



STATERA
BALANCING THE GRID

East Claydon Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Environmental Statement

Volume 1 Chapter 1

December 2023

Contents

1 Introduction 4

1.1 Overview 4

1.2 Site Description..... 4

1.3 Environmental Statement Structure..... 5

1.4 Legislation, Requirement for EIA 5

1.5 Legislation, Content of EIA 6

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared on behalf of Statera Energy Limited ('the Applicant') in accordance with the statutory procedures set out in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations').
- 1.1.2 Statera Energy Limited is seeking planning permission for the development of a Battery Energy Storage System, comprising a battery storage facility with associated infrastructure, access and landscaping ('the Proposed Development') on land located off Hogshaw Road, Granborough, MK18 3NL ('the site').
- 1.1.3 The site covers a total area of approximately 25.85 hectares (ha) and is located within the administrative boundary of Buckinghamshire Council ('BC').
- 1.1.4 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process carried out which examines available environmental information to ensure that the likely significant environmental effects of certain projects are identified and assessed before a decision is taken on whether a project is granted planning permission. This process allows environmental issues to be identified at an early stage and projects can then be designed to avoid or to minimise adverse environmental effects, and appropriate mitigation and monitoring can be implemented.
- 1.1.5 Given the scale and nature of the Proposed Development and therefore the potential for likely significant environmental effects, an EIA has been undertaken, which has been reported upon within this ES.
- 1.1.6 In accordance with the EIA Regulations (see section 'EIA Legislation' of this ES chapter), this ES describes the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development during construction, completion and operation, and following decommissioning.

1.2 Site Description

- 1.2.1 The following section presents a summary of the location of the site, existing site conditions and existing site context. A description of the key features and designations associated with the site and surrounding environment are discussed in ES Volume 1 Chapter 2: Site Selection and Alternatives. Further detail describing the existing baseline context is presented within ES Volume 1 Chapter 2 and 3. Insofar as there are particular features of relevance to the various technical assessments.
- 1.2.2 The site is irregular in shape and is centred around National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 75557 25324. The site is located on land to the South of East Claydon National Grid substation and between the settlements of Granborough and East Claydon in the county of Buckinghamshire.
- 1.2.3 Nearby residential properties are located at Granborough adjacent to Hogshaw Road some 500m to the west of the site, and at Hogshaw Road immediately opposite the proposed site access. East Claydon substation is some 75m distance at closest point, Sion Hill farm is circa 415m to the east.
- 1.2.4 The site is accessed from the south by an access onto Hogshaw Road. Two public rights of way (PRoW) sit adjacent to the site (GRA/2/1 and GRA 2/2), one bounding the site to

the north and the other running to the east of the proposal site boundary, these two PRoW routes intersect near to the northeastern corner of the proposal site.

- 1.2.5 The site comprises a collection of agricultural fields, predominantly in use for arable farming.

1.3 Environmental Statement Structure

- 1.3.1 The ES comprises eleven technical volumes:

- ES Volume 1: ES Main Report, comprising the following chapters:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction
 - Chapter 2: The Project
 - Chapter 3: ES Site Selection and Alternatives
 - Chapter 4: Environmental Assessment Methodology
 - Chapter 5: Conclusions
- ES Volume 2: Noise and Vibration assessment
- ES Volume 3: Ecology and Biodiversity assessment
- ES Volume 4: Hydrology and Floodrisk
- ES Volume 5: Landscape and Visual
- ES Volume 6: Built Heritage
- ES Volume 7: Archaeology
- ES Volume 8: Traffic and Transport
- ES Volume 9: Climate Change and Carbon / Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ES Volume 10: Ground Conditions
- ES Volume 11: Land Use

Non Technical Summary

- 1.3.2 A separate document is presented, referred to as the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and which provides a concise summary of the ES written in non-technical language.

1.4 Legislation, Requirement for EIA

- 1.4.1 EIA is a process carried out which examines available environmental information to ensure that the likely significant environmental effects of certain projects are identified and assessed before a decision is taken on whether a project is granted planning permission. This means environmental issues can be identified at an early stage and projects can then be designed to avoid or to minimise significant environmental effects, and appropriate mitigation and monitoring can be put in place.
- 1.4.2 Applications for development that are covered by the EIA Regulations are termed 'EIA Applications'.

- 1.4.3 The requirement for an EIA is based on the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from a Proposed Development; and it is either mandatory or conditional depending on the classification of the development project. EIA applications are divided into Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 applications under the EIA Regulations
- 1.4.4 Applications for development that are covered by the EIA Regulations are termed 'EIA Applications'.
- 1.4.5 The requirement for an EIA is based on the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from a Proposed Development; and it is either mandatory or conditional depending on the classification of the development project. EIA applications are divided into Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 applications under the EIA Regulations.
- 1.4.6 Schedule 1 developments constitute those that are likely to have significant effects on the environment such as some specific industrial uses or infrastructure developments, and for which EIA is mandatory. For all other developments which fall under Schedule 2, the need for an EIA is determined based on set criteria as follows:
- It is within one of the classes of development stated in Schedule 2; AND
 - Either it exceeds the applicable threshold criteria for that class of development Schedule 2; OR it is to be carried out in a sensitive area; AND
 - It is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location.
- 1.4.7 The Proposed Development does not fall under any of the project descriptions within Schedule 1 and is therefore not 'Schedule 1 Development' that would automatically require an EIA.
- 1.4.8 The Proposed Development does fall within the definition under paragraph 3(a) (Energy industry – Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water), as listed in Column 1 of Schedule 2. For this type of development to be 'Schedule 2 Development', consideration must be given to whether the site is either:
- a. Located in a 'sensitive area' (as defined under Regulation 22), or
 - b. One where the relevant screening thresholds and criteria for paragraph 3(a) categories of development are met or exceeded, which in this case are that the area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectares.
- 1.4.9 Based on the above, the Proposed Development exceeds the applicable threshold for site area. When considering the scale and nature of the development proposed and the surrounding area (potentially sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the site), with due consideration of Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations, it is considered that there is the potential for significant environmental effects to arise. As such, the Proposed Development is considered to constitute Schedule 2 development under the EIA Regulations and EIA is required. As such, Regulation 18 (1) requires that an EIA application must be accompanied by an ES.
- 1.4.10 On this basis, the Applicant has undertaken an EIA and prepared an ES (this document) to support the planning application for the Proposed Development.

1.5 Legislation, Content of EIA

- 1.5.1 Regulation 18(3) of the EIA Regulations specifies the information that is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development and which an applicant can, having regard in particular to current knowledge and methods of assessment, complete, stating that:

An environmental statement is a statement which includes at least

- a. a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;*
- b. a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;*
- c. a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;*
- d. a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;*
- e. a non-technical summary of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d); and*
- f. any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.*

1.5.2 Schedule 4 to the EIA Regulations provides a more prescriptive list of information for inclusion within an ES, Schedule 4 information and its location within the ES is shown within the below table:

Table 1.1

EIA Regulations, Schedule 4	
<p>Paragraph 1: A description of the development, including in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A description of the location of the development; b) A description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operation phases; c) A description of the main characteristics of the operation phase of the development (in particular may production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used; d) An estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases. 	
<p>Paragraph 2: A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the</p>	

proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.	
Paragraph 3: A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.	
Paragraph 4: A description of the factors specified in regulation 4(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.	
<p>Paragraph 5: A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works; b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources; c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste; d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters); e) the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources; f) the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change; g) the technologies and the substances used. <p>The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 4(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level which are relevant to</p>	

the project, including in particular those established under Council Directive 92/43/EEC(1) and Directive 2009/147/EC(2).	
Paragraph 6: A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.	
Paragraph 7: A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.	
Paragraph 8: A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to EU legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU(3) of the European Parliament and of the Council or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom(4) or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.	
Paragraph 9: A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.	
Paragraph 10: A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.	