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24a Stafford Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7BD

14 July 2025

Graeme Cox  
Energy Consents Unit  
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change  
The Scottish Government  
5 Atlantic Quay,  
150 Broomielaw,  
Glasgow G2 8LU

Dear Graeme

**Proposed BESS Facility on Land at Middleton of Blackford, Rothienorman, AB51 8YN (GR: NJ696358)**

Notice is hereby given that Blackford Renewables Ltd, ("the Company") with company registration number SC745788, having its registered office at Equinor House Prime Four Crescent, Kingswells, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB15 8QG has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Land at Middleton of Blackford, Rothienorman, AB51 8YN. (Central Grid Reference GR: NJ696358). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be approximately 500MW.

The Company has also requested a direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

This application is accompanied by the list of documents, plan, drawings and other illustrations detailed on the enclosed 'Application Documents List' and which includes a location plan indicating the site area.

A Screening request under the EIA Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended), reference ECU00006121, was submitted to the ECU on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and the Opinion (dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025) of the Scottish Ministers was, "*the proposal does not constitute EIA development, and that the application submitted for this development does not require to be accompanied by an EIA report*".

It is intended that the application be advertised in The Scotsman, The Banffshire, Buchan Observer, Ellon Times, The Scotsman, The Herald and the Edinburgh Gazette, following validation with a representation date from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 to 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025, unless advised otherwise by the ECU. A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates are available for public inspection in person, free of charge, during normal office hours at Inverurie Town Hall.

Discussion has been held with the owner and occupier of the site, which has been informed of the submission of the application, by letter.

The appropriate fee has been paid, for £180,000.00, reference ECU00006121, paid on 05/06/2025. Proof of payment has already been issued to the ECU.



Yours sincerely,



**Hugh Shepherd** MSc MRTPI  
Associate Director

**Scott Hobbs** Planning

Appendix 1 – Document List  
Appendix 2 – Advert Publication Schedule

14 July 2025

Energy and Climate Change Directorate  
Energy Consents Division  
Ecosent\_Admin@gov.scot

Forms	Uploaded / emailed
Application Letter	Uploaded
Application form	Submitted
Newspaper Form (x3 – Edinburgh Gazette, national paper, Local Paper)	Emailed
List of Newspapers, publication date	Emailed
Proof of Payment	Emailed
Land owner	Posted
Consultee List	Submitted
Schedule of documents	This Document
Plans	
Location Plan A3	Uploaded
Location Plan A4	Uploaded
Block / Layout Plan	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_20FTSWITCHGEAR-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_40FTCONTAINER-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_40FTSWITCHGEAR-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_ACOUSTICFENCE-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_EHV&SGT_COMPOUND-02-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_AUXTRANSFORMER-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_BATTERY-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_CAMERA-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_DEERFENCE-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_EMERGENCYLIGHT-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_GATE-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_GENERATOR-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_GENFUELTANK-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_INNERBERM-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_MVSKID-01-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_OUTERBERM-02-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_SECURITYFENCE-02-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_SGTWALL-02-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_SOLARPANEL-02-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_FIREWATERTANK-02-P	Uploaded
NPL-BEP-EL_WELFAREUNIT-02-P	Uploaded

NPL-BEP-EL_DRAINAGE_BUFFER_TANK-02-P	Uploaded
Landscape Strategy Plan	Uploaded
LVIA Photographic Sheets	Uploaded
LVIA Figures	Uploaded
Topo plans 3D (PDF)	Uploaded
Topo Plans 2D	Uploaded
Report	
Design and Access Statement	Uploaded
Planning Statement	Uploaded
Pre-Application Consultation Report	Uploaded
CTMP / Transport Statement	Uploaded
Heritage Assessment	Uploaded
CONFIDENTIAL Ecology Report	Emailed
CONFIDENTIAL Phase 2 Species Surveys	Emailed
Feasibility Report BNG	Emailed
Arboricultural Impact Assessment	Uploaded
Landscape and Visual Appraisal and Appendices	Uploaded
Noise Impact Assessment	Uploaded
Drainage Strategy	Uploaded
Flood Risk Assessment	Uploaded
Private Water Drainage Assessment	Uploaded
Economic / Community Wealth Building Plan	Uploaded
Fire Assessment	Uploaded
Constraints Plan	Uploaded



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## Rothienorman 500MW BESS

Land at Middleton of Blackford, AB51 8YN (GR: NJ696358)  
Newspaper Publications

Newspaper	Est. Cost	First Publication Date	Second Publication Date
The Herald		18/07	N/A
Edinburgh Gazette		15/07	N/A
The Banffshire		22/07	N/A
Buchan Observer		22/07	29/07
Ellon Times		17/07	24/07
The Scotsman		17/07	N/A
The Fraserburgh Herald		17/07	24/07
Print / Service Graphics		Completed 14/07	
Courier		Collect 14/07	