

Site Selection

The site was selected as the most suitable location for the development following a comprehensive site search exercise that prioritised brownfield and industrial land before moving onto greenfield sites. A mapping exercise was then conducted to eliminate areas within historical and environmental designations as well as higher quality agricultural land (Grade 1 & 2).

Sites were then identified, assessed and scored against a number of pre-determined criteria that enabled us to filter out the most unsuitable options and to identify the sites with the least impact on the local environment and communities.

Agricultural land classification

Throughout the site identification process we have prioritised lower quality agricultural land. Once a site has been selected a full agricultural land quality survey was conducted by an independent surveyor in accordance with industry guidelines. The survey shows the entire site to be a mixture of Grade 3A and 3B agricultural land.

Landscape and Visual

Both the site selection and layout have been informed by ongoing landscape surveys and this has led to a site that is:

- Located away from densely populated areas.
- Bound to the north by the existing border of Hill Rise, and to the east and southeast by field boundaries comprising native trees and hedgerows.

A full landscape and visual impact assessment will be prepared and submitted with the application and will include photomontages of the proposed development from sensitive viewpoints.

Noise

The outcome of our noise modelling has shown that no significant adverse noise effects will be created by the proposed development. Noise monitoring and 3D noise modelling has been carried out by our specialist acoustic consultant. This considers the topography, the physical aspects of the proposed equipment installed and other terrain characteristics.

The BESS design has been refined to minimise any noise potential effects due to noise.

Flood Risk and Drainage

The site is in an area with the lowest risk of river flooding (Flood Zone 1). The layout of the infrastructure has been planned to minimise areas at risk of surface water flooding, based on flood modeling. Where crossings over watercourses are needed for access, they will be designed to preserve the natural flow of the water, using either buried culverts or bridge crossings.

A flood risk assessment and drainage strategy will be submitted with the planning application.

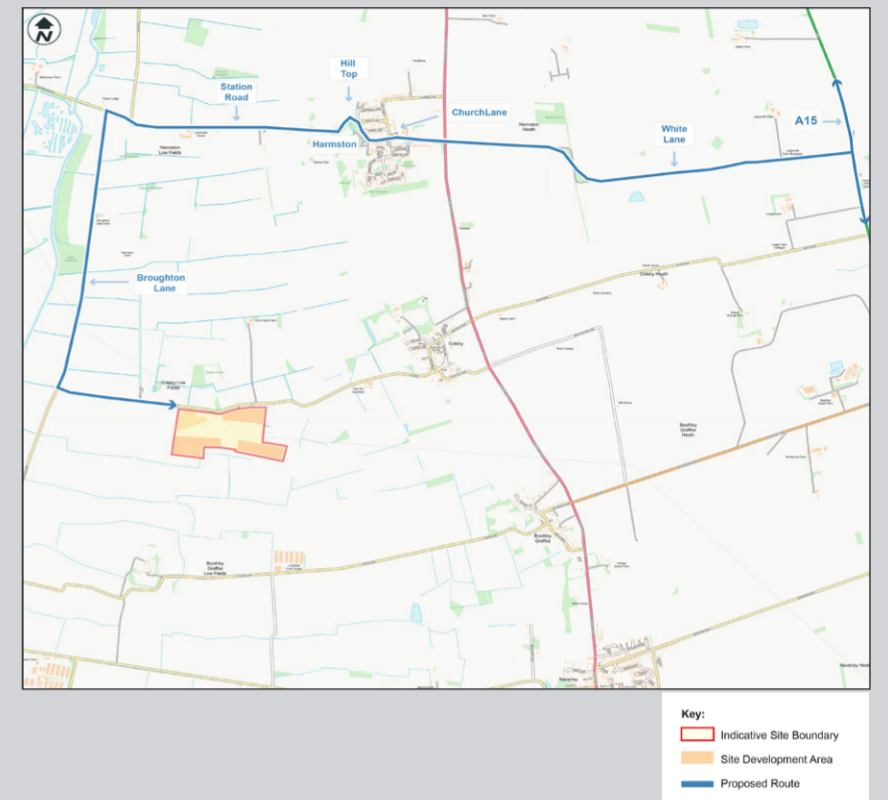
Fire Safety

All of NatPower's BESS sites comply with all applicable UK Health, Safety & Environmental legislation.

The design integrates all of the recommended guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council including site design and layout, an on-site emergency water supply, risk mitigation measures, and liaison with fire rescue service.

The batteries are high quality and use the latest battery technology. They fully comply with all recommended industry standards and guidance.

We have employed an independent fire safety expert to ensure the site will accord with the highest standards of fire safety.



Transport

- Access to the site will be provided from Hill Rise, via two simple priority junctions.
- It is proposed to route construction vehicles from the A15 Sleaford Road to the site via the B1178 Tower Lane, Church Lane/Station Road, Broughton Lane and Hill Rise.
- Detailed transport assessments have been carried out and other access routes assessed for viability.
- We will work with local residents and communities to ensure deliveries are restricted to hours that will cause the least disturbance and will endeavour to minimise the number of vehicle movement required. This would be outlined in a Construction Traffic Management Plan which would be secured by a planning condition.

Heritage and Archaeology

There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Somerton Castle Scheduled Monument lies to the south-west and Coleby Conservation Area to the north-west.

Ecology

We have been conducting ecological surveys on the land to ensure that impacts on existing habitats and wildlife will be kept to a minimum.

The enhancements to the site will be designed in collaboration with experts creating a biodiversity net gain above the 10% statutory requirement.

The proposals will bring the following enhancements:

- Additional tree planting along Hill Rise to enhance the screening.
- Planting an avenue of trees along western field boundary to reflect local landscape character.
- New hedgerows and tree planting will be introduced to the southern boundaries, which are currently open.
- This will fill the gaps in the existing hedgerow network, create habitat linkages, reinforce the boundary, and provide soft screening.

Grid Connection

The proposed development will connect to the planned National Grid substation at Navenby, which is located outside the site.

The connection from the on-site substation to the wider electricity network will likely be through an underground cable around 4.5km long, though the exact route and construction method are yet to be decided.

The cable route itself is not part of this proposal and will require a separate planning application.

NatPower has received a valid grid connection of 1GW.



Proposed open woodland will be planted along the southern, southwestern, and eastern boundaries to provide screening while maintaining a natural, layered structure with open spaces for shelter. Widths will range from 10m to 20m, with a 5m scrub edge allowing filtered views. A separate dense woodland buffer will be planted on the northeastern boundary to enhance screening with larger trees and some native conifers for year-round coverage.