BOWENHURST BESS

Thank you for attending this public consultation event. We appreciate you taking the time to learn more about our forthcoming planning application for the **Bowenhurst Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**.

The proposed site is located on land at Bowenhurst Farm, Crondall, Farnham, GU10 5HP, within a predominantly industrial area to the west of Bowenhurst Lane. The proposed development would provide capacity to store up to 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity and be operational for a period of approximately 40 years.

This project aligns with National CleanPower2030 requirements for energy storage systems in the South West of England. Bowenhurst BESS will contribute to energy security and support the smooth transition to a low-carbon future. The project includes biodiversity and landscaping enhancements. A team of specialist consultants in ecology, landscape and visual impact, noise, planning, and transport are working to ensure the proposal is sensitive to the surroundings.

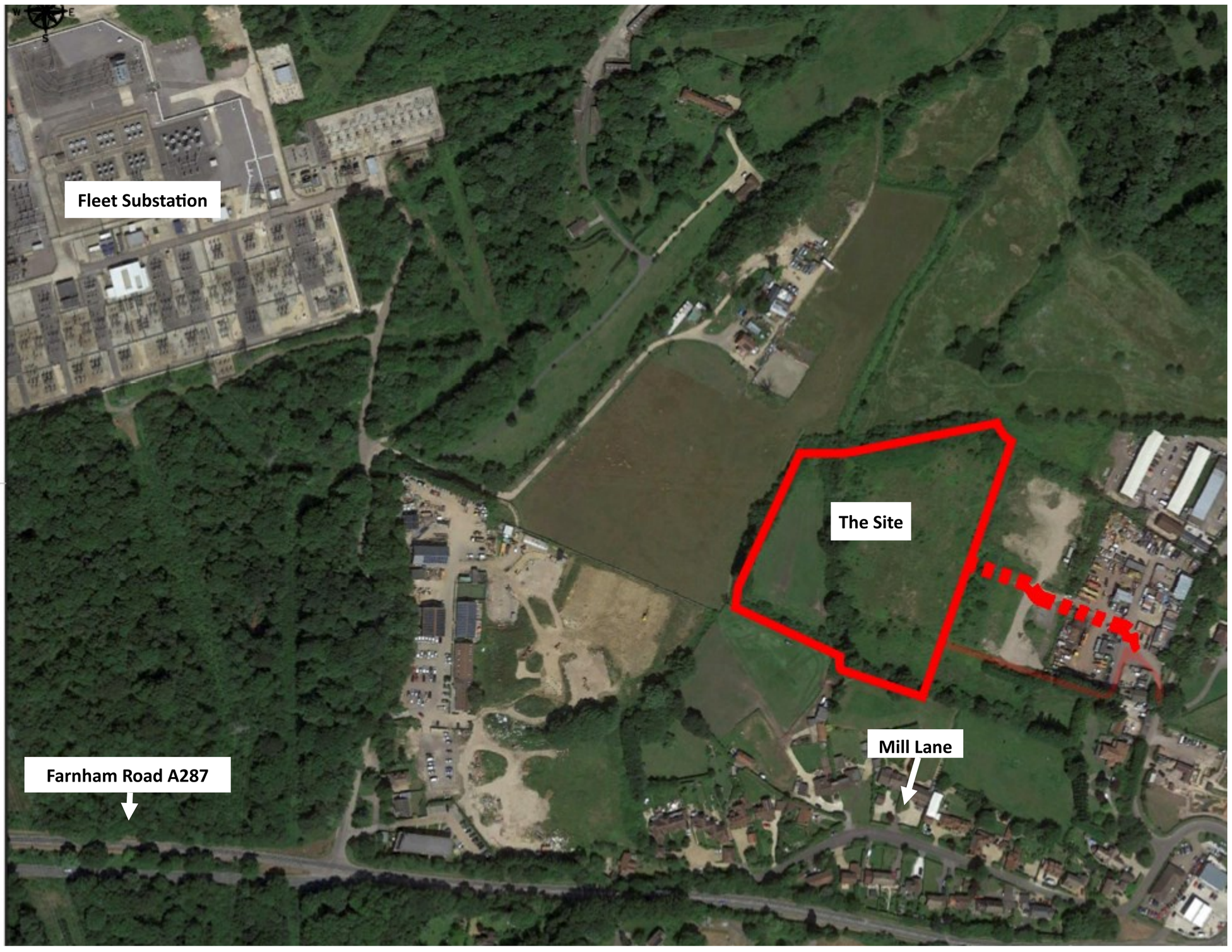

Image: Site location

WHAT IS BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE?

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) play a vital role in helping the UK transition to a low-carbon future. They store excess electricity generated by the National Grid—especially from renewable sources like wind and solar—during periods of low demand or high generation, such as a windy night or a sunny day.

By nature, sources of renewable energy are intermittent which can cause sudden power generation shortfalls or excesses. Batteries reserve power at times of peak generation and are ready to respond at a moment's notice to maintain a reliable supply of electricity. This facilitates the connection of higher volumes of renewable generators.

In addition, batteries also help stabilise the electricity network by providing short-term changes in flows. This helps maintain parameters such as voltage and frequency within the required operational ranges.

Our draft design for Bowenhurst BESS includes:

- Battery energy storage units
- Inverters and transformers
- Substation

Together, these components allow the system to safely store and distribute electricity, supporting a more flexible, resilient, and sustainable energy network.

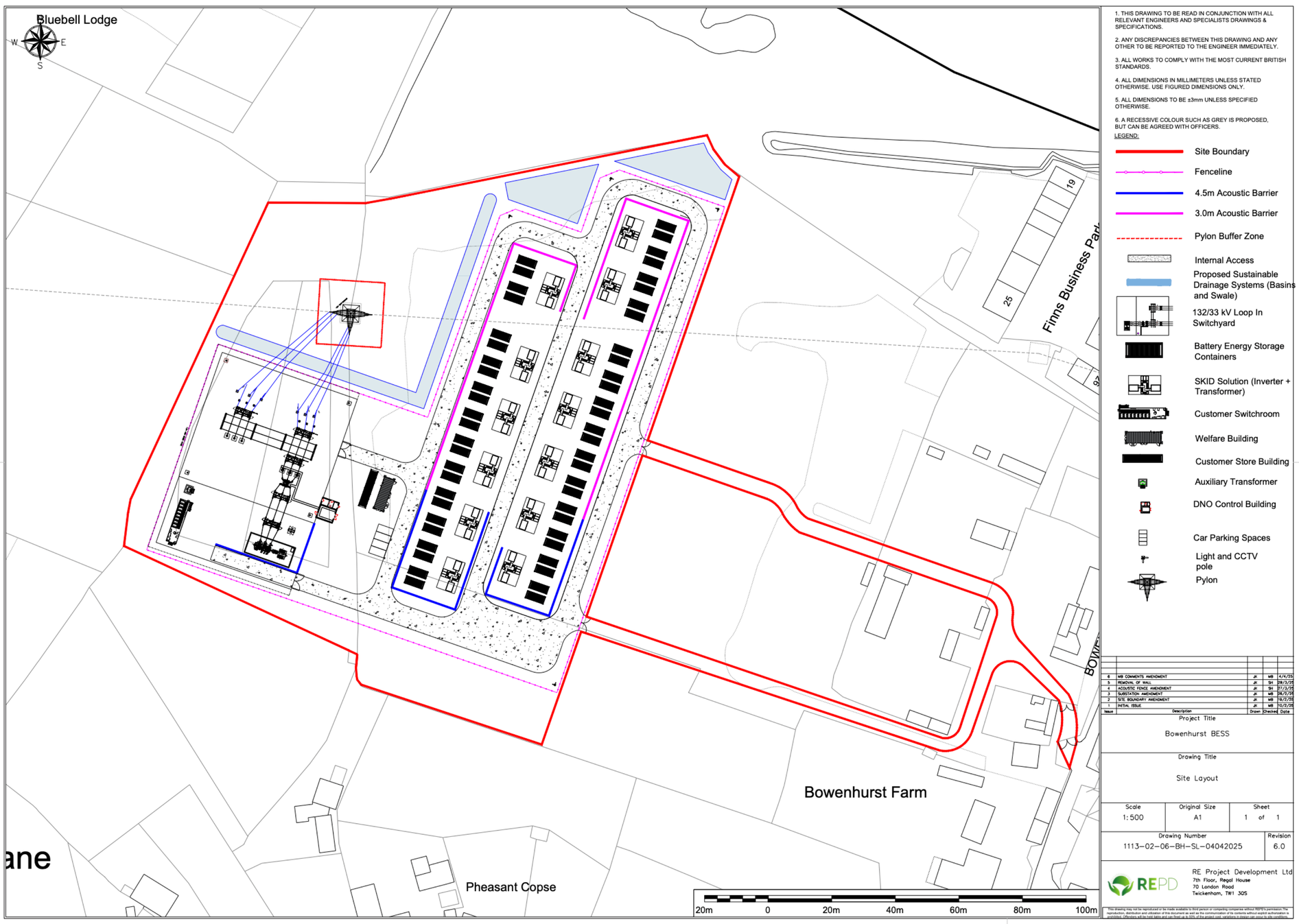

Image: Provisional Layout (printed copies are available for easier viewing)

ABOUT US

Bowenhurst BESS is being proposed by **RE Projects Development Ltd (REPD)**.

REPD is an experienced developer of renewable and low carbon energy projects in the UK. Our skills range from initial site feasibility and project development to procuring EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction), project finance, and asset management.

REPD prides itself on developing projects from conception to completion. Every development stage of the process is managed by our UK based team from the initial site feasibility through to planning, construction, and operation.

Founded in 2013, REPD has 750 megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) projects and 950MW of BESS projects at various stages of development. Renewable and low carbon energy generation is at the heart of our ethos. We strive to combat climate change and air pollution. We aim to deliver an additional 1 gigawatt (GW) of subsidy free renewable energy projects in the UK in the next three years.

ECOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE

Ecological Considerations

Ecology surveys have been undertaken and the planning application will be accompanied by a **Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)**.

During the habitat walkover survey (January 2025), the site comprised two areas of neutral grassland with some expanses of bare earth, an area of bramble scrub, an area of blackthorn scrub and a number of scattered trees. It was identified that the site had the potential to support and be used by protected and notable species due to its good connectivity to suitable habitats for these species and the presence of suitable habitat.

Additional species surveys are ongoing to ensure that appropriate protections are put in place if needed.

Based on these assessments, several recommendations have been made to enhance biodiversity on the site, including:

- Installing bird and bat boxes to support local wildlife
- Selecting and managing landscaping and planting to encourage biodiversity
- Increasing native hedgerows to provide additional habitat
- Creating deadwood hibernacula to offer shelter for small species and reptiles.

Landscape and Visual Considerations

The site's character is already shaped by existing utility infrastructure, and its well-wooded surroundings provide a natural framework for visual containment.

With the benefit of sensitive design and the integration of the proposed mitigation measures, overall, it is considered that the landscape and visual effect of the scheme would not be detrimental to the landscape.

More detail will be available in the **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)** being submitted with the planning application.

Image: Illustrative Landscape Masterplan

CONSTRUCTION AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Construction of the Bowenhurst Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is anticipated to take around six to nine months and will involve the following activities:

- Site clearance and levelling
- Laying concrete pads and other hard surfacing
- Installing battery energy storage units, transformers, inverters, and connecting to the Grid
- Erecting fencing, gates, and CCTV for security
- Planting and landscaping to provide screening and enhance biodiversity to align with our environmental goals

A **Construction Transport Management Plan (CTMP)** and a **Transport and Access Statement (TAS)** will be submitted as part of the planning application.

The **CTMP** estimates construction vehicle flows and sets out traffic management and general mitigation measures.

Safety measures will be in place throughout the construction process to ensure smooth and safe access for construction vehicles. Access to the site will be from the industrial area to the east which connects directly to Bowenhurst Lane.

Construction hours will be limited during the day; for example, 08:00 to 18:00 hours Monday to Friday and 08:00 to 12:00 hours on Saturdays.

The **TAS** demonstrates the proposals can be safely accessed from the adopted highway and will not lead to a severe impact on the operation of the network or an unacceptable impact on road safety.

Once built, the site will be operated remotely except for occasional monitoring and scheduled maintenance visits (typically monthly), generating minimal traffic.

Image: Proposed Construction Traffic Route

SITE SELECTION

There are several consideration which must be taken into account when selecting the location of a BESS site.

Requirements of the network: We hold an accepted grid connection offer with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN).

Grid connectivity: The facility is located in the close proximity of the existing grid network, which enables an efficient and viable connection.

Land and soil: The site is not located on prime agricultural land.

Flood risk: The proposed development site is located in Flood Zone 1, which has the lowest flooding risk, indicating a less than 0.1% annual probability of river flooding. We will introduce sustainable drainage systems to manage surface water.

Heritage and landscape: There are no heritage assets on the site. The site is 0.40 miles south from the Basingstoke Canal - Site of Significant Scientific Importance (SSSI). Other nearby sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) will also be considered to ensure they are not impacted by the development.

Image: Fleet Substation

Image: Current condition of site

Image: Current condition of site

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The application will include reports such as:

- Arboricultural Impact Assessment
- Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
- Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Historic Environment Assessment
- Outline Battery Safety Management Plan
- Technical drawings
- Transport and Access Statement
- Construction Traffic and Management Plan
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Planning, Design and Access Statement

Key benefits:

Grid balancing: Providing a range of balancing services locally and nationally to help the system operate more efficiently and reliably.

Improved biodiversity: Proposed new planting and landscaping will enhance the biodiversity of the site.

Advancing Clean Power 2030: The project is in strategic alignment with the Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan which will deliver economic growth, national energy security, and improve standards of living.

NEXT STEPS

Thank you for joining us today. If you have any questions please approach a member of the team.

We would love to know your thoughts on the scheme, there are questionnaires available. Alternatively, you can email us at: **info@bowenhurstbess.co.uk** or learn more on our website: **www.bowenhurstbess.co.uk.**

We are finalising our reports and expect to submit our application shortly. Once the application is submitted all documentation will be available on the Local Planning Authority’s website. The Authority will also reach out to the neighbouring residents to comment on the application.