

## Frequently Asked Questions

The below frequently asked questions are divided by theme.

### Location / Connection

Why was this location chosen?	<p>We consider a range of factors when evaluating land available to deliver a utility-scale clean energy storage scheme, including planning and environmental factors such as existing use and quality of land, as well as any designations and constraints. However, a key factor ultimately informing site choice when looking at potential locations for new utility-scale battery storage development is available capacity on the local grid.</p> <p>In the case of this location, there is capacity at the nearby Newarthill Substation, which allows us to make use of existing electricity infrastructure to connect to the grid.</p>
How do you intend to reduce visual impacts?	<p>We would look to mitigate any visual impact through suitable screening of the proposed development. This project is still in the very early stages, and there is a significant amount of work in terms of design, technical studies and planning assessments still to do.</p>
Why can these not be located close to existing BESS facilities or energy generation points?	<p>The sites can be located close to existing facilities, however this requires the agreement of the landowner in order to facilitate the development.</p>
Why is this not on brownfield land in an urban area?	<p>Battery storage developments have very specific location requirements, which severely limit where they can be located.</p> <p>Battery storage facilities have to be located within close proximity of a viable grid connection that has sufficient capacity to import and export power that will be stored and released into the grid at times of peak demand. Suitable points of connection include a sub-station or a 132kv overhead power line. However, the ability to find connections with sufficient capacity is severely limited around the country. Where possible, we take a brownfield first approach to site selection. Nonetheless, the availability of any site depends on a willing land owner and often brownfield sites are on industrial estates which have been allocated for specific purposes such as employment use, or landowners are keen for them to be developed for housing.</p>
Is the site located on best and most versatile agricultural land?	<p>A review of the agricultural land classification maps confirms that the soil is grade 4.2, and therefore, not best or most versatile.</p>
How would the proposed development affect the nearby Riding School?	<p>The noise associated with the development is low and generally not heard above existing background levels. The plant will not run continuously, and the noise is of a low frequency and would not scare or frighten nearby animals.</p>

## Construction

How will the site be accessed?	At this stage, there are two potential access points to the site being considered. At this stage, it is considered that construction traffic will approach the site from Mosshall Street. Once construction is complete, vehicle movements to the site will utilise the existing access to the farm.
What scale of vehicle movements will be generated?	<p>Any traffic generated from the development will be associated with the construction phase, for which there are limited vehicle movements, restricted to only the delivery and installation of materials. This will be controlled by a strict construction management plan, and we are keen to hear from neighbours as to how the development could operate to limit impacts.</p> <p>Once operational, the proposed development would be controlled remotely, and it will only be necessary for a maintenance engineer to visit the site on an occasional basis.</p>
How long is the build programme?	The exact timeline for the construction of the development is yet to be confirmed. However, battery storage developments of this size typically take 9-12 months to complete.

## Operation

How many vehicle movements will there be per day?	Once constructed, the site will be managed remotely, with visits envisaged once a month to ensure adequate maintenance of the site and the equipment.
How will you manage safety / fire risk?	Each battery container will have a fire detection and suppression system and would be continually monitored by a battery management system, which would report any faults. Each battery is housed in a separate container to reduce the risk of fire spreading.
What fire suppression system will be in place to prevent fire?	If there is a fault detected in the batteries, there will be a series of measures used, such as automatic power disconnection, sprinklers and inert gases, which reduce the level of oxygen available.
In the event of a fire, how will this be managed?	In the event that a fire did break out, the fire suppression systems would use a non-toxic gas which is not damaging to the environment, and a venting system would prevent flammable gases from building up in the battery unit. A fire management plan will be submitted as part of any future planning application.
Are the mechanisms in place to detect overheating in the units and shut them down if necessary?	The batteries will be constantly monitored for increases in heat. If a fault is detected, there will be a series of measures used, such as automatic power disconnection, sprinklers and inert gases, which reduce the level of oxygen available.
What measures are in place to prevent a chain reaction i.e. one container fire spreading to the next?	Battery containers will be separated to minimise the likelihood of fire spreading between the units.

How will any toxic runoff from the battery units be prevented when it rains (presumably, the containers are sealed, which will prevent this)?	The containers will be sealed to prevent the possibility of toxic runoff in the event of rain.
Do battery storage facilities cause electromagnetic radiation?	Lithium-ion batteries do not give off electromagnetic radiation.
Have the Fire Service been consulted on this proposal?	There are plans for the fire service to be consulted for this proposal. A fire safety management plan will accompany any future planning application which will be developed with the fire service.

### Mitigation

What level and type of noise is generated?	A full noise assessment will be provided as part of any future planning application, this will consider the effects on all noise sensitive receptors. The noise associated with BESS is generally considered to be of a low level.
What are the noise sources?	The main source of noise from battery storage developments is from the cooling system, which may not need to run at 100% capacity in British weather conditions or may only need to run at this capacity on the hottest days of the year, or at peak operation.
How will you assess the impact of this noise on the local area?	A noise assessment will provide a detailed analysis of the expected noise impacts in the local area.
What will the containers look like, and how will appearance be mitigated?	Standard ISO shipping containers will house the batteries. The appearance of the development can be mitigated with the planting of trees and hedgerows. The containers can also be painted to further reduce their visual impact.
What happens after the expiry of the consent in 40 years time?	After 40 years, the site will be decommissioned and returned to its original state. This is usually secured by way of a planning condition.
How will the site be lit, and any light pollution be mitigated?	Motion sensor lights will be used, meaning light pollution will be minimal.

Community Impact

<p>How will the local community benefit?</p>	<p>A community benefit fund is being considered for this project.</p>
<p>How much employment will be generated?</p>	<p>It has always been the ambition of Apatura that local residents in the vicinity of a scheme are given equal opportunity to apply for any and all prospective jobs during both the construction and operational stages. This approach directly benefits the scheme and results in increased opportunities for local employment.</p> <p>There is no minimum or maximum threshold for how many future positions are sought from a local population, which could lead to very high levels of local employment in a project.</p> <p>For suppliers and contractors that are compliant with industry standard prerequisites, Apatura would look to engage with such companies within a specified community area (or within a 5km radius of a BESS site) to provide opportunities to tender for all relevant aspects of the construction works phase.</p> <p>This would be undertaken by targeted local engagement with potential suitable suppliers and contractors, as well as a web resource hosted on the Apatura website to allow potential companies to apply directly, introduce themselves to the business and understand more about the product and how they might fit into the delivery framework. Adverts would also be placed in local newspapers and other relevant local publications to ensure maximum exposure to potential applicants.</p> <p>The scope of tender opportunities that would arise from this project could comprise, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• welfare facilities;</li><li>• access and loading hire;</li><li>• site services / temporary works services ie. Fuel, water, power;</li><li>• civil works;</li><li>• groundworks and landscaping;</li><li>• construction material supply ie. Aggregates, concrete;</li><li>• electrical / specific material supply and install fencing, CCTV, Security lighting etc;</li><li>• haulage and delivery services; and</li><li>• security and maintenance of the site, including management of the landscaping and proposed biodiversity benefits.</li></ul> <p>Apatura would look to engage with such companies within a specified community area (or within a 5km radius of a BESS site) to provide opportunities to tender for all relevant aspects of the construction works phase.</p> <p>Apatura is currently seeking to implement a Sponsorship programme where they look to support school level (up to 18yrs) candidates in progressing further education in Green Energy / Energy based qualifications and/or course.</p>