



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

AFON WYSG BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM
LAND AT USKMOUTH POWER STATION, NASH, NEWPORT
P36-SCR JANUARY 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report has been prepared to accompany a request to Newport City Council to adopt a Screening Opinion under Regulation 6(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations')¹, as to whether the proposed development of a 120 megawatt (MW) Afon Wysg Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on land at Uskmouth Power Station, Nash, Newport ('the Site') constitutes EIA development.

1.2 The BESS will be connected to the existing National Grid 132kV substation via underground cables. The final route of the underground cable has not been confirmed at this stage.

1.3 In accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, and in accordance with Regulation 6(2) this report contains:

'(a) a plan sufficient to identify the land;

(b) a description of the development, including in particular—

(i) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and, where relevant, of demolition works;

(ii) a description of the location of the development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected;

(c) a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development;

(d) a description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on those effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from—

(i) the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant; and

(ii) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity;

(e) such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make including any features of the proposed development or any measures

¹ 2017 No. 567 (w. 136)

envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment.'

- 1.4 The development site and the site context is described in Section 2 of this report. A site location plan is included at **Appendix 1**. A description of the Proposed Development is provided in Section 3. A Screening Assessment is provided in Section 4, with conclusions presented in Section 5.

2. SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

The Site

- 2.2 Uskmouth Power Station site is located on the eastern bank of the River Usk (Figure 1) approximately four kilometres south of Newport city centre. It comprises an existing Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant on the site of the former Uskmouth A Power Station (which was demolished in 2002) and Uskmouth B Power Station, which is currently being dismantled.



Figure 1 - Uskmouth Power Station (Source: Google Earth (Dec 2022))

- 2.3 The BESS Site, including access from the public highway and cable corridor to the point of connection (see Appendix 1) is approximately 9.84 hectares (ha) of brownfield land. It is currently occupied by the cooling towers and infrastructure associated with Uskmouth B Power Station. The grid reference for the cooling towers are ST 32988 84012 (north) and ST 33046 83967 (south).

Site Context

- 2.4 The BESS Site is in the north-eastern area of the industrialised Uskmouth Power Station Site. The immediate context comprises hardstanding, amenity grassland, tree planting and internal access roads, with the Uskmouth B main power station buildings located to the west. Perimeter fencing is located on the northern and eastern boundaries of the Site.

- 2.5 The Newport Uskmouth Sailing Club and Liberty Steelworks are located to the north; an area of woodland ('Julian's Gout Land') and Nash Wastewater Treatment Works are located to the east; RSPB Newport Wetlands reserve is located to the south; the River Usk estuary and Alexandra Docks are located to the west. The village of Nash is located approximately 1 km to the east of the Site.
- 2.6 Access to the Site is achieved via West Nash Road, leading to Nash Road and Meadows Road towards Newport with the M4 corridor beyond.

Site Environmental Considerations

Flood Risk

- 2.7 There are no drainage ditches, streams (reens), ponds or other water features within the Site. According to the Natural Resource Wales (NRW) online maps, the Site is located within Flood Zone 3 and at a low risk of flooding from the sea.
- 2.8 There are some small areas of surface water flood risk within the Site associated with areas of hardstanding.

Ecology

- 2.9 The Site comprises previously developed, brownfield land within an industrialised site. It is covered by amenity grassland which has low ecological value, and is interspersed by hardstanding, bare ground, regenerated grassland, access roads, the redundant cooling towers and associated infrastructure. There are no designated ecological sites or features within the Site.
- 2.10 The broadleaved woodland block located to the immediate east of the Site, known as Julian's Gout Land, is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) designated for its '*semi-improved neutral grasslands, with willow car and large populations of marsh helleborine (Epipactis palustris), marsh orchids (Dactylorhiza spp.) and narrow leaved bird's-foot-trefoil (Lotus glaber)*' (SINC ref no. LIS2).
- 2.11 The Severn Estuary is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Designated in 2009, it is considered to support a significant number of habitat types and species including sandbanks, mudflats, Atlantic salt meadows suitable for migratory birds and fish. The Severn Estuary is also a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a designated Ramsar site for its wetland habitats suitable for wading birds and maritime habitats.

2.12 There are five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that are relevant to the Site. These are:

- Gwent Levels – Nash and Goldcliff SSSI;
- Gwent Levels – St Brides SSSI;
- Gwlyptiroedd Casnewydd / Newport Wetlands SSSI;
- River Usk SSSI; and,
- Severn Estuary SSSI

2.13 Ecology Surveys completed in 2019/2020 for the ‘Uskmouth Conversion Project’ identified that habitats to the east of the Site were assumed to have some potential for foraging otters and water voles (although no evidence of either species was found during surveys). Badger setts have previously been identified in the wider area.

Heritage

2.14 There are no designated historic assets within the Site. The nearest listed building is the Church of St Mary (Grade I) at Nash, located approximately 1 km to the east of the Site. The Former West Usk Lighthouse (Grade II) is located approximately 1.75 km to the south-west of the Site.

2.15 The Uskmouth Power Station is located within the Gwent (Caldicot) Levels Archaeologically Sensitive Area, but outside of the Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. The Site is adjacent to the Nash/Goldcliff coastal zone (*Ardal Arfordirol yr As Fach/Allteyrn*).

2.16 The Site is located on former tidal mudflats that have been drained and reclaimed from the Roman period onwards. Artefacts of Roman date have been recovered from features and deposits at locations around the Uskmouth Power Station site. In the medieval period the area was drained again and recolonised with small infield enclosures and potentially canalisation or natural channels.

2.17 There are no World Heritage Sites within 5 km of the Site. The Nearest Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) is the Goldcliff Moated House located approximately 3 km to the east of the Site, designated because of its potential to enhance knowledge of medieval settlement. Castell Glas Castle Mound is located approximately 3.1 km to the north-west of the Site.

Landscape

- 2.18 The Site is located within National Landscape Character Area 34 The Gwent Levels (NLCA). This landscape is describes as being a *‘distinctive, flat, lowland landscape with a geometric patchwork of watercourses that run between fertile fields’* and that *‘in parts, the older patterns have changed almost beyond recognition over the past 150 years, sections having been built over by a major railway line, two motorways, a large steelworks, and a power station’*; the later referring to Uskmouth Power Station and its immediate surrounds.
- 2.19 The landscape to the east of the Site is designated as the Gwent Levels registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Interest. The Uskmouth Power Station site is not located within this landscape area.
- 2.20 The Site is located within the footprint of Uskmouth Power Station. Views of the Site are set within an industrial landscape of the large power station buildings (approx. 46m in height) with stack (approx. 130m in height), the CCGT cooling towers and electricity pylons. Within the broader setting, the Liberty Steel Newport steelworks and Alexandra Docks add to the industrial character of the River Usk estuary.
- 2.21 The BESS compound would be much lower in height than the existing buildings within the Uskmouth Power Station site. The final layout of the BESS compound is subject to detailed design.

Other matters

- 2.22 There are no Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the Site. The Wales Coast Path, running through the Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve is located approximately 250 m to the south of the Site with the closest point being adjacent to the Uskmouth Power Station gatehouse.
- 2.23 The Site comprises brownfield land; there would be no loss of agricultural land. The Site is located within the ‘Urban Boundary’ of Newport (NCC Policy SP5) and within the ‘Developed Coastal Zone’ (NCC Policy CE9) which seek to focus development on urban or brownfield land.
- 2.24 The Site is not within or near any existing or proposed Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) or the NCC Air Quality Planning Buffer zone.
- 2.25 The Coal Authority’s Interactive Map confirms the Site does not fall within a Coal Mining Reporting Area, a Development High Risk Area, or a Surface Coal Resource Area.

3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 The proposal is for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a 120MW Battery Energy Storage System for distribution of electricity to the National Grid. The Proposed Development would operate for a time limited period of 40 years. The main components of the Proposed Development comprise:

- Battery storage facility comprising batteries housed within shipping containers or similar;
- Inverter/transformer stations and associated electrical infrastructure distributed evenly across the site housed within metal containers;
- Underground cabling to connect the battery containers and inverters/transformer stations to the proposed on-site substation and control room;
- Underground cabling from the BESS Site to the point of connection at National Grid 132 kV Substation;
- Security fencing and monitoring CCTV/infra-red cameras mounted along the perimeter of the BESS Site;
- Landscape planting, biodiversity enhancements and surface water attenuation measures (to be designed as part of the evolving design); and
- Temporary construction laydown area and site access from the public highway.

3.2 A draft layout of the BESS is attached at **Appendix 2**. The final layout would be subject to detailed design.

3.3 The connection to the grid will be made to the National Grid 132 kV Substation, located approximately 350m west of the BESS compound. The cable would run below ground from the boundary of the Site directly to the point of connection.

3.4 While the Site extends to 9.84 ha, the BESS compound occupies approximately 3.2 hectares.

Construction

3.5 The construction of the proposal would take place over 12 months.

- 3.6 The cooling towers that currently occupy the Site would be demolished as part of this project. Prior Approval would be sought from NCC prior to their demolition, if necessary.
- 3.7 The construction would include all electrical works and engineering works for the Proposed Development.
- 3.8 A Transport Assessment will be prepared and submitted with the planning application and be implemented during the construction phase. The aim of the Transport Assessment is to set out traffic management measures that would be adopted during the construction phase to reduce the effect of the construction phase on the highway network. It will contain all the required information for the construction phase, as well as package of agreed mitigation measures.

Operation and Decommissioning

- 3.9 Once operational there would be limited vehicle visits each month comprising a transit style van or similar.
- 3.10 Detailed landscape proposals would be prepared and submitted with the planning application. These proposals will set out how the land would be managed throughout the operational phase of the development. It is anticipated that it would be managed in such a way as to deliver biodiversity net gains.
- 3.11 After a 40-year period the proposal would be decommissioned with all electricity generating equipment and built structures associated with the development removed from the Site.

4. SCREENING ASSESSMENT

4.1 To determine whether the Proposed Development constitutes EIA Development, consideration must be given to the following matters:

- a) *Is the Proposed Development 'Schedule 1' development?*
- b) *If it is not Schedule 1 development, is the Proposed Development 'Schedule 2' development?*
- c) *Is the Site located within a 'Sensitive Area'?*
- d) *Does the development meet any of the relevant thresholds or criteria set out in 'Schedule 2' and/or is it considered that the Proposed Development would lead to likely significant effects on the environment?*

Schedule 1 Development

4.2 Schedule 1 developments are large scale projects for which significant effects would be expected. These include, *inter alia*, major transport infrastructure, thermal power stations, chemical and waste management handling facilities. When assessed against the Schedule 1 criteria, the Proposed Development is not of a type listed in Schedule 1.

Schedule 2 Development

4.3 Schedule 2 provides a table setting out the descriptions of development and applicable thresholds and criteria for the purpose of classifying development as Schedule 2 development. Category 3 'Energy Industry' sets out at subheading (a) 'Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water' with the relevant threshold being 'the area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectare'.

4.4 If development is of a type listed in Schedule 2 and it is located within a 'Sensitive Area'² then it may be classified as EIA development. In this case, the Site is not located within a 'Sensitive Area'.

4.5 The site is 8.8 ha and therefore exceeds the 0.5 ha area threshold. As a result, a Screening Assessment is provided within this report to determine whether the Proposed Development

² "sensitive area" ("ardal sensitif") as defined in Part 1, Regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations.

would be likely to result in significant environmental effects. The criteria for a Screening Assessment are set out within Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations.

Schedule 3

4.6 The selection criteria for screening Schedule 2 development are set out below:

'Characteristics of development

1. *The characteristics of development must be considered having regard, in particular, to—*
 - (a) the size and design of the development;*
 - (b) the cumulation with other existing development and/or approved development;*
 - (c) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;*
 - (d) the production of waste;*
 - (e) pollution and nuisances;*
 - (f) the risk of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge;*
 - (g) the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).*

Location of development

2. *The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development must be considered, having regard, in particular, to—*
 - (a) the existing and approved land use;*
 - (b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;*
 - (c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas—*
 - (i) wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;*
 - (ii) coastal zones and the marine environment;*
 - (iii) mountain and forest areas;*
 - (iv) nature reserves and parks;*
 - (v) European sites and other areas classified or protected under national legislation;*
 - (vi) areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in [F1retained EU law] and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered there is such a failure;*
 - (vii) densely populated areas;*
 - (viii) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.*

Types and characteristics of the potential impact

3. *The likely significant effects of the development on the environment must be considered in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2, with regard to the impact of the development on the factors specified in regulation 4(2), taking into account—*

(a) the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);

(b) the nature of the impact;

(c) the transboundary nature of the impact;

(d) the intensity and complexity of the impact;

(e) the probability of the impact;

(f) the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;

(g) the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved development;

(h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.'

Context Baseline

4.7 The table below identifies the relevant context baseline for the site, identifying nearby landscape designations, ecological features and heritage features.

Database No.	Name	Distance (km)
Scheduled Monuments		
MM092	Goldcliff Moated House Site	3.00 km
MM190	Castell Glas Castle Mound	3.10 km
MM353	Goldcliff Pill Anti-Invasion Defences	3.40 km
MM313	St. Mary Magdalene's Churchyard Cross, Goldcliff	3.40 km
Conservation Areas		
15 (LPA CE7)	Waterloo Conservation Area	2.50 km
2 (LPA CE7)	Tredegar House/Park Conservation Area	4.00 km
Listed Buildings		
2936	Church of St Mary	1.00 km
17544	Fair Orchard	1.50 km
17545	Fair Orchard Barn and attached agricultural buildings	1.50 km
17542	Pye Corner Farm	1.70 km
3081	Former West Usk Lighthouse	1.75 km
3076; 17414; 17415	Transporter Bridge including E and W anchor chambers	2.45 km
17543	Tatton Farm	2.60 km
National Monuments Record of Wales – Maritime Heritage Assets		
NPRN 515180	Moderator	0.30 km
NPRN 525018	Conseil Pere	0.55 km
Registered Historic Landscape		
HLW (Gt) 2	Gwent Levels	0.50 km
Special Landscape Area		
4170	Caldicot Levels	0.10 km
659	River Usk	0.10 km
2968	Wentlooge Levels	1.20 km
Sites of Special Scientific Interest		
1425	River Usk (Lower Usk) / Afon Wysg (Wysg Isaf)	0.10 km
3123	Newport Wetlands / Gwlyptiroedd Casnewedd	0.30 km
461	Severn Estuary	0.60 km

Database No.	Name	Distance (km)
649	Gwent Levels – Nash and Goldcliff	0.70 km
341	Gwent Levels – St Brides	1.30 km
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation		
LIS2	Julian's Gout Land	0.05 km
LIS1	Gwent Wetlands Reserve	0.30 km
LIS3	Alpha Steel Site	0.40 km
Marine Article 17 Habitats Features		
	Saltmarsh	0.10 km
	Estuaries	0.10 km
	Mudflats and Sandflats	0.10 km
Historic Landfill Sites		
EAHLD15138	Uskmouth Power Station West Nash (Ash Lagoon No.5 10-13)	0.20 km
EAHLD14586	Uskmouth Power Station	0.30 km
EAHLD15034	South Dock Phase 1	0.60 km
EAHLD15038	South Dock Phase 2	0.60 km

Screening Assessment

4.8 The Criteria of Schedule 3, and how they relate to the Proposed Development, are set out below.

1. Characteristics of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
(a) The size and design of the development	<p>The Site area is approximately 8.8 ha, exceeding 0.5 ha threshold. Planning permission is sought for a time limited period of 40 years.</p> <p>The Site is bounded by existing hedgerows and tree planting to the north and east, with an opportunity to enhance and add to this planting to mitigate closer views with effective screening from the east. Existing hedgerows and trees will be retained.</p> <p>The height of the battery storage containers is approximately 2.6 m. Inverter/Transformer units will be distributed evenly around the Site. The battery storage containers and will be grouped together in sets and arranged in linear rows within the Site. Details of the supporting infrastructure (substation, transformer, control room) will be included within the Planning Application.</p> <p>The overall extent of ground disturbance on this brownfield site would be minimal with the area excavated limited to cabling, access roads, inverter/transformer stations, proposed on-site substation and battery storage containers. At this time it is being investigated as to whether the electrical infrastructure will be mounted on the concrete walls upon which the cooling towers are mounted, thereby minimising ground disturbance.</p> <p>The topography of the land will not be altered because of the Development.</p>	<p>The impacts of the Proposed Development will be temporary and fully reversible.</p> <p>Mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce any significant effects on the landscape or visual impacts.</p>
(b) The cumulation with other existing development and/or approved development	<p>The Site has a long history of energy generation; these are acknowledged to form part of the existing landscape character. Applications for development have been submitted on the broader Uskmouth Power Station site, however there is unlikely to be any significant cumulative effects due to intervening topography, natural landscape features and anthropogenic influences.</p> <p>Two applications of interest have been identified in the local area, however as mentioned previously, the potential for cumulative impacts is unlikely to be significant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uskmouth Power Station (NCC 22/0823) approximately 200 m south of the Site. - Tom Lewis Way, Alexandra Docks (NCC 21/0937) approximately 1.2 km west of the Site. <p>As part of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment a cumulative assessment will be undertaken. This will consider existing and/or other committed development within the local area.</p>	None anticipated

1. Characteristics of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
(c) The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity	<p>The Proposed Development will require the installation of battery storage containers, inverters/transformers, a substation, and other ancillary electrical equipment. All of which use natural resources. The time limited nature of planning permission sought allows for the grazing on decommissioning; therefore, the natural resources of the area will be preserved.</p> <p>The Site comprises brownfield land and has very little ecological value. An ecology survey would be undertaken as part of the planning application. Any effects on on-site ecology would be mitigated through design.</p> <p>Unlike a residential or commercial development, the Proposed Development does not require a connection sewerage infrastructure.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will seek to secure biodiversity net gain during the lifetime of the BESS development. Existing planting around the site boundaries would be enhanced through management measures, to be detailed in the planning application documents.</p>	None anticipated
(d) The production of waste	<p>Any waste produced during the construction and decommissioning process would be reused and recycled where possible in accordance with best practice measures, thereby reducing volumes of waste spoil.</p> <p>During the operational phase, the Proposed Development will not lead to the active production of waste. There may be the occasional requirement to replace / repair equipment, however the waste produced would be negligible and best practice to re-use / recycle will further reduce this impact.</p> <p>Dust suppression measures would be set out within the planning application.</p> <p>At the end of the operational period, all equipment will be removed from site and recycled where possible.</p>	None anticipated
(e) Pollution and nuisances	<p>The Proposed Development does not involve the use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment.</p> <p>Any disturbance arising from construction of the Proposed Development (noise, dust, emissions) and associated traffic movements will be short term. Methods to reduce impacts during the construction period will be detailed within the OCEMP. The routing of vehicles through the Air Quality Management Areas within Newport will be avoided.</p> <p>The operational noise impacts are anticipated to be limited from the inverter/transformer stations, on-site substation and batteries. As a result, these are not likely to be perceptible to sensitive receptors above background noise levels.</p> <p>There will be no harmful pollutants or odours because of the Proposed Development.</p>	Effective mitigation through design of the Proposed Development will ensure any effects are reduced.

1. Characteristics of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
(f) The risk of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge	There would be a low risk of accidents during the temporary construction period. The Transport Assessment submitted with the Planning Application would set out the appropriate access routes to site and an assessment of access points for the construction and operational phase. The Site is not located in an area accessible to the public. The Proposed Development will be safe from the impacts of Climate Change through design.	None anticipated
(g) The risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)	The Proposed Development will not lead to any risk to human health. There will be no contamination of land or water. The safety of the water environment will be preserved. During the operational phase, the Proposed Development will not generate any emissions to air.	None anticipated
2. Location of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
a) The existing and approved land use	Uskmouth Power Station began operations in 1959. Since this time, the Site has gone through numerous phases of development and refurbishment including the deployment of gas turbines, peaking plant, fuel storage and, most recently, an approved 230MW Battery Storage Facility on a former coal stockyard area. The Proposed Development is appropriate in this location. The Proposed Development will primarily be viewed in the context of the adjoining coal fired power station buildings and the CCGT power station. The Site is not covered by any statutory designations for landscape, heritage and ecology. The Site is approximately 1 km to the west of Nash, which is suitable distance from existing settlements. The Site is not located in a sensitive area and topography and intervening vegetation means it is unlikely to significantly affect nearby residential receptors. The Proposed Development will not result in demographic changes to the local area.	None anticipated
b) The relative abundance, availability, quality, and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity in the area and its underground)	The Proposed Development will be time limited and fully reversible. The site is previously developed, brownfield land. The soil and ecological quality is considered to be low. The Proposed Development will not impact the natural water environment. The planning application will be supported by a Drainage Strategy which will demonstrate how any runoff will be managed. The hedgerow planting around the site boundaries will be enhanced over the operational period of development and new planting provided. Ecology surveys will be completed and will inform the design as	None anticipated

2. Location of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
	<p>necessary. Through the implementation of a detailed landscape design, the Proposed Development will significantly improve the biodiversity of the Site over time.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will not impact on any Nationally Designated sites.</p>	
<p>c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;</i> - <i>Coastal zones and the marine environment;</i> - <i>Mountain and forest areas;</i> - <i>Nature reserves and parks;</i> - <i>European sites and other areas classified or protected under national legislation;</i> - <i>Areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in retained EU law and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered there is such a failure;</i> - <i>Densely populated areas;</i> 	<p>The Proposed Development will not have any impact on Nature Reserves, National Parks, European sites, or other areas classified or protected under National legislation. There will be no effect on the ecological setting of the River Usk or the Severn Estuary.</p> <p>Due to the existing vegetative boundaries, the Proposed Development can be absorbed into the landscape with the incorporation of additional planting where required. With enhancements to the existing planting, along with additional screening, it is considered that any effects on landscape and visual matters can be mitigated. The Proposed Development will sit passively in the landscape, within the context of the existing Industrialised landscape.</p> <p>The layout of the Proposed Development will lead to no impact on existing hedgerows, mature hedgerow trees or isolated trees within the Uskmouth Power Station site. A small area of scrub may be cleared for the cable route to the point of connection but this will not be significant and mitigation planting can be provided.</p> <p>A Flood Consequences Assessment and Drainage Strategy will be prepared to demonstrate that the Proposed Development is safe, that it will not increase flood risk elsewhere and will not have a negative impact on fluvial or marine environments.</p> <p>The drainage design will comply with National Standards for Sustainable Drainage and the appropriate approvals will be sought from the approving bodies.</p> <p>During the operational phase, noise levels will be typically below background noise levels.</p> <p>No impact on the historic environment is expected.</p> <p>In terms of proximity to residential receptors the Proposed Development is located approximately 1 km from Nash, which is a suitable separation distance.</p> <p>No failures to meet environmental quality standards relevant to this project are anticipated. Battery energy storage project safety is controlled by several non-planning regulatory regimes.</p>	None anticipated

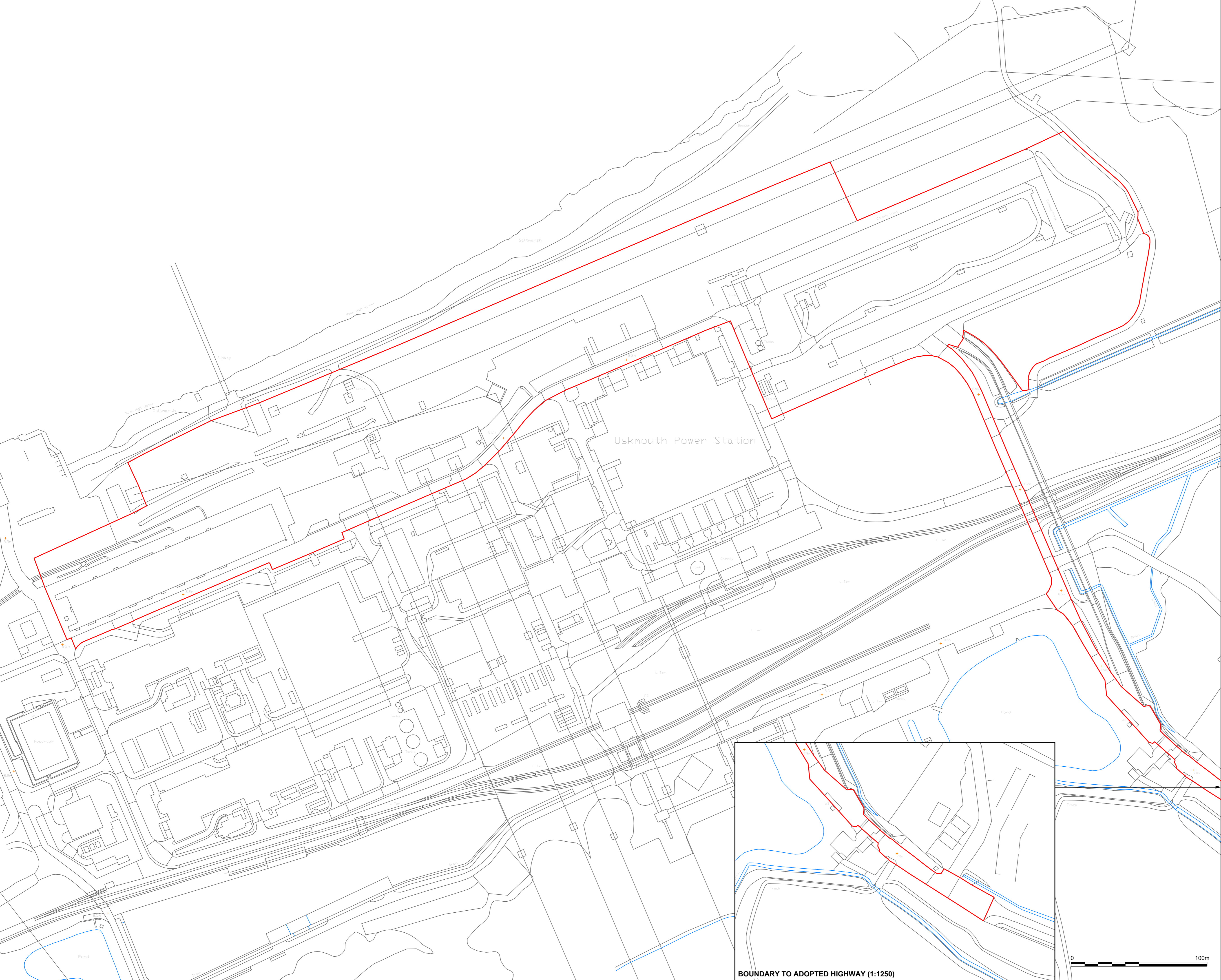
2. Location of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
- <i>Landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.</i>		
3. Types and characteristics of the potential impact		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
(a) The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Impacts beyond the site boundary will be limited due to existing intervening vegetation and the 'low-lying' nature of the Proposed Development. With appropriate design and landscape measures, no significant landscape and visual effects are anticipated. The existing landscape will be protected through enhanced screening and biodiversity net gains. There are no designated or non-designated heritage assets within the boundary of the Site. The geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected is low. The Proposed Development is time limited and fully reversible and impacts from construction are short in duration.	None anticipated
(b) The nature of the impact	The Proposed Development of a BESS is appropriate within the Uskmouth Power Station site. The Proposed Development will make an important contribution to achieving legally binding national targets to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In November 2021, NCC joined Welsh Government in declaring a Climate Emergency. The Council has committed to becoming a net zero organisation by 2030. NCC has also prepared an Organisational Climate Change Plan which states "Climate Change is one of the defining global challenges of our generation and there is an urgent need to decarbonise, to limit global temperature rise and avert the worst impacts of climate change".	None anticipated
(c) The transboundary nature of the impact	There are not considered to be any transboundary impacts.	None anticipated
(d) The intensity and complexity of the impact	The intensity of effect will be low and non-complex.	None anticipated
(e) The probability of the impact	It is considered that the Proposed Development will not have a significant impact. This will be fully evidenced by the assessments accompanying the planning application.	None anticipated
(f) The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact	The effects of construction will be temporary. The effects of operation will be 40 years in duration but nonetheless time limited and fully reversible. The effects of decommissioning will be temporary and short term. The impacts are fully reversible.	None anticipated

3. Types and characteristics of the potential impact		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
(g) The cumulation of the impact with the impact of the other existing and/or approved development	A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will consider the cumulative impact of the Proposed Development with developments currently being determined in the planning system and/or granted planning permission.	None anticipated
(h) The possibility of effectively reducing the impact	Impacts will be reduced through initial consultation with statutory consultees, effective screening, biodiversity enhancements and through in-built mitigation into the design through iterative reviews as the environmental assessment work and community engagement progresses.	None anticipated

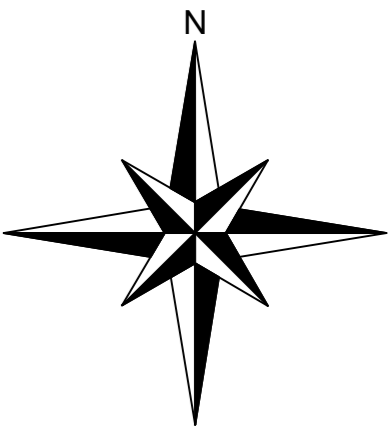
5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This (EIA) Screening Report has been prepared to accompany a request to Newport City Council to adopt a Screening Opinion under Regulation 6(1) of the EIA Regulations as to whether the proposed development of a 120 megawatt (MW) BESS on land at Uskmouth Power Station, Nash, Newport, constitutes EIA development.
- 5.2 The Proposed Development falls within Schedule 2, 3(a) of the EIA Regulations; it is a proposal for '*an industrial installation for the production of electricity, steam and hot water*'. The Site is not located within a 'Sensitive Area' as defined by the EIA Regulations.
- 5.3 The principal environmental effects relate to the construction period and the landscape and visual impacts during the operation stage. Through careful design, and the effective implementation of management plans and landscaping scheme, these effects can be mitigated and are therefore not considered to be significant.
- 5.4 The Screening Assessment concludes that significant effects on the environment are not anticipated. Any effects would be managed in accordance with best practice measures, which will be set out within the subsequent planning application. Indeed, there are recognised environmental and sustainability benefits associated with the flexible storage of renewable energy, rather than depending on non-renewable energy or imported fuels. This represents a significant case in favour of the Proposed Development.
- 5.5 This previously developed, brownfield site is suitable and capable of hosting the Proposed Development for a time limited period of 40 years.
- 5.6 The Planning Application will be supported by a suite of reports and assessments and management plans, setting out how impacts of the Proposed Development will be mitigated.
- 5.7 As outlined in this EIA Screening Report, the Proposed Development will not result in any significant environmental effects, therefore an EIA is not required.

APPENDIX 1 – SITE LOCATION PLAN



KEY
Site Boundary



Revisions:
First Issue- 06/12/2022 JS
01 - (20/01/2023 JS) Revised boundary

ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED ON SITE WORK
TO FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY REPORT
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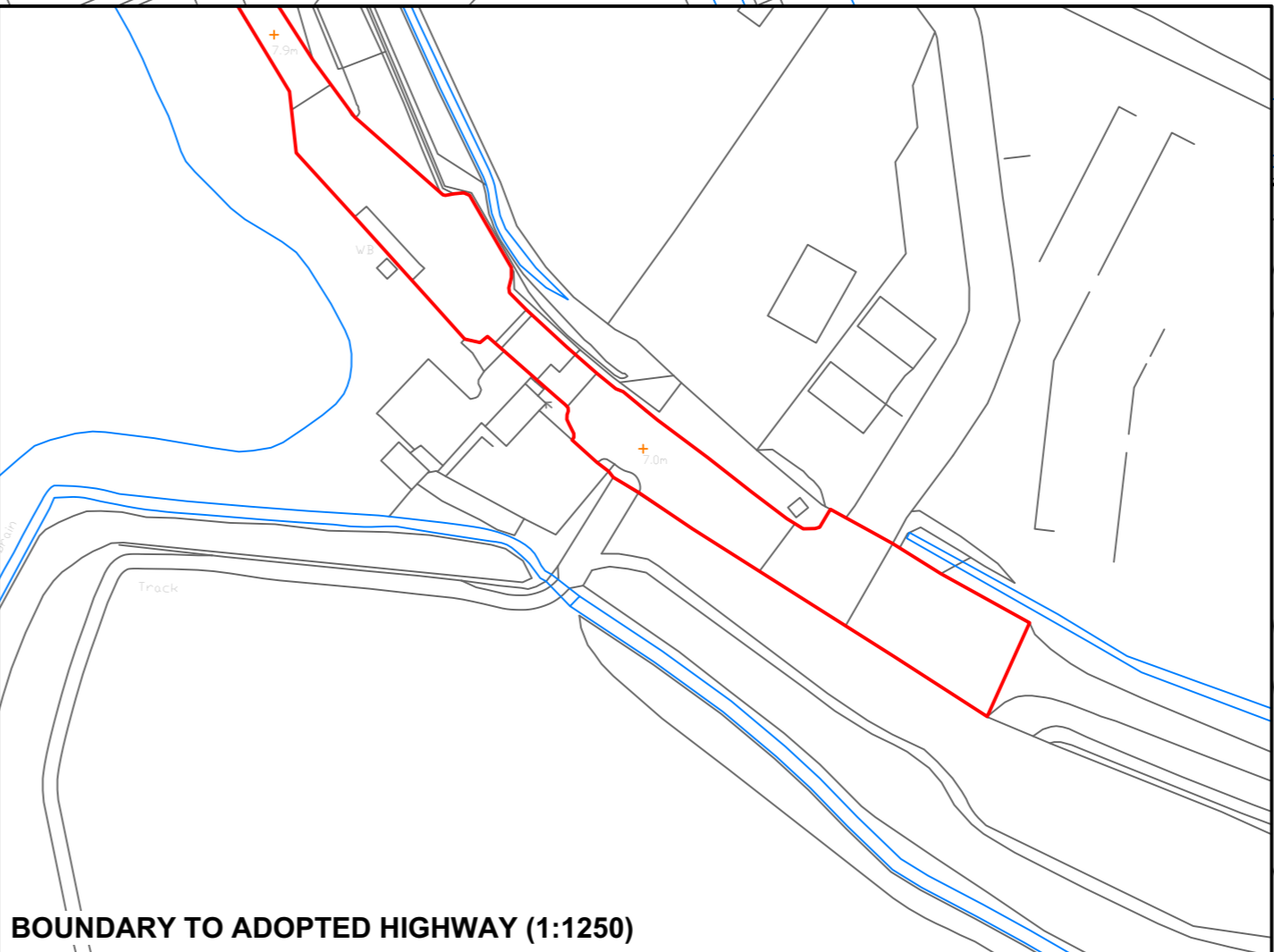


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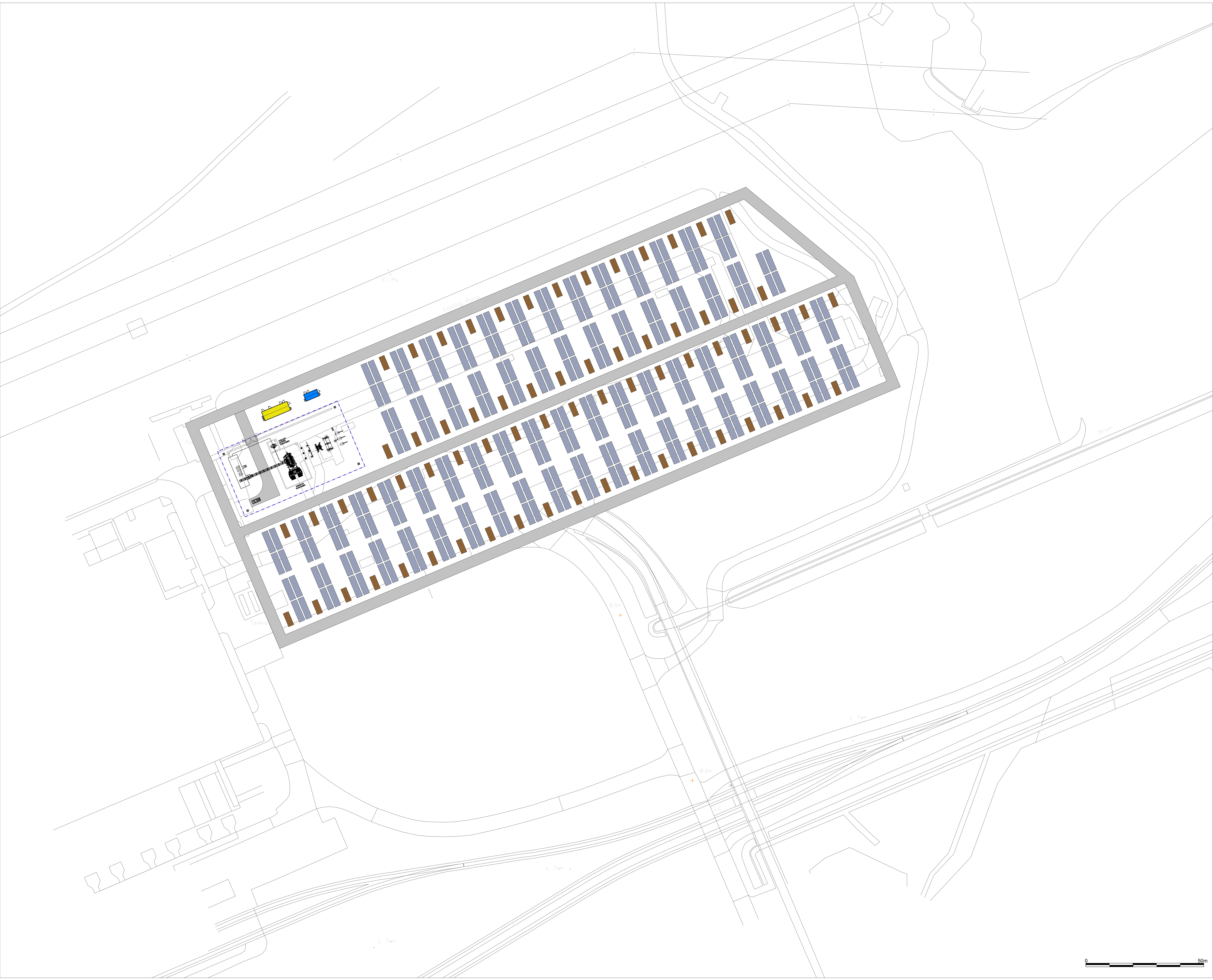
Project Title:
Uskmouth BESS

Drawing Title:
Site Location Plan

DRWG No: UH-01-P01	Rev: 01	Sht no: -
Drawn by : JS	Checked by: RM	
Scale: 1:1250 @ A1	Date: 20/01/2023	



APPENDIX 2 – DRAFT BESS LAYOUT



KEY

- Battery Container
- Inverter/Transformer
- Access Road

Revisions:
First Issue- 29/11/2022 JS

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Project Title:
Uskmouth BESS

Drawing Title:
Draft Layout Plan

DRWG No: UH-01-L12	Rev: -	Sht no: -
Drawn by : JS	Checked by: RM	
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