HOW WE'LL MANAGE THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

The construction of Field Spittal will involve careful planning and management to minimise disruption to local communities and roads.

Before we start building, we'll develop detailed management plans and agree these with The Highland Council to ensure works are carried out responsibly, and all impacts are reduced as much as possible.

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP):

Our CEMP will set out procedures and mitigation measures to manage and monitor environmental impacts during construction such as:

- Noise, dust and vibration controls
- Measures to prevent mud on roads
- Waste management and recycling
- Pollution prevention guidance
- Ecological protection.

We'll work closely with The Highland Council and other stakeholders to agree the detailed CEMP requirements.

Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP):

Our CTMP will be implemented to effectively manage all construction traffic to and from the site, including:

- Agreed routes for construction vehicles to avoid sensitive areas;
- Agreed construction working hours;
- Details of any road upgradeor widening works if required;
- A procedure for monitoring road conditions and remediation works if required;
- Measures to encourage worker vehicles to avoid peak times or vehicle share where possible;
- Contact details to raise any road safety issues;
- Liaison with Transport Scotland for connecting the proposed new access onto the A9, minimising disruption to road users while safely constructing the works; and
- Coordination with any other planned developments in the area to manage cumulative traffic impacts

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 will be used.
- 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.

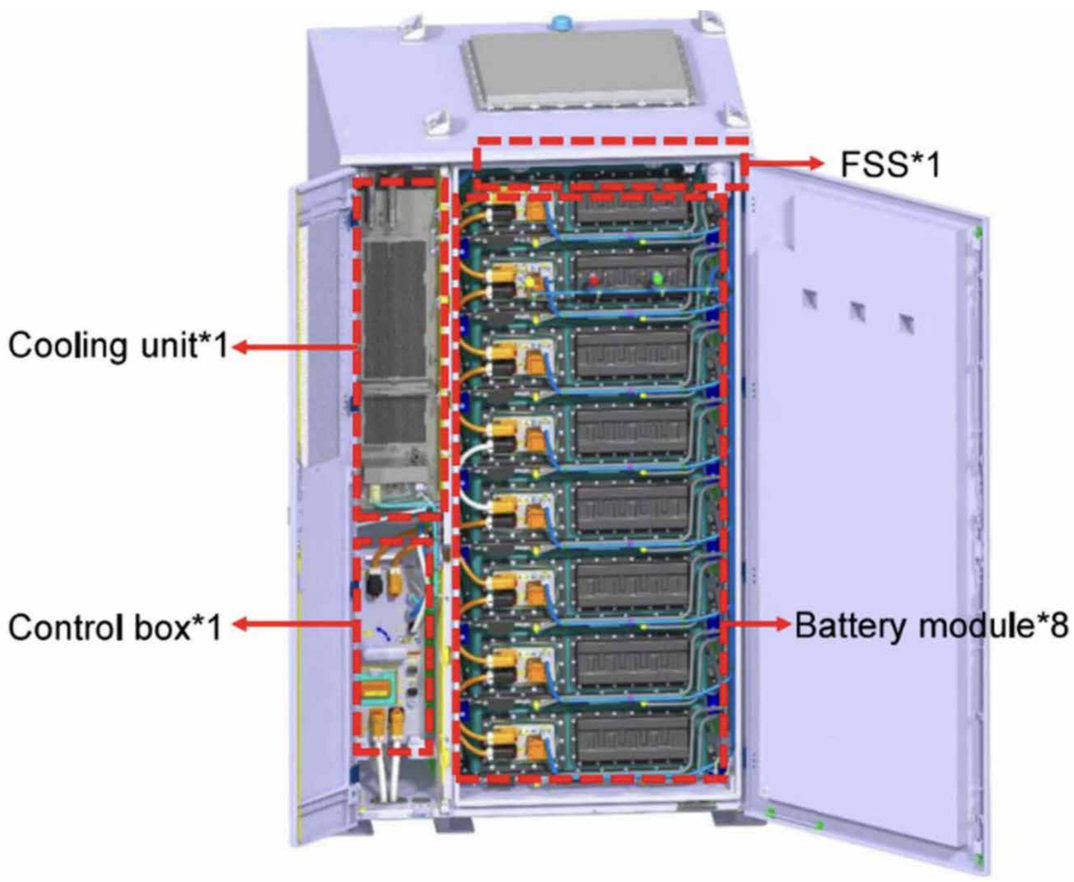
Emergency Planning and Response

- A detailed Battery 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 Scottish 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 Spittal.



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; including implementing a one-way system for construction traffic to half the number of construction vehicles on a sensitive local road in response to concerns raised by the community.

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 occupies an existing industrial site alongside an operating 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.

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 easily accessed during routine inspections and maintenance.

Field Spittal will comprise multiple battery cabinets arranged in rows, known as ‘strings’. These will be connected via underground cables to other important electrical infrastructure like transformers, an on-site substation, and underground cabling to the main grid connection point at the existing Spittal converter station.

To reduce visual impacts of the proposal, the batteries will be set back from the A9 and properties as much as possible. Earthworks and native landscaping will also be incorporated to help screen and soften views of the site.

The visualisation shows how Field Spittal storage could look from surrounding viewpoints, once operational. While the infrastructure will be visible, our design aims to minimise impacts on the local landscape as much as possible.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will Field Spittal be built?
We'll be submitting our planning application to the Energy Consents Unit in Summer 2024. If we are granted consent, we would look to start construction in 2027 and it will take about two years to complete.

How will our local community benefit?
We're currently working with the National Schools Partnership* to deliver a community-based programme in local schools to encourage and equip young people to explore careers in STEM and renewable energy. Field will work with local schools to provide information to students about how to build a career in the renewable energy sector.

Will the project impact nearby heritage assets?
St Magnus' Church, Hospital and Burial Ground is located approximately 130 m south of our proposed batteries. Whilst we won't directly impact the protected site, we're working closely with Historic Environment Scotland to reduce potential impacts on the monument's setting. This includes the use of earth bunds which would match the surrounding topography and reduce visual impacts from the monument and the A9 towards our site.

We appreciate the importance of this heritage asset and we're open to thoughts or suggestions about how its setting can be protected.

Will the project impact trees or ecology?
We carry out full ecological surveys to identify any potential ecological impacts, and we provide biodiversity enhancements to compensate for any impacts that do occur. This is typically through the planting of native species as part of our landscaping, which will also help to minimise any potential visual impacts.

Will the project cause flooding or impact drains?
Because our projects contain electrically sensitive equipment, flood risk is a key consideration during site selection and project design. We carry out detailed flood modelling to ensure equipment is located outside or above any modelled flood depths, which also ensures there is no increase to flood risk on or off-site.

Existing flood risk at this site is low. We design andbuild appropriate drainage infrastructure to ensure surface water run-off remains at an acceptable level and does not increase the risk of flooding. These will include rural sustainable drainage solutions, such as swales, which can collect and discharge water into existing drainsat no greater rate than the current greenfield situation. Our flood risk assessment and drainage strategy will consider any consequential impact On nearby areas prone to flooding to ensure the development does not worsen any areas susceptible to flooding locally.

How are cumulative impacts assessed with other developments in the area?
We are aware of several other developments proposed in the surrounding area. We are working with other developers where possible to ensure that cumulative impacts, particularly in relation to noise, traffic and visual impacts, are appropriately managed. The final details of these mitigation measures will be agreed before construction starts, when the exact timelines for all projects are known. We welcome any feedback or knowledge from the local community about other proposals you are aware of, so that we can ensure these are appropriately considered.

Are the batteries safe?
Grid-scale batteries are safe facilities. We work hard throughout site design, construction and into operation to ensure the safety of our sites. We 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're also working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to ensure suitable emergency response procedures are in place, including a Battery Safety Management Plan.

*National Schools Partnership is a unique education network (run by the Brand and Social Impact Agency, We Are Futures) providing free teaching resources to schools across the whole of the UK.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will the site security be managed?
The security and safety of our battery storage facilities is extremely important. Field Spittal will have robust security measures in place, including:

- Perimeter fencing and secure gated access to prevent unauthorized entry
- 24/7 CCTV monitoring of the site
- Appropriate security lighting to aid CCTV coverage
- Routine inspections and maintenance by Field's operational staff.

How will noise impacts be assessed and managed?
Noise impacts are an important consideration for any new development. For Field Spittal, we have carried out baseline noise surveys to understand the existing background noise conditions around the site. We'll carry out a detailed noise assessment to model the predicted noise levels from the operational battery equipment against existing background levels.

This assessment will identify any potential noise impacts on nearby noise-sensitive receptors like homes. Where potential impacts are identified, we'll incorporate mitigation measures into the design, such as acoustic fencing, earth bunding, and careful orientation of equipment, to ensure operational noise meets relevant regulations.

During construction, noise will also be carefully managed and monitored through our Construction Environmental Management Plan to minimise temporary disturbances to local communities.

How does this help Scotland's energy security?
Scotland has set an ambitious target of becoming net zero by 2045. Achieving this will require a massive increase in renewable energy generation and widespread electrification of transport and heating.

However, this transition also creates challenges around managing Scotland's energy security and resilience as we need more electricity and become more reliant on weather dependent renewable resources like wind and solar power.

Projects like Field Spittal act as giant electric reservoirs, charging up when renewable energy is being produced, ensuring a steady supply of electricity, regardless of the variable renewable conditions. They allow more renewable energy to be used and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

By storing the abundant Scottish renewable energy for when it's needed, batteries will play a vital role in keeping the lights on across the country as we decarbonise towards a net-zero future.

Why do we need batteries in this area?
The Highlands has an abundance of renewable energy resources like wind, hydro and tidal power.

Locating the batteries in close proximity to the Highlands' renewable assets like wind farms ensures this stored energy can be utilised as efficiently as possible, with minimal transmission losses.

At a local level, we've selected a site as close as possible to the existing Spittal converter station, which prevents the need for unnecessarily long and intrusive grid connection cables or overhead lines.

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.

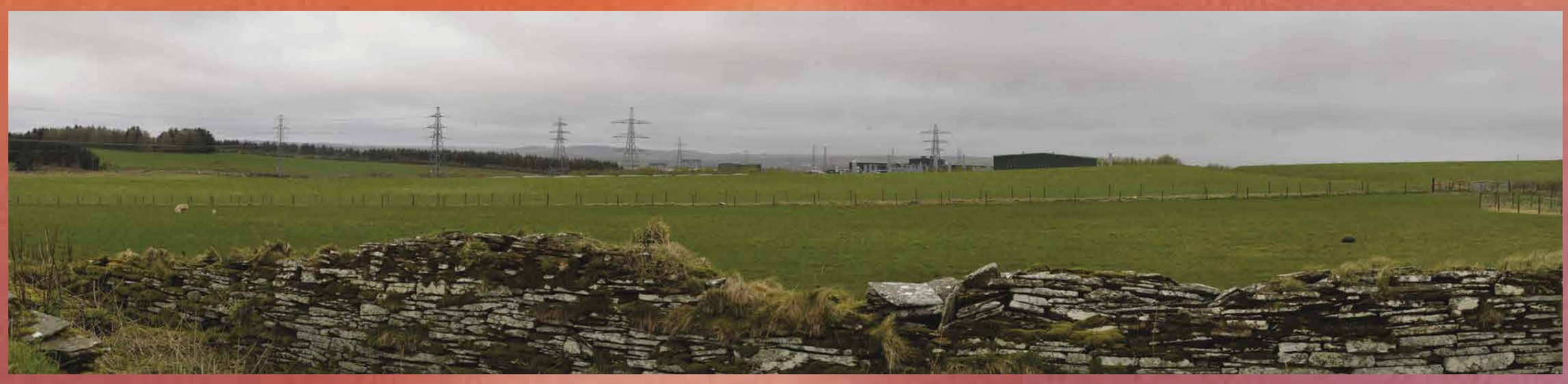
As with all aspects of the development, we welcome input from the local community to help reduce any impact on local roads where possible.

PHOTOMONTAGES

View looking west from the A9 road heading northbound

Photomontage view looking west from the A9 road heading northbound at Year 1

View looking north from Scheduled Monument St Magnus's Hospital & Chapel



Photomontage view looking north from Scheduled Monument St Magnus's Hospital & Chapel at Year 1