

# East Claydon Greener Grid Park Planning Application



Planning Application Reference: 25/01297/APP

This document contains no new information.

On Thursday 2 July, Buckinghamshire Council will decide on the planning application for East Claydon Greener Grid Park. This project, located on land close to the East Claydon Substation, will help achieve zero carbon emissions in Buckinghamshire by providing energy storage and stabilising the grid in times of changing energy supply and demand.

We have designed the project with the existing landscape in mind. Should we gain consent the sensitive and comprehensive landscaping would include a 5m high planted bund, 175 new native specimen trees and significant lengths of new and enhanced hedgerow planting.

## Greener Grid Parks:

Greener Grid Parks are facilities comprised of zero carbon technologies including Battery Energy Storage Systems and Synchronous Compensators which stabilise the grid and store electricity, allowing more renewable energy to be transmitted through the network. Keeping the grid stable means ensuring the amount of electricity flowing through the grid always remains level.

They are not a wind farm or solar farm, but include equipment to import, store and export energy for later use.

At times, although renewable technologies can meet the energy demand on the grid, the National Energy System Operator (NESO) has to turn the renewable supply off and switch on fossil fuel power plants to stabilise the network. This is costing the environment and the consumer. A Greener Grid Park can provide the same stability services as a fossil fuel plant but in a clean, green way.



You can find out more about out Greener Grid Parks here:

[www.statkraft.co.uk/greenergridparks](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/greenergridparks)

## RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

### NO OBJECTION:

- Local Flood Authority
- Highways Authority
- Environment Agency
- Archaeology Officer
- Buckinghamshire Fire Service
- Ecology Officer
- Built Heritage
- Environmental Health Officer

## Officers Report

*“the significant benefits of decarbonising the grid, which helps address the climate emergency, reduces curtailment, and provide energy security. These are significant factors that indicate the application should be approved and planning permission granted” 6.25*

*“benefits are reinforced by biodiversity enhancements and the temporary and reversible nature of the development.” 6.22*

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## Planning Considerations

To bring forward the best project for East Claydon, we've thoughtfully designed the project and listened to feedback before and after submission of the planning application:

### Project Need

In December 2025 the UK government established an urgent and enduring need for electricity infrastructure improvements. This includes increasing grid flexibility and storage up to 2050.

It says storage is needed to reduce the costs of the electricity system and increase reliability by storing surplus electricity in times of low demand to provide electricity when demand is higher.

Synchronous Compensators (large machines with built-in flywheels) are needed to provide grid stability without emitting any carbon dioxide.

### Location

Statkraft consults with National Energy System Operator and examines other data to establish the likely need for Greener Grid Parks. The factors we consider include:

- Where energy is being generated and where there is demand for energy across Great Britain
- Timescales for connection into the electricity grid

This proposed location was the most suitable and available site for the Greener Grid Park, located close to East Claydon substation.

The substation is located on the border of two busy electricity grid regions that have large variances in demand between daytime and nighttime. This proposal would react to demand, to help manage the voltage, which has to stay within certain parameters. This will reduce CO2 emissions and operational costs.

### Ecology

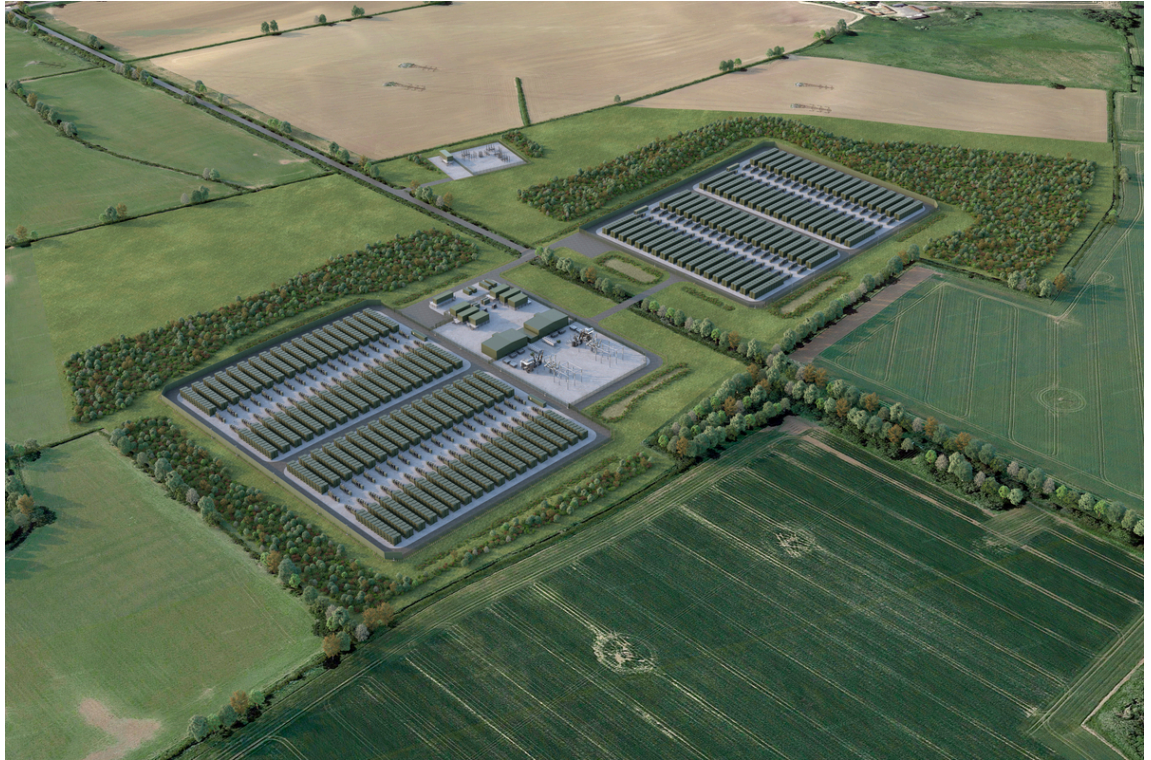
- Significant biodiversity net gain improvement of 58.5%. Exceeding the statutory requirement by 48.5%
- Supporting Owl nesting and foraging by retaining open grassland and dark corridors
- Using task-only lighting to protect dark skies. During normal operation the site will not be lit.
- Eight skylark nest plots in retained land ahead of construction
- The significant majority of trees are to be retained and protected during construction
- Planting over 9 hectares of new species rich wildflowers and a new wetland meadow, enhancing species diversity and habitat.

### Landscape

We have designed the project with the existing landscape in mind. To reduce the visual impact of the project we have:

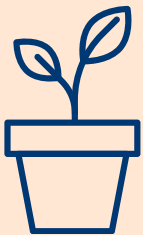
- Located the taller synchronous compensator buildings centrally within the site
- 5m planted bund, mitigating views from the west
- The sympathetic landscape scheme includes
  - Over 170 native specimen trees
  - 60,000m<sup>2</sup> of native tree and shrub mix planting
  - 129m of new native hedgerow
  - 1700m of retained and enhanced hedgerow
- Located close to the existing substation
- Used a recessive olive green colour for the structures

# East Claydon Greener Grid Park



## Local Supply Chain

We will work with local business groups such as the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and Buckinghamshire Business First, to increase awareness of opportunities to get involved in the construction and operation of our projects. We have a dedicated web page where local companies can register their interest in supplying the project should it be consented.



## Community Benefit Fund

If the project is consented it would generate a community benefit fund of £20,000 per year, supporting low-carbon community projects throughout the development's lifespan, beginning at construction.



## Biodiversity Net Gain

Should the project gain consent we expect it will deliver 58.50% biodiversity net gain for habitats and a 10.2% net gain for hedgerow, providing ecological enhancements through planting and creating new habitats.