



Pre-Application Consultation Report

Holmston Farm Energy Storage Facility

Ref 04874-5287473

Revision History

Issue	Date	Name	Latest changes
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1 Introduction

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report is submitted in support of a full planning application made by Renewable Energy Systems Ltd (RES) for the Holmston Farm Energy Storage System, near Ayr, Scotland. The proposed development comprises the installation of an energy storage system, including battery enclosures, power conversion units, transformers, substations, grid connection infrastructure, vehicular access and associated works.

The proposed development constitutes a ‘Major Development’ as the proposed capacity is, or exceeds, 20 megawatts. This requires the Applicant to carry out Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) with the local community and submit a PAC report with the planning application. This document fulfils this requirement. As a prerequisite, an applicant must provide a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) setting out how it intends to carry out consultation and engage with the community local to its proposed development. RES submitted a PAN to South Ayrshire Council on 1st June 2022 and received confirmation that this satisfied the relevant requirements on 21st June 2022. This document details and reports on the consultation process undertaken by the RES for the proposed development.

1.1 RES’ Commitment to Consultation

RES is committed to finding effective and appropriate ways of consulting with all its stakeholders, including local residents and community organisations, and believes that the views of local people are an integral part of the development process. We want to be good neighbours to the communities that host our renewable energy projects and will listen to and address questions or concerns that interested parties might have. A comprehensive process that engages with local people and stakeholders at an early stage allows an informed debate that helps us identify issues of potential concern, explore solutions, and design a project that will be welcomed as a positive asset by the local community.

1.2 PAC Requirements and Guidance

The requirement for PAC to be undertaken is contained in sections 35A, 35B and 35C of the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997*, as amended. The detailed requirements are set out in the *Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013*. The basic PAC requirements are currently that the prospective applicant must:

- Serve a proposal of application notice (PAN) on the planning authority describing the proposal and location and indicating what consultation they intend carrying out as part of PAC.
- Consult the community councils in whose area the proposal site is located or whose area adjoins the proposal site.
- Hold a public event.
- Publish a notice in a local newspaper indicating: where information on the proposal can be obtained; how to make views known to the prospective applicant; and the details of the public event (the notice must be published at least 7 days prior to the public event).
- Carry out any further PAC measures required by the planning authority (the authority has 21 days from the receipt of the PAN to make such requirements).

The purpose of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) as set out in *Circular 3/2013 (Development Management Procedures)* between prospective applicants and communities is to:

‘Ensure communities can be better informed about major and national development proposals and to have an opportunity to contribute their views before a formal planning application is submitted to the planning authority. This helps to improve the quality of planning applications; mitigate negative impacts where possible; address misunderstandings; and to air and to address where practicable, any community issues. Any adjustments made as a result of PAC should improve the proposals and assist the efficient consideration of applications once submitted.’

To enable the development management system to continue to function and so that planning applications could continue to be submitted, the *Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020* were put in place to temporarily suspend the requirement for a public event in relation to PAC during the emergency period. The emergency period ended on 30th September 2022.

No statutorily specified alternative to a public event during the emergency period was provided, but prospective applicants were to propose reasonable alternatives based on the information in the Scottish Government document *‘Coronavirus (COVID-19): planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events’*. The guidance outlined the requirement for an alternative to a public event as well as the requirement to make information available for a longer period and while both are likely to be online, a distinction between the two should remain. There should be a period of at least 7 days where the public can submit questions and comments to which an applicant will respond. A one-off live event of 2-3 hours was suggested as appropriate within this emergency period.

2 Consultation

2.1 Key Stakeholders

Prior to the start of the consultation, RES undertook detailed desktop research to develop a comprehensive understanding of the key stakeholders in the local community to engage with during pre-application public consultation. This research involved identifying local stakeholders located around the site of the proposed development. The key stakeholder groups identified through this exercise include:

Community Councils

The proposed development sits within the Annbank and Coylton Community Council area and borders the Forehill, Holmston and Masonhill Community Council area. No community council was established for the Annbank and Coylton Community Council area at the Community Council elections in February 2022.

Ward Councillors

The proposed development is located in the Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton ward of South Ayrshire Council. The following ward councillors were identified as key stakeholders:

- Councillor Iain Campbell - Scottish Conservative & Unionist
- Councillor Brian Connolly - Independent
- Councillor William Grant - SNP

The proposed development is located immediately adjacent to the Ayr East ward of South Ayrshire Council and following ward councillors were identified as key stakeholders:

- Councillor Brian McGinley - Scottish Labour Party
- Councillor Mary Kilpatrick - Scottish Conservative & Unionist
- Councillor Chris Cullen - SNP

Local Residents

All residential properties within a c.500m radius of the site have also been consulted on the proposed development with 448 residential properties identified within this area.

2.2 Publicity

2.2.1 Introduction to the Development, Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) and Notification of Public Exhibition for Stakeholders

The pre-application public consultation began on 6th June 2022. This consisted of a letter sent to Forehill, Holmston and Masonhill Community Council and the ward councillors identified in section 2.1 above, making them aware that RES was exploring the potential for an energy storage system near Ayr and enclosing a copy of the Proposal for Application Notice (PAN) which had been submitted to South Ayrshire Council on 1st June 2022. The letter welcomed members of the Community Council and ward councillors to engage in a video or

telephone call with RES in order for the project to be introduced and any initial questions answered. Unfortunately, this opportunity was not taken up by the Community Council or the ward councillors.

Also accompanying the letter was a newsletter advertising an online public exhibition to be held on 21st June 2022.

A copy of the letter can be found at Appendix A.

2.2.2 Publicity of the Online Public Exhibition

Newsletter Invitation

On 10th June 2022, newsletters were sent to residents identified in section 2.1 above, inviting them to attend an online public exhibition on Tuesday 21st June 2022. The newsletter also offered individual telephone or video call appointments between 10am - 2pm and 4pm - 8pm on 21st June for anyone wishing to discuss the proposal or ask specific questions. Details as to how to book these appointments were included.

The newsletter also clarified that comment forms would be available on the website from the day of the exhibition, with the closing date for comments being 8th July 2022 - this has been considered as sufficient time for responses given the requirement of a period of at least 7 days where the public can submit questions and comments which must be responded to. It was also clarified that comments submitted to RES at the online public exhibition would not be representations to the determining authority (South Ayrshire Council) but that the opportunity to submit formal representations to South Ayrshire Council would be available should a full planning application be submitted later in the year.

The newsletter also advised that hard copies of all exhibition material, including the comment form, would be available on request from the date on the online exhibition. Two requests for hard copies were received and these were sent by post on 21st June 2022.

A copy of the newsletter can be found in Appendix B.

Newspaper Advert

In order to maximise community awareness of, and attendance at, the online exhibition, RES placed an advertisement containing details of the host website, date and timings of the online exhibition in a local paper - the 'Ayrshire Post'. The advert ran in the publication on 8th June 2022. A copy of the advert can be seen Appendix C).

Poster

On 10th June 2022, the Applicant sent a poster advertising the online exhibition to the clerk of Forehill, Holmston and Masonhill Community Council. A copy of the poster can be found at Appendix D.

2.2.3 Online Public Exhibition

The online public exhibition launched on Tuesday 21st June 2022 on the host website: www.holmstonfarm-energystorage.co.uk.

RES staff members were available between 10am and 2pm and 4pm and 8pm on Tuesday 21st June 2022, to discuss the proposals with members of the community who had booked appointments in advance, covering a

range of specialisms, including technical, construction, environmental, development and community relations. These hours were chosen to enable a wide cross section of the local community and stakeholders to attend, including people returning from work.

Two individual appointments were booked by local residents for 21st June 2022. The first call was with a local resident who lives to the north of the proposed development and was attended by one representative from RES. The second call was attended by a member of the public who lives to the west of the proposed development and one representative from RES. The member of public was very appreciative that RES had sent letters to all local residents and the opportunity to speak directly with the project team had been provided.

Presentation material on the website and available for the online public exhibition included:

- A site location plan and address.
- A draft infrastructure layout plan of the proposal.
- An introduction to RES.
- The proposed electrical capacity of the project.
- The current stage of the project and the process moving forward.
- Information on the infrastructure to be installed on site and how the site will be accessed.
- Information about energy storage and its important role in the energy system.
- Detail on environmental considerations.
- Detail on landscape and visual aspects being considered.
- Contact details for relevant RES team members.

Images from the online exhibition can be found at Appendix E.

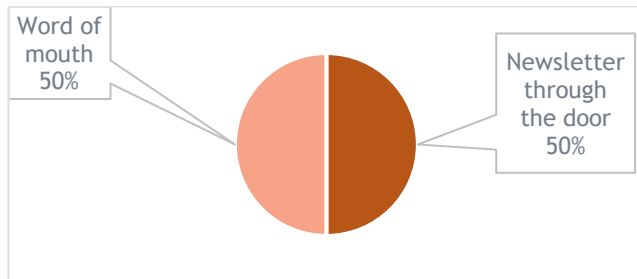
During the period the online exhibition was available online (21st June to 8th July 2022), there were 33 unique visitors to the website with an average view per user of 3.73 and an average engagement time of 2 minutes and 1 second, demonstrating people were interacting with the information available on the website.

A comment form was also provided on the host website to enable attendees to leave comments and provide contact details so that RES could provide updates during the course of the project to those interested. The form included a short questionnaire which asked how people had heard about the exhibition as well as a comment section which allowed them to ask further questions and raise any concerns which they may have had about the proposal.

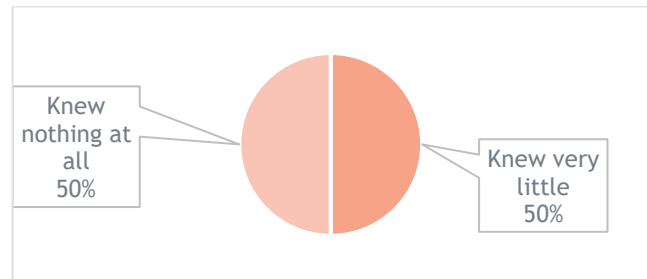
Two completed comment forms were received by RES. Below is a summary of the answers received to the questions on the comment form.

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 (South Ayrshire Council) and that there would be the opportunity for representations to the determining authority once the planning application was submitted.

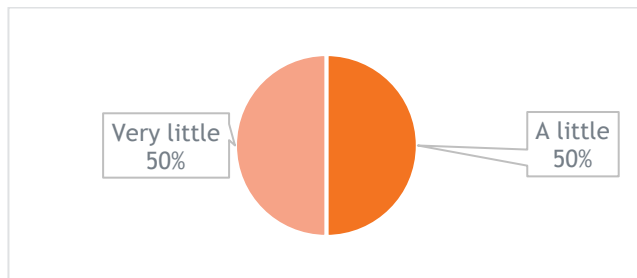
Q1.1 How did you find out about our online exhibition?



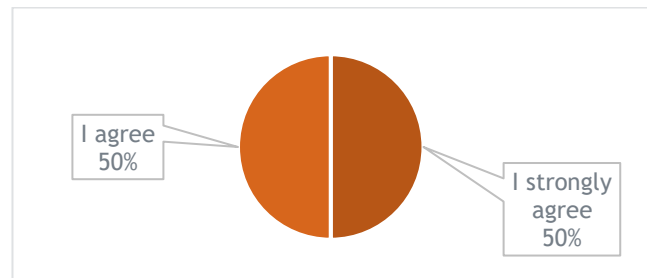
Q1.2 Before visiting the exhibition how would you describe your knowledge of the proposed Holmston Farm Energy Storage System?



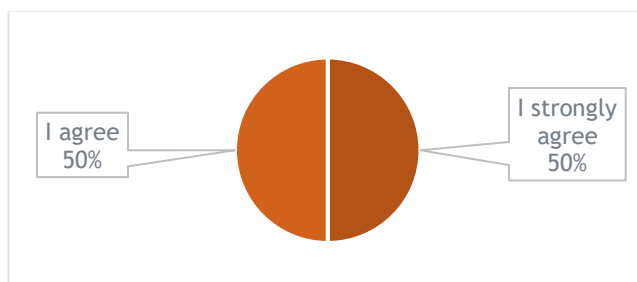
Q1.3 Having visited the exhibition, to what extent do you feel you have increased your understanding about the Holmston Farm Energy Storage System?



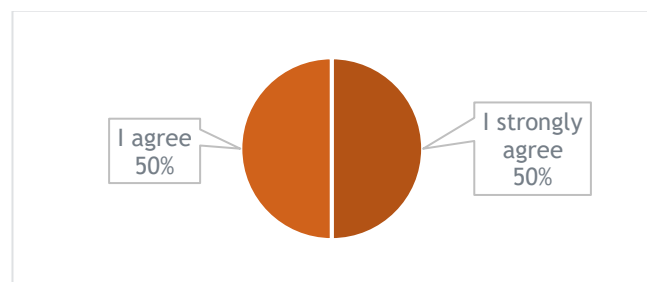
Q 2.1 Do you agree that we are facing a global climate change emergency?



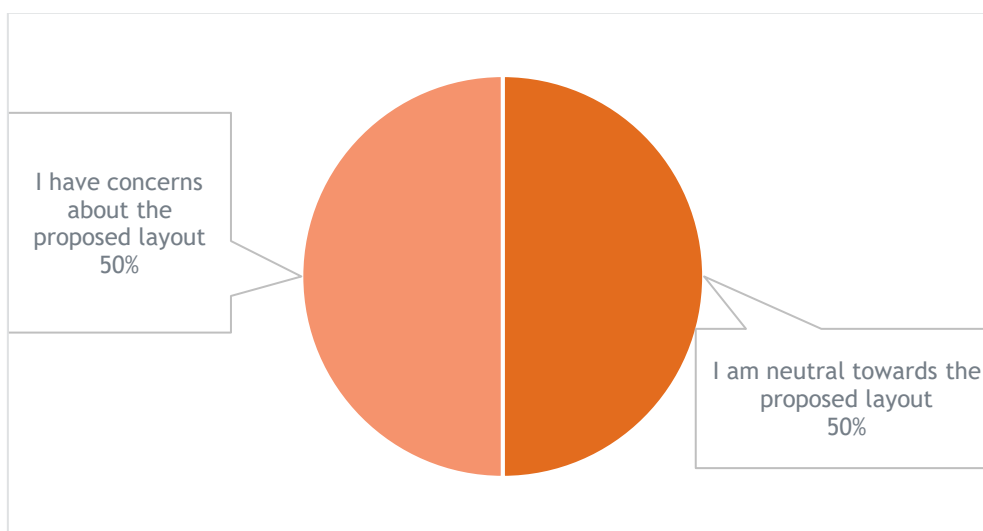
Q 2.2 Do you agree that generating electricity from renewable sources and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, can help towards tackling the issue of climate change?



Q 2.3 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?



Q 3.1 What do you think about the proposed design layout of Holstom Farm Energy Storage System?



2.2.4 Other Consultation

On 16th June 2022, RES wrote to Kyle Academy, located close to the proposed project, to introduce the project and invite a representative from the school to a meeting to discuss the proposed energy storage project and to explore potential educational benefits and opportunities RES could share with the school. There was no response from the school.

On 4th August 2022 RES wrote to the manager of Dobbies Garden Centre, located close to the proposed project, to introduce the project and invite them to a meeting to discuss the proposed energy storage project. There was no response from the business.

In addition to the activities outlined in sections 2.2.3 and 2.2.4, RES has been receiving and responding to enquiries and comments from local residents, via email.

All feedback received during the consultation has been considered by RES throughout the design iteration and pre-planning stages of the development. A summary of feedback, issues and concerns raised, together with the Applicant's response to each can be found in section 3.

3 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 preapplication consultation activities is considered, as part of the iterative design process. A summary of the feedback received, and the Applicant's response is below.

Issue/Concern Raised	Applicant's Response
Visual Impact	<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.</p> <p>A detailed landscape proposal is included in the LVA with measures which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of new native tree and shrub planting on earth bunds to the west of the proposed compound • Provision of new native tree and shrub infill planting along the southern boundary • Enhancement of other areas surrounding the compound through proposed seed mixes • Ongoing landscape management of planting during the lifetime of the proposed development.
Noise	<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 South Ayrshire Council's</p>

	<p>Environmental Health team and accompanies the planning application.</p> <p>Acoustic fencing will be installed around the energy storage compound.</p>
<p>Traffic and Transport</p>	<p>The equipment delivery route will take the A77 toward site. The existing access, currently used for the commercial Christmas tree business on site, will be utilised.</p> <p>To reduce impacts on the A77, any equipment deliveries or contractors approaching from the south of the site will be required to continue north on the A77, rather than turning right across the double lane of southbound traffic on the A77. Instead, deliveries must continue north for c.2km until they reach the Whitletts Roundabout, at which point they can use the roundabout to turn around, heading back down the A77, and accessing the site from the north. Similarly, there will be a strict ‘no right turn’ policy when exiting the site.</p> <p>A Transport Statement accompanies the planning application and outlines details of the proposed transport management arrangements during the construction of the project, and also provides details of transport movements during both construction and operation of the project.</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.</p> <p>Parking for the workforce will be fully accommodated on site. 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 months, with peak HGV traffic movements expected in the first few weeks.</p>

	<p>Once operational, vehicle movements to the site will be limited, consisting of one car, van or light goods vehicle on average once a month to carry out inspections and routine maintenance.</p>
<p>Ecology</p>	<p>A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment has been undertaken and accompanies the planning application. The PEA, 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 planting of new native woodland and species-rich grassland which will provide a plentiful source of food and shelter for a range of fauna species. Invertebrate boxes, bird and bat boxes are also proposed as part of the scheme. Combined, these measures will lead to a net gain for biodiversity.</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 project, if consented.</p>
<p>Health and Safety</p>	<p>The proposed development would use Lithium-ion battery technology which has already been deployed on multiple storage projects across the UK and in a wide range of other uses including electric vehicles to smartphones.</p> <p>There are significant mitigation measures in place to reduce any potential fire risk considerably. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battery technology must pass an industry test standard which ensures there is no likelihood of explosion, fire would be contained within the affected battery rack and wall surfaces around the affected

	<p>battery rack would not reach temperatures 60 degrees above existing temperature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battery systems must also comply with a European Standard (IEC 62485-5:2020) containing tests to ensure no external fires are allowed outside of the affected battery rack. • Fire suppression systems are fitted on each battery container. • 24/7 monitoring undertaken from an offsite control centre. • Battery enclosures would have a fire rating of a minimum of 90 minutes. • Any battery failures are repaired offsite with a new sealed module to replace the faulty module • A fire management response plan will be prepared in conjunction with the battery supplier and the local Fire Service, if the scheme is consented
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4 Conclusion

This PAC report sets out the consultation in respect of a full planning application for the Holmston Farm Energy Storage System near Ayr. The PAC report confirms that all necessary statutory pre-application consultation has been undertaken and that guidance contained in the '*Coronavirus (COVID-19): planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events*' has been followed. It shows that RES engaged early with the local community to encourage a constructive consultation process. There was a very limited response from stakeholders and the local community. The main concerns raised from the consultation were in relation to the visual impact of the proposed development.

RES is committed to being a good neighbour and has an 'open door' policy which means that anyone can contact the company about the development at any stage and RES will respond in a timely manner. The Development Project Manager's and Community Relations Team's contact details have been made available for this purpose via the project website.

The project website at www.holmstonfarm-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 South Ayrshire Council, RES will write to stakeholders, to provide them with the planning reference number and contact details for South Ayrshire Council's Planning Department, should they wish to submit a formal representation.

Appendix A - Stakeholder Letter



Renewable Energy Systems Ltd
Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay,
Glasgow, G51 1PQ
(0)141 4045 500 | info@res-group.com



By email only

6th June 2022

Dear ,

RE: Holmston Farm Energy Storage Proposal

I am writing to advise that RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage project on land at Holmston Farm, north-east of Holmston roundabout.

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company and has been operating from offices in Glasgow since 1993, employing around 120 local people. At the forefront of the renewables industry for 40 years, RES has delivered more than 22GW of renewable energy projects across the globe including the development, construction and asset management of Scotland's first utility-scale battery storage facility, the 20MW Broxburn Energy Storage facility in Broxburn, West Lothian.

Energy storage helps support National Grid by storing energy at times when generation exceeds demand and releasing electricity back to the national grid network when demand exceeds generation, 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 have submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to South Ayrshire Council. We are also 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. A copy of the PAN is enclosed.

The layout plan enclosed with the PAN shows the maximum planning application boundary. The boundary will be refined through detailed design work and the outcome of the detailed environmental studies and it is expected that the final planning application boundary will be significantly smaller.

RES is committed to engaging early with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate constructive consultation. Enclosed is a newsletter which will shortly be sent to local properties, regarding an online public exhibition being held on 21st June, in order to gather people's feedback on the proposal, which will be fed into the design process. An advert for the online exhibition will also be in the Ayrshire Post this week.



We would welcome the opportunity to arrange a video or telephone call with you, should you wish to discuss the project further or ask any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Jenna Folkard
Development Project Manager
E: jenna.folkard@res-group.com
M: +44 7823 340304

Appendix B - Exhibition Newsletter

HOLMSTON FARM ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

JUNE 2022



RES is currently consulting on plans for a proposed energy storage system, northeast of Holmston Roundabout in Ayr.

Environmental and technical surveys are due to begin shortly to ensure any potential impact upon the environment, landscape, heritage and local residents is appropriately managed and mitigated.

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive dialogue.

Have your say

We are holding an **Online Public Exhibition** on **Tuesday 21st June** to inform the local community about the project and gather comments on the proposal. Hard copies of materials will be available upon request.



The online event will be hosted on the Holmston Farm Energy Storage System project website at www.holmstonfarm-energystorage.co.uk. The online exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. The closing date for comments is **8th July 2022**. Comments forms will be available on the website from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via the website stated above. Hard copies can be sent by post to the address below.

RES will be offering individual telephone or video call appointments between **10am - 2pm** and **4pm - 8pm**, on the day, for anyone wishing to discuss the proposal further or ask specific questions. Appointments should be booked in advance.

To book an appointment or to submit comments on the proposal please contact Carolyn Kennedy at carolyn.kennedy@res-group.com, by calling **01414 045 500** or by writing to **RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ**.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at the Online Public Exhibition are not representations to the determining authority (South Ayrshire Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should a planning application be submitted.

What is an Energy Storage System?

Energy storage is crucial in enabling the rollout of zero carbon energy and supporting Scotland's ambitious target of reaching net zero by 2045.



Broxburn Energy Storage System © Keith Arkins

Renewable energy technologies are needed to replace electricity generation from fossil fuels, however, they 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 national grid network when demand exceeds generation.

Electricity is not physically generated on site.

RES in Scotland

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company and has been operating from offices in Glasgow since 1993, employing around 120 local people.

At the forefront of the renewables industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects across the globe including the development, construction and asset management of Scotland's first utility-scale battery storage facility, the 20MW Broxburn Energy Storage facility in Broxburn, West Lothian.



Jenna Folkard
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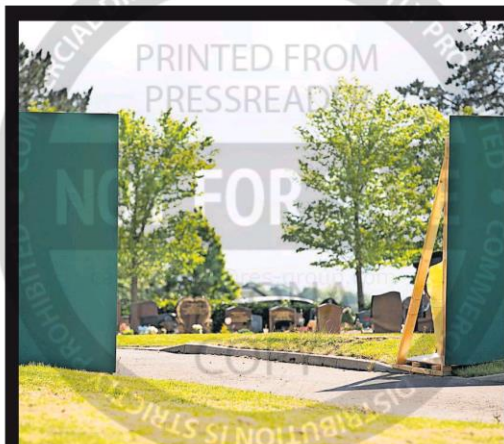


Carey Green
Community Liaison Officer
✉ carey.green@res-group.com
☎ 01872 226 931

RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please let us know.

Appendix C - Newspaper Advert for Online Exhibition



Sombre scene Protective screens are being erected ahead of exhumations

Work begins to screen graves

Work is underway to shield graves from public view at Ayr Cemetery.

The exhumation process will begin from Monday, led by world renowned expert Peter

Mitchell. Giant screens – painted green by council teams – are being put in place at the site of the Holmston Road Cemetery's extension.

A total of 126 graves are affected by water ingress, with families being offered the chance to have their loved ones removed from lairs and then reinterred.

Families' horror at crem meeting

RYANTHOM
Distraught Ayr cemetery families were told to meet with council chiefs inside a crematorium while funerals took place yards away. Furious relatives have blasted cemetery bosses over their choice of venue as they attended face-to-face appointments over the water ingress scandal. Stunned families have told how they were ushered into the family room at Masonhill Crematorium. The meetings were organised just days after

they were told that loved ones' bodies would have to be exhumed from what was supposed to be their final resting place.

The talks were arranged by under fire bosses to show a demonstration of how water logged graves could be resealed to prevent further leaks.

But families have told how they were instead sat in a room and shown a powerpoint presentation with pictures – whilst live live processions took place next door.

Suzann McKenzie, 32,

attended a meeting with bosses at the crematorium with Christine McGarrie, 38, for their loved one James McGarrie who is buried at the crisis-hit extension.

Christine told the Post: "I came out of the bathroom and there was a family just coming out after a funeral. There was a piper there and everything, it was unbelievable."

Suzann added: "We were taken into the family room at Masonhill Crematorium to see a slideshow of pictures of the empty chambers which are at the

cemetery already. "Why couldn't they have just brought us here (Ayr Cemetery) to show us."

"You felt like you were intruding on someone else's funeral – it was a horrible experience."

A spokesperson for South Ayrshire Council said: "Officers met with families and lair owners who requested further information on the process of works."

"We can confirm meetings took place in the Family Room at Masonhill Crematorium."

Holmston Farm Energy Storage System Online Public Exhibition



RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage project on land northeast of Holmston Roundabout, in Ayr.

We are holding an **Online Public Exhibition** on **Tuesday 21st June** to inform the local community about the project and gather comments on the proposal. Hard copies of materials will be available upon request.

The online event will be hosted on the Holmston Farm Energy Storage System project website at www.holmstonfarm-energystorage.co.uk. The online exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. **The closing date for comments is 8 July 2022.** Comments forms will be available on the website from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via the website stated above. Hard copies can be sent by post to the address below.



RES will be offering individual telephone or video call appointments between **10am - 2pm and 4pm - 8pm**, on the day, for anyone wishing to discuss the proposal further or ask specific questions. Appointments should be booked in advance.

To book an appointment, for further information or to submit comments on the proposal please contact Carolyn Kennedy at carolyn.kennedy@res-group.com, by calling **01414 045 500** or by writing to RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at the Online Public Exhibition are not representations to the determining authority (South Ayrshire Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should a planning application be submitted.

In line with current Government guidance, the Public Exhibition is being held online due to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

For more information on the project please visit our website at www.holmstonfarm-energystorage.co.uk

New leader pledges personal apologies

RYANTHOM

A bereavement specialist has been drafted in to help devastated Ayr Cemetery families.

The national charity is set to give expert support along with funeral directors.

They have vowed to meet with families in person in Ayr as well as offering telephone and online counselling.

New council leader Martin Dowey has also promised the Ayrshire Post that he will meet with heartbroken relatives on an individual basis to offer his support.

In a statement Cllr Dowey says resolving the water ingress crisis is a priority.

And the Conservative politician has vowed to discuss with families their needs regarding reburials. But families say that the apology is "too little, too late".

Cllr Dowey told the Post: "I will personally meet with any families who are not happy, and if should any of them feel the need to speak to someone."

A total of 126 graves were confirmed to be under water last month. Families were told the horrific news that loved ones will have to be exhumed as part of the



Pledge Cllr Dowey has tried to reassure families in Ayr and Troon.

painstaking work to remove water and reseat underground chambers after water issues were discovered.

Councillor Dowey added: "I have written to the families with loved ones affected by the water issues at Ayr Cemetery extension to apologise for the current situation."

"I can't begin to imagine what they are going through, and I wanted to let them know that resolving the problem is a priority."

Cllr Dowey says the council will do "whatever we can to accommodate their wishes," regarding

reburials. Families in Troon will also be written to after it was confirmed that 39 graves could be affected by the same "water issues".

Cllr Dowey insists that "lessons have been learned" after the Ayr crisis which led to families blasting council chiefs and threatening legal action.

He added: "We are in contact with families with loved ones in chambers at Troon Cemetery."

"I would like to reassure those families that lessons have been learned, and we are focusing on their needs, as we work to resolve any issues uncovered there too."

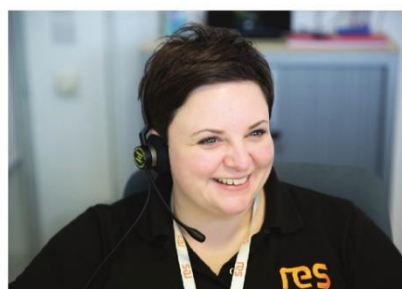
Appendix D - Exhibition Poster



RES is exploring the potential for an energy storage project on land northeast of Holmston Roundabout, in Ayr.

We are holding an **Online Public Exhibition on Tuesday 21st June** to inform the local community about the project and gather comments on the proposal. Hard copies of materials will be available upon request.

The online event will be hosted on the Holmston Farm project website at www.holmstonfarm-energystorage.co.uk. The online exhibition initiates a consultation period being run by RES to gather comments on the proposal. **The closing date for comments is 8 July 2022.** Comments forms will be available on the website from the day of the exhibition and can be submitted via the website stated above. Hard copies can be sent by post to the address below.



RES will be offering individual telephone or video call appointments between **10am - 2pm and 4pm - 8pm**, on the day, for anyone wishing to discuss the proposal further or ask specific questions. Appointments should be booked in advance.

To book an appointment, for further information or to submit comments on the proposal please contact Carolyn Kennedy at carolyn.kennedy@res-group.com, by calling **01414 045 500** or by writing to RES, Third Floor, STV, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ.

Please note that comments submitted to RES at the Online Public Exhibition are not representations to the determining authority (South Ayrshire Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should a planning application be submitted.

In line with current Government guidance, the Public Exhibition is being held online due to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Photo credit © Keith Arkins.

Appendix E - Online Exhibition Screenshots

HOLMSTON FARM ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

CONSULTATION

Holmston Farm Energy Storage System > CONSULTATION

This page is accessible on desktop and most mobile devices. For the best user experience, we recommend viewing from a desktop device. Information may not appear fully on some mobile devices. Hard copies are available by contacting 01414 045 500 or emailing carolyn.keene@res-group.com.

Online Public Exhibition

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders to facilitate construction consultation. This helps to identify issues and concerns, as well as benefits and opportunities, which we can then consider when developing a project.

As part of our community engagement on the proposed Holmston Farm Energy Storage System, we are holding an online exhibition to inform people about the project and gather feedback. The event was launched on Tuesday 21st June 2022 and the closing date for comments to RES on the proposal is Friday 8th July 2022.

We are offering individual telephone or video call appointments between 10am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm, on 21st June, for anyone wishing to view the proposal further or ask specific questions. To book an appointment, please contact Carolyn Keeneby at carolyn.keene@res-group.com or on 01414 045 500.

The video below provides an introduction to the online exhibition and consultation.



Further information is provided below, together with details on how to submit comments to RES on the proposal. Hard copies of the information below are available upon request - please contact us for more information.

About the Project

Located on land off Holmston Roundabout
 Located immediately west of Ayr Substation and approximately 2.5km west of the centre of Ayr
 Expected to cover a total area of 2 - 3 hectares
 The project would have a capacity of 49.9MW
 There are no nationally important heritage designations in the immediate vicinity
 The site lies outside of any international, national or local environmental designations



Click on image to enlarge

Design Layout and Infrastructure



Click on image to enlarge

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

Options for access to the site either to the north-west or to the south-east are currently being explored

The infrastructure would include:

- Battery enclosures
- Power Conversion Systems and Transformers
- Customer Substations
- Auxiliary Transformer
- Grid Compliance Equipment
- Security System
- Landscaping

Why Energy Storage?

Our energy system is in a transitional period

Aging 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

Electricity is not physically generated on site



Braxburn Energy Storage System, West Lothian © Keith Atkins

Environmental Considerations



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

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

The assessments to be carried out will include:

- Ecology
- Landscape
- Heritage & Archaeology
- Flood Risk & Surface Water Management
- Cumulative Impacts
- Noise & Vibration

Landscape and Visual

The project is not located within any designated landscape areas

Views from nearby properties will be limited by existing hedgerow and trees

Additional landscaping and tree planting will be proposed to reduce any potential visibility as well as creating a plentiful source of food and shelter for a range of fauna



Braxburn Energy Storage System, West Lothian © Keith Atkins

Commenting on the Proposal

Comments to RES on the proposal should be submitted in writing via a comments form. You can either fill in our online comments form, download a comments form here and return it to us by post or email or contact carolyn.kennedy@res-group.com to request a hard copy of the comments form which will be posted out to you.

The closing date for comments is **Friday 8th July 2022**. 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 the Online Public Exhibition are not representations to the determining authority (South Ayrshire Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority should a planning application be submitted.