

Screening Assessment

4.8 The Criteria of Schedule 3, and how they relate to the Proposed Development, are set out below.

1. Characteristics of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
(a) The size and design of the development	The Site area is approximately 8.8 ha, exceeding 0.5 ha threshold. Planning permission is sought for a time limited period of 40 years. The Site is bounded by existing hedgerows and tree planting to the north and east, with an opportunity to enhance and add to this planting to mitigate closer views with effective screening from the east. Existing hedgerows and trees will be retained. The height of the battery storage containers is approximately 2.6 m. Inverter/Transformer units will be distributed evenly around the Site. The battery storage containers and will be grouped together in sets and arranged in linear rows within the Site. Details of the supporting infrastructure (substation, transformer, control room) will be included within the Planning Application. The overall extent of ground disturbance on this brownfield site would be minimal with the area excavated limited to cabling, access roads, inverter/transformer stations, proposed on-site substation and battery storage containers. At this time it is being investigated as to whether the electrical infrastructure will be mounted on the concrete walls upon which the cooling towers are mounted, thereby minimising ground disturbance. The topography of the land will not be altered because of the Development.	The impacts of the Proposed Development will be temporary and fully reversible. Mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce any significant effects on the landscape or visual impacts.
(b) The cumulation with other existing development and/or approved development	The Site has a long history of energy generation; these are acknowledged to form part of the existing landscape character. Applications for development have been submitted on the broader Uskmouth Power Station site, however there is unlikely to be any significant cumulative effects due to intervening topography, natural landscape features and anthropogenic influences. Two applications of interest have been identified in the local area, however as mentioned previously, the potential for cumulative impacts is unlikely to be significant. - Uskmouth Power Station (NCC 22/0823) approximately 200 m south of the Site. - Tom Lewis Way, Alexandra Docks (NCC 21/0937) approximately 1.2 km west of the Site. As part of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment a cumulative assessment will be undertaken. This will consider existing and/or other committed development within the local area.	None anticipated

1. Characteristics of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
(c) The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity	The Proposed Development will require the installation of battery storage containers, inverters/transformers, a substation, and other ancillary electrical equipment. All of which use natural resources. The time limited nature of planning permission sought allows for the grazing on decommissioning; therefore, the natural resources of the area will be preserved. The Site comprises brownfield land and has very little ecological value. An ecology survey would be undertaken as part of the planning application. Any effects on on-site ecology would be mitigated through design. Unlike a residential or commercial development, the Proposed Development does not require a connection sewerage infrastructure. The Proposed Development will seek to secure biodiversity net gain during the lifetime of the BESS development. Existing planting around the site boundaries would be enhanced through management measures, to be detailed in the planning application documents.	None anticipated
(d) The production of waste	Any waste produced during the construction and decommissioning process would be reused and recycled where possible in accordance with best practice measures, thereby reducing volumes of waste spoil. During the operational phase, the Proposed Development will not lead to the active production of waste. There may be the occasional requirement to replace / repair equipment, however the waste produced would be negligible and best practice to re-use / recycle will further reduce this impact. Dust suppression measures would be set out within the planning application. At the end of the operational period, all equipment will be removed from site and recycled where possible.	None anticipated
(e) Pollution and nuisances	The Proposed Development does not involve the use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment. Any disturbance arising from construction of the Proposed Development (noise, dust, emissions) and associated traffic movements will be short term. Methods to reduce impacts during the construction period will be detailed within the OCEMP. The routing of vehicles through the Air Quality Management Areas within Newport will be avoided. The operational noise impacts are anticipated to be limited from the inverter/transformer stations, on-site substation and batteries. As a result, these are not likely to be perceptible to sensitive receptors above background noise levels. There will be no harmful pollutants or odours because of the Proposed Development.	Effective mitigation through design of the Proposed Development will ensure any effects are reduced.

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(f) The risk of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge	There would be a low risk of accidents during the temporary construction period. The Transport Assessment submitted with the Planning Application would set out the appropriate access routes to site and an assessment of access points for the construction and operational phase. The Site is not located in an area accessible to the public. The Proposed Development will be safe from the impacts of Climate Change through design.	None anticipated
(g) The risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)	The Proposed Development will not lead to any risk to human health. There will be no contamination of land or water. The safety of the water environment will be preserved. During the operational phase, the Proposed Development will not generate any emissions to air.	None anticipated
2. Location of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
a) The existing and approved land use	Uskmouth Power Station began operations in 1959. Since this time, the Site has gone through numerous phases of development and refurbishment including the deployment of gas turbines, peaking plant, fuel storage and, most recently, an approved 230MW Battery Storage Facility on a former coal stockyard area. The Proposed Development is appropriate in this location. The Proposed Development will primarily be viewed in the context of the adjoining coal fired power station buildings and the CCGT power station. The Site is not covered by any statutory designations for landscape, heritage and ecology. The Site is approximately 1 km to the west of Nash, which is suitable distance from existing settlements. The Site is not located in a sensitive area and topography and intervening vegetation means it is unlikely to significantly affect nearby residential receptors. The Proposed Development will not result in demographic changes to the local area.	None anticipated
b) The relative abundance, availability, quality, and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity in the area and its underground)	The Proposed Development will be time limited and fully reversible. The site is previously developed, brownfield land. The soil and ecological quality is considered to be low. The Proposed Development will not impact the natural water environment. The planning application will be supported by a Drainage Strategy which will demonstrate how any runoff will be managed. The hedgerow planting around the site boundaries will be enhanced over the operational period of development and new planting provided. Ecology surveys will be completed and will inform the design as	None anticipated

2. Location of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
	necessary. Through the implementation of a detailed landscape design, the Proposed Development will significantly improve the biodiversity of the Site over time. The Proposed Development will not impact on any Nationally Designated sites.	
c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas: - <i>Wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;</i> - <i>Coastal zones and the marine environment;</i> - <i>Mountain and forest areas;</i> - <i>Nature reserves and parks;</i> - <i>European sites and other areas classified or protected under national legislation;</i> - <i>Areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in retained EU law and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered there is such a failure;</i> - <i>Densely populated areas;</i>	The Proposed Development will not have any impact on Nature Reserves, National Parks, European sites, or other areas classified or protected under National legislation. There will be no effect on the ecological setting of the River Usk or the Severn Estuary. Due to the existing vegetative boundaries, the Proposed Development can be absorbed into the landscape with the incorporation of additional planting where required. With enhancements to the existing planting, along with additional screening, it is considered that any effects on landscape and visual matters can be mitigated. The Proposed Development will sit passively in the landscape, within the context of the existing Industrialised landscape. The layout of the Proposed Development will lead to no impact on existing hedgerows, mature hedgerow trees or isolated trees within the Uskmouth Power Station site. A small area of scrub may be cleared for the cable route to the point of connection but this will not be significant and mitigation planting can be provided. A Flood Consequences Assessment and Drainage Strategy will be prepared to demonstrate that the Proposed Development is safe, that it will not increase flood risk elsewhere and will not have a negative impact on fluvial or marine environments. The drainage design will comply with National Standards for Sustainable Drainage and the appropriate approvals will be sought from the approving bodies. During the operational phase, noise levels will be typically below background noise levels. No impact on the historic environment is expected. In terms of proximity to residential receptors the Proposed Development is located approximately 1 km from Nash, which is a suitable separation distance. No failures to meet environmental quality standards relevant to this project are anticipated. Battery energy storage project safety is controlled by several non-planning regulatory regimes.	None anticipated

2. Location of the Development		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
- Landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.		
3. Types and characteristics of the potential impact		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
(a) The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Impacts beyond the site boundary will be limited due to existing intervening vegetation and the 'low-lying' nature of the Proposed Development. With appropriate design and landscape measures, no significant landscape and visual effects are anticipated. The existing landscape will be protected through enhanced screening and biodiversity net gains. There are no designated or non-designated heritage assets within the boundary of the Site. The geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected is low. The Proposed Development is time limited and fully reversible and impacts from construction are short in duration.	None anticipated
(b) The nature of the impact	The Proposed Development of a BESS is appropriate within the Uskmouth Power Station site. The Proposed Development will make an important contribution to achieving legally binding national targets to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In November 2021, NCC joined Welsh Government in declaring a Climate Emergency. The Council has committed to becoming a net zero organisation by 2030. NCC has also prepared an Organisational Climate Change Plan which states "Climate Change is one of the defining global challenges of our generation and there is an urgent need to decarbonise, to limit global temperature rise and avert the worst impacts of climate change".	None anticipated
(c) The transboundary nature of the impact	There are not considered to be any transboundary impacts.	None anticipated
(d) The intensity and complexity of the impact	The intensity of effect will be low and non-complex.	None anticipated
(e) The probability of the impact	It is considered that the Proposed Development will not have a significant impact. This will be fully evidenced by the assessments accompanying the planning application.	None anticipated
(f) The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact	The effects of construction will be temporary. The effects of operation will be 40 years in duration but nonetheless time limited and fully reversible. The effects of decommissioning will be temporary and short term. The impacts are fully reversible.	None anticipated

3. Types and characteristics of the potential impact		
Screening Criteria	Proposed Development	Likely Significant Effects
(g) The cumulation of the impact with the impact of the other existing and/or approved development	A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will consider the cumulative impact of the Proposed Development with developments currently being determined in the planning system and/or granted planning permission.	None anticipated
(h) The possibility of effectively reducing the impact	Impacts will be reduced through initial consultation with statutory consultees, effective screening, biodiversity enhancements and through in-built mitigation into the design through iterative reviews as the environmental assessment work and community engagement progresses.	None anticipated