

Consultation Statement

Planning application for the development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with ancillary infrastructure, security fence, access, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.

Newfields Farm, Rownall Road, Wetley Rocks, Staffordshire, ST9 OBS.

On behalf of Newfields BESS Ltd.

Date: December 2023 | Pegasus Ref: P23-O415

Author: ARG/DP



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Consultation Statement has been prepared on behalf of Newfields BESS Ltd (hereafter referred to as '**the Applicant**') and supports a full planning application for the development of a battery storage facility on land at Newfields Farm, Rownall Road, Wetley Rocks, Staffordshire, ST9 OBS (hereafter referred to as '**the Site**'). The purpose of this report is to set out how the Applicant has engaged with the local community and other key stakeholders in the development of the application proposals.

1.2. A consultation exercise was undertaken to inform the public and other stakeholders of the proposal. This report outlines the consultation process, key issues that have emerged from it and how these issues have been taken on board as part of the scheme design.

Public Consultation – informing the approach

1.3. Public consultation is an essential part of the planning and development process. It is about engaging with local communities to shape a proposal so that a subsequent application considers, as far as is appropriate and possible, local views and opinions.

1.4. The approach adopted by the Applicant and landowner in this consultation is based on best practice. This report documents the results of the pre-application consultation undertaken for this development and reflects good quality, wide engagement with the local community at a stage where comments received could be properly taken on board, enabling the emerging plans to be shaped in response to local suggestions.

1.5. The approach adopted is consistent with the Government's approach to encouraging community engagement in shaping the future of their local areas, which is reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework (2023) which advises local planning authorities to *"encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications."* The Applicant has engaged directly with the local community and local stakeholders. A formal preapplication enquiry has also been undertaken with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council as the relevant Local Planning Authority.

The Structure of this Statement

- 1.6. This Statement provides evidence of the pre-application consultation which was undertaken by the Applicant to assist in informing and shaping proposals in the accompanying planning application.
- 1.7. Section 2 sets out the approach which has been adopted towards the consultation process. It includes information relating to the different ways in which awareness of the proposals was raised within the locality, the material provided and the different ways in which views of the public were captured.
- 1.8. Section 3 provides quantitative information relating to the numbers and origins of the responses received demonstrating how the wider community were involved.
- 1.9. Section 4 documents the issues raised by the respondents and indicates how these have been taken into account in the proposed development.
- 1.10. Section 5 sets out the conclusions of the consultation process. It notes that the process of consultation has been a positive one, engaging with local people, capturing a wide range of different views, with the outcomes forming a key input into the design and development process.

2. THE APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

- 2.1. A range of activities were undertaken to raise awareness of the consultation. This ensured local people had a range of opportunities to engage with the process and make their views known in a meaningful way.

Engagement with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

- 2.2. As part of the Planning Performance Agreement signed with the Council, a pre-application meeting was held with the case officer, Mr. John Copestake, on 17th July 2023. Discussions primarily focussed on the landscaping strategy, and the possibility of diverting the public right of way as part of this. Discussions were also held related to other BESS schemes in the vicinity and the outcomes of these planning applications; Green Belt considerations; noise mitigation requirements; and ecology considerations. These matters were discussed further at an additional pre-application meeting on 6th September 2023.

Engagement with Severn Trent Water

- 2.3. The Applicant submitted a water enquiry to Severn Trent Water and subsequently met with them on Site on the 2nd October 2023. The primary purpose of this was to discuss the water supply connection that would be available for the Site. One of the key purposes for this meeting was to agree details regarding the water supply to the Site, including the location of the mains connection and the volume of the supply.

Engagement with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

- 2.4. The Applicant met with the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on the 27th October 2023 to receive advice and recommendations with regards to the safety of the scheme. The main points of discussion from the call included measures outlined within the National Fire Chiefs Council Guidance for BESS (referenced in the NPPG), access, design considerations and also provision of a water connection and drainage features. The level of in-built safety / suppression systems of the BESS equipment was conveyed as the key factor for a proposal's consideration by SFRS with other factors such as access, water supply and drainage systems to be guided by the NFCC guidance proportionally depending on the level of in-built safety / suppression systems of the BESS equipment.

Community Consultation Leaflets

- 2.5. A leaflet was designed by the Applicant which sets out key information about the proposal, photographs, visuals, and an invitation for the local community to access a consultation website to provide comments. These leaflets were distributed to households within an approx. 1.5-kilometre radius of the Site. A map of the approx. 1.5km radius distribution area along with the corresponding post-delivery 'heat signature' map from the delivery company used are included at **Appendix 1**. Approximately 2,500 leaflets were delivered within this area. The purpose of the leaflet was to provide initial information about the proposal and encourage engagement. A copy of the leaflet distributed is enclosed at **Appendix 2**. A summary of the responses received are contained in sections 3 and 4 of this Consultation Statement.
- 2.6. Main suggestion is to include the leaflet area we requested as well as the heat signature map in Appendix 1. Please see our original email to the leaflet company attached (including the map with 1.5km radius purple line), second attachment is its confirmation email post-delivery with heat signature. Please let us know your thoughts on this.

Community Consultation Website

- 2.7. A website containing further information to that included in the consultation leaflet went live in July 2023 (URL: <https://newfieldsbess.co.uk/>). Information was provided on the development and its benefits. Specific information was included on mitigation and amenity improvements, landscape and visual impact, construction, site safety, and summaries of the technical reports set to be submitted as part of the planning application. The website also included a survey through which interested parties could provide feedback on the scheme, and an email address was also provided as an alternative means of contact. A summary of the responses received is contained in sections 3 and 4 of this Statement.

Engagement with Stakeholders and Action Groups

- 2.8. Prior to the commencement of public consultation, the Applicant contacted a number of action groups and local stakeholders to inform them of the scheme, inviting initial thoughts and comments. These included a letter addressed to Cheddleton Parish Council and an email sent directly to its clerk, as well as emails to Moorlands Climate Action and Support Staffordshire.

- 2.9. The Applicant also delivered a ten-minute presentation to the Moorlands Green Network on 18th July 2023. The slides provided some general information on BESS, detail on the proposals and the benefits which will be generated. In addition, the slides also referred to the fact that an initial round of consultation would follow after (as per above), and the documents which will be submitted as part of the planning application were also listed.

3. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

3.1. A total of just 2 responses were received, directly from local residents through the online form on the website. This is still the case as of the 20th December 2023. One respondent expressed strong disagreement with the scheme, whereas the other was more neutral, neither agreeing nor disagreeing. A summary of matters raised from these two responses, and from the other forms of engagement set out above, are as follows:

- Concerns about the cumulative impact of schemes in the area – respondents highlighted that two BESS schemes have already been approved in this location, with a third refused. The need for another was questioned.
- One respondent opposed the scheme on the basis that this is Green Belt land, and fears that it would contribute towards the industrialisation of the countryside.
- It was implied that the BESS facility was not a suitable way forward to help “save our planet” and combat climate change.
- Comments from the SFRS, which emphasised the importance of ensuring that the scheme is safe. It should have suitable access, a well-designed layout and compensation measures to reduce the potential risks associated with BESS – it should be designed for the worst-case scenario. In addition, engagement with water companies was encouraged, due to the importance of having a water supply and drainage strategy in place in case of a fire.
- During engagement with Severn Trent water, the location of the mains connection was agreed – a few fields away from the site location – a standard 90mm connection, deemed suitable for a fire hydrant. However, Severn Trent noted that they would be unable to guarantee the flow or pressure to this new connection. Advice was given to position the fire hydrant as close to the BESS compound’s main access gate as possible.
- During the pre-application meeting with the Council, there was discussion about the landscaping strategy and the pros and cons in relation to whether or not the Cheddleton 48 footpath should be diverted (from the east to the west of the field) as part of this. A response from the Public Rights of Way Officer confirmed that they

would have no objection to a diversion but overall through discussions with the case officer it was considered that retaining existing routes would be preferable.

- 3.2. Overall, the responses have raised issues that have been taken into consideration as part of the proposed development submitted with this planning application.

4. ISSUES RAISED IN CONSULTATION RESPONSES

4.1. The focus of the pre-application consultation was to raise awareness of the proposed development of the Site with the local community and encourage views and perspectives to help shape the proposals and address concerns as much as possible before an application is submitted to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

4.2. Any comment received through the public engagement process described in this Statement has been analysed on the basis of the issues raised by respondents and broken down below.

Cumulative Impact

4.3. It was pointed out that several other BESS schemes have come forward in the area surrounding Cellarhead Substation, and that this proposal would be the second facility directly adjacent to it. This also implied that there was no further need for an additional BESS facility in this location.

Response

4.4. The Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) accompanying this planning application assesses the potential for cumulative impacts. With regard to nearby proposed and consented sites the LVIA demonstrates that these are separate and distinct from this proposal in terms of landscape character. Therefore the LVIA shows that there would be no cumulative impact on the character of the sites themselves. The LVIA shows that there would be limited cumulative effects to landscape character related to the site environs and the local character typology. With regard to visual amenity the LVIA demonstrates that there would be very limited cumulative effects to residential occupiers, road users and most part of the local Public Right of Way (PRoW) network. The only notable (moderate or greater) cumulative effects would be limited to:

- perceptual/experiential effects on local landscape character within a small area to the south of the substation where all three schemes may be visible; and
- users of Footpath Cheddleton 60 who would experience sequential visibility of the Cellarhead and Sirius schemes, and then the Proposed Development. All would be seen in the context of the existing substation.

- 4.5. The proposed landscaping strategy provides mitigation measures to ensure that the facility is well-screened, and to minimise cumulative impacts in landscape and visual terms. These impacts will be greatly reduced over time as the landscaping and planting associated with all the BESS schemes grows and matures. In this case, visual impacts will also be limited due to the Site's existing enclosure, with existing boundary vegetation and tree belts, and the creation of an earth bund with new tree planting as part of the proposal.
- 4.6. Notwithstanding the cumulative impacts, which can be largely mitigated through proposed landscaping to an acceptable level of impact; the rationale behind proposing another BESS in this particular area, when there are existing facilities in the vicinity, is that there is a pressing need for further BESS schemes connected to the Cellarhead Substation. There is an identified capacity at Cellarhead Substation which the proposed development would link into. From a practical and visual perspective, constructing a BESS facility immediately next to existing National Grid infrastructure will enable a straightforward connection to the grid, and it is favourable to construct one here compared to other sites which are more isolated, entirely surrounded by open countryside – which would most likely have a more harmful impact on the landscape and the Green Belt as a result – and some distance away from the connection point.
- 4.7. Expanding on the point regarding 'need', there is also a wider national need which the scheme would contribute towards. According to *Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy* (November 2023), there is currently just 1GW of battery storage in the UK. National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios (2021) advises that by 2050 it is anticipated that 40GW of storage capacity would be required in order to meet the UK's target of net zero carbon by 2050. Although the scheme is modest in size, delivering 50MW of battery storage, paragraph 158 of the NPPF confirms that even '*small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions*'. It is therefore essential for appropriate sites to be brought forward for this purpose in order to meet Government targets. Given its siting adjacent to National Grid infrastructure, crucially with capacity to connect, this is a good example of an optimal site which can be used for this purpose.
- 4.8. Corresponding there have been numerous recent Planning Inspectorate appeal decisions in which Inspectors have attributed substantial weight to the energy storage benefits of schemes similar to this one. This includes recent appeal references

APP/C3430/W/22/3292837 (Land west of Wolverhampton West Primary Substation) and APP/N5090/W/22/3298962 (Land west of National Grid Mill Hill Substation).

- 4.9. As such, considering the Site's specific location directly next to Cellarhead Substation, its natural enclosure, and the pressing need for additional BESS here and across the United Kingdom more generally, it is considered that the siting of the facility is justified and appropriate. The assessments submitted as part of the planning application demonstrate that any cumulative impacts which arise will be at an acceptable level in landscape and visual terms, effectively mitigated by the robust landscaping strategy which is proposed.

Green Belt land

- 4.10. One respondent was concerned due to the fact that the Site forms part of the West Midlands Green Belt, and the scheme would therefore lead to the 'loss' of protected Green Belt land. In addition, they raised the fact that it could help give rise to the industrialisation of the countryside.

Response

- 4.11. The Site is indeed located within the Green Belt, and careful consideration has been given to the design of the scheme as a result. Its scale has been reduced compared to previous planning application proposals at this Site, and the landscaping strategy and planting designed to maximise integration within the landscape and reduce visual impacts, as discussed above. As also discussed above there is a very clear need for this type of development and it is important for BESS development to be located near to the substation it connects to, which crucially must have capacity to allow for a viable connection.
- 4.12. The proposed landscape strategy includes an earth bund along the western boundary which will help to screen the development and also provides a dual purpose, also providing acoustic mitigation to avoid any unacceptable noise related amenity impacts to receptors in the surrounding area. Broadleaved woodland planting is proposed along the northern, south-western and western parts of the Site including along the proposed bund, which will further screen the development. A new hedgerow is proposed along the eastern extent of the Site to screen the development from the adjacent footpath. It is proposed that the existing grassland will be enhanced with wildflower meadow seeding. These measures will

complement the existing landscape and will soften the development in the context of the wider landscape whilst also providing biodiversity benefits.

- 4.13. It is acknowledged that the proposed development would cause 'harm' to the Green Belt by reason of definitional inappropriateness, in line with national planning policy. In line with national policy any harm to the Green Belt must be given substantial weight. However, given that the BESS facility will be decommissioned after forty years, this harm is only temporary and fully reversible, restoring the Site back to agricultural land but with the additional benefit of the permanent planting which will provide long-lasting landscape and biodiversity benefits. For absolute clarity, the land will never be 'lost' from the Green Belt. During the lifetime of the development it will continue to be Green Belt land; simply developed Green Belt land, and as noted above it will return to agricultural Green Belt land once the development is decommissioned at the end of the 40 year lifespan.
- 4.14. Both national and local planning policy makes it clear that development in the Green Belt can be accepted and approved if there are 'very special circumstances' (VSCs) to justify it. In line with national and Development Plan policies, VSCs will not exist unless any harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm resulting from the proposal, is outweighed by any identified benefits and /or other considerations.
- 4.15. The accompanying submitted Planning Statement sets out the VSCs which exist in this instance. These refer to the fact that BESS can contribute towards meeting international, national, and local climate targets and the clear need for BESS facilities within the UK, as discussed above – these energy storage benefits can be afforded substantial weight in the planning balance as noted above with regard to recent appeal decisions. Great weight can also be attributed to the combined arboricultural and ecological benefits of the scheme with the proposal delivering net gains of a 99% gain for hedgerow units and 15.49% gain for habitat units. These calculations exceed local and national biodiversity net gain requirements at the time of the application submission (which simply require a net gain – unspecified), and these will be delivered through the proposed landscaping strategy scheme. The temporary and reversible nature of the development is another element that contributes to the very special circumstances of the proposal, as it reduces the landscape & visual impacts and harm to the Green Belt in comparison to permanent forms of development.
- 4.16. Another environmental benefit includes the use of Grade 4 (poor quality) agricultural land which is not BMV (Best and Most Versatile) land. The proposal would also contribute to the

local economy through the creation of employment opportunities in engineering, construction and transportation during the construction and ongoing management of the Site, including business rates and the ongoing management of landscape and biodiversity. In line with numerous appeal decisions, although of less weight, these are also benefits that contribute toward the overall very special circumstances of the proposal in combination. For the avoidance of doubt, as confirmed through numerous appeals and chiefly through case law, namely; *R (Basildon DC) v First Secretary of State and Temple [2004] EWHC 2759 (Admin)*, it is well established that very special circumstances will often consist of a number of factors, including in combination. In that instance the High Court concluded that “*a number of factors, none of them ‘very special’, when considered in isolation may, when combined together, amount to very special circumstances*”.

Contribution of BESS

- 4.17. One of the responses claims that BESS “*does not seem... to be the way forward to save our planet*”. This suggests that it will not make a valuable contribution towards tackling climate change.

Response

- 4.18. This assertion is misguided and it is hoped that this response will assist in providing further information and reference to national level statements that elaborate on this matter. Battery storage provides balancing services and greater flexibility to the energy grid, which will facilitate the wider use of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, allowing the Country to transition to a decarbonised grid. This is because renewable energy sources are variable due to factors such as weather conditions. BESS can store energy whilst renewable technologies are at optimum generation and release stored energy into the grid when required, such as when renewable energy generation is low, to ensure a continuous and secure supply of energy, so that demand at peak times can be met.
- 4.19. The important role that battery storage will play in combatting climate change has been acknowledged at Government and national level such as in the in the National Policy Statement for Energy, Energy White Paper, National Grid Future Energy Scenario Report, and the Net Zero Energy System: Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan, with the latter saying that it is “*an essential part of the solution for a decarbonised grid*”. As such, it is apparent that BESS

is a highly important technology which will play a significant role in helping to mitigate and decelerate climate change, along with other renewable and low carbon measures.

Safety

- 4.20. Following engagement with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), it was clear that the scheme should be designed for a worst-case scenario to ensure maximum safety.

Response

- 4.21. The final plans have been shaped by SFRS's advice, as well as the National Fire Chief Council's (NFCC) published guidance.
- 4.22. For instance, it has been ensured that the BESS facility benefits from two unobstructed access points into the compound, with a front access point in the south, and a perimeter road around the facility to allow vehicles to enter/exit from the north if required. In this context the access track provides a circular route around the BESS facility, which will allow for emergency vehicle access. A layby is also proposed along the existing farm access track just before Newfields Farm, this will provide a passing place which can be used by emergency vehicles.
- 4.23. Furthermore, specific SFRS recommendations have been taken on board so that the scheme features equipment which is designed to reduce risk to the greatest degree possible. The design includes high quality automatic fire detection and suppression systems, as well as fire-resistant materials and sufficient separation distances between equipment in order to contain and restrict the spread of any possible fire. Other design features include sensors which monitor temperature, smoke and gases, plus an aerosol fire suppression system within the BESS cabinets, which will help to contain fire within the cubes. The design of the proposals including the spacing and orientation of the BESS containers has been informed by the manufacture's safety requirements through their rigorous testing procedures. Further details on this are provided within the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan which accompanies the planning application.
- 4.24. Measures to contain fire water in the unlikely event of a fire have also been designed into the development proposals, these include the use of a stop valve on the attenuation tank to stop potentially contaminated water from entering the tank and also the use of an oil interceptor to capture any potential pollutants. These measures have been discussed with SFRS who

noted there are several options for containing, capturing and potentially recycling fire water and the Applicant will continue to liaise closely with SFRS as the project moves forward.

4.25. In terms of drainage, the Applicant also made contact with Severn Trent Water. As a result of this, a location was successfully identified for a standard 90mm water connection, which is considered to be sufficient for provision of a suitable fire hydrant. In line with guidance from Severn Trent, the position of the hydrant is proposed within the Site as shown on the Drainage Strategy. This means that it will be easy to access in the unlikely event of a fire and is also in line with recommendations from SFRS in regards for the required distance from the hydrant to the development. Whilst the flow or pressure cannot be guaranteed, SFRS acknowledge that this is a standard limitation for all water companies when it comes to new hydrant connections.

4.26. The Applicant has demonstrated that the development can be delivered in an entirely safe manner and crucially in the unlikely event of a fire there are several measures proposed to prevent thermal runaway and spread, allowing any event to be quickly isolated. The Applicant is happy to have continued discussions with the Council and SFRS to deliver the necessary safety measures required.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

4.27. As discussed above, the option to divert the Cheddleton 48 footpath from the eastern field edge to the western boundary, allowing it to connect with adopted route at the north-west corner of the field, was considered as part of the landscaping strategy. The Public Rights of Way Officer stated that they would not object to this.

Response

4.28. Notwithstanding the Officer's response, following discussions with the planning case officer of the pre-application enquiry, it was decided to retain the Cheddleton 48 footpath in its current position, running along the eastern edge of the field, along with retention of other PRoW routes. The Cheddleton 48 footpath will therefore sit between the proposed BESS facility and the Cellarhead Substation site. Part of the rationale behind this was to avoid the creation of an issue of contention which could potentially necessitate future revisions to the scheme as a result, if residents and ramblers were to oppose a diversion. This decision will also minimise potential disruption and confusion associated with a diversion.

- 4.29. The proposed landscaping scheme ensures that there are no impacts on the retained footpath and aims to reduce the impact on users of this part of the PRow route. Screening will be provided, in the form of a new hedgerow, and there will be an appropriate offset from the footpath corridor. This is shown on the Landscape Strategy Plan submitted with the planning application (document reference P23-0415_EN_0007_0001). It is also noted that the current state of the footpath is overgrown with some areas more or less impassible, with the footpath not being widely used in its current state.

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1. The submitted planning application has been supported by an engagement process with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and the local community. This report provides evidence of the pre-application consultation which has been undertaken to assist in informing and shaping the proposals set out in the accompanying planning application.
- 5.2. As this report demonstrates, a range of approaches, tools and techniques have been used and have resulted in a range of different views being expressed by those who have engaged in the process.
- 5.3. Only two responses were received from members of the public despite the fact that around 2,500 leaflets were delivered to properties in this local area, as per the leaflet distribution area shown at **Appendix 1**. These comments focussed on the cumulative impact of BESS schemes, loss of Green Belt land, and an assertion that BESS would not help to “save our planet” and combat climate change.
- 5.4. All of the responses received from respondents have been read and considered, including those from relevant stakeholders and consultees. The issues raised have been identified and recorded. Each issue has been treated as equally important, and positive changes were made to the scheme in response to the consultation. These include:
- A significant reduction in the scale of the scheme compared to the previous planning proposals submitted in a separate planning application in 2022; in order to minimise harm to the Green Belt and landscape & visual harm including potential cumulative impacts.
 - A robust landscaping strategy has been designed, including the incorporation of a landscape bund and woodland planting, to screen the development to further reduce landscape & visual impacts and harm to the Green Belt. The proposed landscape bund will also provide additional noise attenuation benefits as part of the overall noise mitigation strategy.
 - The incorporation of further high quality safety features – including two access points within the facility, secure equipment and facility, inbuilt fire suppression systems and access to a suitable water hydrant connection in close proximity.

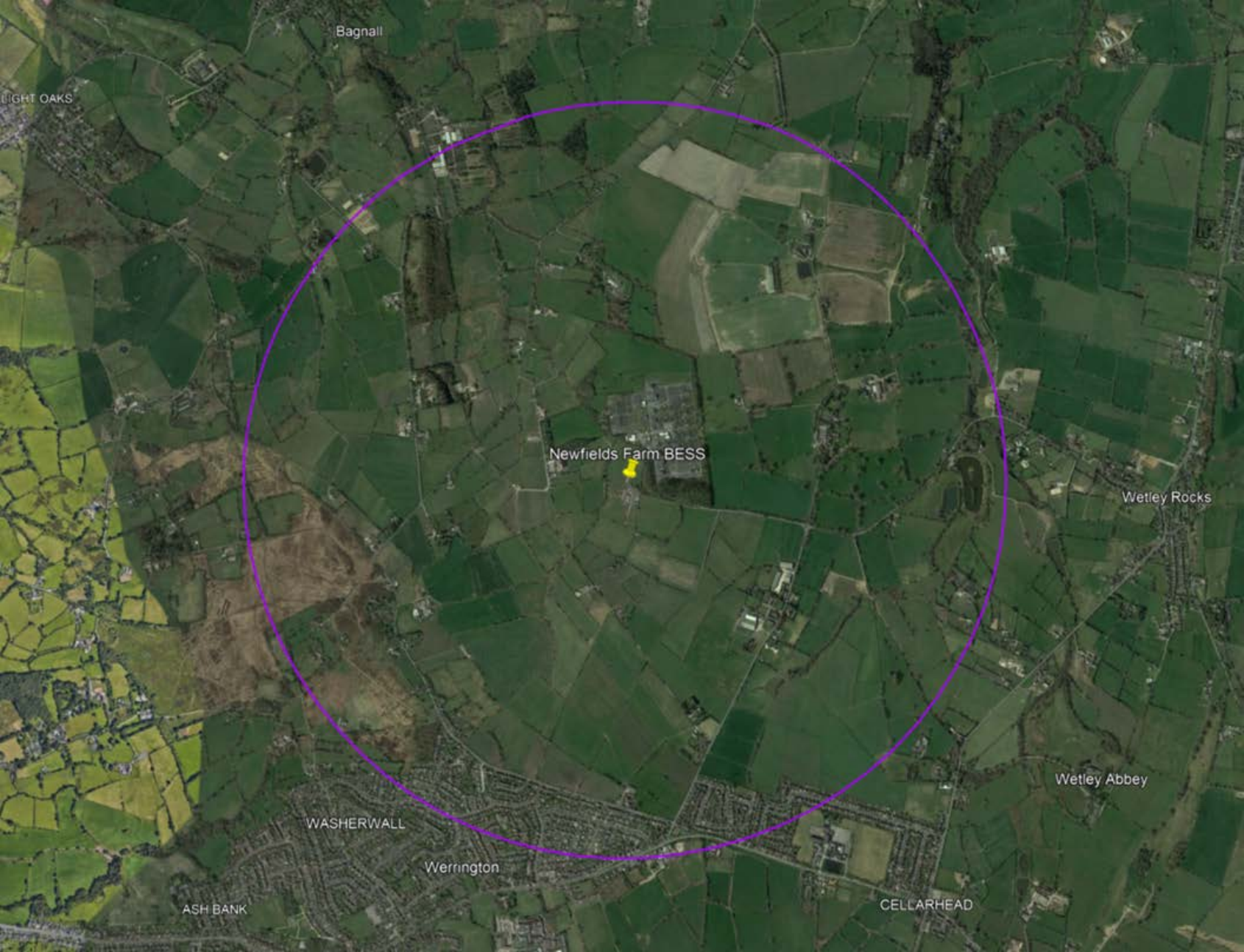
- The retention of the existing Cheddleton 48 public right of way, to avoid disruption, confusion, and potential issues which would be associated with diverting it. Instead, the landscaping strategy ensures that the BESS facility is set back and well-screened through the provision of a new hedgerow, so it is less visible from the existing footpath.

5.5. In addition, the report has directly responded to the comments regarding the loss of Green Belt land; highlighting that the development is temporary and that necessary very special circumstances exist to justify BESS in this optimal location. It has provided clarity on how the proposal will make a direct and notable contribution towards decarbonising the energy grid, thereby helping to combat climate change.

5.6. From the above, whilst the response rate was very low it has been demonstrated that the process of pre-application consultation has been a positive one, engaging with local people and stakeholder to capture their views, which has resulted in changes to the proposal to address the matters raised. Correspondingly this has improved the development scheme.



Appendix 1 –Leaflet Distribution Area & Confirmed Delivery Map



Bagnall

WRIGHT OAKS

Newfields Farm BESS

Wetley Rocks

Wetley Abbey

WASHERRWALL

Werrington

ASH BANK

CELLARHEAD



Bagnall Road

Luzlow Lane

5

20

Mill Lane

15

WITHYSTAKES

Armshead Road

A52

10

Rownall Road

Leek Road

CELLARHEAD

A52

Werrington

A52



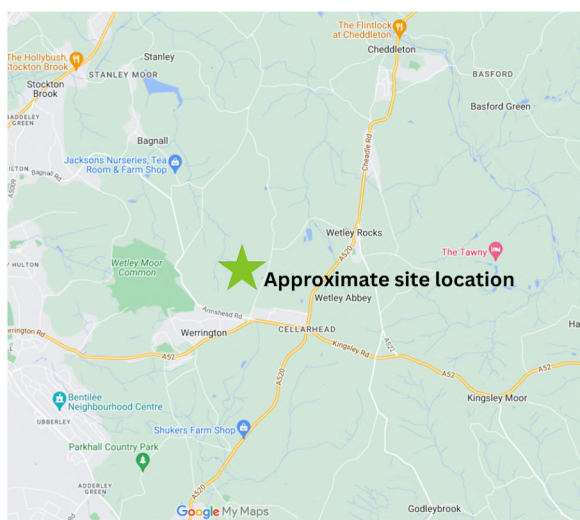
Appendix 2 – Consultation Leaflet

NEWFIELDS BESS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

31ST JULY 2023

SITE LOCATION



To find out more about the project and take part in our survey, please visit our website:

<https://www.newfieldsbess.co.uk/>

Alternatively, you can also email your views to our team at:

info@newfieldsbess.co.uk

Dear Neighbour,

Newfields BESS Ltd will shortly be bringing forward a proposal for a battery energy storage system (BESS) on land at Newfields Farm, Rownall Road, Wetley Rocks, Staffordshire, ST9 0BS.

Our proposed development is located 1.3km north of the village of Werrington. The development will occupy an area of approximately 0.6 hectares, with the wider site being used for access and new trees, hedgerows, and wildflower planting allowing for an overall biodiversity net gain.

The proposed BESS will be able to store and release energy to the local distribution network. It will have a storage capacity of up to 99.9 megawatts, equivalent to a full day's energy consumption for over 20,000 homes.

Batteries are key components for decarbonising the economy. They are used on UK power grids to provide balancing services and store excess electricity during low demand and favourable weather conditions for renewable generation such as wind and solar. Their storage ability creates a more flexible, reliable, and greener grid.

Benefits and opportunities that will be felt locally include:

- Contribute a solution to the climate emergency declared by the Government and by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council in 2019;
- The ability locally to capture and store home-grown renewable energy;
- Protection from risks such as equipment failures, gas shortages, and power cuts;
- Enhanced energy security;
- New native tree and shrub planting; and
- Biodiversity enhancements that will encourage a richer mix of species (fauna and flora).

We are aware of applications for similar proposals around Cellarhead Substation, including SMD/2022/0444 about 470m northeast and SMD/2022/0548 about 230m east. These applications will be considered in terms of any potential cumulative effects with our scheme and as the proposals continue to develop, any identified mitigation measures will be incorporated in the design of the scheme.

We look forward to receiving your feedback on the proposal.

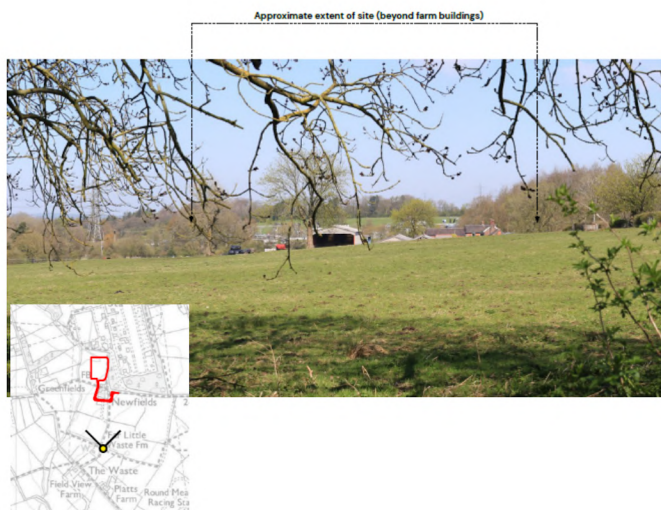
Yours faithfully,
Newfields BESS Ltd

NEWFIELDS BESS

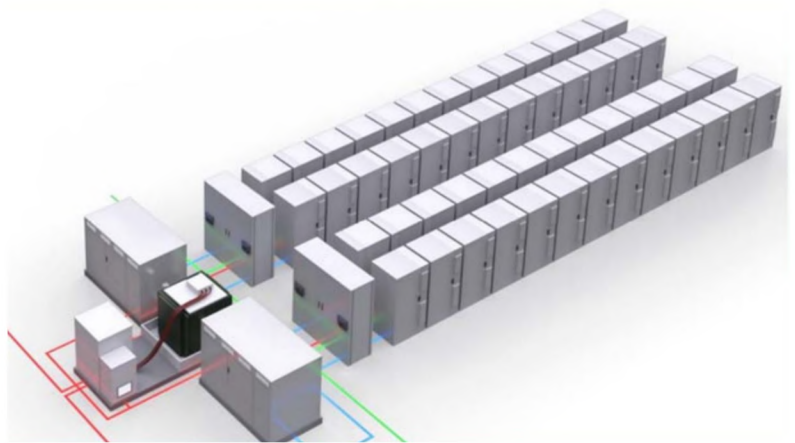
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

31ST JULY 2023

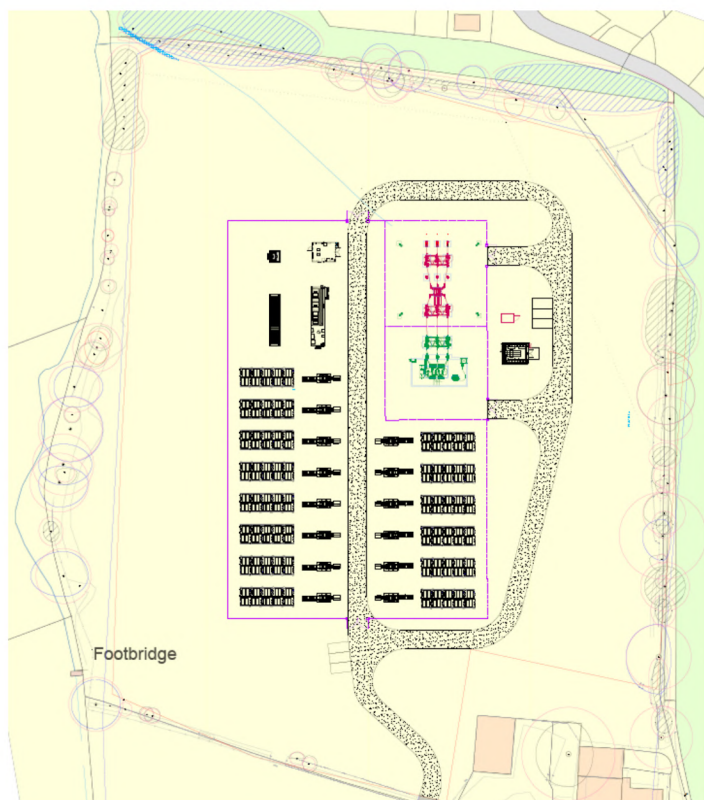
VIEWPOINTS TOWARDS THE SITE



EXAMPLE OF A MODULAR BESS



INDICATIVE LAYOUT



Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Expertly Done.

DESIGN | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | HERITAGE | LAND & PROPERTY | PLANNING | TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

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