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06 June 2025

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

Dear Alice

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

On behalf of the Applicant, Blackford Renewables Ltd, please find application to the Scottish Ministers for consent under S36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a BESS facility on Land at Middleton of Blackford, Rothienorman. Blackford Renewables Ltd requests that Scottish Ministers give 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.

The proposed development is for the construction and operation of a 500MW capacity Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with associated infrastructure including solar PV panels, access roads, sub-station buildings, supporting equipment, fencing, drainage infrastructure and landscaping.

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 7th March 2025 and the Opinion (dated 2nd 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 Press and Journal, The Banffshire, Buchan Observer, Ellon Times, The Scotsman, The Herald and the Edinburgh Gazette, following validation with a representation date from 17th June 2025 to 18th July 2025, unless advised otherwise by the ECU, exceeding the statutory time. Prior to the Notices being published, full details regarding the publicity and description of development would be appreciated with the ECU.

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**. Proof of payment is enclosed, but which it is assumed will remain confidential.



Yours sincerely,

Hugh Shepherd

Hugh Shepherd MSc MRTPI
Associate Director

[Scott Hobbs](#) Planning