

# THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



Infinergy is currently designing a proposal for a battery energy storage facility on land located to the north of Halsary Wind Farm, south of Spittal in Caithness.

The Battery Energy Storage Facility will be located in the south western part of the Loch Toftingall Plantation land.

The Battery Facility would import and store electricity from the electricity network when there is a surplus of generation, and then export this again when there is a deficit. This balancing function reduces the amount of time that renewable generation needs to be curtailed (switched off) reducing the need to create electricity from fossil fuels. The facility would also help make the electricity network more resilient to outages. The project would have a maximum storage capacity of 49.9 megawatts (MW).

The Battery Energy Storage Facility would be located within a compound in the same position as that shown at the first round of consultation events. The dimensions of the compound would be approximately 100m by 65m which is the same length but 25m wider than the battery facility and substation platform shown previously.

The compound would be formed of crushed rock laid on permeable membranes. The main part of the facility is likely to consist of 80 battery storage units which would be installed in 40 paired sets. Each unit could be approximately 7.8m long, 1.7m wide and 3.4m high and is likely to be dark green in colour. The battery unit technology is likely to be lithium-ion.

There would be invertors and transformers serving each set of four units. Fire detection and suppression systems would be installed within the facility.

There would also be a small control building and a store unit within the facility. The compound is likely to be enclosed by a 2.8m high wooden palisade fence and there would be 3m high CCTV cameras at each corner of the compound. The maximum height of any structure within the facility is likely to be approximately 4m. The only lighting would be motion sensor activated lighting on containers and units within the facility.

The Battery Energy Storage Facility would be set within an area of landscaping which is likely to consist of native species, that will provide screening and biodiversity benefits.

The access to the Battery Facility would initially be along the existing northern access track into the Halsary wind farm site and then along a 590m long section of new track into the Loch Toftingall land.

Other land within the revised red line boundary of the site that is currently plantation is likely to be felled, and over a period of years, carefully restored to peatland. This would effectively be the same peatland restoration approach as within the neighbouring Halsary wind farm site. There might also be native species riparian planting along the corridor of the Allt Eireannaich. The peatland restoration and riparian planting proposals would provide important net biodiversity enhancement.

Environmental, technical and commercial considerations throughout the assessment process will continue to inform the design of the Battery Energy Storage Facility and access track.

Submission of the planning application for the Loch Toftingall Battery Energy Storage Proposal is expected to be early Summer 2023.