

## Minutes

Project	Soay Solar & Greener Grid Park Construction
Meeting	Community Liaison Group (CLG)
Date	15.30 – 16.45, 4 December 2023
Location	Allerthorpe Village Hall
Attendees	Alison Hood (AH), Statkraft Max Glover (MG), Statkraft David Cassidy (DC), Statkraft Cllr Leo Hammond (LH), ERYC Cllr Paul West (PW), ERYC Debbie Forster (DF), Chair Allerthorpe Parish Council Jane Smith (JS), Clerk Allerthorpe Parish Council David Whitwell (SW), Thornton Parish Council Mike Sutton (MS), Allerthorpe Parish Council, Allerthorpe Village Hall Committee Representative of Barmby Moor Parish Council Local residents
Apologies	Cllr Derek Carey, ERYC

### Introductions

AH provided a general introduction to the project team and the background to this group being established. Forming a CLG was part of Statkraft's commitment during the development process to keep the local community informed throughout the construction period.

Positive feedback was received from participants who had attended the earlier meeting with GrantScape to discuss the setup of the community benefit fund.

### Community Liaison Group

AH explained the purpose of the CLG and asked for feedback on the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) to enable this to be finalised. Discussion and action points for the ToR included:

Membership	In addition to representation from Thornton and Allerthorpe Parish Councils and Ward Councillors, it was agreed the following should be approached with an invitation to join or be kept informed: - Barmby Moor, Bielby & Melbourne Parish Councils - A representative from Warren Cottages
Duration	It was agreed that initially these could take place every 6 weeks, and the CLG could agree to reduce frequency if appropriate.
Format	Virtual meetings were acceptable but some attention to technology may be needed if these were to be hybrid meetings.
Publication	A space on the Soay project website will host the agendas and minutes, to provide transparency.

## Project Overview and Construction Update

MG provided an update on the project and current status. The project construction consists of three phases, being HV Yard, BESS, and Solar. No-one is expected to stay on site during construction at any time.

Stock fencing is up at the moment, and the final perimeter fencing will be erected at the end of the construction period.

**HV Yard works:** Siemens Energy are the main contractor and will be working on site until October 2024. External to the site, an access track is being built in the adjacent field and should be complete by end of this year. The site entrance will contain a full tarmac bell mouth to maximise road safety. This is designed to facilitate smooth deliveries and make sure vehicles are not backing up on the road. There will be a banksman at the site entrance to manage deliveries and watch for any other issues e.g. need for road cleaning. Note that due to topsoil not being taken off site we do not expect dirt on the roads to be an issue during the HV Yard works.

**Phase 2 – Battery Units:** This work is expected to start in March 2024, until mid 2025. The main periods of traffic disruption are predicted to be:

May-June 24: Deliveries of crushed stone to site – 6-7 trips per hour, concrete trips 10 per day.

Oct-Nov 24: Deliveries of units to site – 2 or 4 flatbed deliveries maximum per day.

**Phase 3 – Solar Farm:** Construction estimated to commence early 2025 for 11 months.

Printed copies of the Construction Method Statement and the Construction Traffic Management Plan were provided.

### Discussion

How do we maximise road safety?

Siemens give every driver the route they must use. MG to provide information on how to share concerns/complaints, and about the Siemens one-chance rule.

*Post meeting note - Ashcourt are aware of potential issues with delivery vehicles. Ashcourt vehicles are fitted with satellite tracking and individual vehicle speeds can be checked.*

Speed Limit Signs:

MG was aware of previous comments about suitability of locations of signs. Locations have been checked and the Council determined this was the right area. MG to check options re:

1. Flashing speed signs
2. Other traffic calming measures that could be used around the site entrance

*Post meeting note - Viability of flashing speed signs being actively investigated*

## Section 73 Planning Amendment

An overview of the rationale for the s73 minor material amendment application (LPA Ref. [23/03116/STVAR](#) - pending determination by 31 Jan 2024) was provided, with a map showing the area of application – note this is not the entire site, but a small area around the Greener Grid Park (i.e. south eastern part of the site).

- Conversion of an area previously solar panels to BESS
- An updated configuration of the BESS to enable increased spacing between units.
- Variation to the proposed site access leading to the HV yard area.
- Alterations to perimeter fencing
- Erection of 4m high noise attenuation/security fencing in some areas
- Erection of 6m high noise attenuation/security fencing north of the HV Yard.

*Post meeting update: the summary document shared at the meeting will be published on website for those who wish to see more information*

### Discussion

MG clarified that the higher fencing will be on 2 sides of the battery compound, and not surrounding the solar site.

This is acoustic fencing and will be screened with appropriate soft landscaping.

Planting will happen during construction of the BESS contract. DC to report back on the maturity of trees being planted, and where they are being sourced from.

In response to the question whether this application to replace some of the solar panels with batteries would have changed the decision from a Local Authority to the Secretary of State, MG and DC confirmed that the changes would not have had that impact.

Regarding potential impact of Public Footpath on walkers – The track will not be closed off during construction. During construction of the track, a banksman will be stationed to control traffic.

### **Public Right of Way: Application Ref S140173**

A map prepared by Statkraft was shared that displayed an overlay of the Public Right of Way (PRoW) and the redline boundary of the site. This was compared with other maps available and those present concluded that there was no impact on the layout of the consented site. Statkraft was asked to consider the interaction between this PRoW and the road, MG to discuss this with the team.

### **Any Other Business**

- AH noted that a postcard was being sent to over 250 local residents in the coming days to notify them of Christmas working hours.
- Some temporary traffic lights are expected to be installed at the site entrance in January, and when we have dates, this will be communicated to the CLG and local residents.

[Post meeting note: temporary traffic lights are likely to be in place late January/early Feb 2024](#)

### **Next Meeting**

It was proposed that the week commencing 5 February 2024 was appropriate. Evening meetings preferred by the group, suggested time of 7pm, with the next meeting to be held virtually. AH to confirm next meeting date.

Action Summary	Person
Ask the residents of Warren Farm Cottages if a representative would like to be a member of the CLG	DF
Contact Barmby Moor, Melbourne, Bielby Parish Councils about the CLG	AH
Share a final draft of the Terms of Reference	AH
Share a link to the website where the CLG information will be published	AH
Look at capability to host hybrid meetings at Allerthorpe Village Hall	JS
Share Siemens approach to traffic safety and how to report concerns	MG
Investigate and report back on additional road safety measures at site entrance	MG
Provide information on the woodland planting schedule, type of plants and supplier	MG
Look at the detail at the end of the PRoW to consider any options to improve accessibility	DC
Provide clear information about the temporary traffic lights, when the exact dates are known	MG
Share potential dates for next meeting	AH