were the council to extend the 'grace time' from 30 minutes to one hour, it would be at a loss of at least £25,000 a year in revenue, as the one-hour parking tariff is the most used by drivers using the facility, and would have a further impact on the two-hour tariff.

In an email to Bodmin Town Council, a representative of Premier Parking Solutions said: "All in all, after our discussions we advise that parking fines during school run time is simply not an issue. We have issued 22 charges during the school time hours since the start of the contract, and it is possible that some of these are vehicles unrelated to the school drop off, further providing evidence of there being no issue. If this was scoped, it would require a business review. In our experience, the council's offering of 30 minutes free parking is generous, and the amount of time needed for a school drop off and pick up on a site like this is adequate."

In response to the letter, Cllr Liz Ahearn said: "I want it noted

that it is only St Petroc's that have access of a facility of that size, there is no other school which has (an adjacent car park opposite). For those parents, it is a case of drive in, and drive out again, or the school encourages a walking train. Personally, speaking from when I've collected the grandkids, 30 minutes is more than enough time."

Cllr Karen Philips enquired as to whether it would be possible to ask Premier Parking Solutions to allow a grace if someone is 'picked up on the radar' at 3:30 pm, owing to reports of queues leaving the car park.

Cllr Jeremy Cooper added: "The cost to the council and the wider community, whose children don't go to St Petroc's in allowing an hour's free parking, as well as having to renegotiate the contract means it's prohibitively expensive. Is this something we can review and resubmit for when the parking contract comes up for renewal?"

It was agreed by Bodmin Town Council to look again at the request from the resident when the five-year contract with Premier Parking Solutions comes up for tender, and potentially look at including it in the next contract, which is set to expire at the end of May 2028.

STONETHORPE ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM PROPOSAL



RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage system on land south of Pyworthy substation, approximately 1.3km southwest of Pyworthy village.

Public Consultation Sessions
Wednesday 20th March 2024
Pyworthy Village Hall, Derriton Road, Pyworthy, EX22 6JJ

RES is inviting local residents and interested parties to participate in our public consultation sessions to find out more and provide feedback on the proposal.

RES staff will be able to talk visitors through the plans and answer any questions during the following sessions:

12pm to 12.45pm	3pm to 3.45pm	6pm to 6.45pm
1pm to 1.45pm	4pm to 4.45pm	7pm to 7.45pm
2pm to 2.45pm	5pm to 5.45pm	

Spaces are limited so we are asking visitors to book their preferred session in advance via our online booking form at www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk or by calling 01872 226931.

All information provided at the public consultation sessions will also be available at www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk from 20th March 2024.

These sessions initiate a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. To participate, **please provide feedback on the proposal by Friday 5th April 2024.**

Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development. Comments forms will be available to complete and submit during the public consultation sessions. Forms will also be available on the website above from the day of the public consultation sessions and can be submitted online or downloaded and submitted via email to john.hills@res-group.com. Hard copies can be sent by post to RES, Ground Floor, Falcon House, Charles Street, Truro, TR1 2PH.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Torridge District Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

For all the latest information on planning proposals, traffic notices, goods vehicle operator licences, licences to sell alcohol and probate notices – see pages 38-40. They can also be found on the Cornish & Devon Post website at www.thepost.uk.com

Welcome to our public consultation

Thank you for taking the time to attend this consultation session.

We are seeking your views on the preliminary design for an energy storage proposal that we are exploring on land south of Pyworthy substation, approximately 1.3km southwest of the village of Pyworthy.

We consider pre-application consultation a crucial part of the energy storage development process and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we will consider when developing and refining the design and delivery of the proposal.

A range of information is shared, including details of the site location, design layout, proposed infrastructure, likely delivery route and environmental considerations.

The public consultation sessions form part of our pre-application consultation and is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- learn more about the proposal
- discuss any questions or views with our project team
- provide written feedback to RES on the proposal.

Please take time to read the information provided and talk to our project team about any questions that you may have. All consultation feedback submitted to RES will be reviewed by the project team over the coming weeks as we continue the design process.



Image for illustrative purposes only

Stoneworthy Energy Storage Proposal

www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk



The need for energy storage

Our energy system is in a transitional period.

Ageing infrastructure is being replaced and greater flexibility introduced into our networks via technological advances, such as energy storage, to manage the increasingly complex supply and demand needs of the 21st Century.

Energy storage is crucial in enabling the rollout of zero carbon energy and supporting the UK's net-zero emissions target.

Renewable energy technologies are needed to replace electricity generation from fossil fuels, however, they can generate electricity intermittently depending on weather conditions, which can cause imbalances in the electricity network.

Energy storage works by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and then releases electricity back to the electricity network when demand exceeds generation.

Energy storage is also considered the fastest technology for responding to a sudden spike in demand or an abrupt loss of supply.



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Project overview

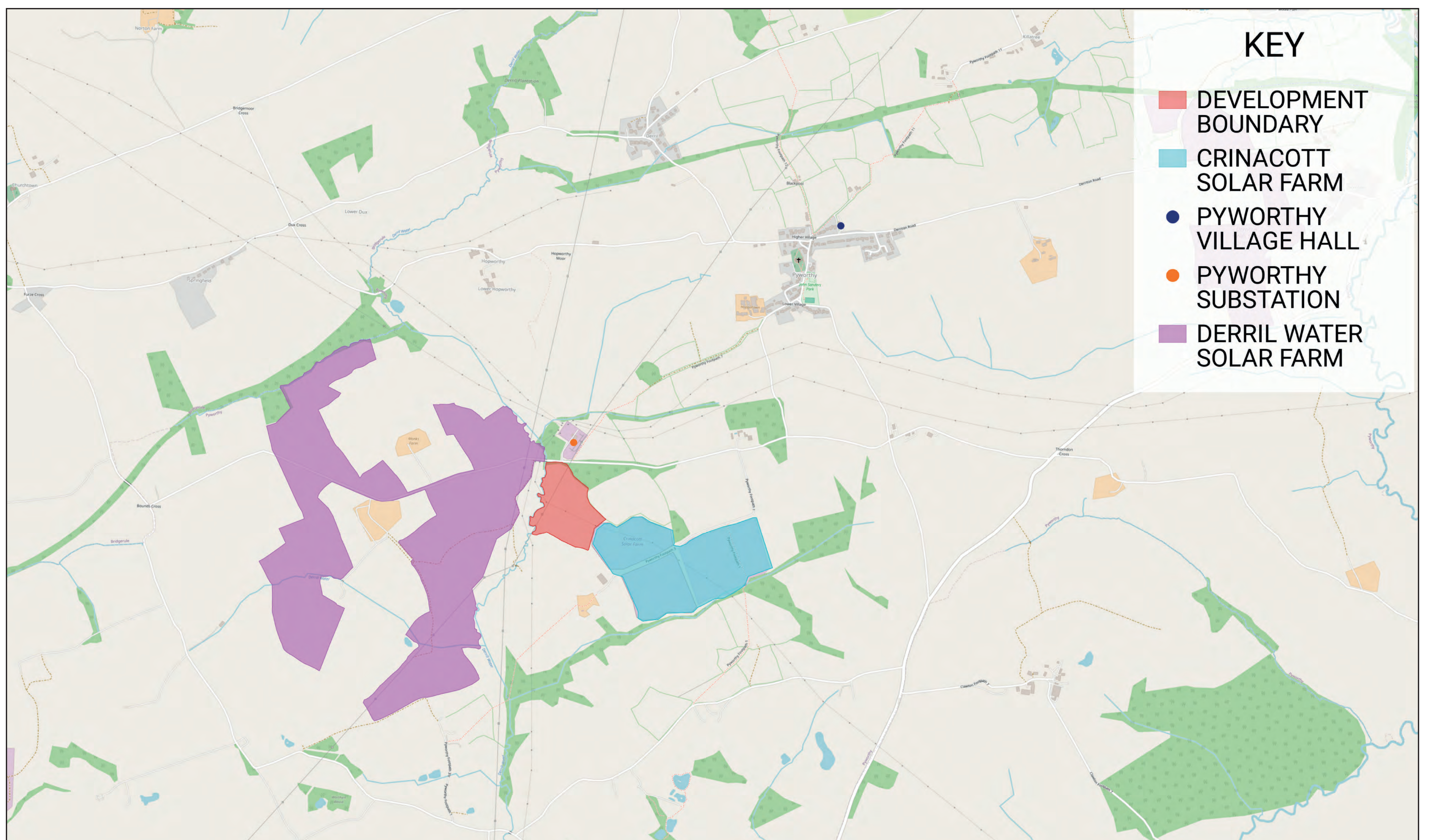
The proposed Stoneworthy Energy Storage site is located approximately 1.3km southwest of the village of Pyworthy. The site is currently used for livestock grazing.

The area containing the energy storage system infrastructure is not expected to exceed 5 hectares and the site lies outside of any international, national or local environmental designations.

If consented, the project would connect directly into the 132kV overhead line which crosses the site.

An energy storage system needs to be able to both import and export energy and whilst the availability of sites with sufficient import and export capacity is diminishing, the site is in an area with sufficient capacity on the grid network.

We expect to submit an application for planning consent to Torrington District Council in late Spring 2024.



We are still consulting on the development boundary and as such, it is subject to change.

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Environmental considerations

RES will design the energy storage system so that it will fit sensitively in the surrounding landscape.

A number of surveys and assessments will be carried out to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately assessed and mitigated.

The assessments to be carried out will include:

Ecology

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal will present the main findings of a desk study and walkover survey, categorising baseline habitats and conditions and their nature conservation value and predicting any potential ecological impacts from the project.

Noise & vibration

Noise is an important consideration, and the energy storage system is designed to comply with strict noise limits set by the determining authority should the project be granted consent. The scope of the acoustic assessment includes determining the baseline background sound levels and predicting sound levels from the project in order to assess the level of potential impact, in accordance with relevant planning guidance.

Flood risk & surface water management

Detailed design and flood modelling is being undertaken to minimise increased flood risk anywhere on or off site. A Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment will accompany the planning application which will also set out any proposed surface water drainage solution.

Landscape

A Landscape and Visual Appraisal considers the site and its surrounding context in both landscape and visual terms, to assess the potential effects of the proposed energy storage system upon landscape features, landscape character and visual amenity.

Heritage & Archaeology

This assessment sets out the cultural heritage baseline of the site as well as assessing the site's archaeological potential. It will assess the potential effects of the project on the cultural heritage resource, within the context of relevant legislation and planning policy, and determine, should any predicted adverse effects be identified, how these effects can be mitigated.



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Infrastructure and layout

The plan below shows the preliminary layout for the Stoneworthy Energy Storage project.

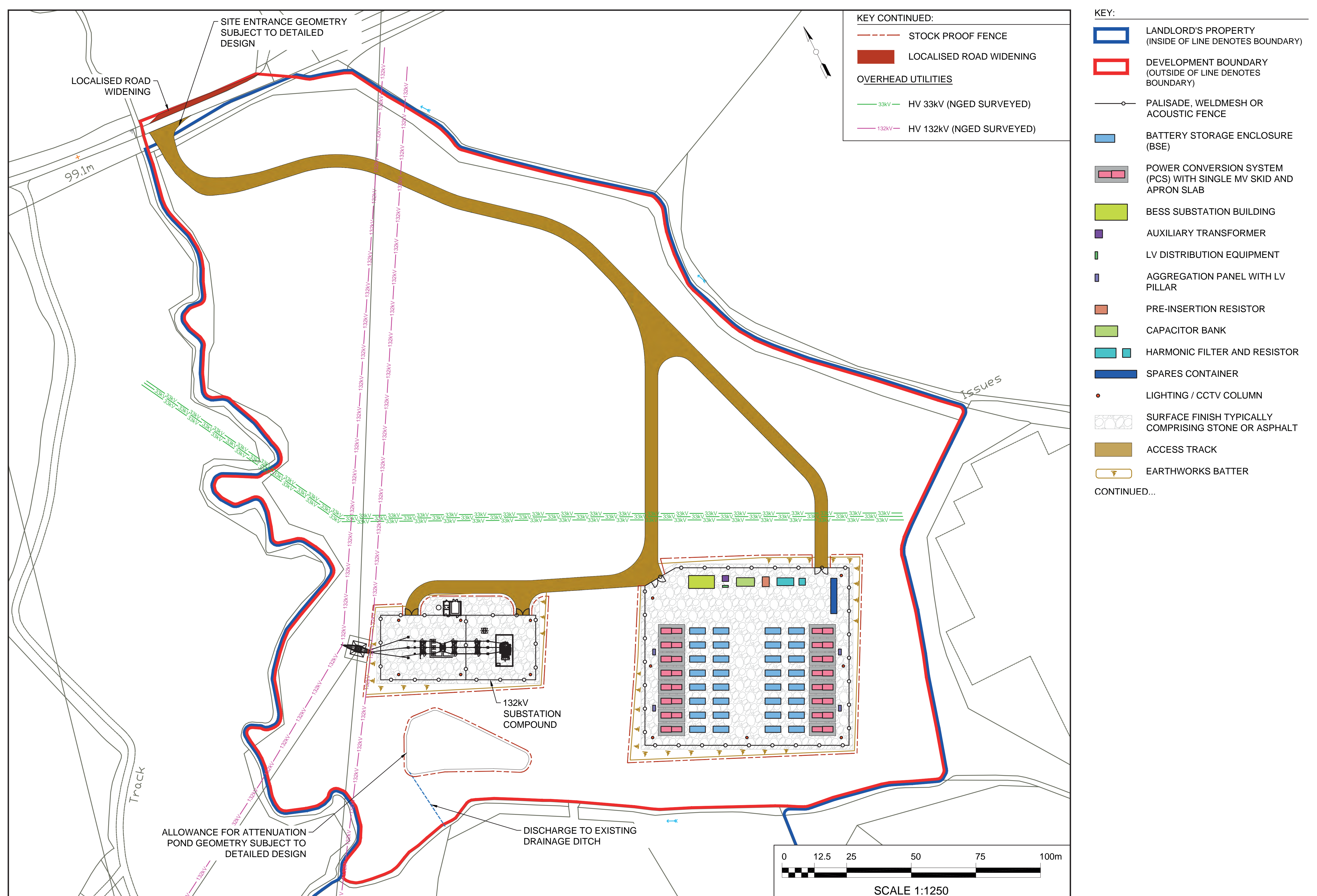
The proposed system is a containerised scheme, involving proven lithium-ion battery technology which RES has deployed at multiple projects around the world.

The site would comprise of approximately 32 battery containers which would be one of two types depending on the final choice of supplier – either shipping containers or modular battery containers. Typical dimensions for both types of containers are approximately 6.1 metres long by 2.9 metres high.

The tallest infrastructure is expected to be the DNO Substation which would have a maximum height of around 4.5 metres.

The infrastructure would include:

- Battery enclosures
- Power Conversion Systems and Transformers
- DNO Substation
- BESS Substation
- Auxiliary Transformer
- Grid Compliance Equipment
- Grid Connection Infrastructure
- Security System
- Drainage Scheme
- Landscaping



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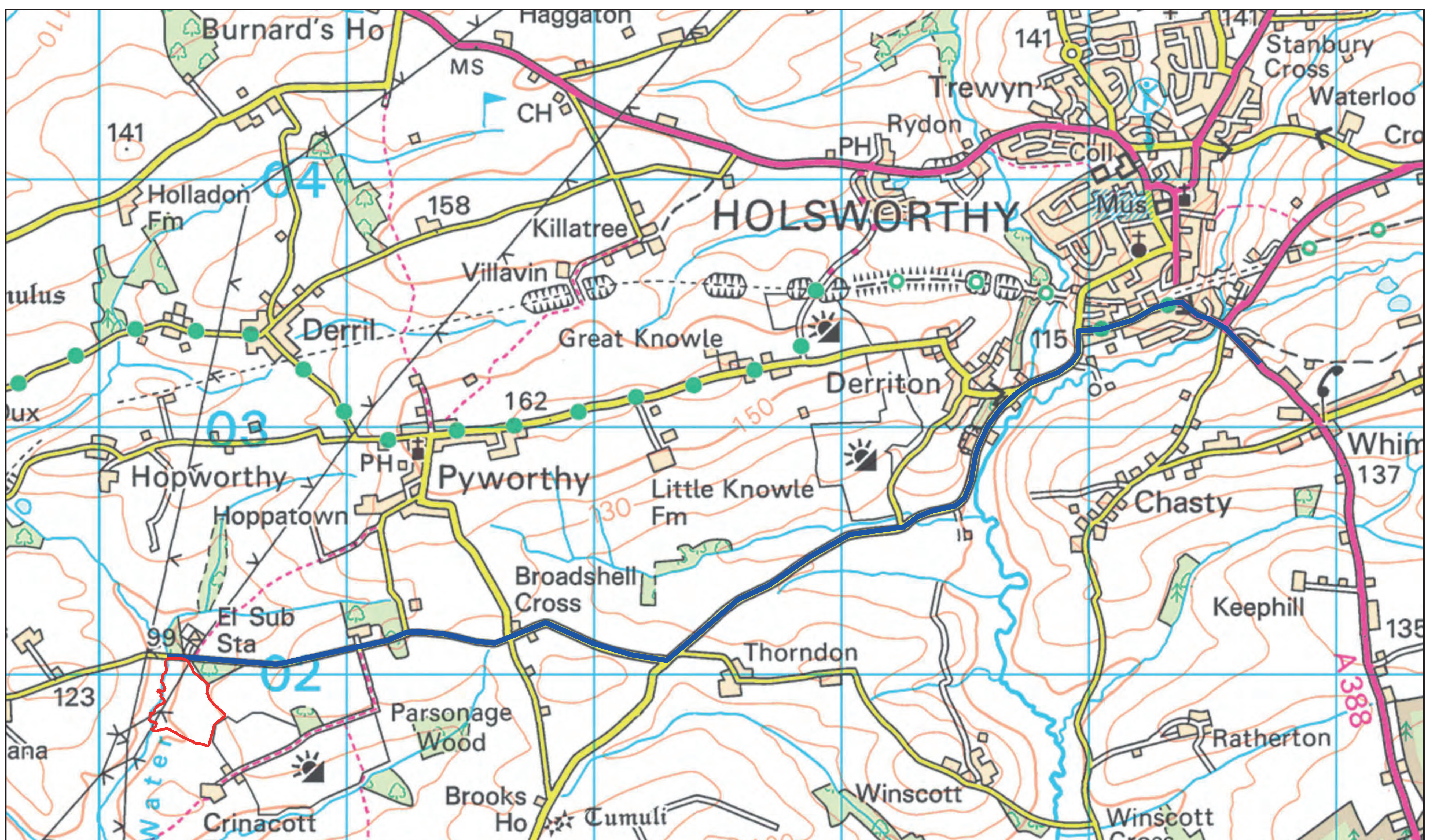
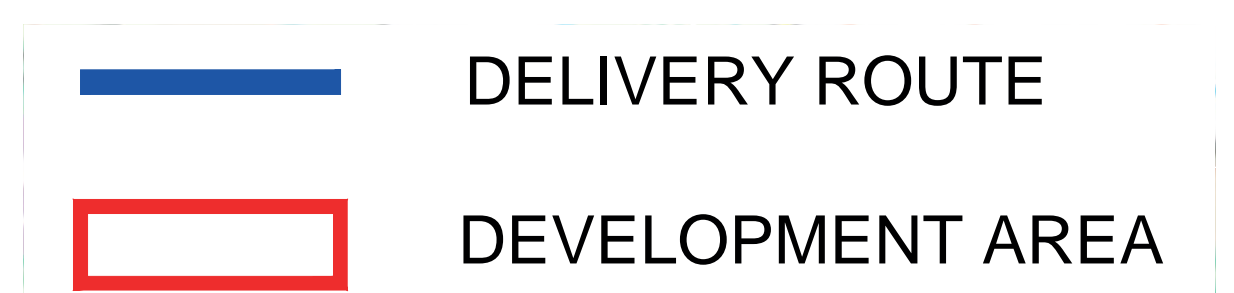
Traffic and access

Component and material deliveries are a key phase in the construction of any energy storage project.

All delivery traffic will access the site from the A388 at Holsworthy turning left onto Bodmin Street, where they will follow this two-lane road out towards North Tamerton until they reach Thorndon Cross. Once there they will turn right onto this single lane road and follow this for approximately 1 mile to reach the site, as shown on the plan below.

Throughout the construction phase there will be a combination of HGVs (for the component and material deliveries) and cars/vans (for construction staff), on site. Typically, there is peak HGV movements during the first weeks of construction whilst car/van movements are expected to be constant throughout.

A Transport Statement will accompany the planning application, which outlines the overall framework for managing the safe movement of construction and delivery traffic. The Transport Statement will also itemise the estimated number of deliveries over the 12-month construction period, if the project is consented, the indicative spread of vehicle movements during the construction phase and timing restrictions.



Stoneworthy Energy Storage Proposal

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Have your say

We believe in meaningful and effective consultation.

The aims of our consultation process are to:

- Engage early with the local community to facilitate a constructive consultation process to help identify and understand concerns.
- Assist the local community in understanding the benefits and potential impacts of the proposed energy storage system.
- Add value and improve the quality of our proposal through meaningful and productive consultation.

Before we submit a planning application, we will create a Statement of Community Involvement Report (SCI), that documents the community engagement process and any steps we have taken to adapt our proposal.

At this stage we are inviting the local community to submit comments directly to RES. If an application is submitted there will be the opportunity to submit representations to the determining Planning Authority at that time.

We are keen to understand your views on the proposal and the information available at this exhibition.

Please take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form with your comments.



The world's largest independent renewable energy company

RES has been at the forefront of wind energy development for over 40 years and delivered more than 24GW of renewable energy projects worldwide. We employ more than 4,500 passionate people across the globe and are active in 24 countries, working across onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution.

RES in Devon and Cornwall

RES is a significant employer in the south-west, employing over 40 staff in Devon and Cornwall working across development, construction and operations.

As well as its office in Truro, RES has a base in Exeter to directly support the operations and maintenance activities for the solar projects it manages across the UK.

RES is proud to support local jobs and investment in the south-west.

Sustainability lies at the core of our business activity and values, and we have been leading efforts to create a future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy. By listening, discussing, and working together, we can build clean energy project proposals that power positive change for everyone.

Find out more at res-group.com

RES has developed over 100MW of wind, solar and energy storage projects across Devon and Cornwall, including the development and construction of one of Cornwall's first wind farms, Carland Cross near Newquay.

RES provide full scope asset management services on over 150MW of renewable assets across Devon and Cornwall including the Den Brook Wind Farm near North Tawton and Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm near South Molton.



Stoneworthy Energy Storage Proposal

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Our approach to safety

At RES, safety is of the utmost importance.

Our ambition is to continue to lead the market in delivering best-in-class health and safety performance, as we simultaneously look to the future in developing a zero-harm culture.

Health and safety is woven into every aspect of RES' energy storage systems. The Stoneworthy project will be developed to address and mitigate against the risk of fire ignition and propagation, in a number of ways.

Monitoring and Remote Access

Unlike electric cars and scooters, for example, RES managed energy storage systems are constantly monitored from our 24/7/365 control centre in Glasgow. Energy storage systems can also be accessed remotely.

Battery Selection

The proposed battery technology for the development is anticipated to be lithium iron phosphate (LFP). LFP has better stability against thermal runaway at higher temperatures compared to some other battery chemistries. All batteries must be tested and certified to an industry standard (UL9540A), demonstrating resistance to thermal runaway, and which ensures there is no likelihood of explosion, with any fire contained within the affected battery rack.

Equipment Spacing

The site will be developed to include adequate spacing between the battery storage enclosures (BSE) to mitigate against the risk of fire spread in the event of a fire within one BSE.

Protection Systems

Each BSE will have a dedicated fire protection system, comprising flammable gas detection and venting, fire detection and alarm, and an automatic fire suppression system.

Access to Battery Enclosure and for Emergency Services

All battery enclosures will be accessed via external doors only. The fenced compound will have a wide access route through north and south corridors and through the centre, allowing the fire service to access the site in the unlikely event of an incident. In addition, two site access points will be proposed to the energy storage compound.

A Fire Risk Statement will accompany any planning application.



Stoneworthy Energy Storage Proposal

www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk

Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement

The Stoneworthy project is being specifically designed to include comprehensive landscaping measures, including the planting of native hedgerow, to reduce potential visibility of the scheme.

A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan will form part of the planning application and will provide landscaping specifications for new vegetation in accordance with relevant standards. It will also provide information on the timings and aftercare regime for all planting.

In addition, for the Stoneworthy proposal, as with all RES developments, our goal is to deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10% as a minimum and higher wherever possible.

We aim to retain all existing hedgerow and woodland, where possible, and create new hedgerow and woodland to benefit a range of local species.

Areas around the compound are typically sown with a wildflower meadow mix and riparian woodland planted around any surface water and drainage systems.

Where appropriate we would also introduce bird, bat and reptile housing.



Stoneworthy Energy Storage Proposal

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Stoneworthy Energy Storage System Proposal

Comment Form

RES believes in meaningful and productive consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing the design of the proposal.

Feedback from the local community on the proposal is an important part of our pre-application consultation and we would be grateful if you could take the time to fill out this comment form with your feedback. Please provide feedback by **5th April 2024**. Comments will still be accepted after this date but may not be considered in relation to the design development.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at this time are not representations to the determining authority (Torridge District Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should an application be made.

1 Stoneworthy Energy Storage System public consultation sessions

1.1 How did you find out about our public consultation sessions?

- Newsletter through the door
- Advert in local newspaper
- Project website - www.stoneworthy-energystorage.co.uk
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

1.2 Before visiting the public consultation session how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Stoneworthy Energy Storage System?

- Knew a lot
- Knew quite a lot
- Knew a little
- Knew very little
- Knew nothing at all

1.3 Having visited the public consultation session, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the proposed Stoneworthy Energy Storage System?

- A lot
- Quite a lot
- A little
- Very little
- Nothing at all



Stoneworthy Energy Storage System Proposal

Comment Form

1.4 Do you have any suggestions for ways in which we could have improved our public consultation sessions?

2 Stoneworthy Energy Storage System Proposal

Your views on the Stoneworthy Energy Storage System proposal - specifically the preliminary layout of the project where people's comments can have a direct influence - will be considered in relation to the design development of the project.

2.1 How do you feel in general about the Stoneworthy Energy Storage System proposal?

I am supportive

I am neutral

I am opposed

Further comments:

2.2 What do you think about the proposed preliminary design layout of Stoneworthy Energy Storage System?

I am happy with the proposed layout

I am neutral towards the proposed layout

I have concerns about the proposed layout

Further comments:



Stoneworthy Energy Storage System Proposal

Comment Form

2.2 Please provide us with any further suggestions or comments regarding the proposed Stoneworthy Energy Storage System

3 Local Benefits

3.1 The Stoneworthy Energy Storage System, if consented, has potential to deliver valuable biodiversity enhancement. Which biodiversity enhancement measures would you like to see?

Wildflower planting

Native hedgerow and woodland

Bird/bat boxes, etc

Other

If you have ticked Other above please provide any suggestions for biodiversity enhancement opportunities in the box below.

3.2 RES believe our projects should also deliver meaningful local benefit and we welcome feedback and ideas for local benefits and priority projects that you would like to see supported or delivered in your community from Stoneworthy Energy Storage System, should it receive consent. Some examples from communities that we've worked with include improvements to village halls, sports team sponsorship, funding for schools and local community groups, community defibrillators and improvements to local footpaths and/or signage.

If you have any suggestions for such benefits the project may be able to support, please let us know in the box below.

4 Climate change, energy security and renewables

The below section is optional and designed to help us understand people's thoughts on how renewables and energy storage can help to tackle climate change and improve energy security.

4.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources, and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

4.3 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources will provide greater energy independence and security for the UK?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:



Stoneworthy Energy Storage System Proposal

Comment Form

4.4 Do you agree that we need to develop energy storage projects to create a more stable and secure electricity system, supporting the rollout of zero carbon energy?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I don't know
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Further comments:

5 Your details

Please provide your name and contact details below.

Your contact details will be treated by RES with the strictest of confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. We may at times share your contact details, in confidence, with third parties who we employ to help process your comments or update you on the project and by providing your details below you consent to this. You may write to RES at any time to ask that your contact details be removed from our records and from any third parties we work with.

Name	
Email	
Address	
Telephone Number	

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please tick this box

When you have completed the comment form, please place it in the box provided. Comment forms can also be sent by email to john.hills@res-group.com or by post to: Stoneworthy Energy Storage System Project Team, RES, Ground Floor, Falcon House, Charles Street, Truro, TR1 2PH.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comments form, your feedback is important to us.