



**STATERA**  
BALANCING THE GRID

# **East Claydon Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**

## **Environmental Statement**

## **Built Heritage**

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) assesses the potential effects of a battery storage facility with associated infrastructure, including access, drainage and landscaping (the 'Proposed Development') on land to the south of East Claydon National Grid substation in Buckinghamshire (the 'site'), on the historic environment (built heritage assets). This assessment has been researched and prepared by MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology). The chapter is supported by ES Volume 7: Appendix 7.1, which comprises an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA), Appendix 7.2 which comprises a Geophysical Survey and Appendix 7.3 a Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 1.1.2 This chapter of the ES assesses the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment, in respect of the direct effects on the particular significance of the built heritage assets at the application site and within the surrounding study area (including statutorily listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens of special historic interest and locally listed buildings), as well as the indirect effects through change in their settings. For the purposes of this chapter, the term 'built' heritage refers to above-ground heritage assets.
- 1.1.3 The chapter provides a description of the methods used to conduct the assessment, and refers to the heritage planning statutory and policy context. This is followed by a description of the relevant baseline conditions of the application site, and an assessment of the potential impacts and likely effects of the proposed development on the historic built environment during the demolition/construction works and completed development stage. Additional mitigation measures are identified, where appropriate, to avoid, reduce or offset any adverse effects identified. The nature and significance of any residual effects are also described.

## **2 LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT**

### **National policy and guidance**

#### **National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC, 2023)**

- 2.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the primary planning policy document for use in decision taking and plan making in England, the NPPF was first published in 2012 and was most recently updated in September 2023 . One of the core principles that underpins both plan-making and decision-taking within the framework is that heritage assets should be “conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations” (para. 189). It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource (para. 189) and requires the significance of heritage assets to be considered in the planning process, whether designated or not. The contribution of setting to asset significance needs to be taken into account (para. 130).
- 2.1.2 Local planning authorities are required to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the effect of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal (para. 129).
- 2.1.3 Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted (para. 141).
- 2.1.4 Section 12 of the NPPF, Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, is provided in full in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Appendix 7.1, ES Volume 7).

### **Local Policy**

#### **Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan 2013-2033**

- 2.1.5 The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan 2013-2033 (VALP) was adopted in September 2021 and is currently used to inform planning within North Buckinghamshire.
- 2.1.6 Policies concerning heritage assets within the Local Plan are dealt with at Policy BE1. This states that proposals for development shall contribute to heritage values and local distinctiveness. Where a development proposal is likely to affect a designated heritage asset and/or its setting negatively, the significance of the heritage asset must be fully assessed and supported in the submission of an application. The impact of the proposal must be assessed in proportion to the significance of the heritage asset and supported in the submission of an application. Heritage statements and/or archaeological evaluations will be required for any proposals related to or impacting on a heritage asset and/or possible archaeological site.

- 2.1.7 Proposals which affect the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be properly considered, weighing the direct and indirect impacts upon the asset and its setting. There will be a presumption in favour of retaining heritage assets wherever practical, including archaeological remains in situ, unless it can be demonstrated that the harm will be outweighed by the benefits of the development. Heritage statements and/or archaeological evaluations may be required to assess the significance of any heritage assets and the impact on these by the development proposal.

## 3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 This section of this ES Chapter sets out:

- The information sources that have been consulted throughout preparation of this chapter;
- Details of the consultation undertaken with respect to built heritage;
- The methodology behind the assessment of built heritage effects, including the criteria for the determination of sensitivity of receptor and magnitude of change from the existing of 'baseline' condition;
- How the identification and assessment of potential built heritage effects has been reached; and
- The significance criteria and terminology for assessment of the residual effects to built heritage.

### 3.2 Baseline Definition Methodology

3.2.1 The following section explains the methodology employed for the assessment of the baseline conditions of the application site.

3.2.2 This identification of the baseline historic environment has been undertaken using a variety of methods as outlined below:

- Desk-based assessment of published sources of information on the historic built environment in the area around the application site, in the form of statutory information and of studies, histories and research; and
- Physical inspection and fieldwork on the application site and the surrounding area on 1st February 2023, and at the same time systematic data search undertaken for heritage assets in the vicinity of the application site that may be affected by the proposed development.

3.2.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines a heritage asset as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Significance (i.e. 'sensitivity') lies in the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest, which may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic<sup>1,2</sup>. The determination of the significance of archaeological assets is based on statutory designation and/or professional judgement against four values set out in Historic England's Conservation Principles:

- Evidential value: the potential of the physical remains to yield evidence of past human activity. This might take into account date; rarity; state of preservation; diversity/complexity; contribution to published priorities; supporting documentation; collective value and comparative potential;
- Aesthetic value: this derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from the heritage asset, taking into account what other people have said or written;
- Historical value: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through heritage assets to the present, such a connection often being illustrative or associative; and

---

<sup>1</sup> Historic England. Conservation Principles, Policy and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment. 2008

<sup>2</sup> Historic England. Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment, Consultation Draft, 10th November 2017.

<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/guidance/conservation-principles-consultationdraft>

- Communal value: this derives from the meanings of a heritage asset for the people who know about it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values are closely bound up with historical, particularly associative, and aesthetic values, along with educational, social or economic values.

3.2.4 There is no single defining criterion that dictates the overall asset significance; each asset has to be evaluated using professional judgement against the range of criteria listed above on a case by case basis.

### **3.3 Evolution of Baseline**

3.3.1 The evolution of the baseline may have an impact on the assessment of built heritage assets depending on the location of other developments and their visual relationship and intervisibility with the Site. This is considered further within the cumulative assessment section below.

### **3.4 Impact Assessment Methodology**

3.4.1 As there is no published guidance for built heritage assessment in EIA, the assessment has been undertaken in accordance with best practice guidance and advice provided within the NPPF and NPPG, other national guidance/advice documents, including those published by HE, as well as by application of professional judgement. The assessment should be read in conjunction with the Archaeological Desk Based Heritage Assessment.

3.4.2 The following section outlines the methodologies applied to identify and assess the potential built heritage impacts likely to result from the proposed development.

3.4.3 Historic environment and planning legislation identifies the significance of heritage assets (listed buildings, conservation areas etc.) and the contribution that setting makes to that significance. Accordingly, this assessment considers both likely direct (on the assets) and indirect (on the settings and views/visual appearance of the assets) impacts and effects. Setting is not a heritage asset and not a heritage designation. Its importance lies in what it may, or may not, contribute to the significance of a heritage asset. On this basis, the receptors addressed here comprise those heritage assets within the study area, the settings of which may be affected by the proposed development.

### **Study Area**

3.4.4 The assessment has considered the potential for the proposed development, as a whole, to affect those elements of setting that contribute to the heritage significance of the relevant built heritage assets in the study area within 1.0km of the application site boundary. This zone of visual influence of the proposed development has been determined through the initial visual impact testing. The area of existing context likely to be influenced by the proposed development varies with scale and alignment. The setting of heritage assets within approximately 1km of the application site, where significant effects might be expected on designated heritage assets, can be anticipated given the scale of the proposed development, and the local topography have been described and assessed. Designated and non-designated heritage assets further from the application site, where effects on their settings are likely to be less significant, have been described and assessed where appropriate.

## 3.5 Method of Assessment

- 3.5.1 The baseline scenario for the assessment of built heritage effects is the existing site conditions. A description of the baseline characterisation is presented within the 'Baseline Conditions' section of this ES chapter and has been derived from the detailed information provided in the Archaeological Desk Based Heritage Assessment in Appendix 7.1.

### Receptor Identification

- 3.5.2 Receptors that are the subject of this chapter are 'heritage assets' as defined by the NPPF. Designated heritage assets include listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments and registered landscapes. Locally listed buildings are 'non-designated heritage assets'.

### Defining 'Heritage Significance'

- 3.5.3 The term 'significance' is defined in the NPPF as: 'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic'. The Historic England 'Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2' provides an alternative definition as 'the sum of its architectural, historic, artistic or archaeological interest'.
- 3.5.4 The quality in a heritage asset that is affected by change is described as 'significance', referred to for clarity throughout this chapter as 'heritage significance'. This incorporates the concepts of 'special architectural and historic interest' (in relation to listed buildings and conservation areas) and 'character and appearance' in relation to conservation areas. The 'significance' of a heritage asset is a quality that may be more or less sensitive to change, depending on the specific circumstances of the asset and the nature of that change.
- 3.5.5 The heritage significance of heritage assets, both designated and non-designated varies according to the nature and circumstances of the asset in question. A number of listed buildings at the same grade, for instance, may have greater or lesser levels of heritage significance depending on:
- the nature of their special architectural or historic interest (i.e. the reason for listing);
  - the degree to which the listed building has changed since it was listed (i.e. whether physical alteration of the building since listing has preserved or enhanced its special interest); or
  - the degree to which the setting of the listed building has changed since listing.
- 3.5.6 A general classification of a heritage asset (into grades) does not equate to an identical or similar level of heritage significance in every asset of the same grade. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 does not refer to grades of listed building or conservation area, referring only to 'special architectural or historic interest', and the statutory tests are applied equally to the designated heritage assets concerned. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's 'Principles of Selection for Listing Buildings'<sup>3</sup> states that 'Buildings on the list are graded to reflect their relative architectural and historic interest'. Grading therefore provides a helpful general indication of a level of

---

<sup>3</sup> DCMS (2010) Principles of Selection for Listing Buildings

heritage significance, and that has been used in assessing the sensitivity of heritage assets to change.

## **Approach to Assessing Heritage Significance**

- 3.5.7 The heritage significance of a listed building that may be affected is its 'special architectural and historic interest'. More precisely, a development may affect this special architectural and historic interest by harming or reducing the degree to which such interest can be appreciated (i.e. the potential impact).
- 3.5.8 The methodology adopted to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development upon the heritage significance of the heritage receptors is to measure those impacts – using professional judgement - against criteria contained in national and local policy and guidance relating to the historic built environment.
- 3.5.9 It should be noted that the various policy and guidance relating to the historic built environment (either national, regional or local) do not provide a definitive system of measurement of effects upon heritage receptors. There is no fixed or agreed system of measuring the sensitivity of heritage receptors to change and the magnitude of that change.

## **Demolition and Construction**

- 3.5.10 The methodology utilised for assessing the demolition and construction effects has been consistent with that utilised for the completed development stage effects. Demolition and construction works are a necessary first step in the redevelopment of the application site and one that is associated with development or change of use. In this instance, demolition and construction impacts would not be considered to be significant in EIA terms, as they are indirect, temporary in nature and short-medium term in duration. Accordingly a qualitative assessment has been undertaken.

## **Completed Development**

- 3.5.11 The effect of the proposed development on each of the identified heritage assets has been considered and a judgement formed as to the importance and sensitivity of the heritage assets (as considered in the baseline study); the magnitude of impact; and the duration, extent and scale of the effect. In doing so, consideration has been given to embedded mitigation measures. Appropriate cross-referencing has been made to the visualisations in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment in ES Volume 5.

## **3.6 Significance Criteria**

### **Terminology**

- 3.6.1 The assessment of effect significance outlined within the below sections is consistent with the terminology and criteria outlined within ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology.
- 3.6.2 The terminology used to describe the sensitivity of receptors and magnitude of the impact is as follows:
- High;
  - Medium; and
  - Low.

- 3.6.3 The terminology used to describe the type of effect is as follows:
- Adverse;
  - Neutral; or
  - Beneficial
- 3.6.4 The terminology used to describe the scale of effects is as follows:
- Major;
  - Moderate;
  - Minor; and
  - Negligible.
- 3.6.5 The temporal effects of the proposed development have been assessed as follows:
- Short-term
  - Medium-term
  - Long-term

## **Sensitivity of Receptors**

- 3.6.6 While the heritage significance of a heritage asset may be an assessable quality that can be analysed and described for each asset, and may be at a higher or lower level, the sensitivity of that significance to change varies depending on the specific circumstances of the asset in relation to the source of the change.
- 3.6.7 The relative sensitivity of heritage assets is assessable in the abstract (without considering a specific physical relationship to a specific type and magnitude of change) up to a certain point, given the distinction between designated and non-designated heritage assets, which is principally the distinction between national special architectural or historic interest (designated heritage assets including conservation areas) and purely local architectural or historic interest. Designated heritage assets are considered to have a higher sensitivity to change and non-designated heritage asset are considered to have less sensitivity. By virtue of the potentially greater level of heritage significance contained in the fabric and appearance of a statutorily listed building than, say, a locally listed building, its significance is considered to be greater and thus it is more sensitive to change in its context.
- 3.6.8 This approach is applied to the specific circumstances of the heritage assets that could be affected by the proposed development. The sensitivity of individual heritage assets to change are considered against the general levels of significance outlined above, and are varied by the specific circumstances of individual heritage assets, their relationship to the application site and the nature of the change. A heritage asset, regardless of its type, that is within the application site or in close proximity to the application site, has a higher sensitivity to change than a heritage asset that is further away from the application site and, for instance, lacks intervisibility with the proposed development. This approach is intended to provide a realistic assessment of the sensitivity of heritage assets in the vicinity of the application site to change. This approach to sensitivity to change is then combined with consideration of the magnitude of change in order to arrive at a reliable and realistic assessment of effects.
- 3.6.9 Following the application of this approach, the sensitivity of individual heritage assets in the study area is set out in Table 6-1, taking into account the nature of the receptor in question

and its relationship with the application site. The sensitivity of heritage assets to change is described as High, Medium or Low.

- 3.6.10 To be clear, this approach acknowledges the statutory or locally designated status of the heritage assets in question and is consistent with the objective measure of their heritage significance.
- 3.6.11 The archaeological desk-based heritage assessment (Appendix 7.1) describes the significance of designated and non-designated built heritage assets as applied in this assessment.

**Table 6-1 Significance Criteria**

Built Heritage Asset Significance	Built Heritage Asset Description
Very High (International / National)	World Heritage Sites Scheduled monuments Grade I and II* listed buildings Historic England Grade I and II* registered parks and gardens Protected Wrecks Heritage assets of national importance.
High (National / Regional / County)	Historic England Grade II registered parks and gardens Conservation areas Designated historic battlefields Grade II listed buildings Burial grounds Protected heritage landscapes (e.g. ancient woodland or historic hedgerows) Heritage assets of regional or county importance.
Medium (District)	Heritage assets with a district value or interest for education or cultural appreciation Locally listed buildings.
Low (Local)	Heritage assets with a local (i.e. parish) value or interest for education or cultural appreciation.
Negligible	Historic environment resource with no significant value or interest.
Uncertain	Heritage assets that have a clear potential, but for which current knowledge is insufficient to allow significance to be determined.

## Magnitude of Impact

- 3.6.12 Determination of magnitude of impact (i.e. change) upon the significance of known or potential heritage assets is based on the severity of the potential physical impact (e.g. change in fabric of a listed building, change in significance or setting.) and describes the criteria used in this assessment to determine the magnitude of impact.

**Table 6-2 Magnitude of Impact Criteria**

Asset Significance*	Built Heritage Assets – Magnitude of Impact
High	Complete removal of asset. Change to asset significance resulting in a fundamental change in our ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its historical context, character and setting. The transformation of an asset's setting in a way that

	fundamentally compromises its ability to be understood or appreciated. The scale of change would be such that it could result in a designated asset being undesignated or having its level of designation lowered.
Medium	Change to asset significance resulting in a considerable change in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset and its historical context, character and setting. Notable alterations to the setting of an asset that affect our appreciation of it and its significance.
Low	Change to asset significance resulting in a small change in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset and its historical context, character and setting.
Negligible	Negligible change or no material change to asset significance. No real change in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset and its historical context, character and setting.

## Effect Nature

- 3.6.13 Adverse effects are those which cause harm to, or loss of, the significance of a heritage asset because of changes to its physical form or setting.
- 3.6.14 Beneficial effects are those which enhance a heritage asset's significance because of changes to its physical form or setting.

## Effect Scale

- 3.6.15 The environmental effect is determined by comparing the sensitivity of heritage assets with the 'magnitude of change', as outlined in Table 6-3. Effects are assessed as being beneficial, neutral or adverse. For effects described as beneficial or adverse, significance levels of minor, moderate and major are assessed. Where information is insufficient to quantify the asset significance or magnitude of impact, the scale of the effect is given as 'uncertain'.

**Table 6-3 Effect Scale**

Magnitude of Impact	Buried Heritage Asset Significance					
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Negligible	Uncertain
High	Major	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor	Uncertain
Medium	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Uncertain
Low	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Uncertain
Negligible	Minor	Minor/Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Uncertain
Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain

- 3.6.16 Table 6-4 describes the scale and nature of effects.

**Table 6-4 Description of Effect**

Scale and Nature of Effect	Description
Major Adverse	Substantial harm to, or loss of, significance of an asset of very high, high or medium heritage significance, as a result of changes to its physical form or setting.
Moderate Adverse	Less than substantial harm to the significance of an asset of very high, high or medium heritage significance, as a result of changes to its physical form or setting.
Minor Adverse	Limited harm to the significance of an asset of very high, high or medium heritage significance, as a result of changes to its physical form or setting, or substantial harm to, or the loss of, significance of an asset of low or very low heritage significance.
Negligible	No appreciable change to an asset's significance.

Uncertain	Significance of effect uncertain due to lack of information on buried heritage asset significance.
Minor Beneficial	Limited enhancement of an asset's significance as a result of changes to its physical form or setting.
Moderate Beneficial	Notable enhancement of an asset's significance as a result of changes to its physical form or setting.
Major Beneficial	Substantial enhancement of an asset's significance as a result of changes to its physical form or setting.

- 3.6.17 Based upon the information presented within **ES Volume 7, Appendix 7.1**, appropriate mitigation/offsetting measures are identified, and the resulting residual environmental effect is re-assessed as shown in Table 6-8.

### **Effect Duration**

- 3.6.18 The resulting effects are long-term, for the duration of the use of the site and can be reversed after decommission.

### **Direct and Indirect**

- 3.6.19 The below assessment also identifies whether the effect is 'direct' (i.e. resulting without any intervening factors) or 'indirect' or 'secondary' (i.e. not directly caused or resulting from something else).

### **Assumptions and Limitations**

- 3.6.20 The assessment relies on available data, and best endeavours have been made to ensure that these are accurate and up to date.

## **3.7 Current Baseline Conditions**

### **Baseline Conditions**

- 3.7.1 The Site does not contain any nationally designated (protected) heritage assets, such as scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, or registered parks and gardens. There are two Grade II Listed Buildings within 1km of the Site: Rookery Farmhouse and 17 Winslow Road. The Site does not lie within a Conservation Area, nor are there any within the vicinity of the site.
- 3.7.2 There are a number of other listed buildings within the wider area of the Site, however, the site walkover survey confirmed that there was no intervisibility between them and the Site.

### **Topography**

- 3.7.3 Topography and geology can provide indications of suitability for settlement, and past and present use. The site comprises four arable and pasture fields and additional tracts of land which occupy low-lying terrain adjacent to the east side of Claydon Brook. The land is predominantly flat and level and lies at c.90-94 above Ordnance Datum (m AOD).

## Historical Context

- 3.7.4 During the Site's history, it has been open agricultural land lying some distance from any settlements.
- 3.7.5 During the Roman period (AD 43–410), Akeman Street, the road linking Watling Street near St Albans to the Fosse Way at *Corinium Dobunnorum* (now Cirencester) was situated c 9.5km south of the site.
- 3.7.6 During the early medieval (Saxon) period (AD 410–1066) the Site was likely open agricultural land. The village name of "Claydon" has Saxon origins, the prefix of "East" denoting it from three other nearby villages with the same name. Granborough and East Claydon are both recorded within the Domesday Survey of 1086. While East Claydon was subject to complex ownership arrangements, divided between several people both before and after the Norman Conquest, Granborough was a significantly smaller settlement and had remained part of St Albans Abbey.
- 3.7.7 The Site contains ridge and furrow throughout, as well as former field boundaries. Further areas of ridge and furrow survive in small patches over the landscape between Granborough and East Claydon. A shrunken medieval village lies c.550m to the east of the Site. A 16<sup>th</sup>-century watermill is believed to lie at the northern end of Field 10 within the site.
- 3.7.8 The agricultural nature of the site continues to be evidenced in the post-medieval period through drainage ditches c 600m north of the site, seen on aerial photographs.
- 3.7.9 The earliest available cartographic evidence is Fortescue's estate map from 1599. *Grandburgh* is shown as a small, nucleated settlement. The site lay within an area known as Brook Furlong which suggests that the land was under arable rotation at the time. A trackway is illustrated on the map known as *Saltway*, which may have lain along the eastern boundary of the site or may have passed through it. The Inclosure map of 1796 shows that the course of the stream along the western boundaries of the site had been established by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and has remained unaltered since.
- 3.7.10 By the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900, all of the site boundaries had been established and the route of the old *Saltway* is marked as a footpath through the eastern corner of the site leading out beyond to the south. Rookery Farm, the Grade II listed building, is illustrated amongst a group of similar homesteads on the west side of the village; even though this building is considerably older (16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries), this is the first map that illustrates it. A small barn can be seen leading in from Hogshaw Road to the south-east.

## 3.8 Heritage Assets and Heritage Asset Significance

### Existing

- 3.8.1 Table 6-5 lists the built heritage assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development

**Table 6-5 Built Heritage Assets**

Heritage Asset	Heritage Asset Significance	Sensitivity to Change
Rookery Farm	High	High

- 3.8.2 Rookery Farm is situated c.620m to the east of the site. It is a Grade II listed building and is still an active farm surrounded by a variety of farm and outbuildings of various dates, though primarily of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. As an active farm its surroundings (farmland)

contribute positively to its significance. It also has open views towards the site. As such it has a high sensitivity to change.

- 3.8.3 There are a number of other built heritage assets within the vicinity of the Site. However, these were discounted from further assessment due to their distance from the Site and the intervening built and landscape form. Further explanation for their exclusion is described in the Archaeological Desk Based Heritage Assessment – ES Appendix 7.1.

## 3.9 Potential Effects

### Enabling and Construction

**Table 6-6: Effect prior to mitigation**

Asset	Significance	Magnitude of impact	Scale of effect significance
Rookery Farm	High	Negligible	Not significant

- 3.9.1 Enabling and construction will result in negligible effects (**not significant**) to the identified built heritage assets due to their distance from the Site and the intervening built and landscape form. Such works are temporary in nature and will be restricted to working hours.

## 3.10 Operation

**Table 6-7: Operational effect**

Asset	Significance	Magnitude of impact	Scale of effect significance
Rookery Farm	High	Negligible	Not significant

- 3.10.1 The completed development will see the presence of battery storage units across the Site. These will be visible in the distance, though the Zone of Theoretical Visibility has identified that none of the important views of the setting of Rookery Farm will be affected. As such this will result in negligible effects (**not significant**).
- 3.10.2 While there will be a change of use the fields within the Site, and as such this will mean a change to the wider setting of Rookery Farm, the farm will remain an active and so this change will not be deemed significant.
- 3.10.3 The proposed planting of trees will further reduce any visibility of the Proposed Development.

### Decommissioning

- 3.10.4 The decommissioning of the site will return it to its present form. The magnitude of impact of the Proposed Development is deemed to be negligible. The decommissioning of the Proposed Development will therefore result in a positive change, albeit an insignificant one due to the intervening built and landscape form.

## 3.11 Mitigation and Residual Effects

### Embedded Mitigation

- 3.11.1 Embedded mitigation measures are intended to eliminate or reduce impacts on built heritage assets.
- 3.11.2 A scheme of strategic planting will also be employed both within the development and around the periphery which is expected to substantially screen the new facility after approximately ten years.

## 3.12 Residual Effects

- 3.12.1 All of the residual effects resulting from the Proposed Development are presented in Table 6-8, identify whether the effect is significant or not.

**Table 6-8: Residual Effect**

Buried Heritage Asset	Description of Residual Effect	Scale and Effect	Significance	Geo	Direct/Indirect	P / T <sup>4</sup>	Duration
Enabling and Construction							
Rookery Farm	Traffic and construction noise	Negligible	Not significant	Regional	Indirect	T	Short-term
Operation							
Rookery Farm	Presence of battery storage units	Negligible	Not significant	Regional	Indirect	T	Long-term

## 3.13 Cumulatives

- 3.13.1 Built heritage receptors are specific to the site and any intervening views that may be present between the site and the identified receptor. As such, whether there is likely to be any cumulative effect depends on the location of the other scheme, its distance from the present site and the nature of the scheme.
- 3.13.2 No shared built heritage assets have been identified with the site from the list of cumulative schemes and so there will be no cumulative effects.

## 3.14 Climate Change

- 3.14.1 None of the built heritage assets present around the Site are reliant on current climate for their survival, and therefore the impacts of the Proposed Development and resulting effects are very unlikely to change under future climate conditions. No climate change resilience measures are required for built heritage.

---

<sup>4</sup> Temporary long-term residual effects are reversible once the site is returned to agricultural use at the end of the lifespan of the battery storage facility. Temporary short-term residual effects will cease at the end of the enabling and construction phases.

## **3.15 Conclusion**

- 3.15.1 The site forms a group of nine fields lying between the villages of East Claydon and Granborough, on the east side of the Claydon Brook in the County of Buckinghamshire. Throughout the site's history it has been undeveloped land in agricultural use lying some distance from any areas of settlement.
- 3.15.2 The site does not contain any nationally designated heritage assets. However, there are two Grade II Listed buildings within 1km of the site and several other designated heritage assets are located within the wider area. The site does not lie within a conservation area. One Grade II Listed building, Rookery Farmhouse, may be affected by the proposed development. The remainder of the designated heritage assets are not afforded further assessment due to the distance between them and the site and intervening landscape topography.
- 3.15.3 Rookery Farm is of high significance but the development will have a negligible impact upon the building and the effect upon it will not be significant.
- 3.15.4 No shared built heritage assets have been identified with the site from nearby cumulative schemes and there will be no cumulative effects.

# GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Archaeological Priority Area/Zone:	Areas of archaeological priority, significance, potential or other title, often designated by the local authority.
Built Heritage	Upstanding structure of historic interest.
Cut Feature	Archaeological feature such as a pit, ditch or well, which has been cut into the then-existing ground surface.
Geotechnical	Ground investigation, typically in the form of boreholes and/or trial/test pits, carried out for engineering purposes to determine the nature of the subsurface deposits.
Heritage asset	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage assets are the valued components of the historic environment. They include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
Historic Environment Assessment	A written document whose purpose is to determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature of the historic environment resource/heritage assets within a specified area.
Historic Environment Record	Archaeological and built heritage database held and maintained by the County authority. Previously known as the Sites and Monuments Record
Listed Building	A structure of architectural and/or historical interest. These are included on the Secretary of State's list, which affords statutory protection. These are subdivided into Grades I, II* and II (in descending importance).
Made Ground	Artificial deposit. An archaeologist would differentiate between modern made ground, containing identifiably modern inclusion such as concrete (but not brick or tile), and undated made ground, which may potentially contain deposits of archaeological interest.
Mesolithic	12,000–4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000–2,000 BC
Ordnance Datum (OD)	A vertical datum used by Ordnance Survey as the basis for deriving altitudes on maps.
Palaeolithic	700,000–12,000 BC
Post-medieval	AD 1500–present
Preservation by record	Archaeological mitigation strategy where archaeological remains are fully excavated and recorded archaeologically and the results published. For remains of lesser significance, preservation by record might comprise an archaeological watching brief.

Term	Definition
Preservation in situ	Archaeological mitigation strategy where nationally important (whether Scheduled or not) archaeological remains are preserved in situ for future generations, typically through modifications to design proposals to avoid damage or destruction of such remains.
Residual	When used to describe archaeological artefacts, this means not in situ, i.e. Found outside the context in which it was originally deposited.
Roman	AD43–410
Scheduled Monument	An ancient monument or archaeological deposits designated by the Secretary of State as a 'Scheduled Ancient Monument' and protected under the Ancient Monuments Act.
Site	The area of proposed development
Study Area	Defined area surrounding a site in which archaeological data is collected and analysed in order to set a site into its archaeological and historical context.
Truncate	Partially or wholly remove. In archaeological terms remains may have been truncated by previous construction activity.
Watching brief (archaeological)	A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons.