



Launch of online consultation for proposed Clay Pool energy storage scheme.

- **NatPower will shortly be consulting on plans for a new 800MW battery energy storage scheme ahead of submitting full planning applications to Durham County Council and Hartlepool Borough Council.**
- **An online exhibition for the Clay Pool scheme will commence on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 and will run until 16th April 2025.**

NatPower, one of the UK's leading developers of clean energy generation and distribution, is seeking community feedback on its plans to build a new battery energy storage scheme (BESS) on a c.22 hectare site located approximately 2km northeast of Elwick, Hartlepool. The proposals include native tree and hedgerow planting and habitat creation to deliver a biodiversity net gain on the site.

Battery storage is crucial to guaranteeing a secure, affordable and clean energy supply for the whole of the UK in the future. As more renewable energy comes onto the grid, batteries are needed to store energy for use during times of peak demand, or when renewable power isn't available. This will ensure grid resilience as renewable generations become more prominent as part of the UK's energy mix.

As well as the plans for the BESS project, NatPower are highlighting details of its Community Energy Transition Foundation, an independent charity which will support communities to become the most sustainable in the UK. Should the project go ahead, the Foundation will invest in local initiatives that support the transition to net zero, ensuring local benefits from the delivery of national infrastructure.

Following the consultation, NatPower will consider all the feedback received before submitting full planning applications to Durham County Council and Hartlepool Borough Council.

John Sturman, Managing Director at NatPower, said:

'Battery storage will play an essential role in delivering clean, secure and affordable energy for the UK. We are looking forward to engaging with the local community and presenting our proposals.'

'NatPower are ready to answer questions and explain the essential role that battery storage will play in clean energy delivery. We are able to discuss our Community Energy Transition Foundation, which will invest in local initiatives to create market-leading sustainable living for the local community. We are keen to hear about what your community would like to see to become more sustainable.'

'I would encourage everyone to view the proposals and provide their feedback, so we can enhance the proposals further.'



Local residents are requested to submit any queries or comments by midnight on Wednesday 16th April 2025.

For more information, visit the website www.natpower.uk/project/claypool-energy/ or contact the project team on 020 4599 7991 or email claypool.bess@natpower.uk.

Ends

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1. NatPower has the largest energy transition development programme in the UK, aiming at integrating large scale smart clean energy generation and distribution with large scale intermittent clean energy demand.
2. We are part of the NatPower Group, an independent, well-capitalised energy enabler, with 25 years' experience and 30GW of assets developed across 20 countries and six continents.
3. Battery storage plays a critical role in supporting the transition to net zero, given that renewables do not generate energy consistently. Using batteries, we can store electricity at times of high production, and release it to the grid at times of peak demand.
4. NatPower uses lithium-ion batteries – a tried and tested technology that is commonly used in our day-to-day lives, such as in smartphones.
5. All of our BESS projects are designed to be safe and to avoid impacts on our neighbours. To understand potential impacts, we carry out assessments during the planning phase. These inform the measures we build into our proposals – including using planting to screen homes from noise or views of the BESS.
6. Our Community Energy Transition Foundation invests in local communities to help them become more sustainable. Through funding local projects, we aim to leave a positive legacy locally as we support the national transition to net zero.