



## Bellmoor Energy Storage

Dear resident,

We wrote to you in October to introduce our proposals for Bellmoor Energy Storage, a 1GW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), that would be located to the east of South Kilvington. Plans include the BESS, a transmission substation and a substantial new nature reservation area, open to everyone.

In November, we hosted a public consultation, including a two-day event at Thirsk Racecourse. We enjoyed meeting so many people and hearing valuable feedback. It was an opportunity to respond to a range of questions, from the vital role for battery technology in our changing energy network, to information about the proposed site. We shared information about our Community Energy Transition Foundation, which would provide funding to support local people in accessing the benefits of the green transition.

We now want to provide an update and respond to the feedback we have received, including:

- How the scheme has changed.
- Common questions.
- More detail on the Community Energy Transition Foundation.

We have now submitted a planning application to North Yorkshire Council. Once validated, you will be able to find full details of our plans, plus all the accompanying documents, on the Council's planning portal. We will post the application reference number on our web page once it is available.



- You told us that the proposed transmission substation on the west of the original plan was too large and located in the wrong area. **We have moved the substation to an area adjacent to the battery storage area, and reduced it in size.**

- This further reduces any impact on the nearest properties.
- The development area is now reduced in size.
- There will be substantial extra tree and hedgerow planting to screen the substation in its new location.
- The land on which the substation was previously proposed to be sited will now largely be retained for agricultural use.

- You told us you were concerned that we would increase the development at a later date. **There will be no further development of the land for renewable energy within the red line boundary. The area surrounding the BESS and substation will be committed for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).** As submitted, our BNG figure will be 148%.

- You were unsure as to whether we would deliver all of the ecological and wildlife enhancements shown on our plans. **The ecological benefit is included as part of our planning application.**

- The ecological features will become a planning commitment to be delivered should consent be granted.
- As part of our proposals we plan to deliver recreational facilities for the community and welcome additional input as to how these areas can be used.

- You asked us to provide more views from specific locations in the surrounding area. **We have undertaken additional noise and viewpoint assessments.**

Taken together, these amendments represent a meaningful change to our proposals, condensing the developable area, while also giving clear and firm commitments for the nature recreation area and Biodiversity Net Gain.

Our objective is always to select the most suitable locations for all our projects whilst delivering industry leading biodiversity gain, natural environment improvements and local community benefits that support the green transition.

# How your feedback is shaping our plans

Previous plan



Submitted plan



# Community benefits

## Nature recreation area



Over half of the site – 108 acres – will be set aside for biodiversity enhancement, nature and recreation, with full public access and an outdoor education facility. Our proposals will deliver significant biodiversity gains, and we welcome community input into its design and use.

The nature area includes extensive tree planting, wildlife ponds and the creation of a wetland area. This is currently moderate quality agricultural land that is used for livestock food production. There will be an additional area set aside for ground nesting birds located near the NatPower substation to the northeast of the project site.

This repurposing of the land will also mean no more annual pesticide or fertiliser run off into the local streams, further enhancing the environment, increasing biodiversity and attracting endangered species.

# Community Energy Transition Foundation

We are committed to supporting local communities with their green transition and have established our Community Energy Transition Foundation. It invests in those areas where we have operational sites, receiving funding from each site, proportionate to its size. We expect this project, if approved, to contribute up to £1 million each year for 40 years.

The Foundation can provide substantial financial support to individuals, businesses, charities and community groups to promote sustainable communities and provide a financial stimulus for the green transition in the local area. The Foundation will consider all applications, but preference will always be given to those in the locality.



In terms of practical applications, the fund could potentially invest in initiatives such as:

Electrification of vehicle fleets, including tractors and trucks

EV community pool cars

Small-scale solar generation

Battery tools for use in expanded allotments



**Please tell us what your community needs to become more sustainable and how we could help.**

Applications can be made via an online portal from the start of construction, with funding provided on an annual basis for the lifetime of Bellmoor Energy Storage. The community would have a dedicated funding manager, who would act as your point of contact.

# Your questions answered

## Why have you chosen this site? Why can't a brownfield site be used?

We assessed 31 million locations in the UK and 20,000 km of power lines to find suitable locations for our projects.

This site is located between two existing overhead transmission lines, via which we can connect directly into the national grid. There are no other brownfield sites along the overhead lines that were suitable for us to proceed with.

The site was selected as the most suitable location, following a rigorous assessment that prioritised brownfield and industrial land before moving onto greenfield sites.

The site is away from densely populated areas; plus, there are no historic considerations, no sensitive ecological designations, no heritage assets; the development site is the lowest flood risk.

## Would the land not be better used for agriculture?

The soil quality on site is graded 3b. It is not 'best and most versatile' agricultural land and doesn't have the same high-quality characteristics that make it ideal for farming.

The changes to the scheme that we are proposing will result in more of the land remaining available for continued farming.

Out of the 173 acres, only about a third would be developed for battery storage and its substation. The rest would be devoted to the proposed nature reserve, with opportunities for continued agricultural-related activities.

Climate change is the biggest medium to long term risk to our domestic food supply, making the delivery of new renewable energy important.

## Is there a need for battery storage?

The UK has committed to decarbonising its electricity network by 2030. By this time 95% of electricity generation should come from low carbon sources.

Yet, as we phase out fossil fuels, the demand for renewable electricity is expected to double by 2050. Electricity will continue to play an ever-greater role in our lives, heating our homes (with gas heating of new build homes banned from 2025), powering our future transport systems (the government plans to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030), buildings and industries. That means we need access to reliable, consistent supplies of electricity. Battery storage has a vital role to play: wind and solar farms don't generate electricity consistently, but batteries allow us to store electricity and release it at times when it is most needed.

That means that our homes and businesses can continue to be powered – even when the sun isn't shining, or the wind isn't blowing. It also protects our whole energy system against price shocks or issues with supply abroad. This helps keep electricity affordable and our supplies secure.



Did you know that £2.5 billion will be spent in 2025, paying wind farms to stop generating electricity because there is nowhere to store it? This means that bills will increase in years to come if this energy is not stored. The country needs a large amount of battery storage to absorb energy when supply exceeds demand and release it when there is not enough.

Source: National Grid Electricity System Operator

## Will the proposed site spoil the view of the surrounding area?

The site and surrounding area were evaluated to ensure that the project could be designed to be well integrated within the surrounding environment, minimising its visibility and visual impact.

It is strategically located to minimise visual impact from the few nearby properties. The inclusion of woodland screen planting seeks to minimise landscape and visual impacts, including those from adjacent footpaths.

We have considered the North York Moors National Park (NYMNP) as part of our visual assessment. We looked at 3 viewpoints in the NYMNP and selected the view from Sutton Bank, and along the Cleveland Way. There would be small, distant views of the proposed development, however, due to the large open view and the distance of the site from the viewpoint, the proposed development will be difficult to perceive. The site would be viewed in context of large farmsteads and roofscape views of nearby settlements.

## How will construction traffic impact local roads?

While there will be some additional traffic during construction, the project is not expected to lead to unacceptable road congestion.

Our planning application includes a Transport Statement and Construction Traffic Management Plan, which considers the cumulative impact of other local projects on the road network.

The route for construction traffic from the A19 is the shortest route to the site, through South Kilvington and via a new access road at the bottom of Hag Lane. The delivery of large apparatus will only be scheduled for non-peak times.

Workers will travel in multi-occupancy vehicles, reducing the number of vehicle movements. We are considering road improvements to improve site access. Once operational, the site will be managed remotely, with minimal traffic using the local road network.

## Is battery storage safe?

Yes. BESS make use of tried and tested technology, much of which we use in our day-to-day lives – for example, in mobile telephones and electric vehicles.

Safety measures would be built into our battery design, such as a fire suppression system, with multiple layers of safety, which would only operate in the very unlikely event of overheating of the batteries. Batteries would also be housed in self-contained units.

We are engaging with specialist fire safety advisors, including North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, local authority environmental health teams and other statutory bodies to confirm that our proposed designs meet the health and safety requirements set by local and national policy.

## Is there a risk of fire?

Battery storage is safe by design. Given this, the risk of fire is extremely low, though we recognise that it is of the utmost importance to provide reassurance that this has been fully managed.

In the unlikely event of a fire, our systems have inbuilt monitoring and suppression mechanisms that provide several layers of safety.

A Fire Management Strategy will be created and approved by North Yorkshire Council and the Fire Authority.



Did you know that over half of the site will be set aside for biodiversity enhancement, nature and recreation, with full public access and an outdoor education facility.



We welcome your comments on our revised proposals. If you have any further feedback, or ideas for the design or use of the nature recreation area, please get in touch via email:

**[bellmoor.bess@natpower.uk](mailto:bellmoor.bess@natpower.uk)**

For more information visit our website:

**[natpower.uk/project/bellmoor](http://natpower.uk/project/bellmoor)**

# NatPower

