

Appendix 2 – Supporting information

- Pre-application Consultation Report

The PAC Report sets out the public consultation carried out by the applicant including details of the public events held at Hillside Village Hall in January and February 2024. The information suggests that around fifty people attended the first event on 24 January and just one person came to the event on 21 February. Matters identified in the public consultation include visual appearance, noise and lighting, road safety, fire safety, and flood risk and the statement provides a response to those matters.

The states concludes indicating that the applicant has undertaken consultations and engagement in relation to this proposal. This has included contacting neighbouring properties within 1km of the site, the Community Council, the elected representatives of the host Ward, the MP and MSP, newspaper advertisement and two public consultation events.

- Supporting Statement (incorporating a Design and Access Statement)

This document provides an introduction to the site and proposal; and the planning process for an application of this nature.

It contains chapters dealing with ecology; visual impact assessment; noise, lighting, and dust management; cultural heritage; hydrogeology; transport and access; decommissioning and site restoration; sustainability and carbon assessment; planning statement; and sets out other material considerations.

It indicates that there is a strong policy presumption in favour of sustainable and low carbon development in both NPF4 and the Local Development Plan, with the wider environmental benefits associated with facilitating the increased production of energy from low carbon renewable sources being recognised and supported.

The project would directly facilitate the further deployment of additional renewable generation on the grid by increasing the availability of embedded system backup, to temporarily provide power to manage intermittent generation from renewable sources including bioenergy, wind and solar generation.

The proposal is not considered to compromise the overall policy framework as set out in the Angus Local Development Plan as the proposal is small in scale, is technically required to be located on or close to the identified location, is a form of development for which there is arguably a very urgent national need given the supporting role it provides for the further deployment of renewable generation, and for which there is currently capacity on the local network. It can therefore be concluded that the planning balance lies in favour of the proposal and that its potential impacts on the surrounding area would be acceptable.

- Surface Water Drainage Strategy

The Development involves the installation of approximately 0.184 ha of impermeable structures, while the remainder of the Development will be underlain by permeable aggregate or landscaped areas. Borehole logs and site observations indicate that attenuation and disposal via infiltration is not feasible.

Cellular storage will be used to attenuate 159.5 m³ storage for the 0.5 % AEP storm, plus a 39% uplift for climate change, and will discharge to an existing agricultural field drain. A maintenance schedule is included setting out the steps and frequency of works to maintain a functioning drainage system.

The Development is therefore compliant with the requirements of the Angus Local Development Plan 2016, Policy 22 (c) of NPF4, SUDS for Roads and the SuDS Manual 2015.

- Flood Risk Assessment

The site is located outwith the modelled extents of flooding from the River South Esk for all return periods and the site is located 6.5 m AOD. The River South Esk is tidally influenced as it passes the site and extreme levels for the 0.5 % AEP are modelled at 3.82 m AOD.

The development will involve drainage systems to attenuate surface water from areas of hardstanding, meaning surface water is managed in a sustainable way reducing the overall risk of surface water flooding.

The site is outwith the modelled reservoir breach outlines.

It is recommended that the finished floor level of the battery units in the south of the site are raised by 300 mm to mitigate for potential pluvial flood depths.

The development has been assessed as having low to negligible risk from all flooding sources. The Development is classified as essential infrastructure and is compliant with NPF4, SEPA Guidance and local planning policy.

- Noise Assessment

A Noise Impact Assessment was carried out to determine site suitability for a proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) development. The noise assessment was conducted with reference to the Planning Advice Note (PAN) 1/2011: Planning and Noise, Assessment of Noise: Technical Advice Note (TAN) 2011 and the appropriate British Standards, recognised guidance and reference documents relevant to this site.

Based on the early-stage indicative design, the assessment results indicate that the noise generated by the proposed BESS development would necessitate source mitigation measures to adhere to statutory requirements. An indicative specification for noise mitigation has been provided, demonstrating that effective control of noise emissions can be achieved through the design, ensuring that NSRs will not likely experience any adverse effects.

The assessment shows the significance of predicted noise impacts arising from operation of the proposed development following inclusion of a suitable scheme of noise mitigation are of neutral/slight significance.

The assessment recommends planning conditions relating to noise from fixed plant and notes provision of a 3m acoustic barrier.

- Ecological Appraisal

The report presents the results of an Ecological Appraisal (comprising a Background Data Search, Phase 1 Habitat Survey with assessment and surveys for Protected Species) undertaken in September 2023.

The location of the proposed development is on an area of arable field and a narrow strip of modified grassland field edge. It is expected that all impacts on protected species (badger, brown hare and birds) are negligible if the appropriate mitigation is undertaken.

The proposal is not connected to nearby statutory sites (Montrose Basin SPA & River South Esk SPA) and would have no impact on any designated species for these and other sites.

- Biodiversity Enhancement Assessment

The report provides evidence that the development will achieve no net detriment and biodiversity net enhancement having regard to the NatureScot 'Developing with Nature Guidance' which gives guidance on securing positive effects for biodiversity from local development to support NPF4 policy 3(c).

Newly created habitats will include trees and shrub mix with the woodland meadow mix underneath. The majority of new tree planting will consist of feathers although some larger standard trees up to 3m in height will be planted in key areas, to provide some immediate screening. Species would include Rowan, Silver Birch, Common Gorse, Juniper, Broom, Common Ash and Lime . The inclusion of individual trees and shrubs, and woodland meadow mix will benefit and maintain ecological functionality. These measures will ensure that suitable habitat resources are available for protected species (e.g. bats) and in the longer term provide foraging / nesting resources (e.g. for breeding birds).

- Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan

The Draft Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) shall be amended and updated as required following the appointment of the principal contractor with responsibility for managing the construction of the project. The written approval of the final CEMP shall be obtained from Angus Council, the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development.

The preparation and implementation of the final CEMP shall be informed by, and shall incorporate the identified environmental mitigation measures which are set out in the Supporting Statement and associated Appendices, listed below, which have been prepared and submitted in support of the planning application for consent to construct and operate the project: Ecological Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment, Surface Water Drainage Strategy.

- Clarification on management of contaminated water

The proposed BESS would incorporate an interception system to contain any contaminated run-off in the event of a fire. Any water or other liquids used to douse a fire would be diverted to an underground storage tank via a valve which would be operated by the fire service in the event of an incident. The procedures for operating the valve would be set out on the relevant fire response plan prepared for the site.

Water in the interception tank would be pumped out and removed from the site for treatment following any event.

Such systems are becoming commonplace at BESS systems in the UK and are an effective means of preventing any fire fighting activities from contaminating natural watercourses.