



336-004-RP01

Drainage Impact Assessment

Proposed BESS - Rigifa, Thurso

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Appendix A - Existing & Proposed Site

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1 Introduction

Haydn Evans Consulting Ltd (HEC) has been commissioned by Field (hereafter referred to as the Client) to carry out a Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) to support a planning application for the construction and operation of a 200 megawatt (MW) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with associated infrastructure, access and ancillary works on land at Rigifa, Thurso.

1.1 Limitation

This document has been prepared for the sole use of the Client. The copyright of this report is vested in HEC and the Client. HEC accepts no responsibility whatsoever to other parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such other parties that rely upon the report do so at their own risk.

The DIA should be read in conjunction with the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) which has been prepared for this site; HEC document reference 336-004-RP1 dated 14 August 2024.

1.2 Site Proposal

The Proposed Development would have a total development footprint of approximately 5.62 hectares (ha) across the 37.87 ha site.

The Proposed Development principally comprises a battery energy storage system (BESS) with a capacity of up to 200 megawatts (MW) which will charge and discharge electricity from the adjacent planned and consented Gills Bay substation. It includes:

- Battery storage units arranged into rows;
- Medium-voltage (MV) skids and ancillary low-voltage (LV) equipment;
- High-voltage (HV) grid transformers;
- Air insulated switchgear;
- A substation building comprising welfare facilities, a switch room and control room;
- An interface substation and underground 132 kV grid connection cable; and
- Site-wide supporting infrastructure including cabling, access tracks, fencing, attenuation basins, and landscaping measures.

Whilst the exact specifications are subject to detailed design, the principal components described form the basis of the planning application to allow environmental assessments and mitigation to be appropriately scoped. See the proposed layout drawing in Appendix A.

2 Location & Existing Conditions

2.1 Site Location

The site is located to the south of Mey, on approximate Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference 58.620726, -3.215638 (see red line boundary on Figure 1).

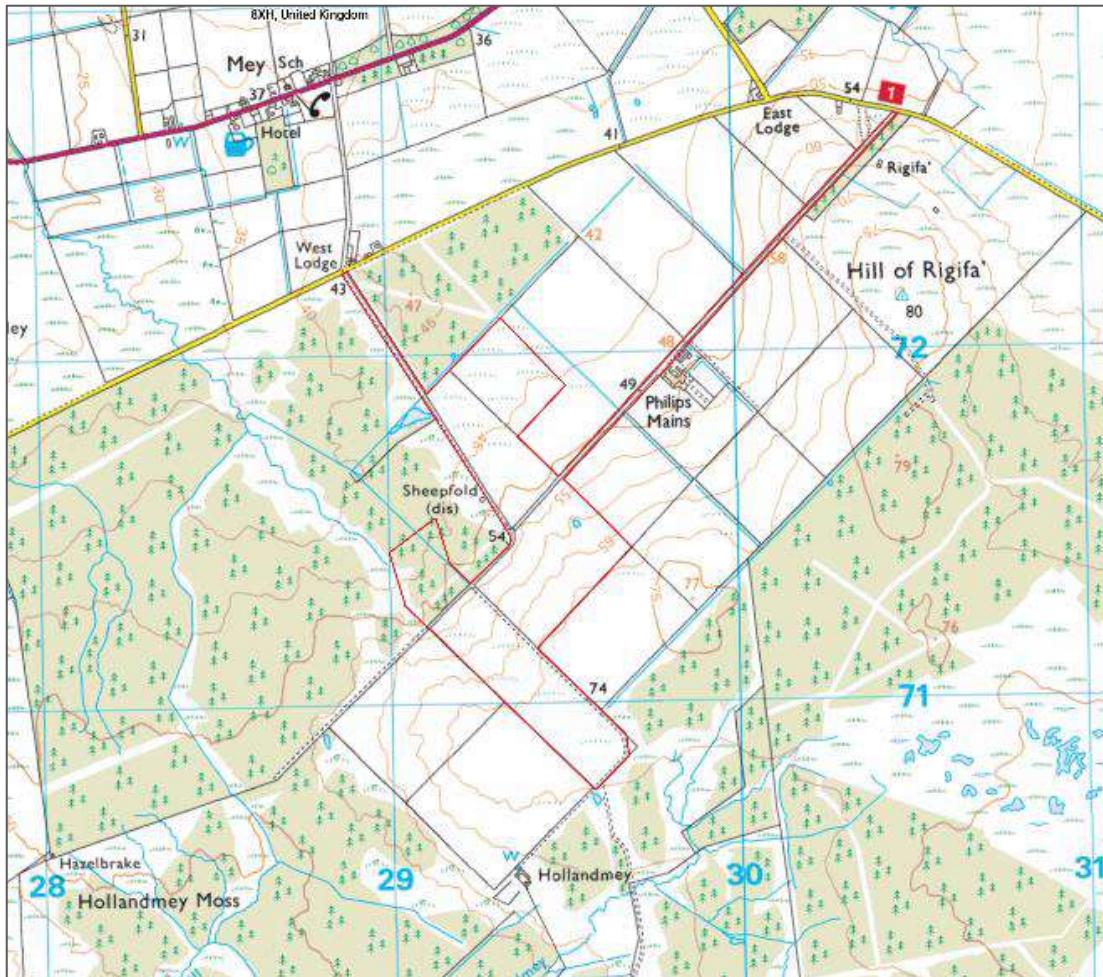


Figure 1: Site location map

Access to the site is available in two locations off the A836 to the north-east and north-west of the site. The site is surrounded by greenfield land, with the exception of the farm plot located to the south of the north-eastern access track.

2.2 Existing Topography

OS mapping shows the site to generally fall from south-east to north-west. A topographic survey has been produced for the majority of the site, including the access tracks and the main BESS compound area where ground levels in the south-east are circa 74.09 metres Above Ordnance Datum (mAOD), falling to circa 55.03 mAOD in the northeast. The topographic survey does not cover the Interface Substation.

2.3 Existing Sewer Assets

Scottish Water (SW) sewer records for the site have been obtained (see Appendix B). The records show no foul or surface water sewers in the vicinity of the site. The nearest sewer system is located along the A836 to the north of the site.

2.4 Existing Drainage Regime

There is no formal drainage system located on site and therefore surface water run-off would flow overland following the topography of the site or infiltrate into the underlying soils.

2.5 Ground Conditions

British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping confirms the site to have a bedrock geology of Spittal Flagstone Formation and Mey Flagstone Formation, both of which are a combination of siltstone, mudstone, and sandstone. The superficial deposits for the site are shown to comprise Till, Devensian (Diamicton), Hummocky (moundy) Glacial Deposits, and Peat.

The Phase 2 Ground Investigation Report undertaken by Curtins, predominantly for the main BESS compound area (ref: 085449-CUR-00-XX-RP-GE-00002 dated 11 July 2024), encountered the following on-site ground conditions:

Stratum	Depth to top of strata		Thickness (m)		General Description
	m BGL	m AOD	Min	Max	
Topsoil	GL	62.63 – 73.16	0.20	0.40	Dark brown organic slightly sandy CLAY. Frequent organic matter (peaty in places). Dark brown clayey sandy peaty TOPSOIL with frequent vegetation.
Devensian Till - Diamicton	0.2	62.33 – 72.91	0.30 (TP06)	1.80 (BH05)	Soft to stiff brown and grey mottled orange slightly silty slightly sandy slightly gravelly CLAY.
Spittal Flagstone Formation	0.70	61.03 – 72.06	0.05*	2.00*	Weak dark grey FLAGSTONE recovered as an angular to fine gravel.

Notes - *Total thickness not proven (Base of unit not encountered).

Figure 2 - On-site ground conditions

Online mapping shows the site to be in an area with a 'low' groundwater vulnerability, this is also confirmed in the Phase 2 GI report.

3 Planning Policy Context

3.1 National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4 Adopted 2023)

The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4, 2023) includes government policy for developments and meeting the challenges of climate change and flood risk. Policy 22 states that development proposals should:

- Not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk;
- Manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue-green infrastructure. All proposals should presume no surface water connection to the combined sewer; and
- Seek to minimise the area of impermeable surface.

3.2 Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP, Adopted 2012)

On 5 April 2012 the Highland-wide Local Development Plan was adopted by the Council and was constituted as the local development plan in law. The Plan sets out a vision statement and spatial strategy for the area, taking on board the outcomes of consultation undertaken during preparation of the plan. Policy 66 is relevant to this assessment and reads as follows:

Policy 66 Surface Water Drainage

All proposed development must be drained by Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) designed in accordance with [The SuDS Manual \(CIRIA C697\)](#) and, where appropriate, the [Sewers for Scotland Manual 2nd Edition](#). Planning applications should be submitted with information in accordance with [Planning Advice Note 69: Planning and Building Standards Advice on Flooding](#) paragraphs 23 and 24. Each drainage scheme design must be accompanied by particulars of proposals for ensuring long-term maintenance of the scheme.

4 Surface Water Drainage

4.1 Proposed Surface Water Drainage Strategy

The surface water drainage strategy has been designed based on the requirements of CIRIA 753 (C753) dated March 2015 and the Water Assessment and Drainage Assessment Guide produced by the Sustainable Urban Drainage Scottish Working Party (SUDSWP).

The surface water drainage strategy is focussed on the proposed development areas only, namely the Interface Substation, Substation Compound and the BESS Compound. Surface water drainage information for the access roads is provided on HEC drawings 336-004-D220, D221, D320 and D321.

Surface water drainage for the remainder of the site area within the red line boundary will drain as existing, towards the existing on-site ditch network.

4.1.1 SuDS Hierarchy

Surface water drainage should be managed in a way that replicates the natural drainage processes for the site as closely as possible. The proposals should follow the hierarchy outlined in C753 and should be disposed of to a receptor in the order of preference described below:

1. Into the ground;
2. To a surface water body e.g. watercourse;
3. To a surface water, highway drain, or another drainage system;
4. To a combined sewer.

4.1.2 SuDS Selection

Into the Ground

The Phase 2 Ground Investigation states that: '*The preliminary in-situ soakaway tests carried out as part of the site investigation works indicated poor infiltration characteristics of the underlying glacial deposits being unsuitable for soakaway infiltration.*'

Infiltration drainage is therefore considered not feasible at this Site and is not discussed further in this report.

To a surface water body

It is proposed to discharge surface water run-off from the compound areas to an existing ditch within the red line boundary. The ditch is shown (on the topographical survey and OS mapping) to flow towards the Burn of Horsegrow located to the west of the Site. The proposed strategy therefore mimics the existing drainage regime for the Site.

4.2 Greenfield run-off rates

The greenfield run-off discharge rates have been calculated using the HR Wallingford IH124 method and are based on the area of the proposed compounds. The greenfield rates are summarised in Table 1 below (see Greenfield Calculations in Appendix B).

Rainfall event	Substation and BESS Compound - 5.391 ha (l/s)	Interface Substation Compound - 0.09ha (l/s)
1:1 year	29.11	0.54
Qbar	34.24	0.64
1:30 year	66.78	1.40
1:100 year	84.92	1.58
1:200 year	97.25	1.80

Table 1: Greenfield run-off calculations

NB: The greenfield rates for the Interface Substation are based on an area of 0.1 ha due to this being the software's minimum allowable area.

4.3 Surface water drainage strategy

The surface water generated by the compound is intercepted by filter drains positioned periodically across the contributing area. The filter drains collect and direct the surface water through a network of pipes to the attenuation and the outfall.

Both drainage systems will discharge surface water at a restricted rate to the existing ditch located approximately 245 m to the north of the BESS and substation compounds and 125 m west of the interface substation. The ditch is shown on the topographical survey and OS mapping to connect to the Burn of Horsegrow. The surface water drainage drawings and supporting calculations are provided in Appendix B.

Discharge rate

The discharge of surface water run-off from the BESS/substation compounds will be restricted to the Qbar greenfield rate (34.24 l/s) in line with Highland Council guidance. Discharge from the attenuation basin is restricted by a flow control device.

The discharge of surface water run-off from the interface substation compound will require pumping due to levels on site being lower than the outfall location. It is not possible to discharge surface water via gravity to the ditch located to the west due to additional services (cables) and land rights over the area. It is therefore proposed to pump surface water run-off to the same outfall location as the BESS/substation compound, at a rate of 2 l/s (minimum pump rate).

Attenuation

Attenuation has been sized using FEH data and Causeway Flow software to accommodate the temporary run-off for rainfall events up to and including the 1:200-year event.

The volume of storage provided in the attenuation basin provided for the BESS/substation compound for the 200-year event is 2864 m³ with a maximum water level of 58.30 mAOD. The proposed bank level of the basin is 58.75 mAOD and therefore sufficient freeboard is provided for the 200-year event. The basin has been designed with 1:3 side slopes.

The volume of storage provided in the swale provided for the interface substation compound for the 200-year event is 43m³.

4.4 Pollution Mitigation

The above proposal ensures that surface water is managed 'at source'. All surface water from the Proposed Development area will pass through a filter drain and the attenuation basin as pollution mitigation. This type of development has 'Low' pollution hazard level, as shown in

table 26.2 of C753. The relevant land use is tabled below, with the SuDS pollution indices tabled (as per table 26.3 of C753).

Pollution Hazard indices for different land use classifications				
Land Use	Pollution Hazard Level	Total suspended solids pollution index	Metals	Hydrocarbons (HC)
Individual property driveways, residential car parks, low traffic roads (e.g. cul de sacs, home zones and general access roads) and non-residential car parking with infrequent change (e.g. schools, offices) i.e., 300 traffic movements/day	Low	0.5	0.4	0.4
Indicative SuDS mitigation indices for discharges to surface waters				
Filter Drain		0.4	0.4	0.4
Detention Basin (secondary indices halved)		0.5 (0.25)	0.5 (0.25)	0.6 (0.3)
Total		0.65	0.65	0.7

Table 2: SuDS Pollution Assessment

The mitigation techniques provided exceed the required level of treatment to surface water run-off.

A penstock valve is provided to prevent any contaminated water from entering the wider environment.

4.5 Management and Maintenance

The surface water drainage system should be maintained to ensure the system operates at its maximum capacity for the 30-year lifetime of development. A management and maintenance plan are provided in Appendix B.

5 Summary and Conclusion

5.1 Summary

HEC has been commissioned by the Client to carry out a Drainage Impact Assessment to support a planning application for the construction and operation of a 200 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with associated infrastructure, access and ancillary works on land at Rigifa, Thurso.

Infiltration drainage is not feasible at the Site, as confirmed by ground investigation. It is therefore proposed to discharge surface water to the existing on-site ditch which flows to the Burn of Horsegrow, mimicking the existing drainage regime for the Site.

Attenuation has been provided for the 1 in 200-year event with a restricted discharge matching the Qbar greenfield run-off rate, where feasible.

The use of filter drains, and an attenuation basin/swale provide the appropriate mitigation for the pollutants likely for this type of development.

A penstock valve is provided to prevent any contaminated water from entering the wider environment.

The surface water drainage system should be maintained to ensure the system operates at its maximum capacity for the lifetime of development in line with the management and maintenance plan provided.

5.2 Conclusion


The drainage strategy complies with guidance; surface water generated by the Proposed Development can be attenuated on site in the relevant extreme event and discharged to a watercourse. The proposals for the site do not increase on or off-site flood risk and are therefore considered acceptable.

Appendix A - Existing & Proposed Site

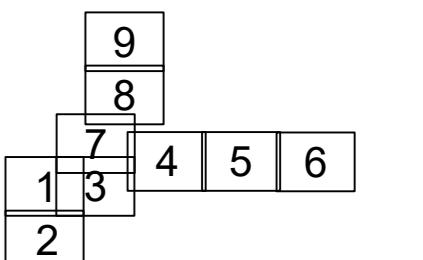
Highland Surveyors Ltd drawing 23066_01-09 - Topographical Survey

Sewer records extracted from Utilities Search ref: BTGBRIG01 dated 10/04/2024

Field drawing BTGBRIG0 001.1 Rev 9 - Indicative Site Plan Layout



FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY TO BE USED	
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Notes	
i) All survey levels are related to Ordnance Survey using GPS.	
ii) Whilst every effort to locate all major service covers (i.e. manhole positions) it should be noted that this may not be possible in all cases due to ground conditions or local obstructions.	
	
LEGEND BH - Valve BOI - Bollard BT - Bench Mark Cover CL - Cell Level CO - Cover (unknown service) CT - Cable Telecom Cover D - Depth EC - Electricity Cover EL - Elevens Level EP - Earth Pole ER - Earth Rod F - Feature FFL - Floor Level G - Gully GAS - Gas Cover GT - Gate IC - Invert Cover IL - Invert Level LB - Lighting Bollard LL - Lamp Post LP - Lamp Post M - Manhole MKR - Marker OSBN - O.S. Benchmark P - Post PL - Piling Meter PN - Pile RE - Rodding Eye RS - Road Sign SC - Stop Cock SG - Survey Valve T - Tally TR - Tree TPI - Trial Pit TL - Traffic Light TV - Cable TV Cover UP - Utility Pole W - Water Cover WHL - Wall Head Level WM - Water Meter	




Sheet Layout

Issue	Revision	Initial	Date

Highland Surveyors Ltd

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www.highlandsurveyors.co.uk

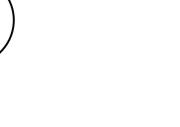
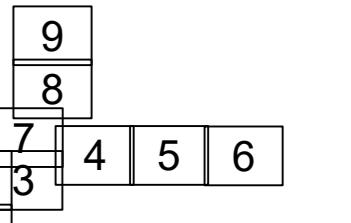
Client: Field Energy
Project: Proposed Development Philips Mains Rigifa
Drawing Title: Topographic Survey
Status: For Information
Scale: 1: 500 @ A0 Date: 20/11/2023
By: SCD Checked: IRF Approved: SCD
Doc. No: 23066-02 Sheet 2 of 9




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
Notes


- i) All survey levels are related to Ordnance Survey covers.
- ii) Whilst every effort to locate all major service covers (i.e. manhole positions) it should be noted that this may not be possible in all cases due to ground conditions or local obstructions.


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















SEWER

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
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Company No. 5132353







Scottish Water Asset

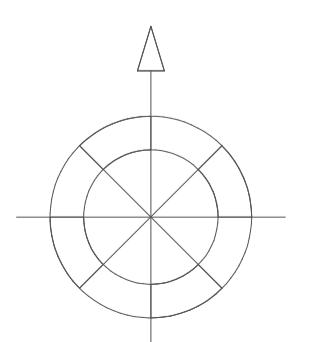
Waste Water Network

Fittings	Capped End		Pipes
Access (Lateral)			
Abandoned	Abandoned	Combined (C)	Gravity Pipe
Combined (C)	Accepted	Foul (F)	Abandoned
Foul (F)	Adopted	Natural Water (W)	CSO (O)
Proposed	In Use	Proposed	Combined (C)
Surface Water (S)	Isolated	Surface Water (S)	Foul (F)
	Not Applicable	Treated Effluent (E)	Natural Water (W)
Chamber		Lamphole	
Abandoned	Planned	Abandoned	Proposed
CSO	Proposed	CSO (O)	Surface Water (S)
Combined	Removed	Combined (C)	Trade Effluent (T)
Foul	Unknown	Foul (F)	Treated Effluent (E)
Dual Manhole - Foul	Hatchbox	Natural Water (W)	Gravity Pipe General
Dual Manhole - Surface	Abandoned	Proposed	Gravity Pipe
Isolated	CSO (O)	Surface Water (S)	Abandoned
Natural Water	Combined (C)	Treated Effluent (E)	CSO (O)
Not Applicable	Foul (F)	Unknown	Combined (C)
Other	Isolated	Outfall	Foul (F)
Planned	Natural Water (W)	Planned	Natural Water (W)
Proposed	Other	Abandoned	Proposed
Surface Water	Proposed	CSO (O)	Surface Water (S)
Trade Effluent	Surface Water (S)	Combined (C)	Trade Effluent (T)
Treated Effluent	Trade Effluent (T)	Foul (F)	Treated Effluent (E)
Unknown	Treated Effluent (E)	Isolated	Gravity Pipe General
Unknown_	Unknown	Natural Water (W)	Connection (Lateral)
Combined Sewer Overflow	Hydraulic Control Chamber	Proposed	Abandoned
CSO-COMB SEW O/FL	Abandoned	Surface Water (S)	Combined (C)
Balancing Pond	CSO (O)	Trade Effluent (T)	Foul (F)
Basin	Combined (C)	Treated Effluent (E)	Proposed
	Foul (F)	Unknown	Surface Water (S)
	Natural Water (W)	Unknown_	Trade Effluent (T)
Bifurcation Chamber	Planned	Pond	Treated Effluent (E)
Abandoned	Proposed		Connection (Lateral) General
Combined (C)	Surface Water (S)	Trench	Rising Main
Foul (F)	Trade Effluent (T)	Sluice Valve	Abandoned
Isolated	Treated Effluent (E)	Abandoned	CSO (O)
Planned	Unknown	CSO (O)	Combined (C)
Proposed	Inlet	Combined (C)	Foul (F)
Surface Water (S)	Abandoned	Foul (F)	Proposed
Unknown	CSO (O)	Isolated	Surface Water (S)
Sewerage Air Valve	Combined (C)	Natural Water (W)	Trade Effluent (T)
Combined (C)	Natural Water (W)	Other	Treated Effluent (E)
Isolated	Other	Proposed	Rising Main General
Abandoned	Proposed	Surface Water (S)	Abandoned
CSO (O)	Surface Water (S)	Trade Effluent (T)	CSO (O)
Foul (F)	Treated Effluent (E)	Treated Effluent (E)	Combined (C)
Other	Unknown	Unknown End	Foul (F)
Proposed	Rodding Eye	Abandoned	Proposed
Surface Water (S)	Abandoned	Unknown End	Surface Water (S)
Trade Effluent (T)	CSO (O)	Washout	Trade Effluent (T)
Treated Effluent (E)	Combined (C)	Abandoned	Treated Effluent (E)
Unknown	Foul (F)	CSO (O)	Rising Main General
Buchan Trap	Isolated	Combined (C)	Syphon
Abandoned	Natural Water (W)	Foul (F)	Abandoned
CSO (O)	Other	Natural Water (W)	CSO (O)
Combined (C)	Proposed	Other	Combined (C)
Foul (F)	Surface Water (S)	Proposed	Foul (F)
Isolated	Trade Effluent (T)	Surface Water (S)	Natural Water (W)
Natural Water (W)	Treated Effluent (E)	Trade Effluent (T)	Surface Water (S)
Other	Unknown	Treated Effluent (E)	Treated Effluent (E)
Proposed	Unknown(Z)	Unknown	
Surface Water (S)	Non-return Valve	Wetland	
Treated Effluent (E)	Abandoned		
Unknown(Z)	CSO (O)	Vent Column	



① Indicative Site Layout Plan

Scale 1:5,000 @ A1



1:10	0	100mm	200mm	300mm	400mm	500mm	600mm	700mm	800mm	900mm	1m	2m
1:20				0.5m		1m		1.5m	2m		2.5m	
1:25				1m	2m	3m	4m	5m	6m	7m	8m	9m
1:50				1m	2m	3m	4m	5m	6m	7m	8m	9m
1:100				10m	20m	30m	40m	50m	60m	70m	80m	90m
1:120				5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m	35m	40m	50m
1:150				10m	20m	30m	40m	50m	60m	70m	80m	90m
1:200				10m	20m	30m	40m	50m	60m	70m	80m	90m
1:250				50m	100m	150m	200m	250m	300m	400m	500m	
1:500				100m	200m	300m	400m	500m	600m	700m	800m	900m
1:1000				10m	20m	30m	40m	50m	60m	70m	80m	90m
1:2000				50m	100m	150m	200m	250m	300m	400m	500m	
1:2500				100m	200m	300m	400m	500m	600m	700m	800m	900m

Drawing Notes:		
1.	All dimensions are shown in metres unless noted otherwise.	
2.	Do not scale from this drawing.	
3.	Planning boundary area = 45.381ha	

Legend

- Planning Boundary
- Access Route
- Indicative Cable Route
- Consented SSE Gills Bay Substation Compound (By Others)
- Attenuation Basin/Swale
- Planting/Landscaping
- 1.5m High Bund (Landscaping)

9	18.09.2024	Planning substation amended.	JH	AP
8	12.09.2024	BESS compound layout amended and planting/landscaping area increased. Interface substation position amended.	JH	AP
7	22.07.2024	Site layout amended with reduced number of BESS blocks	JH	AP
6	12.07.2024	Site layout amended for larger attenuation basin.	JH	AP
5	19.04.2024	1:5000 scale added to scale bar.	JH	AP
4	15.04.2024	Site layout and planning boundary amended.	JH	JM
3	25.01.2024	Site layout plan amended. Drawing title amended.	JH	AP
2	19.07.2023	Option area amended	WL	RS
1	23.02.2023	Site location moved NW to avoid peat	WL	RS
0	10.02.2023	Proposed Site/Block Plan - for information	WL	RS
REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD



Field
Fora - Montacute Yards
186 Shoreditch High Street
London
E1 6HU

PROJECT

RIGIFA

TITLE
Indicative Site Layout Plan
200MW, 1200MWh

DISCIPLINE
PLANNING

DRAWING STATUS
FOR PLANNING

SCALE
1:5,000 @ A1

DATE
10.02.2023

DRAWN BY
JH

CHECKED BY
AP

APPROVED BY
RS

PROJECT NO
BTGBRIG01

DRAWING NO
001.1

REV.
9