

Ecological Impact Assessment

Prepared by: Arthian Ltd.

For: Westport Energy Storage Ltd.

Site: Westport BESS

Date: 08/04/2025

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Issue-1.1

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Quality Assurance

Issue Record

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Staff Detail

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Executive Summary

Contents	Summary
Site Location	Arthian Ltd. (Arthain) has been requested by Westport Energy Storage Ltd. (the Applicant) in July 2024 to carry out an Ecological Impact Assessment on the site known as Westport BESS, East Ayrshire centred on National Grid Reference: NS 48099 20888, and hereafter referred to as "the site".
	The site is located on land located approximately 2.2 km southwest of Ochiltree Village, East Ayrshire Scotland. A site boundary and layout plan has been prepared by the client and can be located as Appendix A, Figure 1. The site comprises of approximately 18.3 hectares of land.
Proposal	It is understood that the current proposal comprises of the development of an up to 150MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure.
Results	Hedgerows, which are classified as priority habitats, were identified on the outer boundaries of the site.
	No evidence of protected species, or areas suitable for their shelters, were recorded within the survey area
	A total of 29 trees with bat roost potential were identified along the tree line bordering the southern boundary of the site. Of these trees, 28 were classified as PRF-I and 1 as PRF-M. All tree locations can be found in Appendix A.
	All of these trees site out with the development area, with the closest PRF-I trees sitting approximately 10m from the upgraded access track/existing farm access gate. The PRF-M tree is located approximately 90m south-west from where the development will be situated and therefore no further surveys are deemed necessary.
	Two amber list birds (starling and herring gull) and one Schedule 1 listed bird (redwing) were recorded during the wintering bird surveys.
Conclusions and Recommendations	Lengths of hedgerow will be replanted around the perimeter of the new development in order to replace the section lost. Newly planted hedgerow will exceed the amount to be lost.
	Should vegetation require clearance between the months of March – August inclusive, a nesting bird check should be undertaken by a suitably trained ecologist a maximum of 48 hours prior to the cut.
	Operatives on site should receive a designated toolbox talk for breeding birds.
	Any temporary artificial lighting required for the construction phase (eg during night works) should be kept directional and ensure lighting does not spill onto suitable surrounding habitat for nocturnal species (eg. Tree lines, hedgerows).
	Artificial lighting should be switched off when not in use (expect when required for security purposes).
	All refuelling, or storage of any fuels, should be kept a minimum of >10m from any drain or watercourse. Additionally, these materials should be kept double-bunded on a made surface when possible.
	Before use, construction plant stored on site should receive a quick check for nesting bird or any animal that may use it for shelter.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Brief

Arthian Ltd. ('Arthian') has been requested by Westport Energy Storage Ltd. (the Applicant) in July 2024 to carry out an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) on the site known as land at Westport, East Ayrshire centred on National Grid Reference: NS 48099 20888, and hereafter referred to as "the site". The Applicant require an Ecological Impact Assessment to support a Planning Application.

1.2 Site Location

The site is located on land located approximately 2.2 km southwest of Ochiltree Village, East Ayrshire Scotland. A site boundary and layout plan has been prepared by the client and can be located as Appendix A, Figure 1. The site comprises of approximately 18.3 hectares of land.

The results and recommendations in this report relate to the site boundary as provided by the client at the time of the survey.

Using aerial imagery, habitats on site comprise an agricultural field and a track. Habitats adjacent to the site comprise of agricultural fields, made ground, an old quarry, scrub, hedgerows, and woodland. The Trabboch Burn runs along the northern boundary of the site.

1.3 Proposal

It is understood that the current proposal comprises of the development of an up to 150MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure.

1.4 Scope of Report

The aim of this EcIA is to establish the ecological baseline conditions of the site, in terms of habitats present and any evidence of and/or suitable habitats for protected species. The main objectives of the EcIA are as follows:

- To identify potential ecological constraints related to the development of the site;
- To inform design decisions;
- Identify the need for further ecological surveys where necessary; and
- To highlight opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.

The structure of the report and the survey objectives have been designed with reference to the Charted Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Second Edition (2017).



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2. Methodology

2.1 Desktop Assessment

An ecological desk study was undertaken in October 2024 in order to determine the presence of designated sites and notable species recorded within the last 10 years.

Accordingly, the desk study sought to identify:

- Any European or other statutory nature conservation designation sites within 2 km of the Site;
- Information on non-statutory sites within 1km of the Site;
- Records of protected and/or notable species within 1 km of the Site; and
- Records of invasive non-native flora or fauna species within 1 km of the Site.

2.2 Desk Study Resources

The desk study was undertaken, using online resources, available for commercial use, to identify ecological constraints which may be present within the site and its zone of influence. The following sources were used:

- NatureScot's SiteLink (NatureScot, 2024) for information on statutory designated sites within 5km of the Site.
- National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas (2024) for information on protected species.
- Scotland's Environment Web (Scotland's Environment, 2024) for information on ancient and native woodland within 1 km of the site
- A data search of a 2km buffer was undertaken by the South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC).

2.3 Field Survey

The EcIA was undertaken following the Phase 1 habitat methodology (JNCC, 2016) and covered the area of the Site plus an additional 30m buffer (the 'Survey Area') due to limited access restrictions from adjacent landowners. Where watercourses were present, the buffer was extended out to 250m where accessible and safe to do so. Notes were made for each habitat, including a list of dominant, typical and notable plant species at the time of the survey. The Phase 1 habitat survey was 'extended' to include a general assessment of the survey area for its potential to support protected and/or notable species. This included a search for, but not limited to, places of shelter, feeding remains, footprints, excrement and used mammal paths.

All habitat types and target notes on site were recorded on a Samsung phone using GPS location over aerial basemap imagery for accuracy.

2.4 Ground Level Tree Assessment

Trees on site were assessed from the ground for their suitability to support breeding, resting and hibernating bats, with reference to the methods outlined in Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice



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Guidelines (4th ed, 2024) (Collins, 2023) hereafter referred to as the 'BCT Guidelines'. The following system has therefore been used to categorise the bat roost suitability of any features found:

Table 1: Bat roost suitability categories in trees

Suitability	Description of Potential Roosting Habitats
PRF-I	PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitat.
PRF-M	PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony.

Foraging / Commuting Bats

In accordance with the BCT Guidelines, the following criteria have been used to categorise the potential value of site habitats and features for use by foraging and commuting bats (Table 2).

Table 2: Bat foraging habitat categories.

Suitability	Description of Potential Flight Paths and Foraging Habitat
None	No habitat feature on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/ protection for flight-lines, or generate/ shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for the non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a 'gappy' hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat.
	Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens.
	Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub grassland or water.
High	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.
	High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland Site is close and connected to known roosts.

2.5 Wintering Bird Surveys

Two wintering bird surveys to identify roosting or foraging swan and goose species were carried out following the methodology stated in "Bird Monitoring Methods", (Gilbert et al, 1998). Surveys took place across January and



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February 2025 starting one hour before dawn. The survey area was walked with any bird species sighted, along with total numbers and behaviours noted on a paper map of the area.

2.6 Limitations

The optimal period to undertake a Phase 1 Habitat Survey is April-September. The survey was completed in October which is outside the optimal survey window. However, given that the field is known for ongoing livestock use and surrounded by other agricultural fields, this was limitation was not considered to be detrimental to the survey.

Access was only granted to the fields from one landowner. This included the field with which the development is to be built, and the two northern adjoining fields. However, all bordering woodland and adjacent fields could be clearly seen and sufficiently surveyed visually without full access.



3. Results

3.1 Desktop Assessment

All relevant ecological data available for commercial use was reviewed and the results from these investigations are summarised below.

3.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

SiteLink (Nature Scot, 2024) identified 2 statutory designated sites, with ecological qualifying features within 5 km of the site boundary; Barlosh Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and River Ayr Gorge SSSI. Details of the sites and their designated features are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Statutory designated sites identified within 5km of the site boundary

Site Name and Designation	Proximity and Direction to Site	Designated Features	
Barlosh Moss SSSI	c. 1.9 km south	The site supports the following designated features: Fen habitat (hydromorphological mire range) Raised bog habitat	
River Ayr Gorge SSSI	c. 4.1 km northwest	The site supports the following designated features: Upland oak woodland habitat Beetle assemblage, which includes: Nationally scarce species including, but not limited to, (Microscydmus nanus), and (Phloiphilus edwardsii).	

Given the distancing of the designated sites identified in Table 3, which do not share any hydrological connection or boundary with the Site, no impacts on these sites are predicted as a result of the proposed development.

3.1.2 Ancient Woodland

Using the Ancient Woodland inventory four blocks of ancient woodland were identified within 1 km of the site. Details of the Ancient Woodland and their distance from the site is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Ancient woodland identified within 1km of the site

Name	Proximity and Direction to Site	Classification
No name	c. 10m south	Long-established (of plantation origin)
No name	c. 15m south	Long-established (of plantation origin)
No name	c. 65 m northeast	Long-established (of plantation origin)



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No name	c. 190 m southeast	Long-established (of plantation origin)
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The ancient woodland strips are associated with the woodland borders to the south of the site, and the block of broadleaf woodland to the north-east. No tree removal is anticipated as part of the development.

As discussed in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment submitted as part of the planning application, off-site areas to the south of the site are shown on the Nature Scot Ancient Woodland Inventory as Type 2b woodland long established (of plantation origin). Following inspection of the trees and also consideration of plans and aerial photographs of the site between the 1940-50's, it is clear that these sections of land have been subject to clearance with only the easterly section of ground having been restocked as conifer plantation. Therefore, this is not considered to be ancient woodland.

Nonetheless, no impact on ancient woodland inventory is predicted as a result of the proposed development.

3.1.3 Invasive Species

NBN Atlas provided one record of grey squirrel Sciurus carolinensis within 2 km of the site within the last 10 years

3.1.4 Protected and Notable Species

Information on protected and notable species within 2 km was downloaded from NBN Atlas on 17th October 2024, using the central grid reference of the site. Unconfirmed data, data not licenced for commercial use and records out with a 10-year period were removed from the search.

The following protected/notable species were highlighted across either NBN records or the data search from SWSEIC:

- One record of goldcrest Regulus regulus;
- Two records of common pipistrelle Pipistrellus pipistrellus;
- One record of badger Meles meles (footprints only).

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 Phase 1 Habitats

The field survey was undertaken on the 30th October 2024 by Arthian ecologist Shannen Allison (ACIEEM). The weather conditions were 15°C and overcast with intermittent light showers.

All survey maps can be found in Appendix A. Photographs from site can be found in Appendix B, with target note (TN) details found in Appendix C.



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Table 5: Habitats identified within the site

Phase 1 Code	Habitat	Area(m2)	% of Site Area
J1.1	Cultivated/disturbed land - arable	193,530	98.3
B2.2	Neutral grassland – semi-improved	1,105	0.5
J1.3	Ephemeral/short perennial	1,059	0.5
J4	Bare ground	702	0.4
J5	Sealed surface/Hardstanding	271	0.2
B5	Marsh/marshy grassland	203	0.1
	TOTAL	196,870m2 (19.6 ha)	100%

J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - pastoral

The primary habitat within the site is pastoral land known to be in current use for livestock including cattle and sheep (Photo 1, TN 3). Grass species within the field include perennial rye *Lolium perenne*, timothy *Phleum pratense* and cock's foot *Dactylus glomerata*. The field was herb poor and included species broadleaf dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, common chickweed *Stellaria media* and sticky mouse eared chickweed *Cerastium glomeratum*. Herb species were primarily found around the field margins as a result of less grazing. However rare instances of chickweed, buttercup and clover were found throughout the entirety of the field.

B2.2 - Neutral grassland - semi-improved

Neutral grassland was identified within the grass verges located at the most southern extent of the site boundary. Species include cocks' foot, perennial rye, creeping buttercup, white clover, yarrow *Achillea millefoliuma* and broadleaf dock (Photo 4, TN14).

J4 - Bare ground

A bare track consisting of stone and dirt is used to access the arable land by the landowners. The track is located at the southern extent of the site, connecting the field to the road (Photo 2 & 3, TN 1).

J1.3 - Ephemeral/short perennial

A minor area of short ruderal species-poor grassland is located directly adjacent to the dirt track. The area appears to have a stoney base, with plants shooting thought being small. Herbs include white clover and field thistle *Cirsium arvense* (Photo 5, TN 13).

J5 - Sealed surface/Hardstanding

The tarmac/gravel outer boundary edge of Creoch Road falls into the very southernmost extent of the site boundary. Creoch Road itself is not included in the site boundary and will not be impacted by the works.



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B5 - Marsh/marshy grassland

A minor area of marshy grassland dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus* is located to the west of the dirt access track and short perennial habitat. (Photo 5, TN12).

3.2.2 Linear Habitats

The following habitats were recorded on the boundary line, or directly adjacent to the proposed site boundary:

A1.2.1 - Coniferous woodland - semi-natural

A strip of semi-natural conifer woodland is located directly adjacent to the south-eastern corner of the site boundary. The woodland is primarily dominated by Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris* (Photo 6, TN2)

J2.1 - Intact hedge

Intact hedgerows are located directly on/adjacent to the western and eastern extents of the site boundary line. The hedge to the eastern extent is hawthorn Crataegus monogyna dominate. The hedgerow to the west is beech dominate with abundant hawthorn and occasional bramble *Rubus fruticosus* (Photo 7, TN 5 & 10)

J2.2 Defunct hedge

A section of defunct hawthorn hedgerow is located to the southeastern corner of the site boundary (Photo 8, TN 4).

G2 - Running water

Trabboch Burn is located directly adjacent to the northernmost extent of the site boundary. The burn is relatively small and flows to the west, with slightly sloped banks. (Photo 9, TN 6).

3.3 Protected and Notable Species

No evidence of protected species was recorded within the survey area.

The conifer woodland (TN2) and broadleaf woodland (Photo 13, TN7) in close proximity to the site was scanned for suitability for badger. No badger signs or setts were identified. Sheep had access to the broadleaf woodland north-west of the site boundary. Both woodlands were deemed sub-optimal for future sett creation.

Trabboch Burn is a small burn with slightly sloped banks. The upper banks showed signs of regular use by livestock. The banks were predominately vegetated by grasses, with some individual larger scrub and trees to the west of the site boundary (Photo 10, TN 9). The watercourse and its bank do not offer opportunity for shelter for species such as otter or water vole.

The following bird species were incidentally recorded (either visually or by call) during the survey:

Buzzard Buteo buteo;



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- Goldcrest Regulus regulus;
- Jackdaw Coloeus monedula;
- Meadow pipit Anthus pratensis;
- Robin Erithacus rubecula;
- Rook Corvus frugilegus.

Given the lack of suitable habitat within, and directly adjacent to the site, no impacts are predicted on protected species badger, otter and water vole and no further surveys have been deemed necessary.

3.4 Invasive Species

No invasives non-native species were recorded within, or immediately adjacent to, the site boundary. As such, invasive species are not considered a constraint to the proposed development.

3.5 Ground Level Tree Assessment

A map of all tree locations can be found in Appendix A, with full GLTA results and photographs found in a table within Appendix D.

A total of 29 trees with bat roost potential were identified along the tree line bordering the southern boundary of the site. Of these trees, 28 were classified as PRF-I and 1 as PRF-M.

The surrounding wider habitat consists primarily of further arable land. Within the site, few linear features such as hedgerows and a small burn share a degree of connectivity with the wider area. As such, the site has been classified as having a low suitability for commuting and foraging bat due to the fragmented nature of linear features that share connectivity with areas of suitable habitat in the wider area.

3.6 Wintering Bird Surveys

The details of the wintering bird surveys can be found in Table 6 below. A map of results can be found in Appendix A, with a full species list of birds recorded throughout both surveys found in Appendix E.

Table 6: Details of wintering bird surveys

Date	Sunrise time	Survey Start	Survey End	Weather
15/01/2025	08:34	07:27	09:40	7°C, Sunny
12/02/2025	07:46	06:40	08:50	4 °C, Cloudy

Survey one identified a total of 11 different bird species. Of these, six are on the green list, two on the amber list, and two on the red list of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC). Red list species include herring gull *Larus argentatus* and starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Both starling and herring gull were observed flying over the site.

One Schedule 1 bird was recorded, redwing *Turdus iliacus*. One instance of redwing was recorded as it was flushed from a field.



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Survey two identified a total of 13 different bird species. Of these, seven are on the green list, four on the amber list, and one on the red list of BoCC. The red list species was herring gull, which was observed flying west over the site. Redwing were also recorded again on this survey. Instances again included an individual being flushed from the field to the north of the site boundary, and an individual calling from the eastern broadleaf woodland strip.

The primarily recorded species across both surveys were meadow pipits *Anthus pratensis* and corvids. Individuals and groups of meadow pipit was seen flying both above the site and also flushed out during the walkover. Old corvid nests appear to be present in the small pocket of trees adjacent to Creoch House, approximately 175m west of the site. A large number of rooks *Corvus frugilegus* could be heard calling from this direction, with approximately 50 individuals recorded in an adjacent field during the second survey.

No nests or breeding pairs were observed within the site.



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4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Habitats

Hedgerows are classified as a priority habitat with the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (JNCC, 2024). Figure 2 of the site layout indicated that an emergency second access point will be located on Creoch Road to the western extent of the site. It is anticipated that a small section of the hedge will required removal in order to meet proper safety standards for the new installation of the access road.

Lengths of new hedgerow will be replanted around the perimeter of the new development in order to replace the section lost. Newly planted hedgerow will exceed the total amount to be lost. New planting will be undertaken as shown in "315449-ADW04-Final - Fig L11 Illustrative Landscape Masterplan".

Approximately 40% of the total site boundary area will be utilised for the construction of the new BESS, situated on the southern half of the site. The pastoral land on which construction takes place will be permanently lost.

Overall, the habitat within the site boundary is of low conservation value. No further surveys for habitats or plants are required.

As well as new hedgerows, the site will see other improvements made such as pockets of woodland planting and a wildflower mix sown. These improvements are expected to increase the current biodiversity at the site by introducing new flora species, as well as increasing nesting opportunities for birds. The increase of flora coupled with a new waterbody may improve invertebrate numbers and species, which in relation can improve food sources for local bird and bat populations.

4.2 Ground Level Tree Assessment

Given the total of 28 PRF-I trees in a relatively small area, this may increase the likelihood of a roost being present. Additionally, as the immediate area to the site lacks a large number of trees, these PRF-I features may have an increased importance to local bats.

All of the identified trees sit out with the development area, with the closest PRF-I trees sitting approximately 10m from the proposed upgraded access track/existing farm access gate. The PRF-M tree is located approximately 90m south-west from where the development will be situated.

At the time of this report, no works impacting trees (eg pruning/felling) are required to facilitate the construction of the BESS.

Given that no tree works are required, and that all trees have an approximate 10m buffer from any working area (with the closest working area being the upgrading of the farm track to an access road), no further survey work is deemed necessary for the project. The installation of the access track is expected to be a mobile process and thus any works operating in close proximity to a PRF-I tree will be of limited and temporary duration.

No new, permanent artificial lighting is proposed as part of the works due to the installation of infrared security cameras. The development is therefore not expected to have any negative impact on commuting or foraging bats in the area.

4.3 Birds



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Birds recorded within the site boundary were found primarily on the vegetated borders, flying overhead, or resting on built features such as the stone wall to the northern boundary of the overhead lines which cut through the site. The section of agricultural land (which is heavily used by livestock including sheep and cattle) that will be lost as a result of the development is not considered significantly important to the local bird species found within the area.

The loss of pastoral habitat within the Site represents a small percentage loss of the surrounding similar agricultural landscape, therefore unlikely to have an adverse impact upon the conservation status of bird species. The site is unlikely to support a large number of roosting or foraging Schedule 1 species or notable populations of other species of conservation concern, therefore no further detailed surveys are required.

Additional hedgerows and tree planting will take place as part of the proposed development. This planting is likely to enhance opportunities for smaller birds, such as chaffinch and robin who were recorded in the vegetated boundaries.

Should vegetation clearance, or tree felling/limbing be required between the months of March – August (inclusive), a nesting bird check should be undertaken by a suitably trained ecologist a maximum of 48hours prior to the cut.

Operatives on site should receive a designated toolbox talk for breeding bird.

4.4 General Good Practice Mitigations

The following good practice measures should be adhered to in order to avoid construction-phase impacts on individual animals on site:

- Any temporary artificial lighting required for the construction phase (eg during night works) should be kept directional and ensure lighting does not spill onto suitable surrounding habitat for nocturnal species (eg. Tree lines, hedgerows).
- Artificial lighting should be switched off when not in use (expect when required for security purposes).
- All refuelling, or storage of any fuels, should be kept a minimum of >10m from any drain or watercourse. Additionally, these materials should be kept double-bunded on a made surface when possible.
- Before use, construction plant stored on site should receive a quick check for nesting bird or any animal that may use it for shelter.



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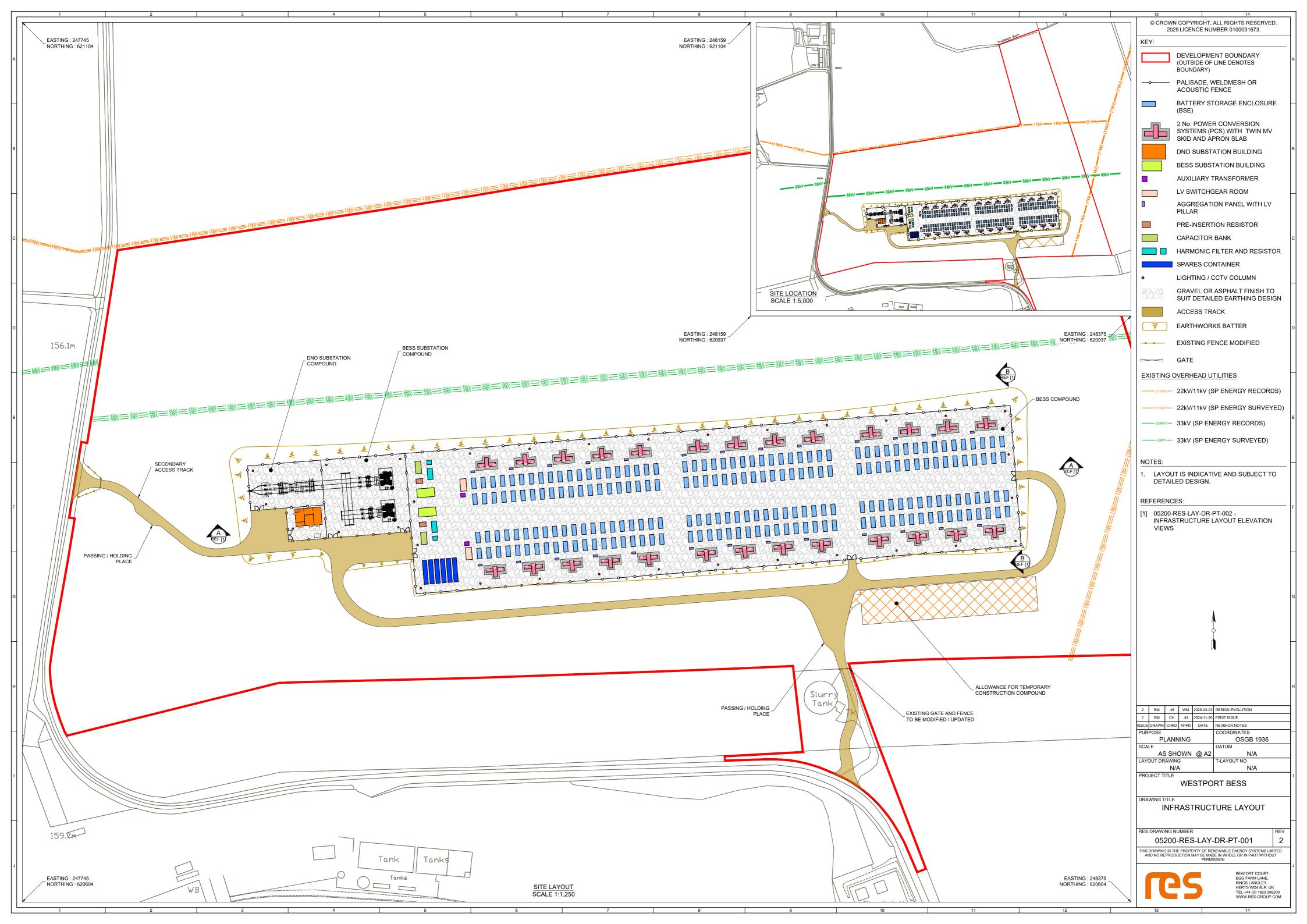
Appendix A - Figures

Figure Number	Description
1	Site boundary
2	Proposed site layout
3	Phase 1 Habitat Map
4	Ground Level Tree Assessment Map
5	Wintering Bird Survey Map



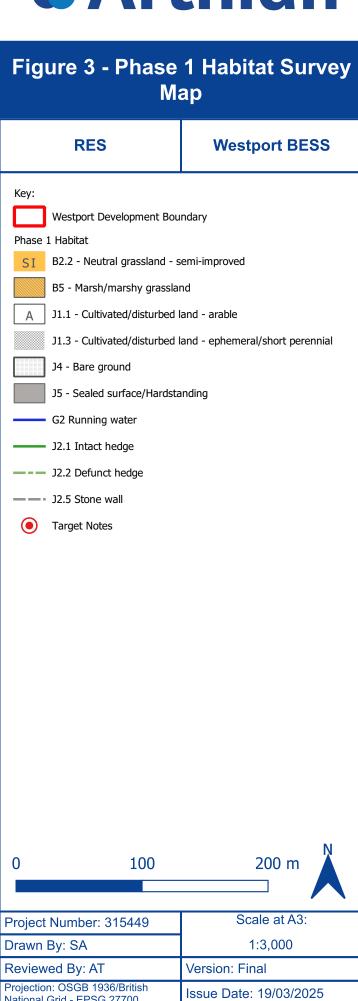






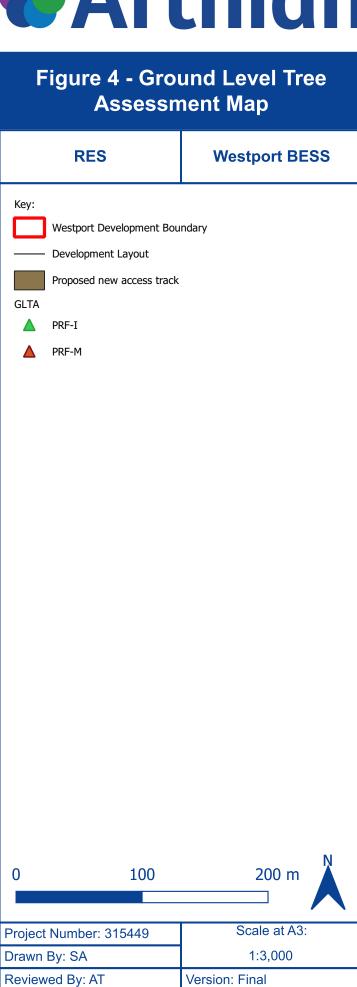








Arthian



Issue Date: 25/04/2025







RES Westport BESS

Westport Development Boundary

Wintering Bird Behaviours (Survey 1)

- Sighting

200 m 100



Project Number: 315449	Scale at A3:
Drawn By: SA	1:4,000
Reviewed By: AT	Version: Final
Projection: OSGB 1936/British National Grid - EPSG 27700	Issue Date: 19/03/2025







RES

Westport BESS

Westport Development Boundary

Wintering Bird Behaviours (Survey 2)

- Sighting

200 m 100



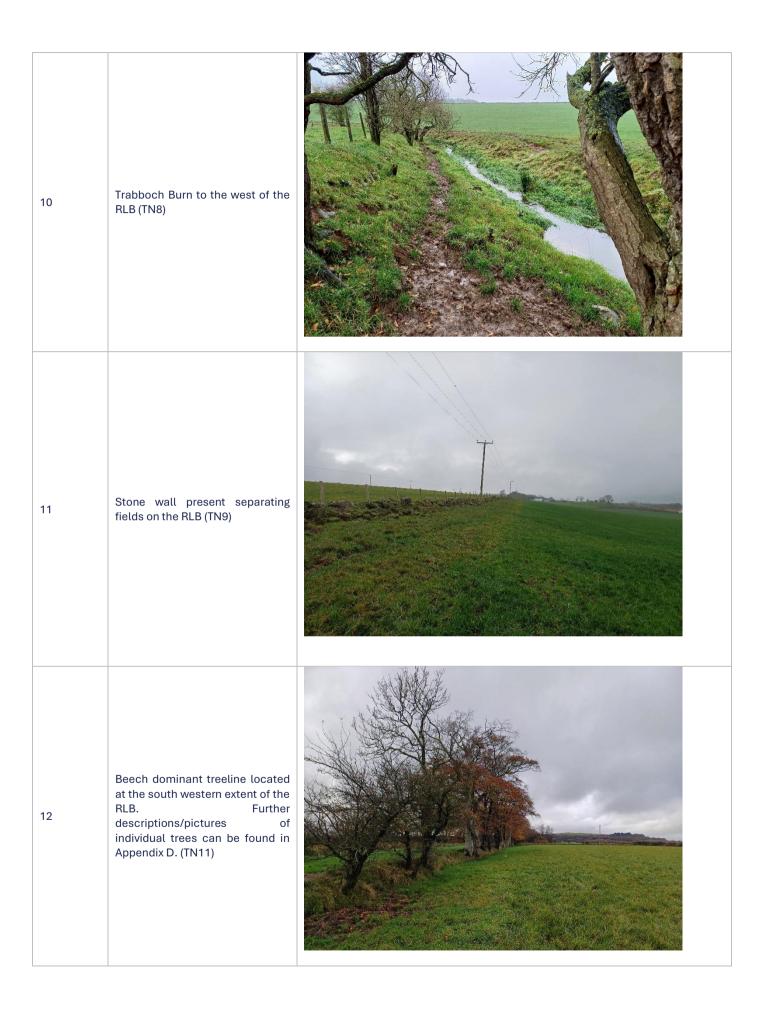
Project Number: 315449	Scale at A3:
Drawn By: SA	1:4,000
Reviewed By: AT	Version: Final
Projection: OSGB 1936/British National Grid - EPSG 27700	Issue Date: 19/03/2025

Appendix B – Survey Photographs

Photo ID	Description	Photograph
1	A photo of the pastoral field taken from the eastern extent, looking west (TN 3)	
2	Access track to the southern extent of the red line boundary. (TN1)	
3	Further image of the access track continuing to the field entrance at the southern extent of the red line boundary (TN1)	

4	Neutral grassland verge at southern extent of boundary (TN14)	
5	Area of short species poor grassland with neutral grassland to the left and marshy grassland behind (TN12, 13)	
6	Block of coniferous woodland located directly adjacent to the south-eastern boundary (TN2)	

7	Intact hedgerow located at western extent of boundary (TN10)	
8	Defunct hedgerow located at eastern extent of RLB (TN 4)	
9	Trabboch Burn at the north- eastern corner of the RLB (TN6)	



Broadleaf woodland to the northeast of RLB. Sheep present amongst trees at time of survey. (TN7)



Appendix C – Survey Target Notes

Target Note	Description	
1	Bare ground access track, starts as a stone mix and moves into more of a soft dirt track between the two farm gates.	
2	Coniferous woodland strip. Could not be walked through due to access permissions. Trees spaced enough to see through. No badger signs/setts and sub-optimal for sett creation.	
3	Arable land regularly used by cattle and sheep. Grass well grazed. Species include:	
4	Defunct hedgerow	
5	Continuous hedgerow	
6	Small burn, slightly sloped banks. Sheep use evident on bank.	
7	Broadleaf woodland area. Could not be waked through due to access permissions. Trees spaced. Sheep have access and were present at time of survey. No badger signs/setts. Sub-optimal for sett creation.	
8	Small scrub and trees present on the bank of the burn.	
9	Stone wall bordering the two fields.	
10	Continuous hedgerow	
11	Tree line of dominate beech, with occasional hawthorn and apple.	
12	Marshy grassland, soft rush dominate	
13	Area of species poor and neutral grasslands.	
14	Neutral grassland verge.	

Appendix D - Ground Level Tree Assessment

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
1	Scot's Pine	PRF-I	Damage on main trunk. Approx 8m high on southern face. Not in accessible area.	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
2	Beech	PRF-I	One small hole approximately 1m high on east face. Appears to extend into branch. One hole 2m high, east face.	
3	Beech	PRF-I	Hole approx. 5m high, north face.	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
4	Ash	PRF-I	Potential hole approximately 6m north face where branch joins main stem	
5	Scot's Pine	PRF-I	Potential small vertical split on main stem, north face, approx. 8m. Not in accessible area.	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
6	Beech	PRF-I	Hole approx. 5m on north face. Broken limbs at 6m.	
7,8&9	Beech x3	PRF-I	Close group of 3 beech. Each tree has large areas of rot on main steam and small holes. Rot is semi-exposed.	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
10	Beech	PRF-I	Holes on north face approximately 3m. Broken main stem at top with rot.	
11	Beech	PRF-I	Broken limb approx. 6m and hole approx. 3m on north face. Split on upper main stem	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
12	Beech	PRF-I	Upturned holes north face at approx. 4m. Additionally hole at approx. 4.5m.	
13	Beech	PRF-I	Hole at 5m north face on eastern stem.	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
14 & 15		PRF-I	Two trees in close proximity. Both trees with holes (cankers?) at approx. 5-7m.	
16	Ash	PRF-M	Hole (canker?) that extend into main stem. Approx 4m, west face. Some growth in front of hole.	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
17	Beech	PRF-I	Open rot, semi-exposed	
18 & 19	Beech x2	PRF-M	Large hole on NW face, approx. 7m Hole NW face approx. 5m Small cluster of holes at approx. 3m on NE face Rot tear on east face, approx. 2m	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
20	Beech	PRF-I	Broken limb with rot approx. 6m on west face	
21	Beech	PRF-I	Damaged main stem approximately 7m	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
22	Beech	PRF-I	Potential fluting in branches	
23	Beech	PRF-I	Rot tear out approx. 5m on north face	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
24	Beech	PRF-I	Hole on underside of branch, west face approx. 3m	
25	Beech	PRF-I	One heavily damaged, primarily a rotted main stem and rot in limb remains. Holes in non-rotted main stem at approx. 6m near top.	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
26	Beech	PRF-I		
27	Beech	PRF-I	Limb with rot on west face	

Tree ID	Species	PRF	Description	Photograph
28	Beech	PRF-I	Holes on east and north face	
29	Beech	PRF-I	Dead, all over rot.	

Appendix E - Full Species List of Wintering Birds

BTO Code	Common name	Latin name	Status	Total individuals in Survey1	Total individuals in Survey 2	Behaviours
B.	Blackbird	Turdus merula	Green	2	2	Sighting
BZ	Buzzard	Buteo buteo	Green	2	-	In flight, calling
СН	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	Green	2	8	Sighting, in song
C.	Crow	Corvus corone	Green	21	16	Sighting, in flight, calling
GO	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Green	1	-	In song
GT	Great tit	Parus major	Green	-	3	Sighting
HG	Herring gull	Larus argentatus	Red*; SBL	14	5	In flight
JD	Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	Green	-	7	Sighting on telephone wires
MG	Magpie	Pica pica	Green	-	1	Sighting
MA	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Amber	-	2	Sighting on burn
MP	Meadow pipit	Anthus pratensis	Amber	23	29	Sightings, in flight
RE	Redwing	Turdus iliacus	NT; Amber; Sch1.1; SBL; RBBP	2	2	Sighting, one dead
R.	Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Green	3	2	Sighting
RO	Rook	Corvus frugilegus	Amber	7	62	In flight, callings
SG	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Red; SBL	5	-	In flight
WR	Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Amber	-	1	Sighting,

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