ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT



An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening request has been submitted to the Highland Council. The decision is expected shortly and will determine whether an EIA is required for this application.

Asessments to support the planning application have been commissioned for the Limekiln BESS Proposed Development. This extensive study will form part of the formal planning application to be made to The Scottish Government.

The assessment and reporting process will include:

- Consultation with the local planning authority, key stakeholders and the public to identify specific concerns and issues;
- Determining the existing conditions at and around the Proposed Development by reviewing the available data and undertaking specialist field surveys;
- Assessing the potential impacts on the existing environment; and
- Mitigation proposals to alleviate any significant impacts identified.

The on-going assessments will provide data on the following:

- Landscape and visual impact;
- Carbon rich soils and priority peatland habitats;
- Ecology;
- Ornithology;
- Hydrology;
- Noise;
- Traffic and Transport;
- Archaeology/Cultural Heritage;
- Forestry

Other desk-based assessments will include appraising the impacts of the proposed development on health and safety, fire risk and mitigation, and socio-economics.

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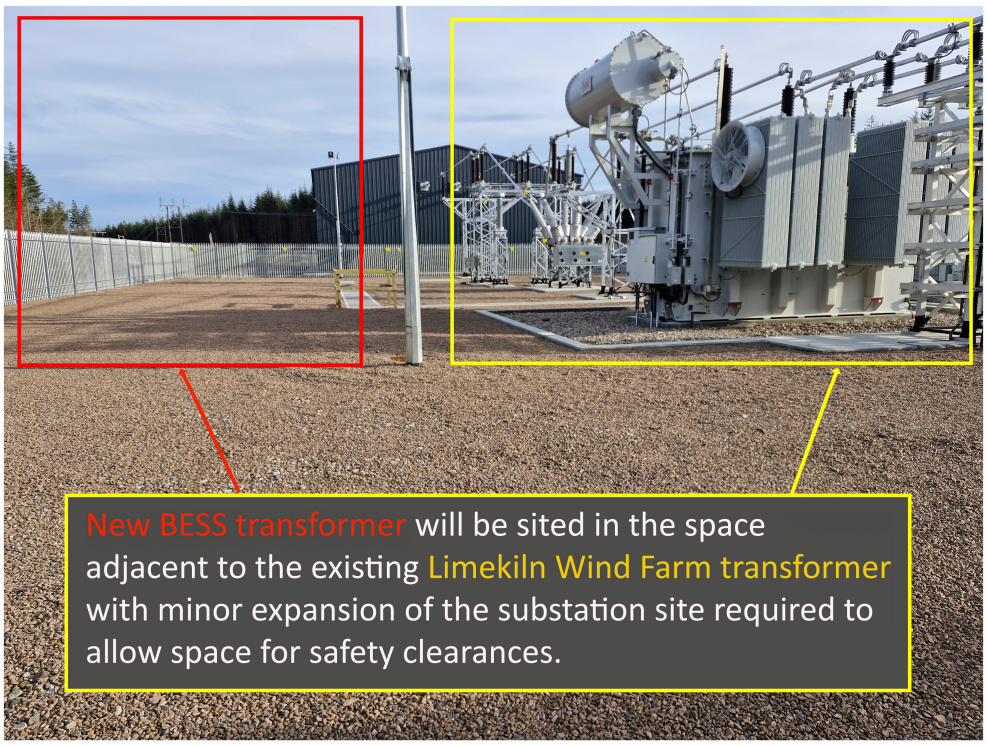
GRID AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Infrastructure

It is anticipated that the BESS compound area will be approximately 1.5 hectares, and the Substation extension will be approximately 0.5 hectares to accommodate another transformer for the BESS project.

The main part of the facility is likely to consist of up to 90 battery storage units housed in containers, installed in rows. Each container will be approximately 6 m long, 2.4 m wide and 2.9 m high and likely to be dark green in colour. There will be Power Conversion Systems (PCS) and transformers serving each set of two containers. Fire detection and suppression systems and water storage tanks will also be installed within the facility.

The BESS will connect into the substation extension via an underground cable. There is spare capacity on the existing overhead line to Limekiln Windfarm that the windfarm does not use. The BESS project is designed to utilise this spare capacity, thus ensuring that there are no infrastructure works required from SSEN to connect the BESS project.

Construction and Site Access

The potential effects of construction traffic will be assessed throughout the design and Environmental Report process in consultation with The Highland Council (THC) and Transport Scotland. Impacts will be minimised as much as possible. Further details around the planned route to site and expected traffic movements will be provided in the planning application.

It is anticipated that the route to Site will be the same used for Limekiln Wind Farm, whereby any Abnormal Load Vehicles will arrive by sea, exit the port of Scrabster and head west on the A836 to the Limekiln Wind Farm entrance. Any other materials and components will be imported by road, and it is anticipated that the majority of these will approach from the south via the A9 and A836.

Access into the Site will be taken from the A836 and use the existing wind farm tracks meaning no new tracks will be required for the Proposed Development, minimising impact to undisturbed land.

Should Limekiln BESS be consented, construction would not be expected to commence until approximately Summer 2027.

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NEXT STEPS



We hope to submit the planning application for the Proposed Development to The Scottish Government in the summer of 2025.

An Environmental Report including all the results from the surveys will be submitted with the planning application. All the submitted documents will be uploaded to the project specific page on our website: www.limekilnwindfarm.co.uk

If you would like to receive a CD/USB stick containing all the planning application documents or a hard copy of the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) (a summary of the Environmental Report), please request this in the 'Voice your opinion' comment form available at the reception desk. The CDs/USB sticks and the NTS are provided free of charge for as long as stock last.

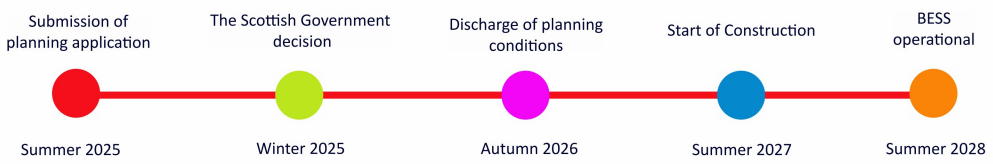
Once the planning application submitted, professional bodies in the fields of ecology, noise, landscape, cultural heritage, transport etc. will be formally consulted.

In assessing the Proposed Development, the Scottish Government will not only consider the application material, but also the views of local residents and a range of consultees, including:

- The Highland Council
- Caithness West Community Council
- NatureScot
- SEPA
- The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- RSPB
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Transport Scotland

The timeline shown below gives a likely indication of the timescale should the proposal be deemed acceptable (subject to change depending on the planning process).

Indicative Timeline



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