

The Greenspan Agency 

Statement of Biodiversity Enhancement

Battery Point Energy Storage Park

24/00155/PPDM

Site Address Land north of HM Coastguard Station, Battery Point, Stornoway, HS1 2RT

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This statement of biodiversity enhancement has been prepared by The Greenspan Agency following a telephone conversation with Helen MacDonald, Planning Officer with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, on 24 July 2024 during which she requested a concise report detailing biodiversity enhancement measures.
- 1.2. This document accompanies the previously submitted planning application (Ref: 24/00155/PPDM) for a battery energy storage facility at Battery Point, Stornoway hereby referred to as “the proposed development”.

Relevant Guidance

- 1.3. In preparing this document, the following policy and guidance has been consulted:
 - ‘National Planning Framework 4’ (NPF4), Scottish Government (2023)
 - ‘Draft Planning Guidance: Biodiversity’, Scottish Government (2023)
 - Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (2018)
 - ‘Developing with Nature’, Guidance, NatureScot (2022)

2. Current Site Biodiversity

- 2.1. The site is approximately 0.43 ha and consists predominantly of grass, with no hedges or trees. Flora and wildlife habitat are limited.
- 2.2. One portion of the site is occupied by a significant volume of discarded industrial equipment such as tyres and fishing apparatus.
- 2.3. The aerial image of the site below helps illustrate the current land cover.

Figure 1: Current Site Aerial Image



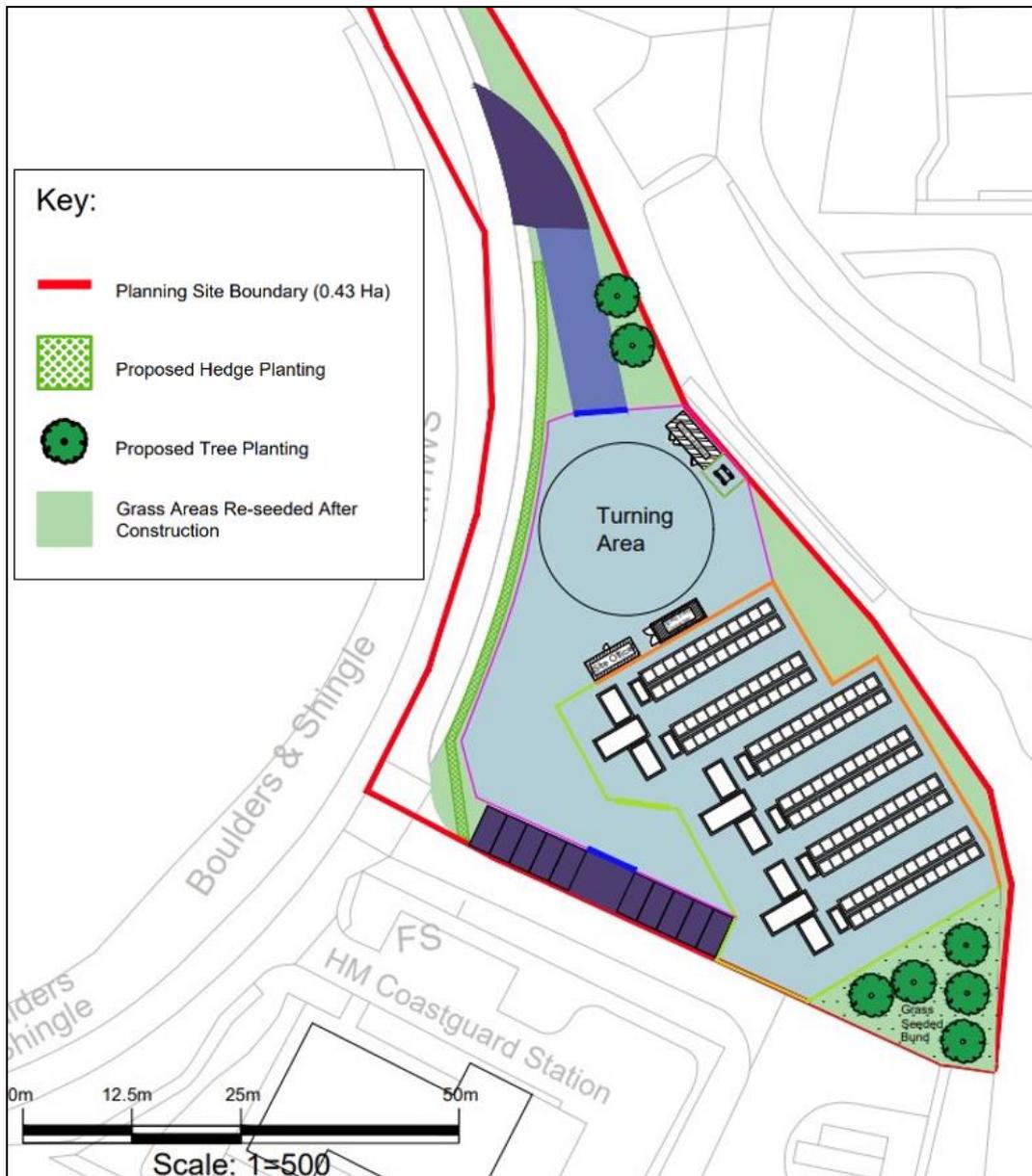
Consulting the NatureScot Sitelink Map¹, the site does not lie within any protected area. Further details of nearby habitats are given in pages 18 and 19 of the Design and Access Statement, submitted on 18 Apr 2024 (application reference: 24/00155/PPDM).

¹ NatureScot, Sitelink Map. Accessible [here](#).

3. Biodiversity Enhancement

- 3.1. The proposed development will deliver biodiversity enhancement through the following measures:
- The planting of a new hedgerow along the western boundary of the site.
 - The planting of seven new trees on the site.
 - The re-seeding of grass areas not required for hardstanding after construction.
- 3.2. The proposed landscaping plan can be seen in Figure 2 below. This is an excerpt of the separate planning application drawing (Ref: Drawing 19, 'Planting and Landscaping Plan', Revision 01).

Figure 2: Proposed Landscaping



- 3.3. While final species choice has not yet been made, all planting will be of native species befitting of the local area. The species will be chosen from the tables below.

Table 1: Native Tree Species

Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird Cherry
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Sliver Birch	<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy Birch	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Sallow
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Sallow or Willow
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	<i>Salix myrsinifolia</i>	Dark Leaved Willow
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	<i>Salix purpurea</i>	Purple Osier
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	<i>Salix viminalis</i>	Common Osier or Basket Willow
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scot's Pine	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small Leaved Lime
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry		

Table 2: Native Hedge Species

Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose

- 3.4. All planted trees and hedges will be subject to an appropriate maintenance schedule to ensure plant health and longevity. Hedges will not be trimmed within bird nesting season.

The Mitigation Hierarchy

- 3.5. Policy 3 of Scotland’s National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) states that any negative impacts of the development on biodiversity should be “fully mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy”².
- 3.6. The Mitigation Hierarchy³ sets out the sequential steps of limiting as far as possible the negative impacts on biodiversity from development projects. The hierarchy as applied to this project is set out in the table below.

Table 3: Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Hierarchy Step	Measures Taken
Avoidance	The proposed development aims to provide much needed stability to the local electricity distribution grid and support to renewable energy generation, resulting in a significant reduction in fossil fuel use for energy generation in the local area. The project is therefore an important development and negative effects have been avoided as far as possible in site choice, with the site providing limited habitat diversity in its current form.
Minimisation	Negative impacts will be minimised through the development of only areas essential to the construction and operation of the facility.
Rehabilitation/Restoration	After the construction phase, areas not used for hardstanding will be reseeded with grass.
Offset	Biodiversity on the site will be enhanced through the provision of a greater variety of habitats than currently provided by the site. A native hedgerow will be planted on the western boundary of the site and seven native trees will be planted. Discarded industrial equipment currently on the site will be removed.

² National Planning Framework 4 (2023). Biodiversity, Policy 3, Page 38. Available [here](#).

³ The Biodiversity Consultancy, The Mitigation Hierarchy. Available [here](#).

4. Conclusions

- 4.1. The site in its current form provides little variety for local wildlife, consisting primarily of grass with no trees or hedges and a significant area of discarded industrial equipment.
- 4.2. The site is not within a protected area or other ecological designation.
- 4.3. Biodiversity enhancements will be delivered through the planting of native species to form a hedge along the western boundary of the site, seven new native trees, and the restoration of several grass areas post-construction.
- 4.4. New planting will be appropriately maintained to ensure good health and longevity of the plants.