HERON ENERGY

Gort Battery Energy Storage Project

Public Information

August 2024

At Heron Energy, Innovation is at the heart of what we do.

This proposed development includes the erection of a battery energy storage system facility 52MW (BESS) including 2no. switch houses with control rooms, storage containers and office trailer, lighting and closed circuit tv columns, new site boundary fencing and all associated development works. Lands immediately south of Omagh Road and approximately 150 metres northeast of no.174 Omagh Road, Garvaghy.

You can explore the project information within this document to get a sense of the significance of this venture. Your input is invaluable to us, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts and suggestions. To ensure your feedback makes the desired impact, please send your comments to Gray's Communications no later than Tuesday 10th September 2024. All relevant contact details can be found on page 8.

It's important to note that during this consultation phase, your comments will be directed to Gray's Communications rather than the planning authority. However, rest assured that when the time comes to submit our application, the public will have the opportunity to engage directly with the planning authority.

About Heron Energy

Heron Energy is part of Heron Bros Ltd, a local family-owned business established in 1956. Throughout this time, we have become a leader in the construction, property development and manufacturing industries.

Energy Storage: what is it and why do we need it?

Northern Ireland has a legal obligation to ensure 80% of all electricity generated by 2030 is sourced from renewables. Achieving this target is crucial not only for addressing the climate crisis but also for enhancing our energy security through increased reliance on local energy sources. BESS systems can help ensure the existing solar and wind generation is being fully utilised.

Battery storage systems are essential in allowing us to maximise use of the renewable energy we generate. They will play an increasingly pivotal role between green energy supplies and responding to electricity demands. BESS are devices that enable energy from renewables, like solar and wind, to be stored and then released when the power is needed most.

Why is this important?

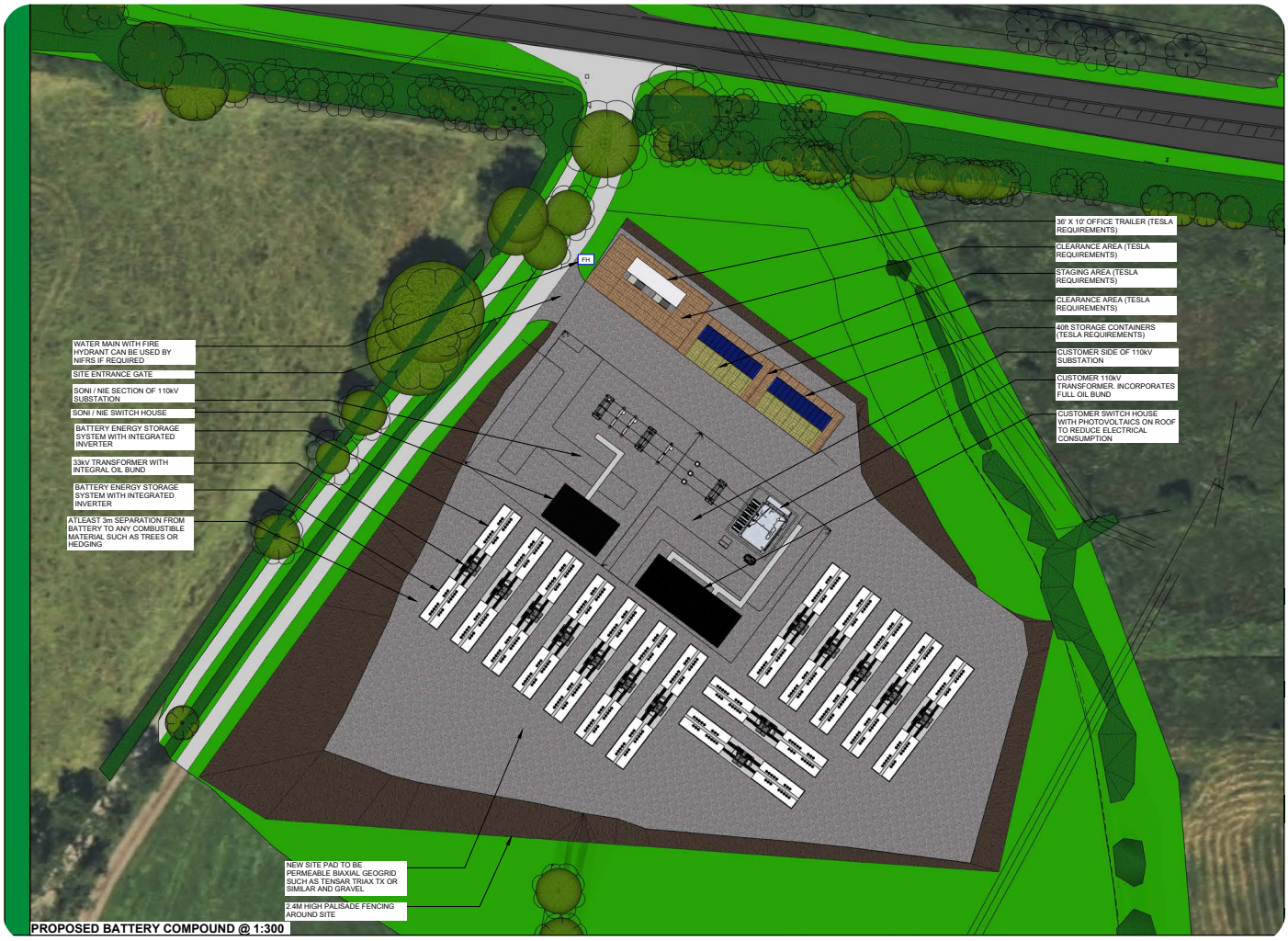
The addition of another storage facility in this location is aimed at optimising the use of local electricity production, particularly in solar and wind power. BESS sites are instrumental in managing energy curtailment, which is the reduction of energy output to maintain balance between supply and demand or due to transmission constraints.

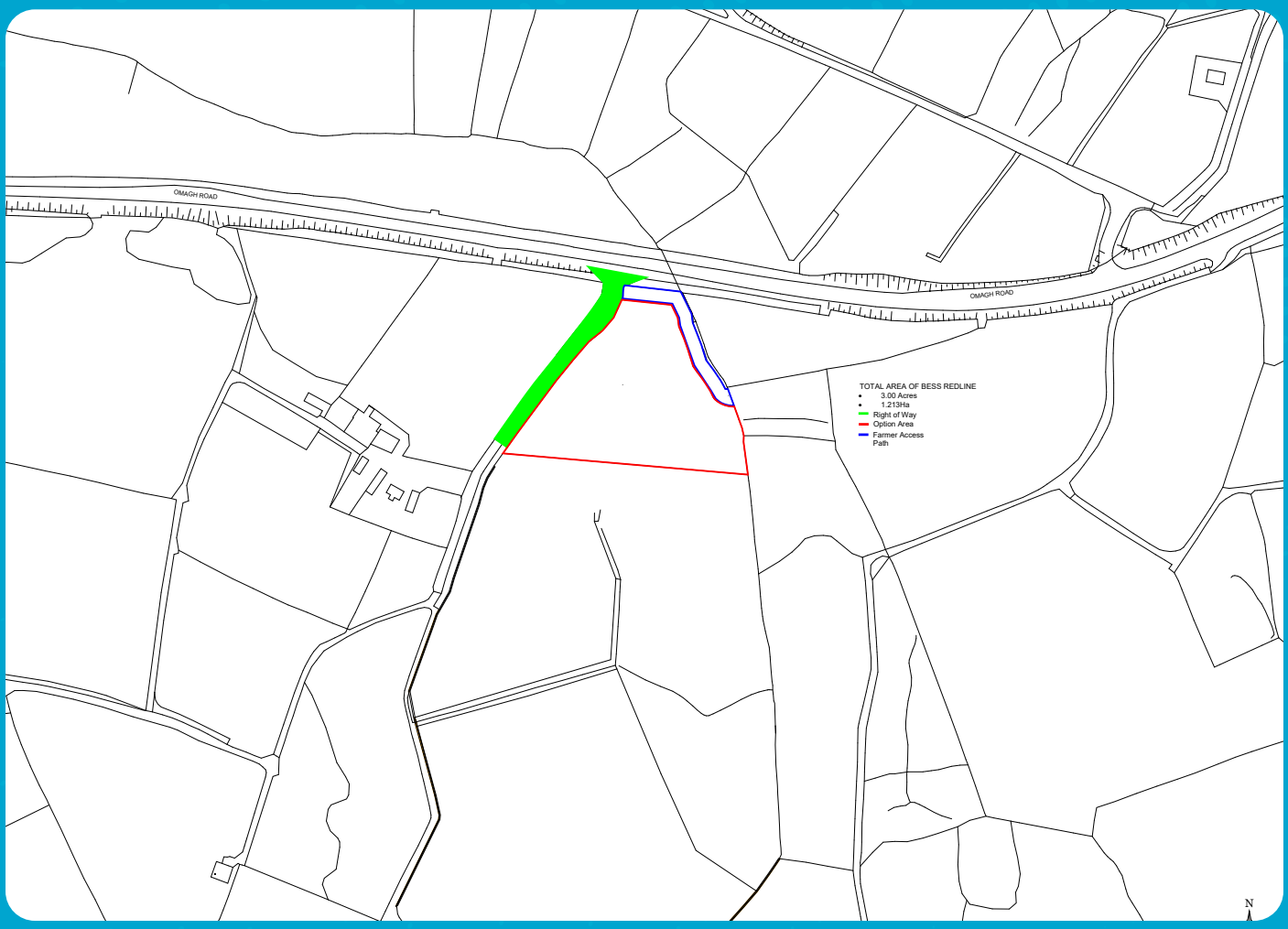
Site locations

The site for the proposed BESS is ideal as it is in close proximity to the NIE substation, which is part of the electrical transmission and distribution system. Placing the BESS near a substation can reduce transmission and distribution losses and relieve congestion on the grid.

Locating a BESS on this proposed site will ensure renewable energy generation is being maximised whilst having minimal visual impact due to its relatively rural setting.

Indicative draft drawings of the site location can be found below. The substation is owned, operated and maintained by NIE.




OMAGH ROAD
OMAGH ROAD
TOTAL AREA OF BESS REDLINE
3.00 Acres
1.213Ha
Right of Way
Option Area
Farmer Access Path
N

What are the plans?

Sustainable development will be a core ethos during development. We will be considerate neighbours by actively engaging with local residents throughout this process. In addition, we will ensure to maintain the highest safety standards and practices during construction works.

With a distinguished track record in construction, Heron Energy is a platinum-accredited Investor in People (IIP), deeply rooted in this community and uniquely knowledgeable about the local area.

Economic and environmental benefits

The Gort Battery Energy Storage proposal aims to better utilise renewable generation in the area, reducing energy lost through curtailment.

This project is a multi-million-pound investment by Heron Energy, emphasising our ongoing commitment to playing a meaningful role in the region's target of achieving 80% renewable generation by 2030.

By storing excess energy during off-peak hours and releasing it during peak demand, energy storage helps to flatten the demand curve. This approach will help ensure energy supply is indigenous where possible, increasing energy security for the region.

80%
renewable generation by 2030

Next steps

Planning process

1. An information drop will take place within 500m of the site on the week commencing 12th August. This far exceeds the statutory guidance, emphasising our desire to meaningfully engage.

2. A public consultation event will take place in Canavan's Hotel, 232 Omagh Road, Garvaghy, on Tuesday 27th August from 3pm-7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

3. We intend to submit a full planning application following the conclusion of the current PAN consultation process. It is envisaged this application will be submitted in October 2024.

Providing your feedback

We welcome input from all stakeholders. If you have any thoughts about the project, please email us at info@grayscommunications.com citing Gort BESS as the subject line. You may also provide feedback by visiting www.grayscommunications.com/gortbess.

Alternatively, reach out to a member of our project team by phone on 02871 161 364 between **9am and 5:30pm, Monday to Friday.** For your feedback to shape our design process, please ensure it reaches Gray's Communications no later than **Tuesday 10th September 2024.**

Kindly note that comments provided during this consultation are directed to Gray's Communications, not the local planning authority. However, once a planning application is submitted, the standard neighbour notification process will be implemented, affording the public an opportunity to submit comments directly to the planning authority.

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