

Community Information Pack

PROPOSED ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT AT BALLYGAMMANE,
THURLES, CO. TIPPERARY



Lightsource bp is working on a proposal for an energy storage project at Ballygammane, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. We will fund and develop a 80MW/320MWh (4-hour duration) energy storage project connected into the local electricity network. The project will facilitate the integration of renewable energy into the grid, helping to support low-cost electricity and the enhanced reliability of the electricity grid.

We've chosen this site after careful consideration, and we're now undertaking a wide range of environmental assessments to help shape our plans. These include landscape and visual, heritage and archaeology, ecology and ornithology, flooding and more.

A key part of developing plans for the energy storage project is engaging with local communities, so we're sending you this leaflet to share our plans and give you an opportunity to give your feedback. Members of the Lightsource bp team are available to contact, and will answer any questions about the proposal from local residents and interested parties.

Statistics




48 battery containers



10 acres of land



40 years of operational life

We want
to hear
from you 

Please get in touch to speak to a member of the Lightsource bp team.

Phone: (0)1 685 6263

Email: info@lightsourcebp.com quoting "Ballygammane"

Website: www.lightsourcebp.com/ie/ballygammane

Our initial thoughts

PROPOSED ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT AT BALLYGAMMANE, THURLES, CO. TIPPERARY

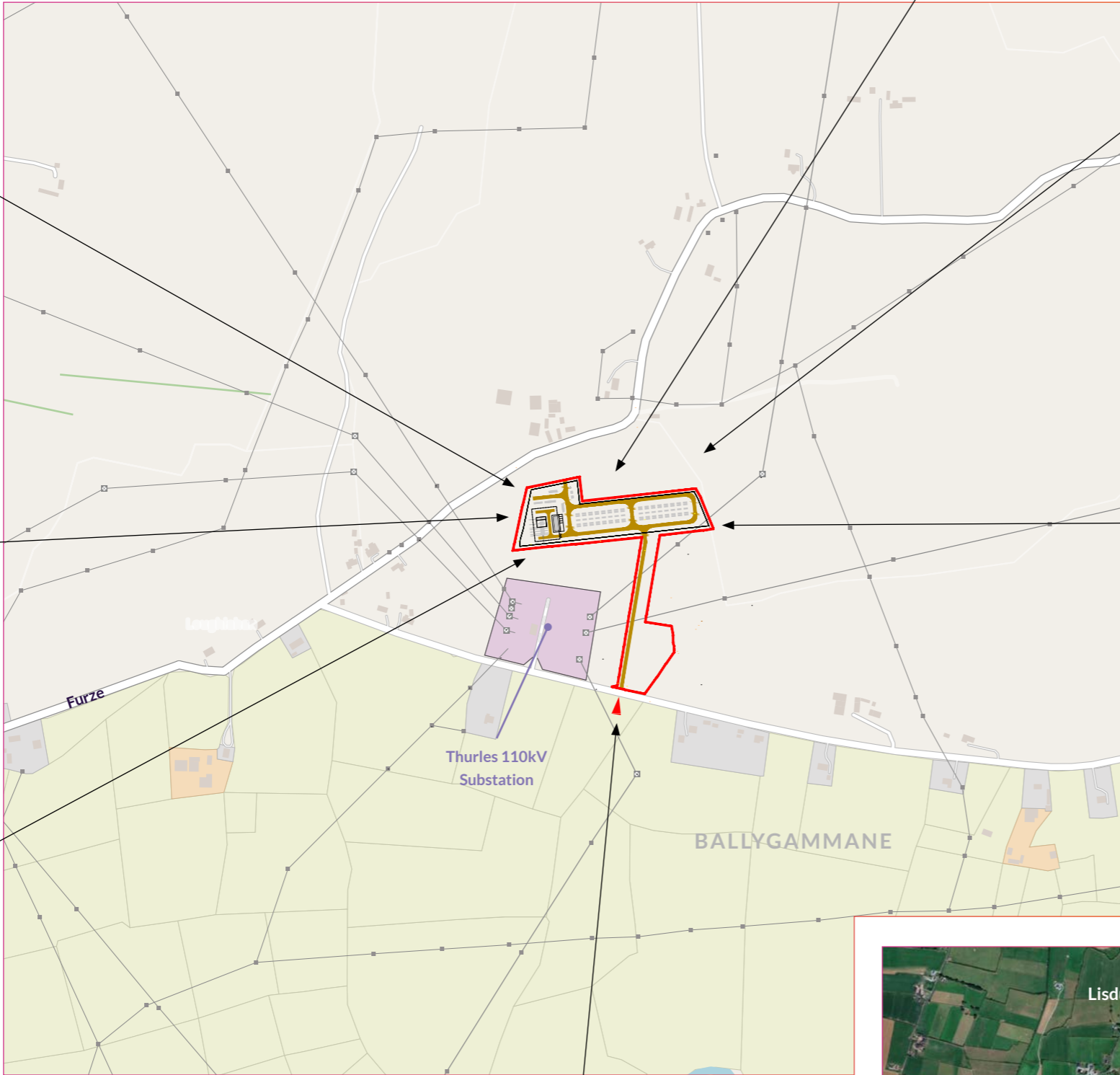
We're still in the early stages, and our plans will evolve based on local input and the results of our ecological, landscape and heritage assessments. For further details, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the contact details in this leaflet.



Native Species
We have undertaken an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey to inform the layout design and construction mitigation measures.

Cultural Heritage
We are aware that there are sites of cultural and scientific impact in the area, and have commissioned independent surveys to make sure our proposals will fully assess the potential for archaeology within the site.

Cable Route
This project will connect into the adjacent Thurles 110kV substation.



Access (▶)
Access to the site will be from the L8014 road, during construction and operation.

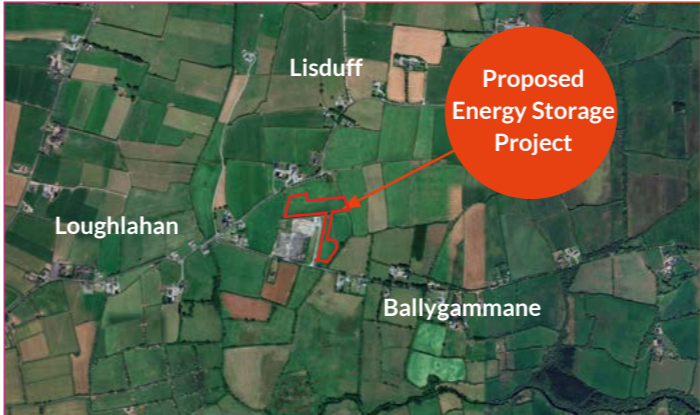


Views and Screening
We have designed the site to minimise visibility, with additional planting in place to provide screening.

Existing Vegetation
While developing the layout we have sought to maintain the majority of the existing vegetation around the perimeter of the site, retaining trees and hedgerows to preserve biodiversity and provide natural screening.



New Vegetation Planting
We will submit a detailed planting plan as part of the planning application, which will focus on screening potential views of the installation using vegetation and increasing biodiversity.



FAQs

Why is this project important?
Energy storage projects are a vital part of transitioning to a low-carbon electricity network, allowing us to balance the grid and increase the amount of locally-generated renewable energy used across Ireland. This not only decreases our reliance on fossil fuels, but also contributes positively to energy security and lower electricity prices.

What is an energy storage project and how does it work?
An energy storage project or battery energy storage system (BESS) is a modular facility capable of storing and releasing energy generated by any power source, working in a similar way to standard household batteries. It consists of several components including battery units, inverters, and a substation to connect into the local transmission network.

Using the battery, it is possible to reduce energy costs for consumers by storing the low-cost energy generated by renewable sources during sunny or windy periods, and releasing it during peak demand periods. Battery facilities can also improve the stability of the power grid by providing a reliable back up energy supply, delaying the need for costly and time-consuming upgrades.

Are energy storage project a fire or safety risk?
The fire risk for Lithium batteries such as these are extremely low, and incidences of Lithium battery fires are rare. The battery will come equipped with the latest technology and will be integrated with advanced safety measures. This will include features such as external access rather than internal access, and individual units within each container that are sealed and monitored with their own fire suppression system. This means that if a single cell fails, a small section of the battery is electrically isolated, without compromising the fire safety of the rest of the container unit, minimising the risk of larger-scale damage.

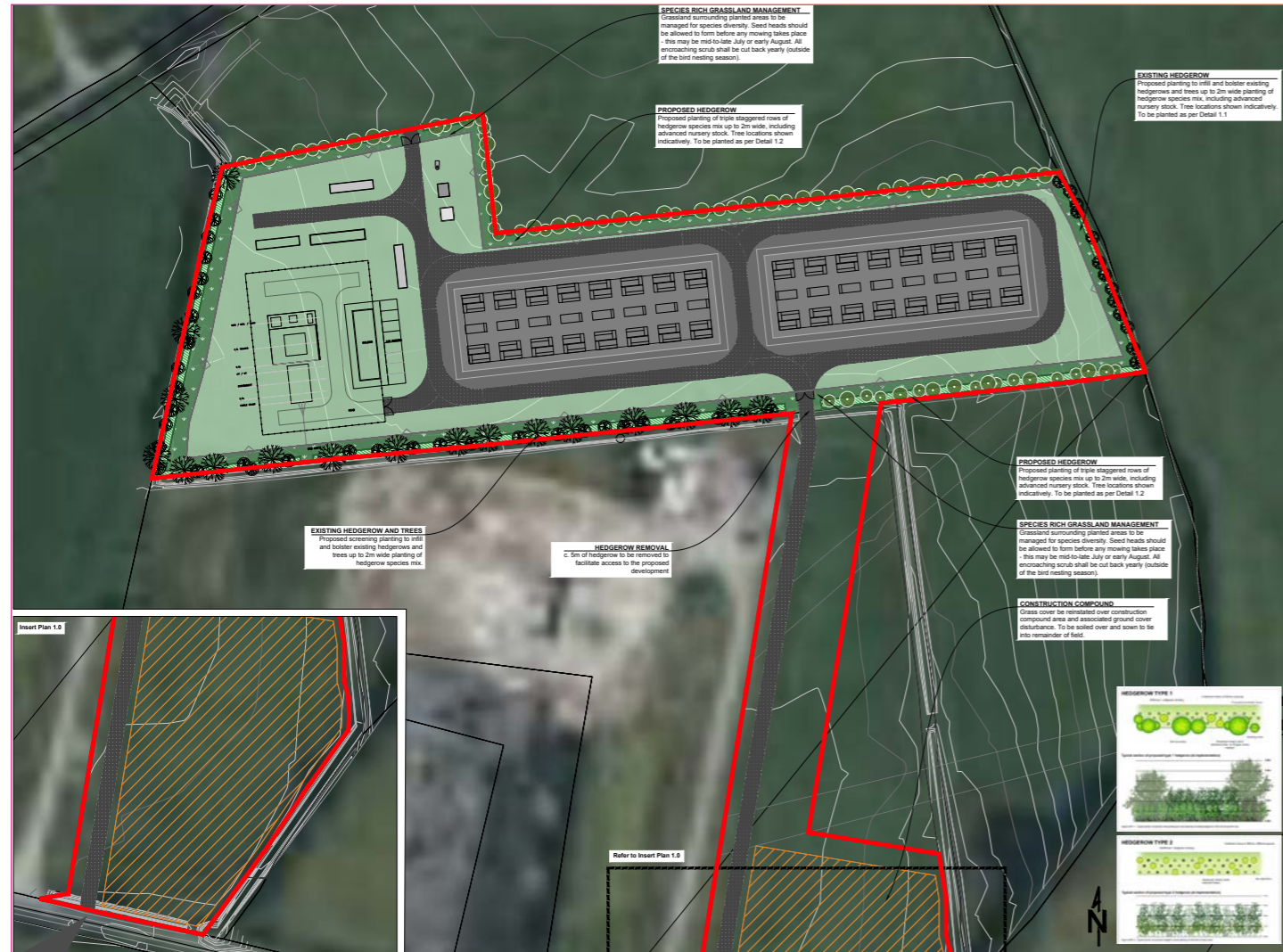
The project will develop a bespoke Fire Management Plan, created in concert with the relevant local authorities and the local fire and rescue service. Safety is a core value at Lightsource bp and all our battery projects are developed with the highest standards of safety in mind.



How will the equipment be protected?
The energy storage project will be enclosed by an acoustic fence, and CCTV cameras will monitor the boundary fence and area within the installation. These will be specifically positioned to make sure they do not impinge on the privacy of residents.

Will the energy storage project be noisy?
An energy storage project can produce noise from various sources, including the cooling system, fans, and power electronics. We are currently undertaking a detailed Noise Impact Assessment, however, based on the location of the battery and the distance from residential areas, roads and public rights of way, the probability of noise disturbances for local community members is expected to be minimal. If necessary we will implement measures to mitigate any potential impact.







Landscaping plan

A bespoke Biodiversity Management Plan will ensure that the existing and new habitats are enhanced or created to benefit local wildlife. As part of this initiative, our landscape planting, seeding and habitat creation plans will focus on native species. We are keen to hear from and work with any local beekeepers and land management organisations to support wildlife and boost the local habitats.



LEGEND:

-  EXISTING BOUNDARY VEGETATION RETAINED AND BOLSTERED
-  SPECIES DIVERSE GRASS MIX
-  EXISTING TREES
-  PROPOSED TREES (AS PART OF BOUNDARY HEDGEROW)
-  OPEN SPACE
-  SITE BOUNDARY

NOTES:

The function of the proposed mitigation planting is primarily for screening and softening of the proposed development, but it will also enhance the ecological corridors within the surrounding area.

Hedgerows
Mitigation screen planting shall consist of a mixture of native species that are prevalent in the immediate area. Hedgerow planting to consist of feathered whips (of various sizes) and advanced nursery stock (standard trees) in staggered rows at a spacing of 600mm. 'Under-planting' to consist of a single row of whips to the development side of existing tree lines and hedgerows. 'Inter-planting' to consist of whips at 400mm centres to fill gaps in existing tree lines and hedgerows.

All native hedgerow species will be planted as whips, with the primary and secondary structure species to be of a minimum height of 90cm and the other shrubs species to be of a minimum height of 60cm.

Proposed hedgerow - c. 350 linear m
Existing bolstered hedgerow - c. 330 linear m.

Grass seeding
Any exposed soil faces shall be seeded with a native pollinator friendly grass seeding of local provenance. Margins will be managed for biodiversity.

Species mix to be finalised in conjunction with the project ecologist.

NATIVE HEDGEROW SPECIES:

Botanical name	Common name	Size	%
<i>Primary structure:</i>			
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	90-120cm / 8-10cm girth, 3m or standard trees	60%
<i>Secondary structure:</i>			
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	90-120cm	15%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	90-120cm	15%
<i>Shrub species structure:</i>			
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble	60-90cm	2.5%
<i>Corulus avellana</i>	Hazel	60-90cm	2.5%
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	60-90cm	2.5%
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	60-90cm	2.5%

REVISIONS:

No.	Description	Date
1.	DRAFT	18/09/2024
2.	Client review	08/10/2024
3.		
4.		
5.		

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Site location:
Ballygammane, Thurles
COUNTY TIPPERARY

Drawing Title:
LANDSCAPE MITIGATION PLAN 1 OF 1

Project:
BALLYGAMMANE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Drawn by:
JD

Checked by:
CD

Drawing Ref:
LD.BLLGMMNBSS 1.0

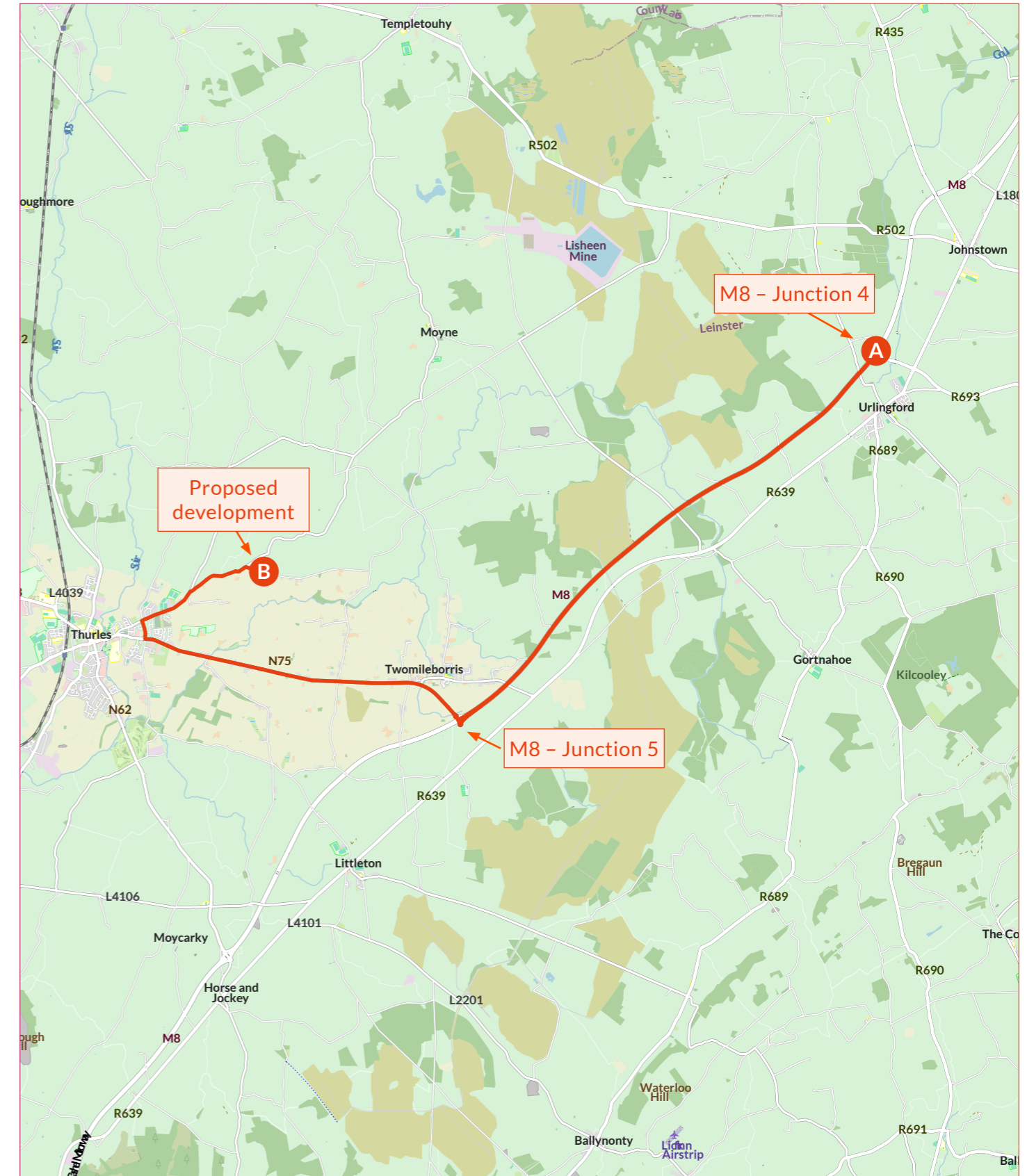
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OCT 2024

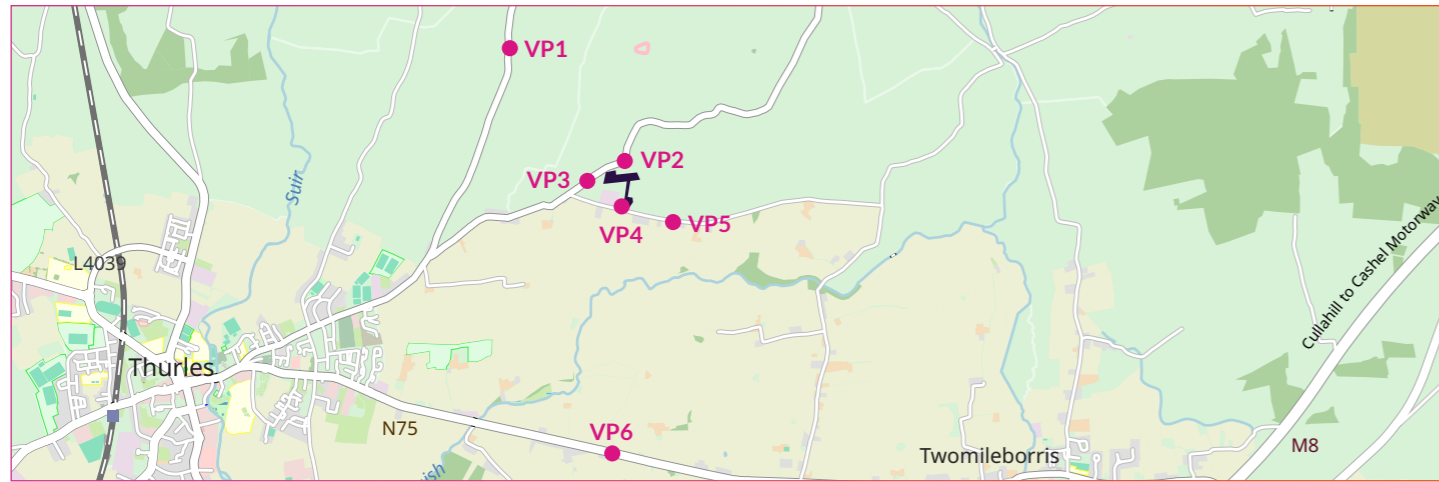
REV A

Construction traffic plan

Once the energy storage project is in place it requires very little maintenance and approximately monthly visits in regular cars or 4x4s would cause no traffic disruption. Whilst the project is being constructed, a traffic management plan will be put in place.



Viewpoints



Viewpoint 1 - Local road at Cassesstown



Viewpoint 2(A) - Local road at Lisduff north of the site



Viewpoint 2(B) - Local road at Lisduff north of the site



Viewpoint 3 - Local road at Lisduff west of the site



Viewpoint 4 - Local road at Ballygammane south of site



Viewpoint 5 - Local road at Ballygammane southeast of site



Viewpoint 6 - N75 at Corbally



Who are we?



Lightsource bp is a global market leader in the funding, development and long-term management of large-scale solar projects, with significant energy storage expertise. We work closely with local businesses and communities to supply clean, dependable and competitively priced energy. We're dedicated to securing a low-carbon future, and to meeting the dual challenge of an increased demand for energy alongside a need to reduce emissions, in Ireland and worldwide.

Community engagement

It's important to us that the local community are fully informed of the plans for the site, and have the opportunity to comment and learn about the proposal. Our team are on hand to provide more details and gather your feedback.



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