



EastCoastGridServices

# Community Engagement Report

## Branxton Energy Storage Facility

Prepared by: Arcus Consultancy Services

April 2023

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*The business of sustainability*



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# Introduction

This Community Engagement Report is prepared by Arcus Consulting Services Ltd ('Arcus') on behalf of EastCoastGridServices Ltd ('the Applicant') in support of the submission of an application for construction and operation of the Branxton Energy Storage Facility, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), and associated underground grid connection route ('the Proposed Development') at Branxton near Innerwick ('the Site').

The total capacity of the Proposed Development is expected to exceed 50MW. Energy storage is to be classed as generation under proposed changes to the electricity generation licence conditions, which would treat storage as a distinct subset of electricity generation. As the generation capacity of the Proposed Development would exceed 50 MW it is subject to the Section 36 consenting process.

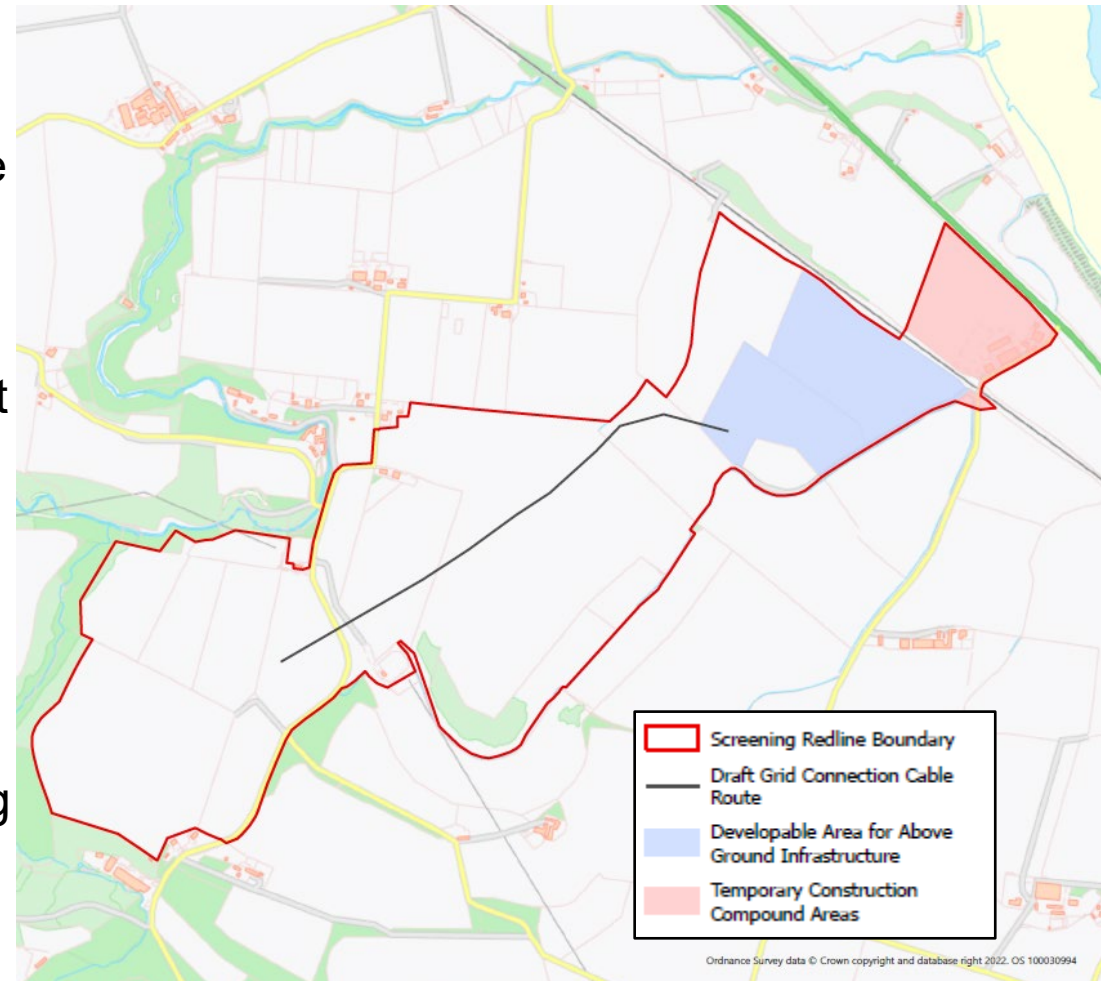
As an intrinsic part of the development of the proposals, the Applicant has sought to engage with stakeholders, including the general public. This Community Engagement Consultation Report details the engagement activity undertaken, including details of consultation materials used, the questions raised, and answers given during the public consultation events held in April 2023 together with online responses.



# Site Location and Background

The Site is located south-east of Thornton, 1.7 km east of Innerwick, and 8 km south-east of Dunbar town centre. The Site's current land use is predominately agricultural land, regions of shrubbery, and associated farm buildings. To the north-east, where the overground infrastructure will be located, the Site is in proximity to the A1 and the East Coast Main Line railway line.

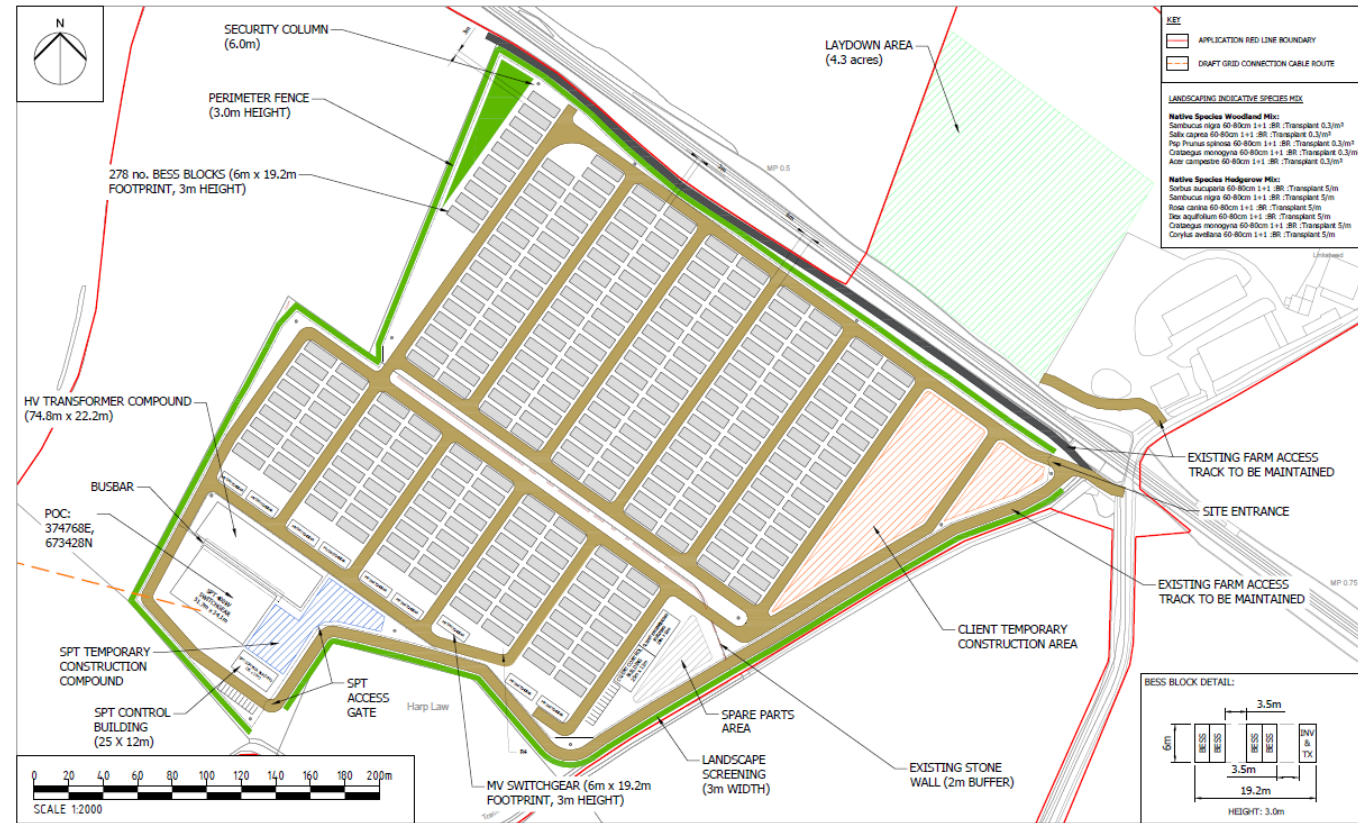
The Site comprises an approximate total area of 78.2 ha, with 15 ha of above ground infrastructure (blue-shaded region in Figure), temporary construction compound (red region), and the remaining area (red-boundary line) allowing for flexibility for the underground cable route to connect the proposed development to the proposed Scottish Power Transmission (SPT) Branxton grid substation.



# Description of Development

The Proposed Development, as illustrated on the draft layout plan on the right, will include the following components:

- Battery storage units;
- Electrical infrastructure including inverters, transformers, generators, switchgear and underground cabling;
- Electrical control containers;
- On site access track and parking area;
- Security columns and perimeter fencing;
- High Voltage Scottish Power control building;
- Construction compound;
- Cable Route; and
- Landscaping and planting.



# Consultation Overview

The plans and the public consultation were advertised via:

- Information leaflet distributed among local residents via targetted maildrop.
- Advertisement in local newspaper
- Emailed letters to local community council and local councillors

Stakeholders engaged with:

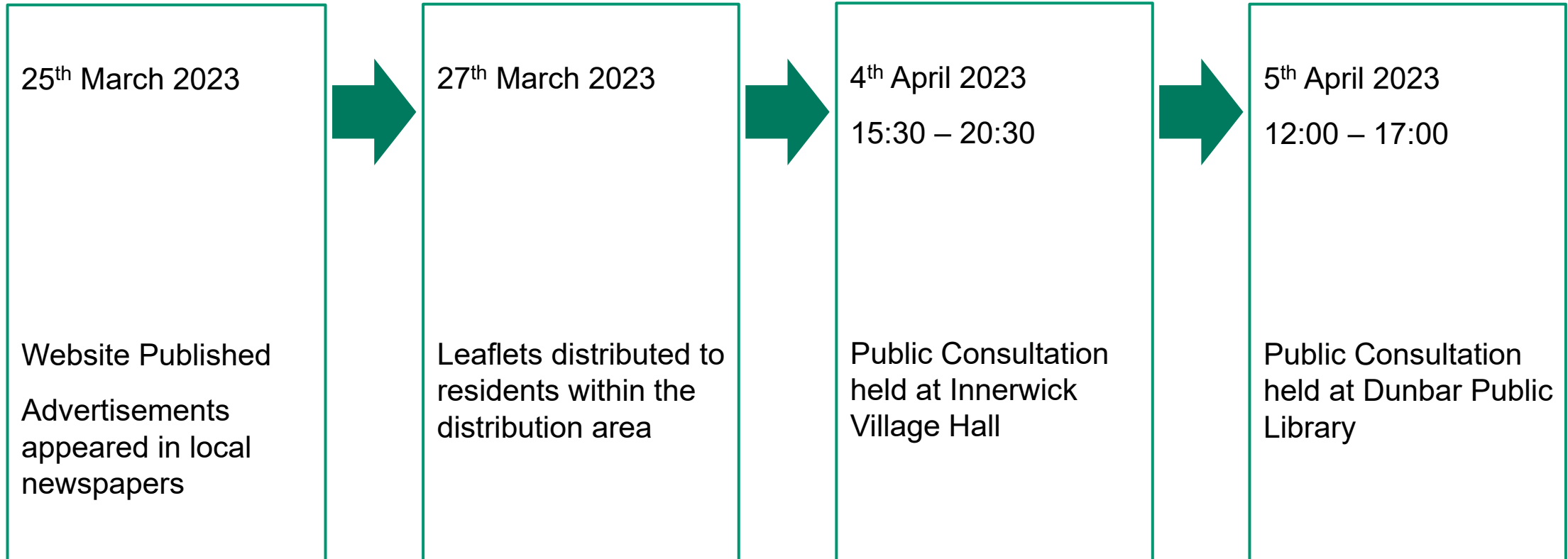
- East Lothian Council
- East Lammermuir Community Council
- Local Residents

Engagement included:

- Correspondence with Stakeholders
- Resident leaflets
- Consultation Website
- Two public consultation events



# Consultation Timeline



# Consultation Distribution Area

Residents and local business owners received notice of the proposed development by information leaflets distributed by Hobs Reprographics within 5km area highlighted by the dotted line in the around the full site redline boundary.





**Consultation Material**



# Consultation Material – Newspaper Advert



EastCoastGridServices

## BRANXTON ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY

### *Public Consultation Event*

#### What is happening?

EastCoastGridServices Ltd are holding a consultation exhibition event for the proposed Branxton Energy Storage Facility. The Development is proposed on land adjacent to the East Coast railway line near Linkshead Farm; chosen for its unobtrusive location, and proximity to Scottish Power's Branxton Substation with its future connections to the national grid and large windfarms offshore in the North Sea. The facility is expected to have a capacity of over 50 megawatts, to assist a transition to renewable energy by allowing effective storage of energy from surplus supply and grid balancing.

We would like to invite all local members of the community and any other interested parties to attend an exhibition to discuss the proposed development with the project team and let us know your thoughts on the proposals.

At these events, we will also be able to provide further information on the proposed development and how it may provide opportunities for local communities.

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The consultation events will be held on:

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**15:00 – 20:30**

Innerwick Village Hall, Innerwick, EH42 1SE

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

**12:00 -17:00**

Dunbar Public Library, Bleachingfield Centre,  
Dunbar, EH42 1DX

These are open-door sessions with all members of the public welcome to attend and ask questions about the proposed development.

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Further information is available from the project website: [www.branxtonenergystorage.com](http://www.branxtonenergystorage.com)

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# Consultation Material – Stakeholder Leaflet



## BRANXTON ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY INVITATION TO PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 15:00 – 20:30

Innerwick Village Hall, Innerwick, EH42 1SE

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 12:00 – 17:00

Dunbar Public Library, Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar, EH42 1DX



## ABOUT BRANXTON ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY

EastCoastGridServices Ltd is consulting on a planning application to develop an energy storage facility connected to the national electricity grid at Branxton near Innerwick in East Lothian.

The developer is holding public meetings to discuss the project at:

- Innerwick Village Hall from 15:00 to 20:30 on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April; and
- Dunbar Public Library from 12:00 to 17:00 on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

The project has been designed to meet the increasingly critical need to stabilize the UK electricity grid as older generating plants are decommissioned and more and more intermittent renewable energy from wind and solar farms is connected to the system. National Grid and Scottish Power have a crucial role in balancing the peaks and troughs associated with electricity supply and demand to manage the strain on the electricity network and ensure there are no power blackouts.

Carefully located energy storage facilities help solve this problem and the proposed Branxton facility will use lithium-ion batteries as the storage technology to balance the network. Grid-connected batteries such as these are able to respond at short notice to requests from National Grid to supply power during such periods as when renewable sources are not generating, or fossil fuel plants are unexpectedly offline.

The proposed site is located in a field adjacent to the East Coast railway line near Linkshead Farm and was chosen for its unobtrusive location and proximity to Scottish Power's Branxton Substation with its future connections to the national grid and large windfarms offshore in the North Sea.

The facility will consist of rows of three meter high shipping-like containers which house the batteries along with power equipment to connect the facility to the Scottish Power substation. The Branxton Energy Storage Facility will help Scotland to meet national and strategic targets for renewable energy and a net-zero grid.

We are eager to work with the local community to ensure that our proposals have considered your feedback. We are also eager to discuss further the opportunities that the facility may provide locally to the community.

Further information is available from the project website:  
[www.branxtonenergystorage.com](http://www.branxtonenergystorage.com)



# Consultation Material – Consultation Website



## Overview

EastCoastGridServices Ltd is consulting on a planning application to develop an energy storage facility connected to the national electricity grid at Branxton near Innerwick in East Lothian.

The project has been designed to meet the increasingly critical need to stabilize the UK electricity grid as older generating plants are decommissioned and more and more intermittent renewable energy from wind and solar farms is connected to the system. National Grid and Scottish Power have a crucial role in balancing the peaks and troughs associated with electricity supply and demand to manage the strain on the electricity network and ensure there are no power blackouts.

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EastCoastGridServices Ltd and its sister company GridCodePower Ltd are experienced developers of renewable energy projects across Scotland having developed three operational onshore windfarms in the Central Belt, two operational battery storage facilities near Livingston and Wishaw and the three largest battery storage facilities in Europe located at Hunterston, Kincardine and Windyhill all of which are about to start construction in the coming months.

## Branxton Energy Storage Facility

### Site location



### Site layout

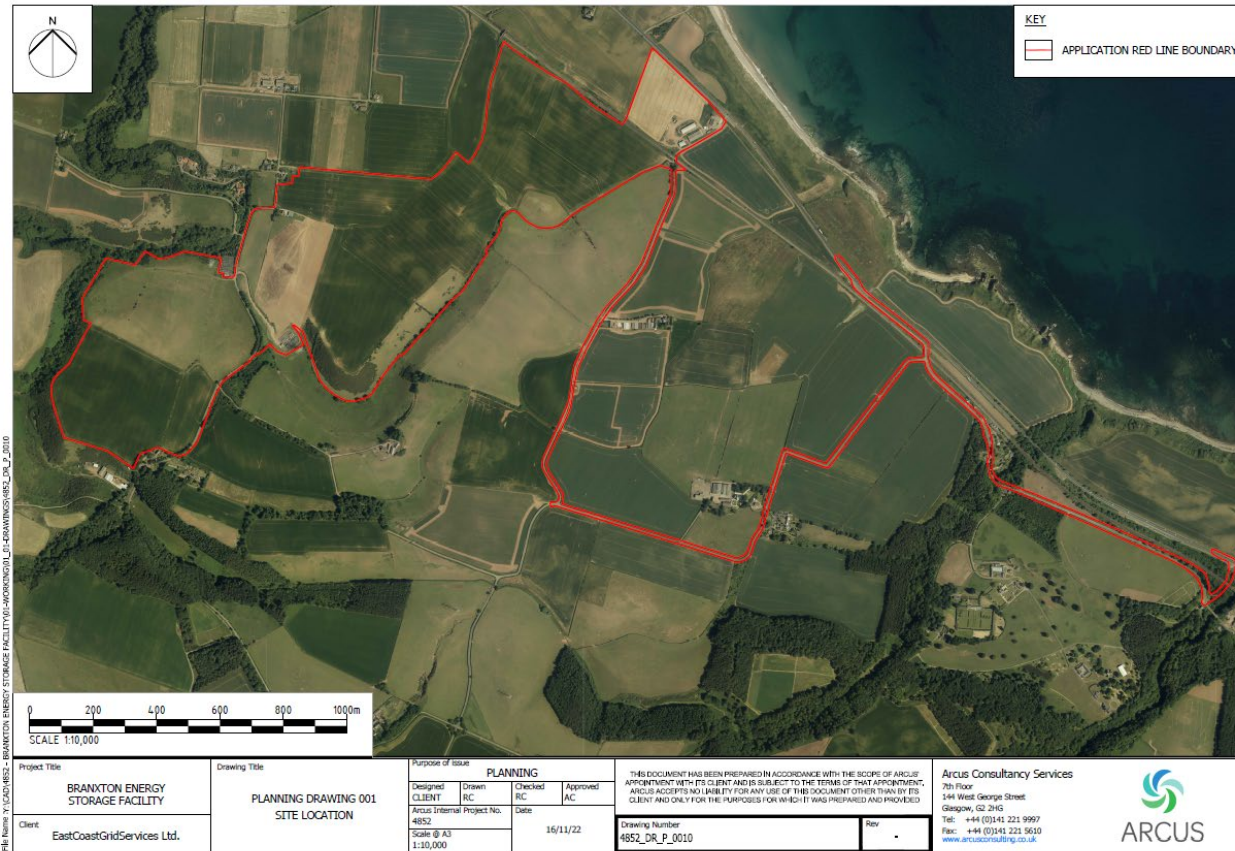


The website for consultation is [www.branxtonenergystorage.com](http://www.branxtonenergystorage.com)



# Consultation Material – Public Consultation Materials

At the public consultation events hard copies of the proposed application boundary (below, left) and example image of a similar BESS development (below, right) were shown. These, along with discussions with the Applicant, TGP Landscape Architects and Arcus Consulting present were used to provide attendees further information about the Proposed Development and address any queries they had.



# Consultation Material – Feedback form



EastCoastGridServices

## BRANXTON ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY – FEEDBACK FORM

Thank you for taking the time to attend our public consultation event. We would appreciate if you would take the time to provide us with feedback on the project.

By proceeding with providing us with personal information you agree with the disclaimer below. The data collected will be used by EastCoastGridServices Ltd for the purpose of retrieving feedback on the project.

1. How did you find out about our public consultation? (tick all that apply)
  - Local Press
  - Mail Drop
  - Project website
  - Other internet sites
  - Social Media
  - Word of mouth
  - Other (Please State) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Approximately how close do you live to the proposed Branxton Energy Storage Facility site?
  - Up to 5km
  - Above 5km but less than 10km
  - More than 10km
3. Are you supportive of a battery energy storage facility at the proposed Branxton Energy Storage Facility site?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Neutral
  - Not Supportive
4. Do you have any comments / queries / concerns regarding the proposed Branxton Energy Storage Facility?

Enter your answer:

5. What issues or topics are of most importance to you regarding the proposed Branxton Energy Storage Facility?



EastCoastGridServices

Enter your answer:

6. Have you found the exhibition useful?
  - Very Useful
  - Useful
  - Not Useful
  - Undecided

If you would like to be kept informed on the project please complete your details below.

Your contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

**Privacy statement/Data Protection:** By completing this feedback questionnaire, you are agreeing that we can hold and process data in relation to the current public consultation exercise for the purposes of Branxton Energy Storage Facility. We hold all personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and your personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area. We will only share your personal data with members of the project team for planning evaluation purposes only. Your identifiable personal data will not be used for any other purposes without your consent. We will use your data to: Send you updates about the project (where you provide us with contact details and indicate that you would like to receive such updates). In the event a Pre-Application Consultation report is submitted with the planning application, your comments will be anonymised and we will only identify you in the report or any related documentation with your permission.

EastCoastGridServices Ltd's Privacy Policy can be found on their website: [www.branxtonenergystorage.com](http://www.branxtonenergystorage.com).

EastCoastGridServices Limited  
67 Westow Street  
London SE19 3RW  
info@branxtonenergystorage.com  
www.branxtonenergystorage.com



# Feedback Received

The two consultation meetings were held and attended by members of the public. Of the attendees, 10 returned feedback forms. All respondents lived within 10km of the Site. Overall, the respondents were either supportive or neutral to the Proposed Development, with many highlighting the importance of proposals such as this in fighting climate change.

Respondents were concerned about potential traffic effects of the Proposed Development on the local community during construction, especially the cumulative traffic due to other renewable energy developments in the wider region; liaison with the community during construction; concerns over where construction workers will stay; and that consideration should be given to biodiversity. Additionally, respondents were interested to know what benefits to the community the Proposed Development would deliver.

All respondents to the questionnaire found the consultation event to be either 'Useful' or 'Very Useful'.







Thank you

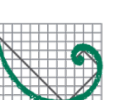
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