

Necton  
Greener Grid Park  
Breckland Council

# Statement of Community Involvement

Prepared for Statkraft  
August 2023



# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared in support of an application for full planning permission submitted to Breckland Council under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) on behalf of Statkraft UK LTD (the “Applicant”).
- 1.2 The SCI outlines the pre-application public consultation activity undertaken by the Applicant regarding Necton Greener Grid Park prior to the submission of a planning application, seeking:  
  
“Construction and operation of a Greener Grid Park comprising synchronous compensators, transformers, ancillary plant, underground electricity ducting and cabling to connect to the existing substation, formation of temporary construction access and associated hard and soft landscaping”
- 1.3 The Applicant conducted a programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement for the proposal. In person and digital consultation events were held to ensure that the engagement process was comprehensive, meaningful and accessible. This included providing a dedicated project website, <https://www.statkraft.com/necton/>, where members of the public could submit feedback and contact the project team. An in-person Public Exhibition to present the plans and a virtual exhibition was held in March 2023.
- 1.4 The Applicant also contacted local stakeholders, including ward members and the local parish council, to inform them of the plans, invite them to engage in the pre-application consultation and provide detailed briefings.
- 1.5 The comments received during public consultation are detailed in the feedback section of this report. A number of the issues raised during stakeholder engagement have informed amendments to the initial proposal, including a significant increase in the depth of the triangular landscape buffer. At its narrowest point the buffer depth has nearly doubled from 7m to 13m deep and at its deepest point it has more than trebled from 12m to 42m deep. We have also improved our drainage design.
- 1.6 The SCI has been written in line with Breckland Council’s Statement of Community Involvement (2022), the Revised National Planning Policy Framework (2021) and the Localism Act (2011).
- 1.7 This statement forms part of a portfolio of documents submitted as part of the planning application for the scheme.

## 2. CONSULTATION POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 The consultation programme was undertaken at the pre-application stage in accordance with Section 122 of the Localism Act 2011. The act requires developers to carry out pre-application consultation with local communities.

2.2 The consultation programme was also carried out in accordance with the Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021, which encourages proactive community engagement. Paragraph 132 of the NPPF 2021 states that:

*“Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot.”*

2.3 Additionally, it followed the guidelines of Breckland Council’s Statement of Community Involvement (2022), which sets out the importance of involving statutory bodies and the community in pre-application consultations and planning applications. Section 4.3 of the SCI states:

*“Applicants are encouraged to involve the community, including the Town or Parish Council, or meeting neighbours and ward councillors before a formal application is submitted as this will help to address issues and may help to avoid unnecessary objections being made at a later stage.”*

## 3. CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

3.1 The Applicant has undertaken the process of pre-application consultation in line with national and local guidance and requirements. This provided an important opportunity to engage with the Council, key stakeholders and the local community to gather feedback and enable issues and concerns to be addressed prior to the submission of the planning application, where reasonably possible.

3.2 The proposal has benefitted from extensive pre-app discussions with the Council. Pre-app meetings were held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 where technical departments attended and provided input into the project.

### CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

3.3 On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, a letter (Appendix 1) was issued to local stakeholders including members of Breckland Council to introduce the plans, inform representatives of the upcoming public consultation and provide an offer to meet for a detailed briefing on the proposals.

3.4 Prior to this, The Applicant met with Necton Parish Council on 13<sup>th</sup> February to present the proposals, introduce the project team to members and gather feedback. We approached the parish council to introduce them to the plans via telephone in January 2023. The Applicant also met with the local ward member and a member of Breckland Council's planning and building control department ahead of the public consultation on 9<sup>th</sup> March to share the early proposals and gather feedback. The Applicant ensured that local representatives were kept up to date on the progress of the plans, including sharing a summary of the communities key feedback following the public consultation and proposed design changes as the plans evolved.

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

3.5 The Applicant undertook a hybrid consultation which included an in-person Public Exhibition for people to meet the team and view plans in detail and a virtual exhibition. The virtual exhibition was hosted on a project website which provided the same information as the in person exhibition and the ability to feed back and ask questions. .

3.6 On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, the Applicant issued a consultation invitation (Appendix 2) to 1,204 addresses within an agreed consultation zone (Appendix 3). The invitation introduced the proposals and provided details of the project website and the upcoming Public and virtual exhibitions .

3.7 An email address was also included so that residents could contact the project team to find out more about the proposals ([UKProjects@statkraft.com](mailto:UKProjects@statkraft.com)). A total of nine emails were received over the consultation period (22<sup>nd</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023) (Appendix 4).

3.8 Members of the public could also contact the project team on 0800 772 0668 or visit the website to request a call back. No calls were received during the consultation period.

3.9 A bespoke webpage (<https://www.statkraft.com/necton/>) (Appendix 5) was created and enabled residents to learn more about the proposals and the Applicant. The webpage also allowed them to submit feedback and detailed how to get in contact with the project team. The consultation website received a total of 379 unique visitors between 22<sup>nd</sup> of February and 31<sup>st</sup> May. This time period includes Statkraft having issued their project update and as such is longer than the stated 'consultation period'.

3.10 The Applicant also bought advertising space in the local newspaper, The Eastern Daily Press, which advertised the Public Exhibition event. This advert appeared in the print edition of the Eastern Daily Press (Appendix 6) on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and on the newspaper's website from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

3.11 The public Exhibition event took place on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Necton Community Centre (Appendix 7) where the local community were able to find out more about the proposals. This event provided details on the site, introduced the Applicant and provided members of the project team a chance to meet the public and gather feedback on the proposals.

A total of 76 people attended the Public Exhibition.

3.12 The Applicant hosted a Virtual Exhibition web page from 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March, which featured information from the in-person consultation. This included a copy of the exhibition brochure (Appendix 8), initial site layout (Appendix 9), and a feedback form (Appendix 10), as well as opportunities for local people to ask questions of the project team and provide feedback on the proposals. The virtual exhibition page was visited 77 times over the virtual exhibition period.

3.13 The Applicant provided an update on changes to the proposals for representatives and members of the local community who asked to be kept informed on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Appendix 11). The update described changes to the plans, including the removal of battery storage, a significant increase in landscaping and improved drainage measures. This was added to the Necton Greener Grid Park website. New visualisations of the proposed Greener Grid Park (Appendix 12) were also included and uploaded to the project website.

# 4. FEEDBACK

## INTRODUCTION

4.1 Local residents were given the opportunity to submit feedback either by filling out a survey on the dedicated project website, at the Public Exhibition, or by email.

4.2 The website survey included three multiple choice questions which covered clarity of the proposals, feelings about increased renewable energy generation in the UK and feelings about the proposed development. Below this was space for written feedback and further comments or questions. One digital response to the survey was received throughout the consultation period. The survey is available to view in Appendix 10 and the comments of responders are available in Appendix 14, along with written feedback from the Public Exhibition.

4.3 The Public Exhibition survey gave attendees space to provide written feedback on their reply card (Appendix 14). A total of 24 reply cards were completed at the Public Exhibition and verbatim feedback is available in Appendix 14.

## QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

4.4 Below is a quantitative analysis of the response to the survey which was related to feelings about the proposed development. Of the 25 people who answered the survey, both online and on the reply cards from the public exhibition, 18 chose to give an answer to the question 'Do you support this Greener Grid Park proposal?'. 12 respondents stated that they do support the project whilst 6 stated that they do not support the project.

	Do you support this Greener Grid Park proposal?
Yes	12
No	6

## QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

4.5 At the Public Exhibition and on the website survey, consultees were asked to submit written feedback. As well as this, residents emailed their comments and questions.

4.6 23 of the 24 consultees submitted written feedback through the reply card at the Public Exhibition (Appendix 14). Further to this, a total of nine emails were received (Appendix 4). The single response to the online survey also included written feedback and questions in the comments and questions box which is available in Appendix 14.

4.7 A number of residents left comments that were supportive of the proposals, such as:

- *"Very informative & helpful. All my questions were answered. I am reassured that this is the way forward."*
- *"I view this development as essential to maintaining national energy stability. The company obviously needs to ensure all community concerns are dealt with openly and honestly to ensure minimal disruption by the planning process. Good work."*
- *"The presentation was very informative, the individuals from Statkraft being very knowledgeable and helpful. I think it is a wasted opportunity that it has taken so long for renewables to come to the fore."*
- *"This is a necessary addition to the resources of the National Grid. The impact on the environment is important and the effect on the area is minimal."*
- *"A very informative evening. Next generations I feel will receive much from project live there."*
- *"Looks to be quite impressive"*
- *"Make it happen ASAP!"*

4.8 Residents left comments which were less supportive or neutral about the project:

- *“We have concerns about additional roads on A47 with an already extremely busy and dangerous road and an impossible junction at Necton. Yet more traffic, more big heavy lorries to slow down the flow. “*
- *your planting of trees strategy is laughable - as we have seen from the A47 planting, the trees take many years to grow to any decent height, and last year in the hot weather and drought, they were left to die. 15 years??*
- *The height of the building is going to be very visible and ugly - this is a rural area not an industrial site.*
- *We have concerns about the noise and construction - I run a quiet country holiday let - I DON'T want additional extraneous noise from your site, I don't want construction noise during the day.*
- *Our perspective (which will not change) is that the National Grid need this, Dudgeon and Vanguard and Boreas all need it.  
The people of Necton do not need it.*

4.9 *The analysis has identified some additional themes. The topics that were cited most often are outlined below.*

**Traffic:**

- Site access
- Road safety on A47

**Community impact:**

- Cumulative impact of infrastructure projects in the area
- Opportunities for visual screening and noise mitigation
- Commitment to continuing community consultation
- Drainage
- Light pollution

**Safety**

- Fire safety measures including lightning risk
- Concern over attacks on local infrastructure

**Other**

- Site selection
- Opportunities for community benefit

## 5. RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK

5.1 The feedback in section 4 shows that residents are interested in safety and community impact, as well as operation of the Greener Grid Park.

5.2 The Applicant has provided a response to issues raised through feedback in the points below.

Issue	Response
<p><b>Site Access and Road Safety on A47</b></p>	<p>As part of the planning submission to Breckland Council, Statkraft will submit an integrated Transport Statement and Construction Traffic Management Plan. The plan includes traffic management procedures, which would ensure the safe operation of the approach route to the site during construction.</p> <p>We have listened to the local feedback and if consented, the construction phase of the development will be accessed by a temporary Left In/Left Out junction which will improve safety for all construction activities occurring near to Necton Substation and remove the potential for traffic impinging on the safe operation of the A47. This information was not available at the time of our residents update but has since been added to the FAQ's section of the website.</p> <p>Once construction is complete, this temporary access junction would be removed. The proposed permanent site access would be via the existing substation access junction.</p>
<p><b>Cumulative Impact of infrastructure projects in the area</b></p>	<p>Statkraft has commissioned a Landscape and Visual Appraisal, which will be included within the planning submission to Breckland Council.</p> <p>This has considered the cumulative visual impact of the proposed Greener Grid Park in the context of the other development works taking place around Necton Substation. No major cumulative visual impact was identified in the assessment.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities for visual screening and noise mitigation</b></p>	<p>The proposed design for the Greener Grid Park includes an area of planting to the south of the site. At its narrowest point, the landscape buffer is 12m deep and, at its deepest point, it is 42m deep. This area will help to screen the development from the village of Necton. This was a significant improvement on what was presented at the public exhibition event in March 2023. We highlighted this in our Stakeholder update (Appendix 11) More information about this landscaping will be included in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment submitted as part of Statkraft's planning application to Breckland Council.</p> <p>Statkraft will submit a Noise Impact Assessment as part of the planning application to Breckland Council. The development will not exceed noise limits set by the Council, in order to prevent negative impacts on residential properties in the area. Noise attenuation features will also be integrated into the design of the site, including housing the synchronous compensators in noise attenuating buildings.</p> <p>During construction, noise levels from the site will be kept to a minimum, and will follow all conditions imposed on construction activities, if our application is successful.</p>
<p><b>Commitment to continued community consultation</b></p>	<p>The Necton Greener Grid Park project website is regularly updated and can be found here: <a href="https://www.statkraft.com/necton/">https://www.statkraft.com/necton/</a></p>



	<p>Statkraft will also periodically send out updates to those that have asked to kept informed of the development's progress.</p> <p>If any specific queries arise, the project team can be contacted directly through the website or at the following e-mail address: UKProjects@statkraft.com</p> <p>When the planning application for the Necton Greener Grid Park is submitted to Breckland Council, the local community will also have the opportunity to comment on the application.</p>
<b>Drainage</b>	<p>Statkraft has commissioned an integrated Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy, to be included in the planning submission to Breckland Council. The report assessed that the site is considered to be low risk of flooding.</p> <p>We have improved the drainage design to include a "attenuation basin", covering an area of 582m<sup>2</sup> at a depth of 1m, in the south-east corner of the site which, if consented, will safely store excess rain and storm water. Further information on the improved drainage measures can be found in the resident update (Appendix 11) and further detailed in the FAQ's section of the website.</p>
<b>Light pollution</b>	<p>As the site will typically be operated remotely, external lighting will be installed with motion sensors and will not be in constant illumination, in order to prevent light pollution. At the Greener Grid Park, the lights will be hooded and facing downwards, which will further prevent light pollution. Once operational, the site is expected to be attended occasionally by a service technician for essential maintenance.</p>
<b>Fire safety measures</b>	<p>Concerns raised were in relation to the batteries proposed at the public exhibition event. The design has evolved to a point where the needs of NGEESO's grid stabilisation requirements can be met with two synchronous compensators alone. As a result, we are now progressing Necton Greener Grid Park without battery storage. This was addressed in the project update from 05 May 2023 (Appendix 11).</p>
<b>Concern over attacks on local infrastructure</b>	<p>The security of Statkraft's site is taken extremely seriously. The proposed Greener Grid Park site will be securely fenced, with 24/7 CCTV monitoring.</p>
<b>Site selection</b>	<p>Statkraft's preferred site location is situated to the south of the existing Necton substation. The site has been selected following careful discussions with Breckland Council, taking account of technical requirements and landscape. It is vital to locate the Greener Grid Park adjacent to the substation, and Statkraft's chosen location also takes account of other constraints such as cable routes and other construction in the area. This was outlined in the project update from 05 May 2023 (Appendix 11).</p> <p>As part of the planning process, Statkraft has also conducted an Alternative Site Assessment (ASA), which will be submitted as part of the planning application to Breckland Council and uploaded on the project website.</p> <p>This is a detailed exercise, which demonstrates that Statkraft has carefully considered the benefits and constraints associated with the proposed site and that it has been chosen with proper consideration of identified assessment criteria. The assessment criteria for the short-list within the ASA included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of land</li> <li>• Favourable topography</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shape and size suitable for the purpose of the proposed development</li> <li>• Distance from the potential point of connection</li> <li>• Above-ground obstacles within the site, such as overhead lines or their towers</li> <li>• Footpaths or bridleways crossing the site</li> <li>• Flood risk areas</li> <li>• Highway access for construction and operation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities for community benefit</b></p>	<p>Statkraft is the first developer to offer a Community Benefit Fund for this kind of development. The Fund comprises £20,000 per annum for the lifetime of the project, with the first payment made at the start of construction. We are grateful for suggestions received as to how the community benefit fund could be used. The purpose of this benefit scheme is to provide a regular stream of funding dedicated to projects that help accelerate the transition to a low carbon society.</p> <p>Below are a some of the suggestions we received from the public exhibition feedback.</p> <p>“Path from the community hall to the school with solar lighting. would reduce traffic congestion - this has been proposed before but no funding found”</p> <p>“Wildflower projects”</p> <p>We appreciate the feedback received to date and we would welcome any further ideas.</p>

## 6. CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

6.1 This SCI demonstrates the pre-application consultation undertaken with local residents and stakeholders for the development of Necton Greener Grid Park.

6.2 The initial proposals were designed in response to a thorough analysis of the Necton site, Breckland, and the surrounding area.

6.3 The consultation process allowed the Applicant to further understand local views on the proposals, prior to submitting a planning application to Breckland Council.


6.4 The feedback indicates that residents have concerns about community impact including visual impact and noise, as well as safety. Some are supportive of the plans and are keen to work with the project team to improve local sustainability.

6.5 The project team has reviewed all feedback received during the consultation and, where possible, has responded to this in the final plans.

6.6 The development team will continue its discussions and engagement with local residents and stakeholders as the application progresses.

# 7. APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1: LETTER TO LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS



BY EMAIL

OUR REF:  
Necton Greener Grid Park

DATE:  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

POSTAL ADDRESS:  
Statkraft UK LTD  
19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
22 Bishopsgate  
London  
EC2N 4BQ

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

E-MAIL:  
[ukprojects@statkraft.com](mailto:ukprojects@statkraft.com)

Dear Cllr [REDACTED]

**NECTON GREENER GRID PARK – PUBLIC CONSULTATION - 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

I am writing to introduce Statkraft and inform you of our emerging plans for a new Greener Grid Park on land south of the A47, near Necton Substation. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you (either in person or virtually) to introduce our team and outline our plans. A Greener Grid Park is comprised of grid stabilising equipment which will help Great Britain achieve its zero-carbon emissions target. Our projects promote the use of renewable technologies and reduce the need to use fossil fuel plants.

We understand that the proposal is likely to be of interest to local residents and representatives, so we are keen to discuss the project with you in the near future.

**About Statkraft**

For background, Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with origins going back 125 years. We now have 5000 employees across 20 countries. In the UK, Statkraft develop, own and operate wind, solar, hydro and Greener Grid Park projects. Since 2006, Statkraft has invested over £1.3 billion in the UK's renewable energy infrastructure. We are market leaders in delivering innovative projects that ensure the reliability of our electricity supply.

**What is a Greener Grid Park?**

Greener Grid Parks, including the one proposed at Necton, will help to achieve a renewables-ready grid network. As renewable energy generation increases, new ways to maintain system stability are required. This vital transition from large fossil-fuel plants to renewable energy presents a need for solutions that can deliver grid stability, increase the amount of renewable energy delivered on the grid network and reduce costs for consumers.

Greener Grid Parks may import, store, and export electricity, but aren't a wind or solar farm or a power station. They look like some buildings that you might associate with agricultural barns, storage units or shipping containers.

Although at times renewable technologies can meet the energy demand on the grid, there have been instances where there has been a need to pause the renewable supply and switch on fossil fuel power plants to stabilise the network, which is costing both the environment and consumers. A Greener Grid Park has large electrical machines with

Statkraft UK LTD  
Company Number: 05742795  
Registered Office: 19<sup>th</sup> Floor, 22 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BQ

flywheels (called synchronous compensators) that can replace the spinning turbines of a traditional power station but without emitting any carbon dioxide. Like synchronous compensators, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) can be used to stabilise the frequency of the power grid, and they can be used in combination. This is known as grid-forming BESS. Necton Greener Grid Park's solution would include both synchronous compensators and grid-forming BESS.

It means that Great Britain's electricity system will be able to handle increasing amounts of renewable energy without relying on coal and gas fired turbines simply for their stability services.

#### What benefit will there be to the local community?

We are also committed to providing a community benefit fund of £20,000 per year for the lifetime of the project which will support community projects.

This project, if consented, will see a significant investment in the local area, with opportunities for local suppliers and businesses throughout the construction phase. At our existing Greener Grid Park scheme in Moray, Scotland, we have spent over £1.6 million in the local economy.

#### Site location



#### **How we plan to consult the local community**

We understand that there will be interest in relation to the project and we are committed to involving the local community in our proposals. We will hold a public exhibition at **Necton Community Centre, 13 Tun's Road, PE37 8EH on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 from 3.30pm – 7.30pm** to outline the plans and meet local residents and organisations. This will be advertised through a letter sent to nearby residents and a newspaper advertisement.

We are also establishing a dedicated project website, which will have detailed information about the project. Information is available to view at [www.statkraft.co.uk/necton](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/necton) and includes contact details and opportunities to provide feedback.

We will use the feedback from our consultation to inform our emerging proposal and include within our Statement of Community Involvement to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority with the Application. At the time of submission, we will publish all feedback we have received and explain how we have responded to local views.

#### **Get in touch**

In the meantime, if you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal, please do get in touch by emailing me at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



**Sacha Lloyd Rutherford**  
Project Developer, Statkraft



POSTAL ADDRESS:  
Statkraft UK LTD  
19th Floor  
22 Bishopsgate  
London  
EC2N 4BQ

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

E-MAIL:  
[ukprojects@statkraft.com](mailto:ukprojects@statkraft.com)

OUR REF:  
Necton Greener Grid Park

DATE:  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

Dear Neighbour,

**NECTON GREENER GRID PARK – PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

I am writing to let you know about Statkraft's plans for a new Greener Grid Park on land south of the A47, near Necton Substation.

This pioneering project will help achieve zero carbon emissions in Britain by increasing the stability of the electricity grid and supporting the delivery of renewable energy onto the grid network. Find out more about how this works on page two.

We are consulting the community on the plans in advance of submitting a planning application and would welcome your questions and feedback.

**You're invited to our drop-in public exhibition**

**Necton Community Centre, Tun's Lane, PE37 8EH**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30pm-7.30pm**

A virtual exhibition providing the same information as the in-person exhibition, and the opportunity to leave comments and feedback, will also run from **9<sup>th</sup> March – 16<sup>th</sup> March**.  
Visit: [www.statkraft.co.uk/necton](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/necton)





compensators and grid-forming BESS can be used in combination. It is proposed that Necton Greener Grid Park's solution would include both synchronous compensators and grid-forming BESS.

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#### **About us**

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#### **Get involved**

We are committed to involving local people in our proposals. There are several ways to get involved in our plans:

- **Public exhibition** – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30pm – 7.30pm at Necton Community Centre, Tun's Lane, PE37 8EH
- **Virtual exhibition**- 9th March – 16th March on [www.statkraft.co.uk/necton](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/necton)
- **Consultation website**: [www.statkraft.co.uk/necton](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/necton)
- **Consultation email address**: [UKProjects@statkraft.com](mailto:UKProjects@statkraft.com)

We are looking forward to meeting with you at our upcoming consultation event. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us using the details above.

Yours sincerely,



**Sacha Lloyd Rutherford**  
Project Developer, Statkraft

APPENDIX 3: CONSULTATION INVITATION DISTRIBUTION AREA (1,204 addresses)



APPENDIX 4: EMAILS (Personal information redacted)

Good evening

I have just viewed your virtual exhibition and am concerned as to safety and more importantly the health risks associated with this amount of storage.

If you could advise me as to this i would be grateful.

Would be interested to know as to what is advised to be safe distance from both humans and residential areas as to the amount/level of storage that will be at Necton.

Am not bothered as to aesthetics - just possible health hazard to public.

Dear REDACTED

You may recall that we met in the Necton exhibition on March 9th. You kindly explained some of the proposals you are working up and answered a lot of my questions! You invited me to come back to you with any further issues...

Can I just ask that you review the summary below of what I recall / wrote down to ensure I've not misrepresented / misunderstood: where I have a follow up question it's in italics.

We spoke of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFR&S) - in case you have yet to see this, I've attached a copy of their standard requirements issued last summer I mentioned - I'm sure you'll be wanting to go over these before you put in your application to Breckland DC. It is possible these have been modified since the issue I have which has been submitted to a number of BESS planning applications in South Norfolk. I understand the National Fire Service Chiefs are in the process of finalising a similar national document.

1. The plan of the site and the cubes

1.1 The 40 blue 'battery' blocks on your site plan (p12) are actually likely to be made up of separate 2m x 2m x 2m 'cubes' which stand independently and are each linked into the monitoring system on site - and thence back to your base at Rydale in Cheshire. Each of the 40 blue 'blocks' is made up of 12 (6 x 2) 2 cubic metre cubes stacked 2 high (the plan suggests a total height of 4m)

1.2 Each cell within each block will be separately monitored 24/7.

1.3 Each cube has internal suppressant which can be deployed at cell level in case of over heating or other malfunction. Some containers to other designs have air conditioning in each unit - I don't recall asking whether this would be so for your cubes?

1.4 I failed to ask what the 'capacity' of each of the cubes would be - the maximum Mw it could hold and what its would be capable of discharging in MWh

1.5 Were a battery/ies in the cubes to need to be replaced the plan would be to remove the whole cube unopened to do this off-site, craning it out of its position.

1.6 Because of the proven safety of these new design cubes the distance between them is small (<0.6m) and the distance between each block of cubes is 1.6m (not sure I have these measurements right - please amend if not.

1.7 Might you be able to point me to publicly accessible evidence of the testing the likely cubes have been through?

1.7 We spoke of your other Greener Grid Park (GGP) sites - is the one on your map (booklet p7) up in NE Scotland shown as operational (Baillie?) a good case example of what Necton GGP would be like?

## 2. Water on site

2.1 Run off from the site for rainfall - will there be a holding tank with filtration - we could not find such a tank on the site plan

2.2 Are you planning for hydrants and sufficient pressure and supply for use by NFR&S in a worst case scenario (WCS) of a thermal runaway type incident?

2.3 What are your plans for containing and disposing of the potentially significant run-off from any NF&RS intervention? Will there be a bund around the site to contain this?

2.4 Access for fire appliances in a WCS is clearly critical - has your design factored this in?

## 3. Links to NG

3.1 Your plan is to cross the proposed Vattenfall cable/s running down the corridor on the north of your proposed site at right angles - this has been agreed with Vattenfall

3.2 The link to the NG for power into the LiBESS and out can be automatically shut down if there is a malfunction to protect the rest of the site. Equally NG will be able to ensure no sudden input to the Necton LiBESS causing sudden peak overload in your battery units. Will this functionality be regularly tested once the site is operational?

## 4. Purpose of stand-alone LiBESSs such as Necton within national energy plans

4.1 Covering NG needs for instant supplies in case of sudden drop in available electricity on the Grid (basically an 'insurance' function now they have few resources where power can be accessed in seconds as would have been possible with older power generation). (I failed to note the technical term for this - can you help?). NGF pays a sort of 'retainer' fee ongoing.

4.2 Temporary storage of power bought from NG at a low cost (e.g, a sunny windy day) and exported to NG at a higher price (e.g when other supplies are low but demand high - a still winter evening?!) )

4.3 Overall probably 1/3 of the revenue value of a stand alone LiBESS is in 4.2 and 2/3rds in 4.1

4.4. It is not usual for LiBESS batteries to be at full charge - half more likely

## 5. Lightning risk

5.1. We spoke of this - your South African experience is very pertinent! I believe other sites nearby have committed to installation of suitable risk mitigation given the area's proneness to lightning events. Will this be in your plan for Necton NGGP?

## 6. Battery safety management plan and risk mitigation analysis

6.1 Is it possible to let me have a copy of these plans in use at your operational NE Scottish site (?Baillie).

## 7. Decommissioning

7.1 The cube model means there is no need for, or means of, manual intervention inside any cube on site. Any defective cube can easily be transported off site by craning onto a transporter

7.2 Obviously it is difficult to pre-determine what would happen to any damaged cube elsewhere without a detailed analysis of what remedial action was needed. Does Statkraft already have / have access to a UK site where such a cube can be safely repaired or fully decommissioned? If so, might you let me have details of the location of this site. If not, what are Statkraft's plans on this?

7.3 End of the LiBESS plans for decommissioning. Will you put these into your application? - even if this were 30+ years down the line. It is an issue for the LPA to consider in setting planning conditions, as it does with solar panel arrays,

## 8. Capital costs of elements of the site

We spoke of these - I have a note that you suggested that the battery element could cost some £60-70m with further costs for other elements taking the total project construction costs to around £110-120m

## 9. Timescale

You hoped to have the site operational in mid 2026 - with your planning application being likely to be with BDC by April-June this year?

Thank you in advance for taking time on this. I'd be very grateful for confirmation of my notes and any answers Statkraft can supply to the questions in italics.

Dear Statkraft

I am sending back mine and my husbands' responses to your display at Necton last week. We took forms but were given no envelopes to send back to you.

Your questions and comments:-

-We have concerns about additional roads on A47 with an already extremely busy and dangerous road and an impossible junction at Necton. Yet more traffic, more big heavy lorries to slow down the flow.

-When will the additions to the Necton substation area ever end?

Already we have had to have on our doorstep the monstrosity of the substation itself, then the two additional Vattenfall areas as big as football stadiums and now another one. It's like an open door to anyone and everyone to just plonk on another building, another grid, another...../

-DON'T CALL IT NECTON SUBSTATION, OR NECTON GREENER GRID PARK PLEASE!! our house prices are suffering! If you look up Necton on a web search immediately the substation comes up as a choice. Please change the name - we will all be happier!!! Call it something NOT associated with our nice village.

-We have concerns about the noise and construction - I run a quiet country holiday let - I DON'T want additional extraneous noise from your site, I don't want construction noise during the day. My business will be affected. Noise carries across the fields here really easily.

-We are concerned about fire risks with so much electricity flowing through - what guarantees can you give to say there won't be a fire risk and who, as it is unmanned will be watching for such things?

-We are concerned about electromagnetic fields and the risk to health

-Vattenfall are going ahead with 2 major projects here and have given very little to the community, and what they are offering has endless restrictions on it. What are you offering to our community in compensation.?

Should we not be entitled to some sort of proper compensation for you ruining our village and our house prices? We have two football sized, ugly constructions on our doorstep. Don't you think free energy or reduced energy costs would be a start!

-your planting of trees strategy is laughable - as we have seen from the A47 planting, the trees take many years to grow to any decent height, and last year in the hot weather an drought, they were left to die. 15 years??

-The height of the building is going to be very visible and ugly - this is a rural area not an industrial site.

-Light pollution and flooding

-From past experience of Vattenfall's consultations, you need a lawyer to understand all the complicated processes and to have any chance of having decent representations. As usual, we just feel railroaded over by large companies with lots of money and clout.

-We would like to receive project updates by email please.

-NO WE DON'T SUPPORT THE PLANS - DO IT SOMEWHERE ELSE

-Yes please respond to our comments and advise when the project is submitted

FORGIVE US FOR SOUNDING JADED, BUT OUR PAST EXPERIENCE, OF DEALING WITH VATTENFALL LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT WE WILL HAVE LITTLE EXPECTATION THAT OUR VIEWS WILL BE CONSIDERED AND THAT THIS WILL GO AHEAD AS YOU HAVE ALREADY PLANNED.

YOUR CONSULTATION IS A PR. EXERCISE, TO PLACATE THE GOVERNMENT THAT YOU HAVE 'DONE YOUR BIT' FOR THE VILLAGE, BUT TO US IT IS QUITE FRANKLY MEANINGLESS.  
YOU ONLY CARE FOR YOUR PROJECT AND NOT FOR THOSE THAT ARE IMPACTED BY IT.

Dear REDACTED

We attended your public exhibition on March 9th at Necton Community Centre for the Necton Greener Grid Park with my family.

We came away very disheartened and disappointed by the lack of respect shown to us by one of your representatives. REDACTED laughed and smirked in our faces and found our suggestions and questions amusing. As a representative of Statkraft, it is clear that he and subsequently Statkraft clearly do not care for our concerns or opinions. Evidently the exhibition was pointless with our views being dismissed and not listened to; the opposite of what the exhibition was there to achieve. A formal apology from REDACTED for his unprofessional, rude and disrespectful behaviour would not go a miss!

We also asked questions which were left unanswered. We and many others took the time to attend with questions we expected to be answered. We have listed the questions below which we feel did not have a satisfactory answer, can you please detail your answers to these in writing?

- Site Selection - the answers provided for the below did not explain how the site had been selected based upon all cumulative environmental impacts, it appears that only commercial impacts have been taken into consideration when selecting a site
    - o Why and how was the site selected?
    - o What other sites were looked at and how did you reach the conclusion on your selected site?
    - o Does the site have to be near an existing substation? How far from a substation can you physically cable?
  - Why can't the existing access road be used?
  - Visual Mitigation
    - o Can you bund the whole site with the soil you have to remove from your excavations and then plant trees on the bund like the Dudgeon project did? Surely as a company you want to try and reduce the cumulative impacts? The answer provided was that bunding is worse than screening via trees, which contradicts a lot of other local developments which use bunding to screen. Please explain the logic and evidence of this way of thinking.
    - o Can you minimise visual impacts from the northern view points with either bunding or trees? The answer provided was "No, because the land adjacent to the north was reserved for Vattenfall". A followup question was asked to reduce the redline boundary so a bund and or trees can be put to the north, the answer was no with no further explanation. Another suggestion was to move the development a few metres further from the reserved Vattenfall land allowing for a bund and/or trees. Please explain why this can't be done.
  - Why wasn't this project included in the Vanguard or Boreas projects since it is a direct impact of those projects required to manage the influx of offshore power generated?
- We also have one further question which wasn't asked but we would appreciate if it could be answered please, it relates to the associated risks highlighted by national grid with regards to the spare bay at Necton substation:
- There are currently no existing spare bays in Necton Substation, what is your plan to connect to the substation?

We would once again like to reiterate the frustrations and feeling of belittlement we received from your representatives.

Kind regards,

Dear REDACTED

Thank you for your generic answers, which really don't address 99% of our concerns, are very unspecific, and don't answers any but a few of our actual questions.

We look forward to more specific answers.

However, as your answers do nothing to ease the concerns of residents, especially those, who despite your assurances and the 'journey' you went on, will clearly see your project and also hear it, during the construction phase and beyond, we have begun further investigations and actions. Your 'journey' is extremely flawed and a quick visit to the area, with a knowledgeable person would show you that your chosen site is an appalling disaster when it comes to visual effects. It should be obvious to any developer that a desk based decision, which yours clearly was, would not be an accurate reflection of the situation on the ground.

We have arranged consultations with an expert in the field and ground visits, as a start to our preparations for challenging any application and certainly any permission at your proposed site.

Our perspective (which will not change) is that the National Grid need this, Dudgeon and Vanguard and Boreas all need it.

The people of Necton do not need it.

Therefore the burden of inconvenience rests with those that need it.

Our contention is that instead of breaking ground in a clean field, so close to multiple residents, (around 44 or more will likely see it there) you should look to the other side of the National Grid, and co-operate together (Statkraft, NG, Vattenfall and Dudgeon) to fit the project in on the other side of NG, away from Necton village and the residents there.

Vattenfall own a 186 acre farm on that side, NG and Dudgeon own other pockets on that side. Slopes have not been an issue for Dudgeon, Vattenfall, or NG, so if your company can't deal with a slope, you have no business being in the business.

As for pylon and extension work being carried out on that side, a quick visit on the ground would show multiple places that would not interfere with that. We know this because we were knowledgeable of Top Farm and the surrounding fields for many years before any of you appeared on the scene, and visited it all again during Vattenfall's consultation.

You mention vehicular access, and your conclusions on that are totally wild of target. Your access road (temporary or not) will create the 15th exit/entrance off the A47 within about 2 km. It will create the 4th Exit within half a mile of our village junction, which has already seen 2 fatalities, due to drivers' confusion as to what indicating vehicles intend to do, and where they intend to turn. You will not be allowed to turn into or out of this junction you create, towards the right. With Equinor, ALL traffic wanting to turn right were compelled (after many complaints) to drive into Dereham to turn around and come back to make the entrance to the site come on the left. Likewise ALL traffic wishing to turn right out of the site were compelled to turn left, go to the next roundabout, turn back on themselves and continue in that direction back past the site. The solution is very obvious. If you built on the other side of the National Grid you could use Vattenfall's access road, which would take you past the 1/2 mile (as it will be) of a line of NG infrastructure (along with the Vattenfall traffic) and to the site we have selected. You could turn right into the road, because Vattenfall have devised a turning system they say will enable traffic to turn

right without crossing the carriageway. They did this because they knew that otherwise their traffic would have to make the 16 mile trip into Dereham and back. Local people, had you consulted with them, could have told you what a dangerous stretch of road this is.

I could go on mentioning money saving at our chosen site, with shortened cabling, saving on mitigation, saving on road building, with no residences at all in line of site, wind reduction (should there be a plume), created by the shelter of the escarpment and existing trees...etc

No matter what precautions you take you cannot guarantee 100% safety, in the same way you cannot guarantee a person 100% safety in any car, but the car is their choice, whereas this is being imposed on us.

It's our opinion that you should co-operate with local people and accept that your desk based 'journey' came up at the wrong destination, and co-operate with the substation owners and NG, who are your clients, to come up with the right destination, or we will have no choice but to continue to work against you at every opportunity. There is a massive appetite in Necton to stop you breaking out of our 'project envelope' and breaking new ground, which we know will turn more prime arable land into a brown field site – open to all and any industrial applications.

We cannot make more land, and you are guilty of wasting some, so calling this a 'greener' project is laughable.

This project could have been smooth sailing had you consulted with us or the Parish Council for free, because we know the project is necessary and with the right site choice we would have made no objections.

Regards

Dear REDACTED

We have been given a brochure from Statkraft laying out the time line for your proposed project here. Unfortunately the timeline is most confusing. It says on the inside back cover:

Pre-application consult 2023  
Submit Application Spring 2022  
Planning Decision Summer 2022  
Construction Summer 2024  
Operation Spring 2026

So it seems you applied for permission and got it before you did the Pre-Application Consult....

Also we are confused as to where your first preferred site was – (near the Vattenfall convertor halls) this is crucial as if that is your preferred site it may well be accepted. Whereas the site to the south of Dudgeon (where your other brochure says) would be vociferously objected to.

Thank you for your help.



Dear Sirs,

I wish to protest in the strongest possible terms about your plans to locate a BESS system in the location you have shown at Necton!!

I live in [REDACTED]

Why are you proposing to build so close to residential properties?? Given the situation in Liverpool and the 3km advisory zone of taking cover, etc which I am sure you are very well aware of. Plus the worldwide fires breaking out in similar facilities. It must be blatantly obvious you are too close.

Why can you not locate this facility on the far side of the existing Dudgeon/National Grid substations? There is land over there that is now inaccessible for farming. It is 'sterilised'. Why can't you build there?

I estimate your southern boundary could be as close as one third of a mile. Maybe even as close as one quarter of a mile.

How many buildings will there be? What size?

How many battery containers will there be? Size of a container?

What noise will be generated at each stage of an operational cycle? What noise abatement do you propose?

What visual mitigation do you plan? Earth bund and/or trees?

I think it would be advantageous if your senior project manager/engineer were to visit me and see for yourselves what I am talking about.

I look forward to your positive response.

A quick read, I am now raising eyebrows in confusion as to HOW stabilisation will be effected, if it no longer requires batteries... please send me a link or copy and paste a summary from another document... ... and, sorry, but due to being late to the 'party', is there a sentence or two that can explain why a site was chosen that did not utilise the 'empty' land between the Necton National Grid and the Vattenfall feed in substation... or the lower land at Top Farm.. recently bought by Vattenfall in it's entirety and through which they are putting their access road... where I understand your location is closer to Necton Village than the current Substation.?

The reason behind the question, is that it gives the appearance of creating a boundary of developments, in an effort to create opportunity for 'infill'... 12 years ago, this was a small local substation, then dudgeon came along, then Vattenfall.. now yourselves.. fear is that many hectares will become industrialised.

Here are the questions asked of Statkraft by NSAG - answers required in a maximum of 2 weeks to REDACTED. After that time we will assume you can't/won't answer and we will escalate the situation, including preparing evidence for a Judicial Review should Breckland approve your application.

NSAG really hopes Statkraft and Breckland Planning can see the sense in moving this project closer to Boreas and Vanguard. If they don't then we will have to fight this. Vattenfall will tell you that we can fight. We were awarded a Judicial Review against them, and costs, and in total fought them and delayed them for over 6 years. The new Sos overruled the judge's decision eventually, but we still won an Independent Design Review, which we understand is causing Vattenfall more problems.

1. What was your original preferred location for the site? If you look at map 2 attached, you will see a red line representing our 'line in the sand'. We always agreed that we would not allow any industrial projects to be built any closer to Necton than that. Vattenfall's

first proposal was exactly where yours is. They were forced to move it to its current position. You have also now crossed that line. If we allow one project to cross that line, they may be other companies who think they can do the same. It will never be acceptable.

2. What reasoning did REDACTED give you for suggesting a different site?
3. Was it that in your preferred site the plant would be a stand-alone eye-sore until the Vattenfall substations were built to hide it?
4. Was it that your project would be built before Vattenfall's? Because if so that would appear to be untrue. Vattenfall's site build would overlap with yours.
5. Did you consider that an eye-sore is an eye-sore wherever it goes, so why not consult with Necton PC to decide where residents might prefer to have it?
6. Did REDACTED e show you the area on a map, and if so did you notice:
  - a. The new development of 22 houses at the end of St Andrew's Lane.
  - b. The closeness of the church and the school to the suggested site.
  - c. The fact that this would bring the development very close to the curtilage of Necton Village - close to being within the actual confines of the village itself. See map 1.
  - d. Did you realise that there are over 30 homes in St Andrew's Lane that will have view of the development.
7. We estimate your southern boundary could be as close as one third of a mile to the village boundary. Maybe even as close as one quarter of a mile, depending on the size of the site, to the nearest residence. There is no justifiable cause to place it that close when there are other sites that would be considerably better and safer. Have you ever been to Necton until your presentation?
8. Top Farm, which appears to be owned by Vattenfall, is overlooked by an escarpment, which is not easily seen on maps. This landform would provide both screening and possible fire/explosion protection in that direction.
9. What type of site lighting will be used, including night-time security? Will it be standard industrial or environmentally friendly with no backward or upward light catter? Any lighting, even temporary, would be much worse at REDACTED proposed site.
10. What noise will be produced during the different phases of an operational cycle? Noise of cooling fans? What noise suppression will be used? Any noise would be much worse at REDACTED site.
11. What protocol will there be to warn local residents in case of fire? Siren, whistle, loudspeaker, mobile phones? Will they be in time? What about children out in the school playground? What about during a Saturday football match on the village playing field? What about during the afternoon during the Necton Village Festival? What about livestock? The further away the better.

Complications:

12. If you continue on the site REDACTED preferred how will you deal with Vattenfall's 400 kv cables running through the same area?
13. Where will your cables run in order to avoid theirs?
14. Are you going to offer financial compensation to the homes close to your current site proposal?

## Access

15. What discussions/ commitments have you had with Norfolk Highways and Highways England on this key element of creating yet another entry/exit point on the A47 if you use REDACTED suggested site?
16. If you went back to your original preferred location, you could use Vattenfall's access road, which has just been started, could you not?
17. This road goes right past the National Grid substations for 1/3 of a mile and would avoid costs of a new road, a lot of cabling costs, time costs, planning costs, costs of crossing cables with Vattenfall. Your plant could then be hidden from all directions, on the edges of Boreas and Vanguard and could be mitigated by the sheer size of them. It would also avoid you destroying tracts of the land that Dudgeon renewed after their build, with your cabling to the National Grid. Surely all these savings are worth making?

## Safety

18. Can any member of your staff give an unconditional, unqualified 100% guarantee that your project will never catch fire nor explode?
19. Can any member of your staff give an unconditional, unqualified 100% guarantee that no-one person in Necton will ever be harmed by your project.
20. Which insurance company has agreed to insure your project?
21. How will people be compensated for damage or harm to their properties, their livestock, pets or themselves if a fire or explosion takes place?
22. In 1996 an F16 from the Royal Danish Airforce crashed close to Necton. Incident General Dynamics F-168 ET-205, 11 Dec 1996 (aviation-safety.net) It crashed onto (what was at the time) empty arable fields, so thankfully no-one was killed. This was after it flew from RAF Marham, with no crew, on automatic pilot for 12 miles after the pilot ejected. What would happen to your battery plant if an aircraft crashed on it? Who would compensate Necton for the widespread damage that could occur?

Sources: Lithium-Ion Battery Fires: Myth vs. Reality | TOV SOD {tuvsud.com} Battery Energy Storage Systems and the rising risk of thermal runaway {marsh.com} ESSFactSheet.ashx {nfpa.org}

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Edmund-Fordham>

The screenshot shows the top portion of the website. On the left is a navigation menu with the Statkraft logo at the top, followed by 'Home Necton Greener Grid Park', 'Project documents', 'Project updates', 'Local benefits', 'Local suppliers', 'Frequently Asked Questions', and 'Get in touch'. The main content area features a large background image of yellow flowers. A white box in the top left of this image contains the text 'Necton Greener Grid Park'. Below this, the 'About Necton Greener Grid Park' section is visible, containing introductory text and a video player. The video player has a blue background and white text that reads 'Statkraft Why do we need Greener Grid Parks?'. A 'Contact us' button is located in the bottom right corner of the main content area.

This screenshot displays the 'Project timeline' section of the website. The navigation menu on the left is identical to the previous screenshot. The main content area features a heading 'Project timeline' above a horizontal timeline with three stages. Stage 1, 'Site Selection', is marked with a blue circle containing a white checkmark. Stage 2, 'Pre-Planning', is marked with a blue circle containing a white dot. Stage 3, 'Submit Planning Application, and Await Decision', is marked with a white circle containing a blue dot. Below each stage is a brief description of the activities. At the bottom of the timeline, there are navigation arrows and a series of four dots, with the second dot from the left being filled. A 'Contact us' button is positioned in the bottom right corner.

# Necton Greener Grid Park




## You're invited to a public consultation

9th March, 3:30pm – 7:30pm, Necton Community Centre,  
Tun's Lane, PE37 8EH



We are developing plans for a new Greener Grid Park near Necton, Breckland. This project will aid the stability of the National Grid and help reduce our reliance on fossil fuel.

We want to gather your views on our plan, to ensure it works for the community as much as possible. There are several ways to learn more about our project and have your voice heard:



 Proposed site location

### Visit the public exhibition:

-  9th March 2023, 3:30pm – 7:30pm
-  Necton Community Centre, Tun's Lane, PE37 8EH

### Visit the consultation website:

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

### Email us:

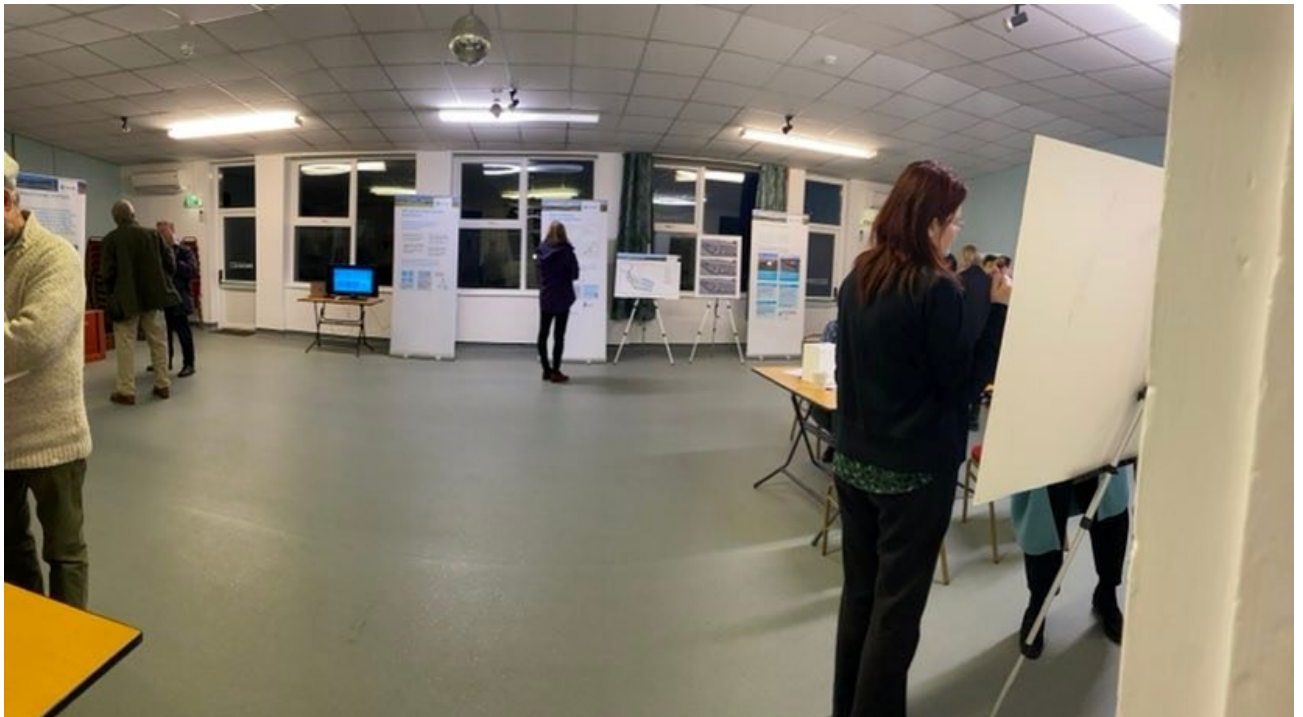
[UKProjects@statkraft.com](mailto:UKProjects@statkraft.com)

## What is a Greener Grid Park?

A Greener Grid Park will help increase the amount of renewable energy that can be delivered onto the electricity grid network. Our plans would provide the same stability services as a fossil fuel plant, but in a clean, green way.

We look forward to seeing you at the consultation event. If you are unable to attend, you can find out more by visiting our website or contacting the consultation email address.

APPENDIX 7: PUBLIC EXHIBITION IMAGES





**NECTON  
GREENER  
GRID PARK  
PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

March 2023



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



Keith Greener Grid Park, Moray

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## Welcome



Our team are here to discuss our plans, listen to your views and outline the next steps of the Proposed Development.

### About Statkraft

- Operating in the UK since 2006
- Offices across the UK
- Development pipeline includes wind, solar and grid stability services
- Distributed over £3.5 million to communities near operating renewables projects
- The largest generator of renewable energy in Europe
- A state owned utility with origins in Norwegian hydropower over 125 years ago



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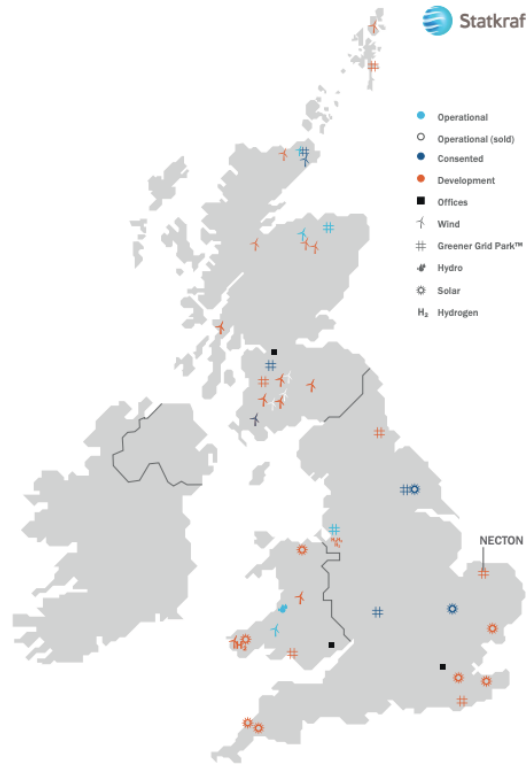


# Welcome



## Statkraft in the UK

- Offices in London, Glasgow and Cardiff
- Operational portfolio includes two Greener Grid Park, six wind farms and one hydro plant
- Delivering grid stability services for National Grid in Moray and Liverpool
- Recent expansion into solar development and electric vehicle charging points
- Over 700MW of renewable projects in development
- 10 Greener Grid Parks in development



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## About Greener Grid Parks



**Greener Grid Parks are a collection of buildings, containing zero carbon technology which stabilise the grid, allowing more renewable energy to be transmitted through the network. They are not a wind or solar farm, the buildings resemble agricultural barns, storage units or shipping containers.**

Find out more at:  
[www.statkraft.co.uk/greenergridparks](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/greenergridparks)



This is provided by one or both of the following innovative technologies.



Greener Grid Park at Kelth

### Synchronous Compensator

Large machines with built-in flywheels provide grid stability without emitting any carbon dioxide – decarbonising the grid and saving consumers money.



BESS at Kilathmoy Ireland

### Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Batteries capture energy and store it for use later. Grid-forming converters combined with batteries always stay in 'grid-forming' mode which means they inherently resist changes in voltage and frequency on the electricity grid. This is another innovative way we can provide stability to the grid.

8

9

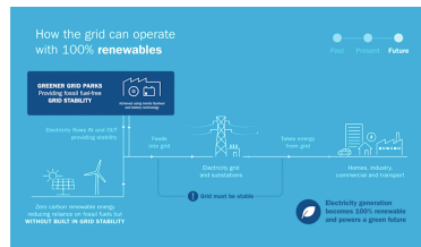
# Why do we need Greener Grid Parks?

## Greener Grid Parks are pioneering projects which help achieve zero carbon emissions.

- As we move towards a zero carbon world, with gas and coal units closing, we need to keep the power network stable.
- National Grid pay to switch on fossil fuel powered plants and pay constraint payments – this has a cost to the environment and consumer.
- National Grid has had to pause renewables and run gas power stations – even when there is enough renewable energy to meet demand.
- Greener Grid Parks remove this need by providing zero carbon stability so we can utilise as much renewable energy as possible.



Keith Greener Grid Park, Moray



Watch our short film to find out more. Scan the QR code or click on the link below: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkxZH5fLYk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkxZH5fLYk)



"Sometimes it's been necessary to shut down wind farms and switch on gas fired power plants - projects such as our Greener Grid Parks will make this a thing of the past."

Guy Nicholson – Head of Grid Integration, Statkraft UK.



MORE RENEWABLES ON THE ELECTRICITY NETWORK

UP TO **£128 MILLION** Saved (estimated by NGESO) across contract period for Phase 1 Pathfinder. Saving consumers money; meeting local, regional and national targets.

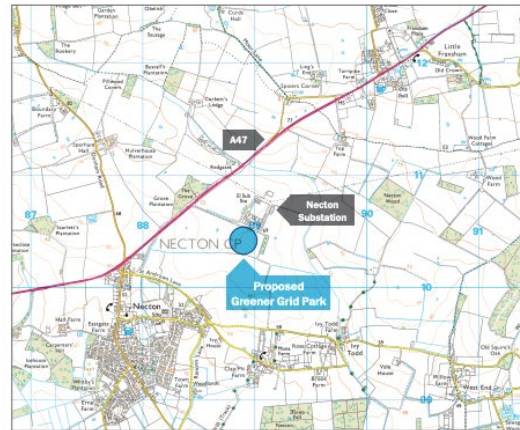
DNESD: National Grid Electricity System Operator

# About Necton Greener Grid Park



LEGEND

- APPLICATION SITE BOUNDARY
- PALISADE FENCING (3.4m high)
- ⌋ ACCESS GATE (3.4m high)
- BATTERY BLOCKS (4m high)
- CONTROL BUILDING (2.6m high)
- ELECTRICAL PROTECTION BUILDING (3.5m high)
- COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING (3.5m high)
- EMERGENCY GENERATOR (3.5m high)
- SITE OFFICES (3.5m high)
- SITE STORAGE (2.59m high)
- COOLERS (2.6m high)
- COOLERS (2.6m high)
- SYNCHRONOUS COMPENSATOR BUILDING (7m high)
- AUXILIARY TRANSFORMERS (3.6m high)
- CIRCUIT BREAKER & AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER (10m high)
- CONTROL BUILDING (5.2m high)
- HIGH INERTIA SYNCHRONOUS COMPENSATOR BUILDING (11.1m high)
- PROPOSED TREE AND SCRUB BELT (12m to 7m deep)



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For more information and to provide your comments please go to our website: [www.statkraft.co.uk/necton](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/necton)

## About Necton Greener Grid Park



### Necton is an excellent site location for a Greener Grid Park because:

- National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) identified area with a stability need
- It is next to the existing Necton substation meaning the cable connection is short and less intrusive
- Low impacts on flooding, cultural heritage and ecology
- Existing roads infrastructure for access
- Necton is an excellent site to contribute to the UK's ambitions of reaching net zero emissions by 2050

#### OUR COMMITMENT

Increase the biodiversity value of the site by at least 10%



### If Necton was granted planning permission, we estimate the project will be operational in 2026

"I very much welcome the benefits that the project will bring to the local community, and I also welcome the community benefit initiative that you have mentioned. This project and the significant investment in the local economy will bring benefits for local supply chains while also helping put the region at the forefront of our continuing journey to put renewable energy at the centre of our journey to net zero."

*Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy & Transport at launch of Keith Greener Grid Park, March 2022.*

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## Community Benefits



### We look forward to engaging with the communities to find out different ways we can bring positive benefits to the local area.

We are often asked by residents near our projects what benefits they can bring. We are the first to offer community benefit funds for grid stability projects.



"We are extremely grateful to Statkraft for the ongoing sponsorship of our Winter Trail Series which is an important part of our calendar.

"The sponsorship helps us promote running as a healthy and sociable pastime for a wide range of ages and levels across Caithness and Sutherland."

*Donna Stewart, Vice-chair of North Highland Harriers*



"Windy Rig Wind Farm is another valuable contract for GTR. We are just one of several local businesses who are directly benefiting from the many wind farm developments within this area. This can only be a good thing for both local businesses and the local economy especially during the current pandemic."

*Tanya Russell, Director, GTR Contracts Ltd*

#### Community Benefit Fund

We are committed to setting up a Community Benefit Fund of £20,000 per annum. Our community benefit is the **first of its kind** for grid projects.

#### Biodiversity Enhancements

Statkraft looks to actively improve the environment around our projects by planting wildflower meadows, hedgerows and trees. We look to improve habitats for a range of species where needed.

#### Local Supply Chain

We work with local business groups to increase awareness of opportunities to get involved in the construction and operation of our projects.

**Over £1.6million was invested in the local supply chain at our Keith Greener Grid Park in Moray.**

Visit our website to find out how to register interest.



MEMBER:



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## Next Steps

### Your comments and feedback are important to us.

There will be an opportunity to formally comment on the application when a proposal is submitted. All of the information will be available to view on Breckland Council's and our project website at the time of submission.

We are committed to engaging with the local community and would like to keep you informed. Contact us with your questions, comments or to subscribe for project updates.



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### We would like to keep you updated as our plans progress:



Please return the freepost reply card provided.



[UKProjects@statkraft.com](mailto:UKProjects@statkraft.com)



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



Phone the project hotline:  
0800 772 0668

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**Statkraft UK**

19th Floor  
22 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 4BQ

For more information about  
Necton Greener Grid Park  
[www.statkraft.co.uk/necton](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/necton)


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

Phone: 0800 772 0668

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Statkraft is a proud partner of SolarAid, helping to provide access to clean energy for the most vulnerable across Africa.

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**WHAT IF YOU COULD  
HELP TRANSFORM  
A LIFE AND TACKLE  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
AT THE FLICK OF  
A SWITCH?**

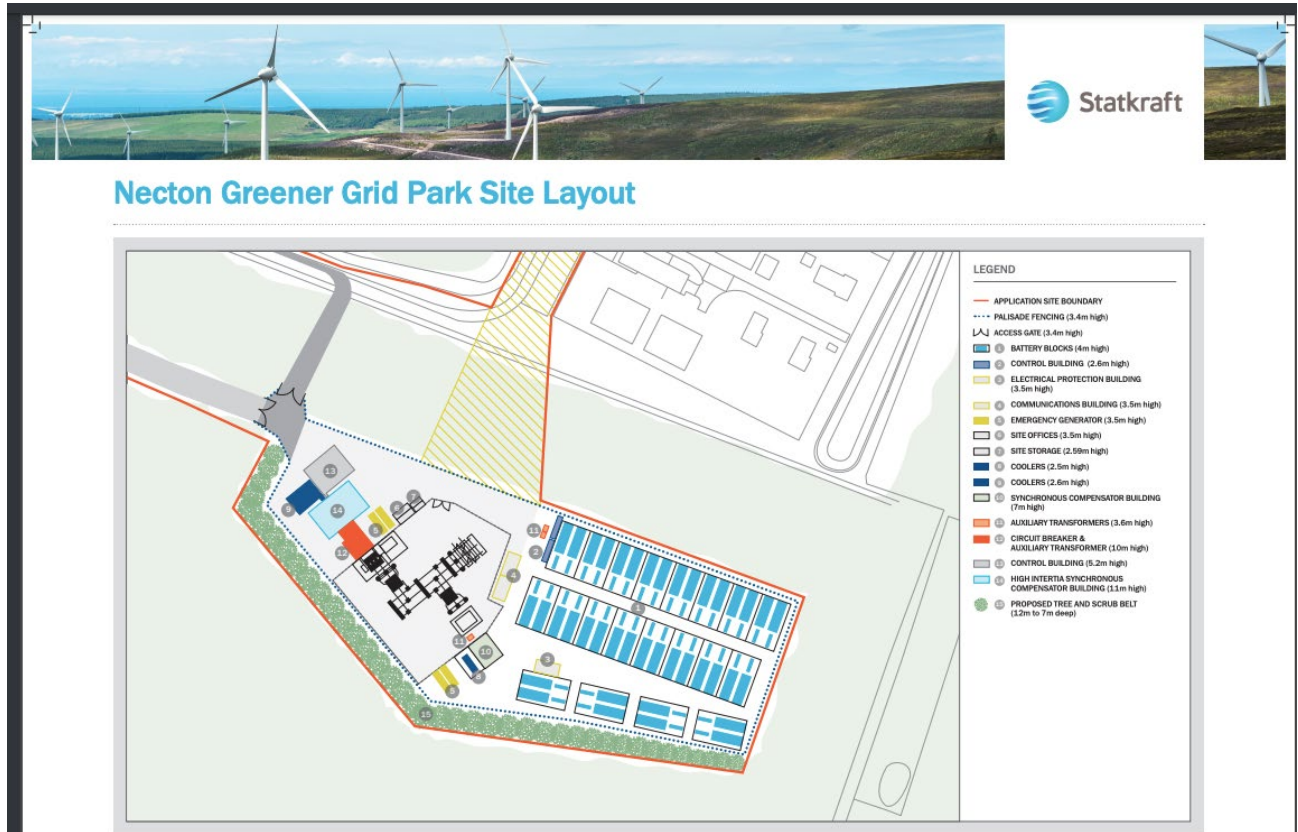
Nearly 600 million people across sub-Saharan Africa live without electricity and ignite polluting and toxic lighting sources such as paraffin candles and kerosene lamps. SolarAid is creating a world where everyone has access to safe clean solar lights. Join us.

Visit [solar-aid.org](http://solar-aid.org)  
to find out more or donate:



APPENDIX 9: SITE LAYOUT

NB: Presented and correct at time of public exhibition



## APPENDIX 10: ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

### Give your feedback

Hello, thank you for your interest in the project. We hope you will have your say and complete our survey. This will enable us to gather community views which can shape our plans.

Was this website useful to understand the proposal?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Do you support increased renewable energy generation in the UK?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Do you support this Greener Grid Park proposal?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Do you have any questions, comments or feedback on the project? We will respond to any questions but this won't add you to our mailing list.

Add your question here

Post your email address if you want your questions answered. This won't add you to our mailing list, and Statkraft will only use your address to respond to your question.

We would like to keep you updated with news on this project. You can expect to receive about 2 or 3 emails per year. \*

- Yes, add my email to the mailing list. By submitting this form, I consent to the processing of my e-mail address by Statkraft AS, for the purpose of sending me information on the project in question.
- No, I would not like to receive project updates.

By submitting this form, I agree to the processing of my personal data by Statkraft, in accordance with and as described in the privacy policy (see link above).

[Privacy policy of Statkraft](#)

I have read and understood the Privacy Policy by Statkraft AS (link above)

SUBMIT



**Necton Greener Grid Park – Project update  
5 May 2023**

Since our Public Exhibition in March we have been updating and revising our proposal, and taking on board feedback from our public consultation as well as statutory consultees. The below information provides an update on the current status of the project.

**Design update**

An important consideration is that we meet the requirements of the National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO). They have contracted our services to help stabilise the grid at Necton. The design process is complex and we have been exploring different ways in which we can deliver this service. This has included options to use only batteries or synchronous compensators, or a combination of both. A combined scheme was presented at our public exhibition.

The design has evolved to a point where the needs of NGESO's grid stabilisation requirements can be met with two synchronous compensators alone. **As a result, we are now progressing Necton Greener Grid Park without battery storage.** This is reflected in the revised layout attached to this update.

**Responding to feedback**

Site selection

This site was selected because NGESO identified that East Anglia needs grid stability services. Statkraft has been awarded contracts to deliver these services. This was further narrowed down to Necton substation based on the timescales allowed for connecting to the grid and the substations that had physical space for a new connection.

The specific location was identified through careful assessment of the area, along with consultation with technical specialists in areas such as landscape and ecology. In addition, there is a need to be located very close to the substation to maximise the grid stabilisation function.

Landscape

Our updated design includes a significant increase in the depth of the triangular landscape buffer. At its narrowest point the buffer depth has nearly doubled from 7m to 13m deep and at its deepest point it has more than trebled from 12m to 42m deep. The buffer will include an appropriate mix of over 500 trees and shrubs that will be up to 3m high when planted and are expected to be up to 11m high by year 15. You can see this on the attached illustrations.

This will help screen views from Necton and also deliver an important increase to the biodiversity benefits delivered from the project. Overall, we expect that the project will deliver a 10% increase in biodiversity net gain. Biodiversity net gain is a measurement which measures how the development will benefit local habitats and wildlife.

Drainage

We have improved the drainage design so there will be no increase in the runoff rate of surface water compared to the current situation. This includes use of a "attenuation basin" located to the south-east corner of the site which safely stores excess rain and storm water. The water will be released over time into an existing drainage channel at a controlled rate. This allows us to sustainably manage surface water. The risk of flooding is already regarded to be low, being a flood Zone 1 area, but this risk is reduced further as a result of the scheme.





Community benefit

We are grateful for suggestions received as to how the community benefit fund could be used. The purpose of this benefit scheme is to provide a regular stream of funding dedicated to projects that help accelerate the transition to a low carbon society. We appreciate the feedback received to date and we would welcome any further ideas.

Battery safety

Some residents requested further information on safety measures for the battery storage elements of the proposal, particularly to mitigate fire risk. Health and Safety is a top priority for Statkraft and we remain committed to ensuring our projects are safe. The design update has removed batteries from this proposal.

**Next steps**

Statkraft is grateful for the comments received from the community to date and are particularly pleased that a majority of the respondents throughout the consultation period stated a supportive view. Following the design updates, we are now preparing a planning application and will keep the community informed about the progress of the project.

**About our Greener Grid Parks**

Greener Grid Parks are a collection of buildings, containing zero carbon technology which stabilise the grid, allowing more renewable energy to be transmitted through the network. Find out more about how Greener Grid Parks work here: <https://www.statkraft.co.uk/newsroom/2023/grid-services-innovative-solutions-to-stabilise-the-power-grid/>

**Get in Touch**

If you would like to get in touch, you can do so by

- Email: [UKProjects@Statkraft.com](mailto:UKProjects@Statkraft.com)
- Website: [www.statkraft.co.uk/necton](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/necton)
- Post: Freepost Stakraft (no stamp required)



Illustration of Current Necton Greener Grid Park Plans May 2023



APPENDIX 12: UPDATED VISUALISATIONS MAY 2023 – Note there have been minor changes to the visuals, in order to reflect the drainage report and the landscape assessment submitted as part of the planning application. These updated visuals will be submitted as part of the planning application and will be uploaded to the project website.



*Viewpoint A, Year 0*



*Viewpoint A, Year 5*



*Viewpoint A, Year 15*



*Viewpoint B, Year 0*



Viewpoint B, Year 5



Viewpoint B, Year 15



Please tell us what you think – complete and return in the envelope provided

PUBLIC EXHIBITION  
MARCH 2023

**NECTON  
GREENER  
GRID PARK**

You can use this form to let us know your views or ask any questions. We will respond to all queries as quickly as possible.

Your questions and comments:

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continue overleaf...

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Respect for privacy and personal data protection is part of Statkraft’s corporate culture. This enables us to maintain an environment where our customers, vendors and other stakeholders can trust Statkraft to process their personal data.

Our online privacy statement explains how, why and for how long Statkraft processes your personal data. Go to <http://bit.ly/SKUKp2>

Comments made to Statkraft are not representations to the consenting authority. An application is expected to be submitted in 2023, there will be an opportunity to make representations on that planning application to Breckland District Planning Department.

**Yes please, I would like to receive project updates (mainly by email)**

**No thank you, I do not want project updates**

**Do you support the plans for Necton Greener Grid Park?**

**Yes, I support the plans**       **No, I do not support the plans**

**Yes, please respond to my comment and advise when the project is submitted**

Title:      Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX 14: WRITTEN FEEDBACK

<p>Building LH is very high at 11m (38.5 ft) please excavate the ground level 1.8m and use the resulting material to construct a substantial bund. 1) A 2.5m high bund with trees on top will make all the difference viewed from REDACTED. 2) It will contain any runoff water used to quench any fire in the batteries. 3) Contain noise generated by the spinning components 4) Why is a seperate entrance necessary?</p>
<p>If there's a fire, how will the fire water run-off be contained as it may well be harmful to the environment. Also, will there be a source of water on site for fire management. If so how much? Ideas For Statkraft Questions Battery storage systems can catch fire (thermal runaway) and cause toxic smoke (including hydrogen fluoride). This happened in Liverpool in September 2020. Why is the battery storage system planned to be installed 1km from a primary school when there is a lot of space behind the Vanguard and Boreas sites which would be much further away from the school? In the event of a fire, toxic fumes are likely to travel much further than 1km. What arrangements will be put in place to warn residents and the school that they should stay indoors and close their windows if thermal runaway occurs? When batter storage systems catch fire, a vast amount of water (60,000 gallons) may be required to put them out. Where will the water come from and how will it be contained and disposed of safely afterwards (considering it will be harmful)? As a result of the Liverpool fire, the hazards of Battery storage systems has been recognised. The second reading in parliament of a bill to make battery storage systems part of the COMAH regulations is happening this month. Will this installation comply with the COMAH regulations, or is it being rushed through before the regulations come into effect? Have the Fire Brigade been consulted to make sure appropriate procedures and training are in place in advance of the installation? Necton is a lightning hot spot. Has that been factored into the design? How will fire spread be managed to ensure any fire is limited to one container eg. spacing and fire walls? What additional noise level will there be from the flywheels / air conditionin systems? Who will insure the installation? This type of fire can cause windows to be blown in nearby. What landscape mitigation is planned? What commercial rates payments will be due to Breckland if the installation is completed? Please move the BESS away from the school. These things catch fire and emit toxic gases when the thermal runaway occurs. AND IT DOES OCCUR</p>
<p>No real questions as such, but I would ask that you work with this community. They have had to put up with a lot with Vattenfall etc. and after everything we have had put upon us, we are only a village that wants a green environment. We have issues with flooding that cause us great problems and we don't want anything else adding to this. 50/50 between support or object.</p>
<p>Move it to a brown field site.</p>
<p>Security concern: with existing substation, the new BESS and the new plant to receive energy from the new windfarm at Sheringham. 3 small targets make 1 big target for terrorism etc. Bacton gas terminal has armed police patrolling, what human presence will monitor Necton. Police presence needs to be consulted.</p>
<p>Your site location is appalling. It takes no consideration of the fact the village is expanding in this direction. There is no mention of safety and how to ensure it is safe on any of the pathetic useless boards on display. We are the only village surrounding this substation with a school and if anything went wrong there could be serious injuries caused to the children. None of the images take into account the vattenfall sub station.</p>
<p>Put it the other side of the sub station</p>
<p>It is too high on the Necton side. Can the landscaping be modified to provide more height. I am very much against this project. Seriously concerned about the fire risk so near to the village.</p>
<p>Very informative &amp; helpful. All my questions were answered. I am reassured that this is the way forward.</p>
<p>I view this development as essential to maintaining national energy stability. The company obviously needs to ensure all community concerns are dealt with openly and honestly to ensure minimal disruption by the planning process. Good work</p>

The only aspect of the plans im concerned about is fire prevention from battery problems.
None at this stage
The presentation was very informative, the individuals from statkraft being very knowlegeable and helpful. I think it is a wasted opportunity that is has taken so long for renewables to come to the fore.
This is a necessary addition to the resources of the National Grid. The impact on the environment is important and the effect on the area is minimal.
Could you put some money to have a roundabout on the A47?
A very informative evening. Next generations I feel will receive much from project live there. The safety of the whole community should be a priority
Looks to be quite impressive
I will be sending an email to you: Dear Sir/Madam, Many thanks for the Public Exhibition held at Necton Hall on the 9th March 2023. There are some questions I would like some clarification, as regards to any noise level that may be generated and if so how is this going to be maintained in keeping the noise down to a minimum? As I am aware the Greener Grid will be using Lithium Batteries and some concerns have been raised, if they were to catch fire. If so, how would the fire and the batteries be dealt with? The Fire Brigade has no training in tackling Lithium Battery fires. What Safety Measures and plan will you be putting in place in the event of fire? Will there be more trees planted in line with disguising the Greener Grid Park? Water and Flooding issues. As you may be aware, Necton has ongoing problems with flooding. The Greener Grid Park is being built on a relatively large area. Incase of heavy rain and water retention what measures are going to be put in place in the event of surplus water run off. Will there be any land drainage put in place around the site? How will water management be monitored? The land that the Greener Grid is being built on will it be in a recess. The reason I ask this is again down to water run off in heavy rain conditions, and also flooding which could have an impact on homes in the area of Necton itself. What measures are going to be in place as well and how is it going to be monitored? Thank you
Why have no alternative locations been proposed further away from the village?
Concerns - proximity to Necton village + school FIRE SAFETY Recycling. I approve of the idea but am not convinced that Necton is the appropriate site
Why when we have already a sub station and now have vattenfals sub station being built have you decided to put your grid park on the village side! With all the arable land on the far side of the sub station this is where your grid park should be built.
Make it happen ASAP!
Is there likely to be vibration caused by the fly wheels? How do you proposed this project will benefit the local community? When you talk £20k per year for the life span of the project do you mean the from now to end of the construction phase (i.e c. 2 year) or the lifetime of the buildings (c. 60 years)? How will this be distributed to the community? What is the additional traffic load likely to be as a result of the green grid park once live? Does it require staffing? will there be local job opportunities post construction? We have a particularly dangerous junction at the top of the village, will you be investing in safer options here to allow mitigate the risk of the additional traffic as a result of construction workers, deliveries, project team etc. Also, it would be useful if you had the times of community liaison events easy to spot on your website.