

# WELCOME TO OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Field builds and operates large batteries which store energy to help create a greener, more stable electricity grid.

We'd like to build one of these batteries, Field Yaxley, on land at the former Eye Airfield, Eye, Suffolk.

Field Yaxley would be capable of storing up to 200 MW of electricity. This is expected to avoid up to 1.4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions during the first 20 years of operation.

This would be achieved by supplying the grid with electricity stored when renewable energy generation is high, therefore reducing reliance on high carbon energy sources when renewable generation is low.

Our first site was Field Oldham, a 20 MW / 20 MWh battery which has been operating since Autumn 2022. Field Yaxley would join Field Oldham, Field Gerrard's Cross (20 MW / 20 MWh) in Buckinghamshire and Field Newport (20 MW / 40 MWh) in South Wales as part of a nationwide network which, together, will help the UK reach net zero.

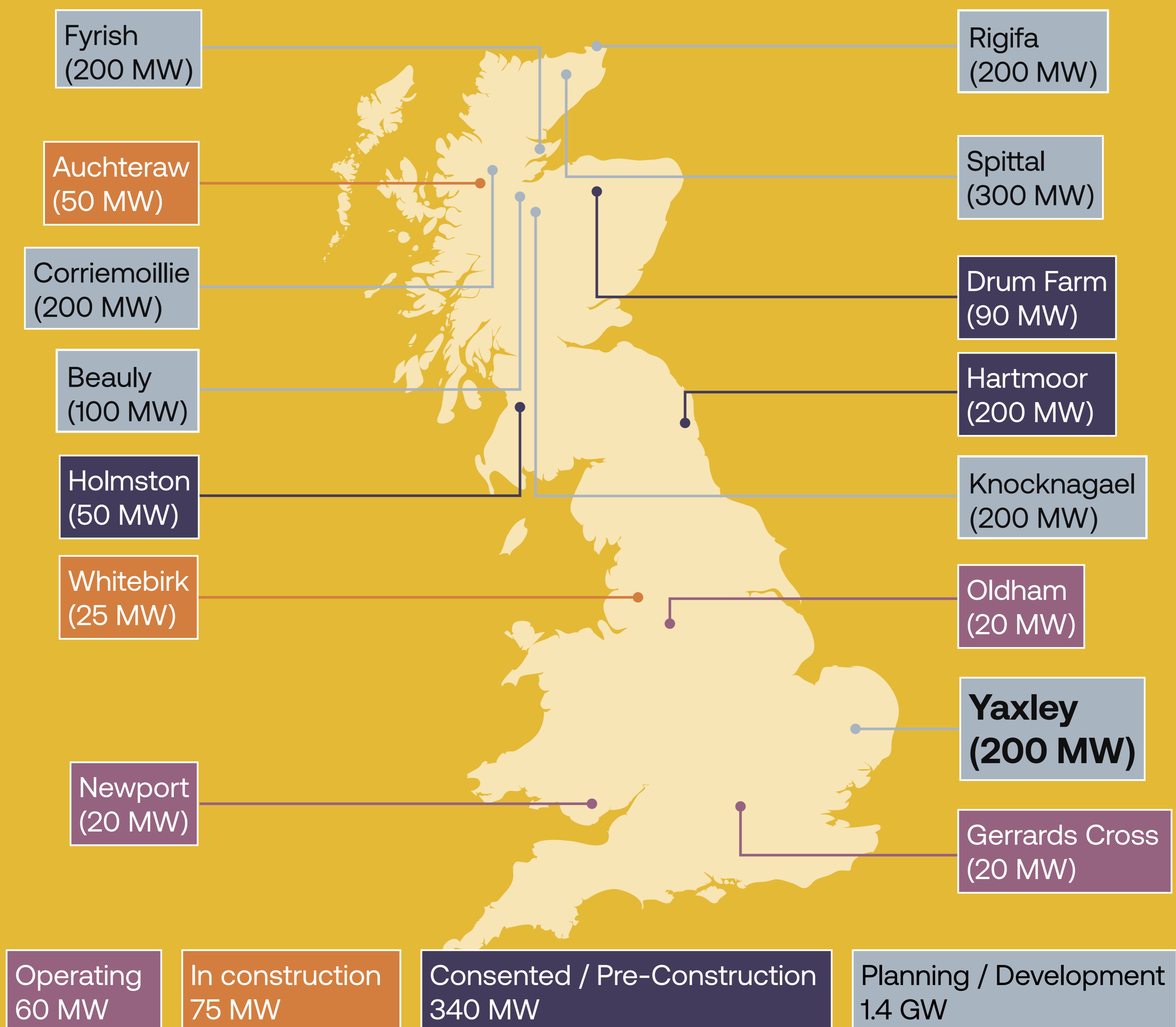


# WHO WE ARE

Field is a leading developer, owner and operator of grid-scale batteries across the UK and Europe. Field's aim is to develop battery projects that reduce climate change emissions, support the stable operation of the electricity grid, and bring down energy prices for consumers.

We're responsible for all stages of project development, from initial landowner engagement through to concept design, planning, construction and operation. We're committed to designing, building and operating projects that are environmentally sustainable and have as little impact as possible on the communities around them.

We value ongoing engagement with our communities to understand and respond to local perspectives and concerns and will work with local communities throughout every stage of the project. Field Yaxley would form part of Field's extensive portfolio of battery projects across the UK and Europe. In the UK, we have several projects at varying stages of development:



# OUR OTHER BATTERY SITES

Field's experienced team manages each battery storage project's full lifecycle. With projects going through every stage of development and operation, we apply learnings and best practices across our portfolio to ensure reliable, safe and sustainable facilities. A brief overview of three of these sites is included below:



## Field Auchteraw

50 MW, near Fort Augustus  
*In construction*

Field Auchteraw will be capable of producing up to 50 MW of electricity once operational. Located near Fort Augustus, Field is continuing to work closely with The Highland Council, with the project expected to start operating in late 2024.

The project demonstrates Field's expertise in developing battery storage on greenfield sites while prioritising landscaping and biodiversity measures to complement the surrounding environment. We've worked closely with the local community to manage traffic impacts.



## Field Newport

20 MW, South Wales  
*Operational*

Field Newport started operating in October 2024 and can produce up to 20 MW of electricity. The site is located on an industrial area in south Wales.



## Field Oldham

20 MW, near Manchester  
*Operational*

Field Oldham started operating in 2022 and can produce up to 20 MW of electricity. The site is located in a warehouse in the Greater Manchester region.



## Field Gerrards Cross

20 MW, Buckinghamshire  
*Operational*

Field Gerrards Cross started operating in April 2024 and can produce up to 20 MW of electricity. The site is located alongside an operative water treatment plant.

With automated systems, industry-leading safety protocols, and 24/7 remote monitoring in place, Field Gerrards Cross and Field Oldham highlight our commitment to safe, responsible operations.

# WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Our batteries will provide huge benefits to the UK, and we take great care to make sure this is not to the detriment of the communities that host them.

As a responsible developer and operator, listening to local communities matters to us, as it allows us to understand and respond to local issues, and ultimately build better battery sites.

We engage early with communities throughout the development process, oversee the construction on-site and we're responsible for the project once it's in operation. We're part of communities for the long-term.

We're currently working with the National Schools Partnership\* to deliver a community-based programme in local schools to help educate students about the work that Field is undertaking in renewable energy and energy storage, as well as encouraging and equipping young people to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and renewable energy. The Field team will work with local schools to provide information to students about how to build a career in the renewable energy sector.

If you have an idea for a sustainable community-based scheme or project, then please share your idea with us on this board.

# WHY DO WE NEED BIG BATTERIES?

The Government has made a legal commitment to cut carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 which will require a rapid and expanded deployment of low carbon power, including solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems ('BESS').

Energy storage is a crucial technology. Recent concerns over the National Grid's capacity have emphasised the importance of battery storage for the UK, particularly as a means to ensure our energy independence.

This focus aligns with the broader goals outlined in the "British Energy Security Strategy" published in April 2022, which seeks to transition the UK away from fossil fuels towards clean energy.

Our batteries are designed to fill gaps in the UK's electricity supply by charging up when renewable energy is being produced (such as on windy or sunny days) and discharging energy back into the grid when needed (e.g. when the wind isn't blowing, the sun isn't shining, or we aren't able to import enough energy from elsewhere). This ensures plenty of energy is available for people to make their morning cuppa, even on a calm, overcast winter's day.

These batteries work a lot like the batteries you use at home, only instead of using our batteries to power a torch or TV remote, we operate large, 'grid scale' batteries.

This means we can rely more on renewable energy and less on expensive fossil fuels to provide electricity to thousands of homes and businesses.

Batteries are also very good at keeping the grid stable, by maintaining a constant and predictable supply of electricity to the grid, at the right frequency.

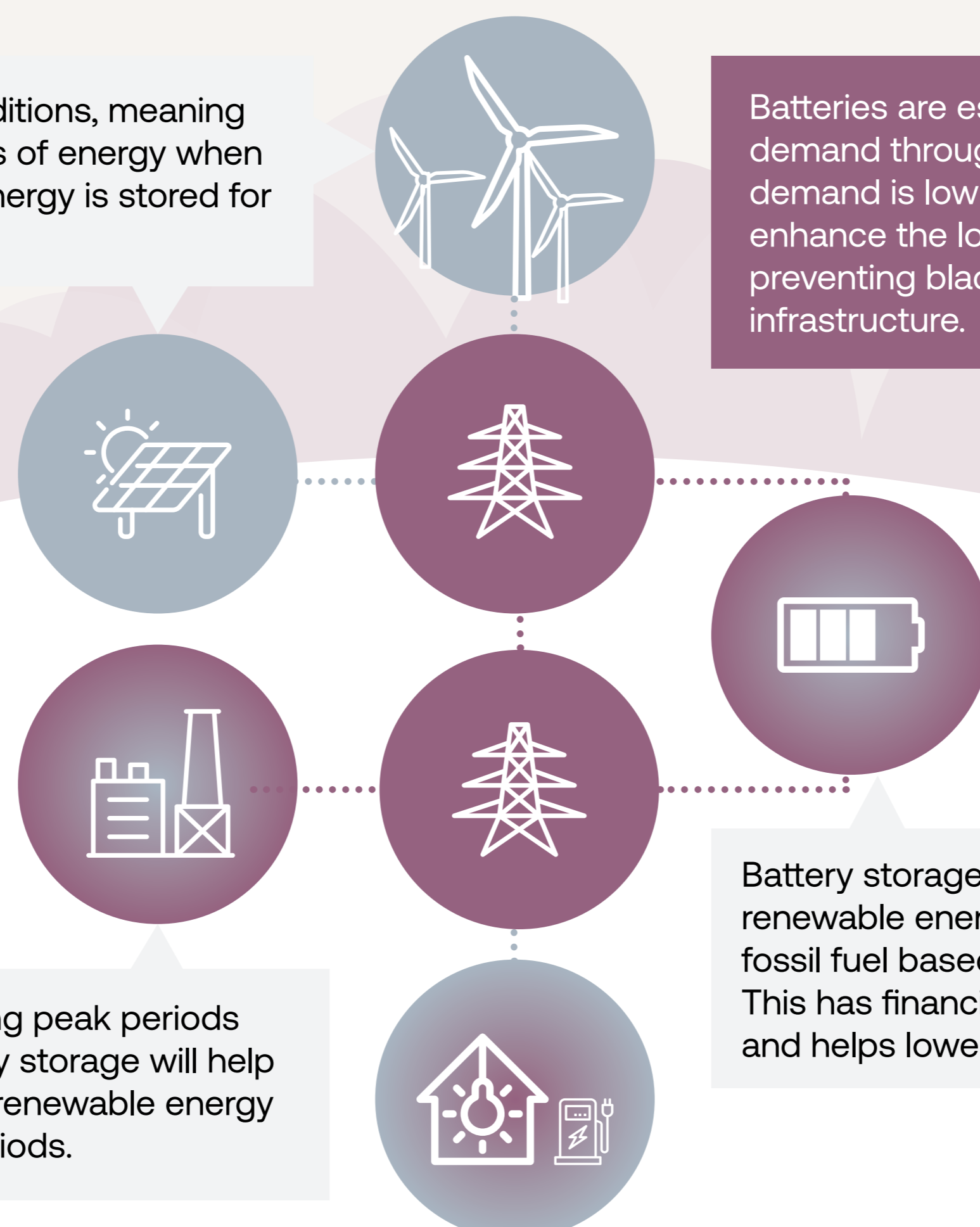
Changes in the supply and demand of electricity on the network create changes in this electrical frequency. This needs to be closely monitored, as if frequency is too high or too low, the network cannot operate properly. Field Yaxley will help to keep this frequency at the right level, which in turn helps reduce the chances of network disruptions or blackouts.

Wind and solar energy rely on weather conditions, meaning they can often generate significant amounts of energy when demand is low. It is important this excess energy is stored for times when demand is greater than supply.

Batteries are essential for managing energy supply and demand throughout the day. They store extra energy when demand is low and release it when demand is high. They enhance the local power grid's stability during emergencies, preventing blackouts and reducing stress on the power infrastructure.

We currently turn on gas power plants during peak periods such as between 7-9am and 6-8pm. Battery storage will help reduce our reliance on gas power, as more renewable energy can be stored up in anticipation of peak periods.

Battery storage allows us to maximise the potential of renewable energy sources and reduce our dependence on fossil fuel based energy when energy demand is highest. This has financial benefits, such as reducing energy costs, and helps lower greenhouse gas emissions.



# STORING ENERGY IN SUFFOLK

Mid Suffolk has set a target to become net zero by 2030. Batteries enable much greater use of renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping the United Kingdom reach net zero.

Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why we believe that they can play a part in Babergh & Mid Suffolk's Carbon Reduction Management Plan. The plan, published in 2023, emphasised that:

*“Collective commitment to tackle climate change can't be achieved alone. Partnerships between businesses, communities and organisations across Babergh & Mid Suffolk will provide a stronger voice on a local, regional, and national level, this will enable a successful transition to net zero”*



<https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/free-net-zero-advice-for-suffolk-businesses-and-organisations>

# FIELD YAXLEY

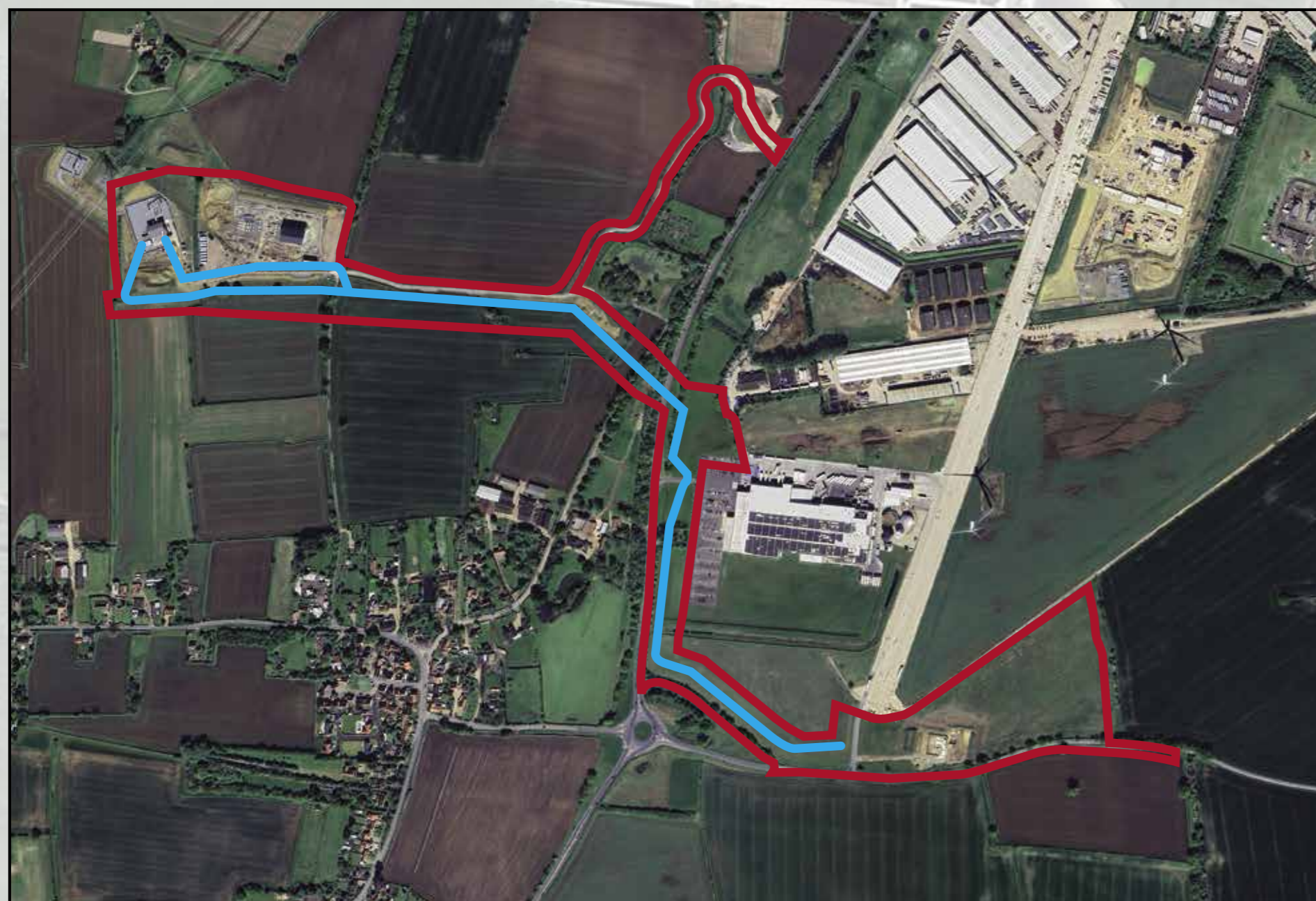
The Site comprises agricultural land and has a total area of circa 24.4 hectares. For our battery projects we require a nearby grid connection, a well-screened site that is consistent with planning policy and a supportive landowner. Field Yaxley offers all of these features.

The BESS site would be accessed by the highway via the existing junction off Castleton way; a new access will be created off Potash Lane.

The BESS is expected to have a period of operation of up to 40 years, after which it will be decommissioned and the site will be fully restored.

Components of the BESS development include:

- An indicative underground cable connection to connect the battery to Yaxley substation (see cable corridor below).
- Site access tracks to allow vehicles to safely get around the site.
- Drainage arrangements to allow surface water to drain from the site at the same rate as the existing fields.
- Site security, including CCTV, fencing and lighting.
- Landscaping to provide visual screening of the site and contribute to biodiversity enhancement.



# FIRE SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Safety is our top priority. We take a comprehensive approach to fire risk management through careful design, operating procedures, and emergency planning.

## Battery Design and Safety Systems

- Batteries must be compliant with all relevant fire codes and safety standards, and we'll only use batteries with the highest fire safety ratings and performance.
- Battery containers are fitted with early fault and fire detection technology, internal fire suppression systems, and reinforced casing to ensure fires do not spread to other units.
- Appropriate separation distances are provided between battery strings, access roads, and surrounding properties to ensure firebreaks are in place.

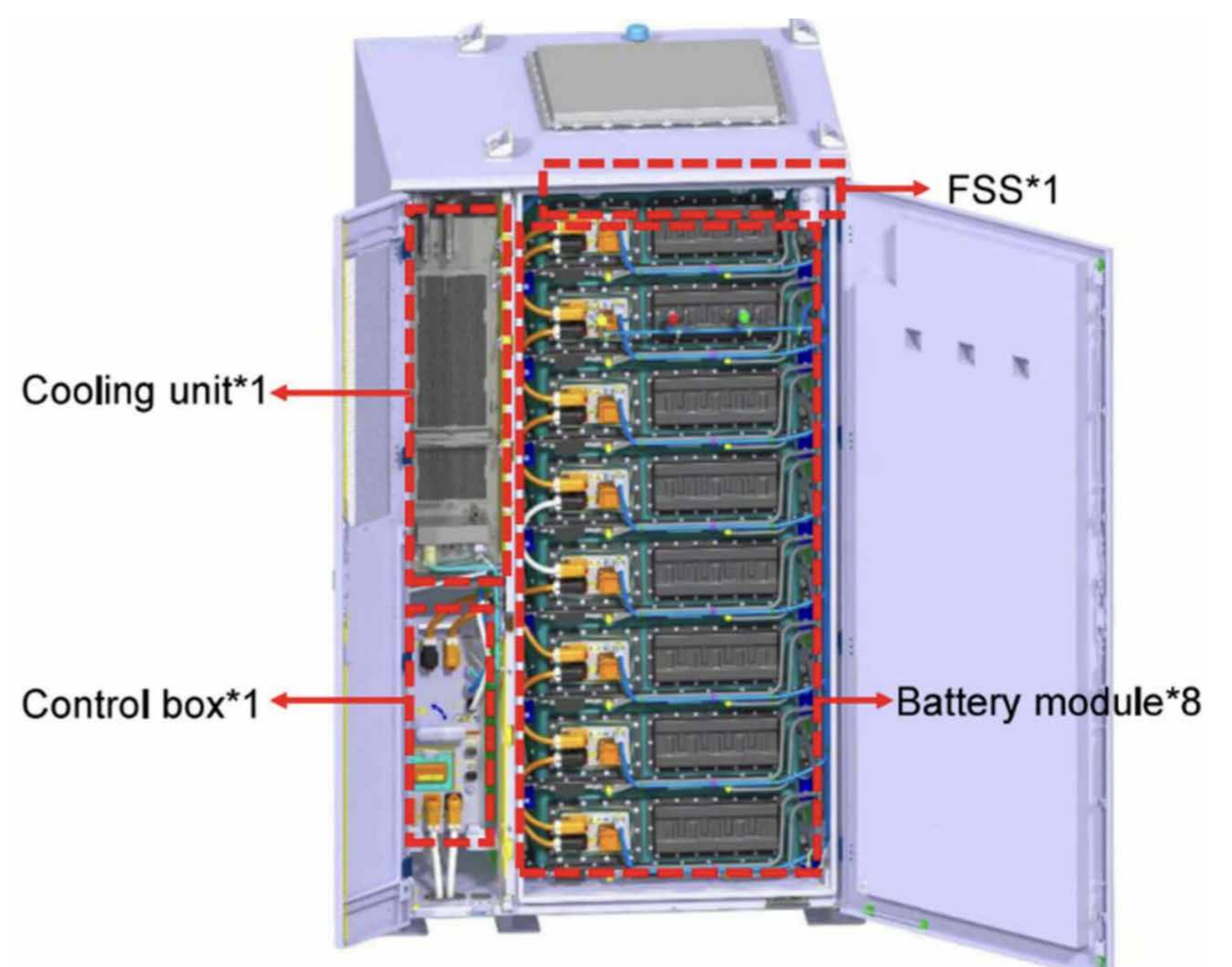
## Emergency Planning and Response

- A detailed Battery Fire Safety Management Plan is being developed, which will be agreed with relevant authorities before the project starts operating. This identifies potential hazards and associated safety mechanisms for the long-term operation of the Project.
- Field is continuing to engage with the National Fire Chiefs Council and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service across our portfolio of projects, including regular on-site consultations and site familiarisation visits. An Emergency Response Plan will be prepared in consultation with the Fire and Rescue Service for use in the unlikely event that there is an emergency on site.

## Construction & Operation Oversight

- 24-hour surveillance and fault detection systems will ensure any faults are identified, isolated and responded to as quickly as possible, including de-energisation when necessary.
- Field will undertake routine site inspections, maintenance and testing throughout the life of the project.

Field is committed to implementing industry best practices and working closely with fire authorities to ensure the safety of our facilities, our staff, and local communities. We welcome any further inputs as we finalise the fire safety approach for Field Yaxley.





# WHAT OUR BATTERIES WILL LOOK LIKE

Our battery units will be housed in secure cabinets, similar to those shown in the images below, which were taken at our Field Newport site. These allow for a modular design where individual battery racks can be easily accessed during routine inspections and maintenance.

Field Yaxley will comprise multiple battery cabinets arranged in rows, known as 'strings'.

To reduce the visual impacts of the proposal, new native landscaping will be incorporated to help screen views of the site.

The below image shows what the proposed battery storage units look like. While the infrastructure may be visible from select viewpoints, our design aims to minimise impacts on the local landscape as much as possible.



*An image taken at Field Newport (April 2024)*

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What makes Field a committed and responsible developer for the long term?**

Field is a developer/owner/operator, which means we are responsible for the project throughout its entire lifecycle. This differentiates us from many developers who look to take the project to shovel-ready status - that's securing land, a grid connection and planning permission, and then sell the project on.

We work with a select number of planning and environmental consultants, including specialists in archaeology, landscape, and ecology. We're a UK founded and UK backed business who cares about each project we develop and the communities we work with.

## **When will Field Yaxley be built?**

We will be submitting our planning application to Mid Suffolk Council in early 2025. If we are granted consent, we would look to start construction in 2028 and it will take about two years to complete.

## **Will the project impact local traffic?**

Once operational, the battery will have minimal impact on local traffic, with only occasional visits required for maintenance. When the battery is being built, construction traffic is managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan. This will include details of construction traffic numbers, vehicle routing and working hours.

## **Are battery energy storage sites noisy?**

The main noise associated with batteries are the cooling fans, which keep the batteries from overheating. This noise level is low and the batteries are not expected to be audible beyond the site boundary. Noise is measured against existing background noise levels and noise levels are required to meet the relevant British Standards and World Health Organisation Noise Guidelines.

We conduct thorough noise evaluations for each site and implement various noise mitigation measures in our project plans. These measures, such as acoustic fencing and bunding, ensure that noise impacts are acceptable at nearby sensitive locations.

## **Are the batteries safe and what safety measures will you put in place?**

Large batteries are safe facilities. We work hard throughout site design, construction and into operation to ensure the safety of our sites. We would only use batteries that have best-in-class fire safety performance and will be compliant with all relevant fire safety standards.

The batteries will be constantly monitored and in the unlikely event that a fire does occur, the facility will employ automatic fire detection and suppression systems.

We are also working with the local Fire and Rescue Service to ensure suitable emergency response procedures are in place, including developing a Battery Fire Safety Management Plan.

To keep our sites secure, all our projects include perimeter fencing and gated access. During operation, our sites are unmanned and CCTV is used to monitor activities.

# NEXT STEPS

↓  
*Mid 2024*

Early environmental assessments and design work underway

↓  
*Thursday 5th December 2024*

Public consultation event

↓  
*Early 2025*

Submission of planning application

↓  
*Mid 2025*

Determination of planning application

↓  
*2028 onwards*

Construction and operation

Thank you attending our public consultation today. We welcome feedback from members of the community on our proposals at this event or via our dedicated website where you can get further information and keep in contact with us. Feedback forms are available at this event for you to fill out. Alternatively, you can take a feedback form away and return it via freepost (Freepost is Alpaca Communications Ltd).



Please visit [www.fieldyaxley.co.uk](http://www.fieldyaxley.co.uk) where we will provide updates on this consultation and the project. You can also email the project team at [feedback@fieldyaxley.co.uk](mailto:feedback@fieldyaxley.co.uk).

Feedback and comments are invited by  
**Thursday 19th December 2024.**