

Summary Note – Land off Mount Road, Castle Gresley (DMPA/2021/1698)

This summary note has been prepared on behalf of Flexion Energy UK Storage Ltd in relation to planning application reference DMPA/2021/1698 (Land off Mount Road, Castle Gresley). The application was submitted in November 2021 and seeks permission for an energy storage facility, together with associated equipment, infrastructure and ancillary works. For clarity, the proposed development is summarised in paragraphs 2.12 – 2.15 of the Planning, Design and Access Statement (PDAS) which forms part of the original application. Further information in relation to the technology that comprises the development is provided below.

The Proposed Development

The development is a sustainable, low carbon battery energy storage system. At peak, it will have a potential generating electrical output of 20MW and will assist National Grid in the effective operation of the national electricity network. National Grid continually work to balance the grid network by employing electricity generators of all kinds, including intermittent stations to come on or off the grid as required, and in turn helping balance supply and demand. Therefore, the need for this development is clear in the effective operation of the national electricity network which faces continuous pressure in today's climate.

The proposed development is categorically not a fossil fuel generator and is in no way a form of gas or diesel peaking plant. Consequently, there are no fugitive emissions from the proposed development, meaning no exhausts are required nor are they included in our proposal as submitted (please refer to the application documents submitted for details).

Heritage and Archaeology

In response to the Council's archaeologist's consultation response (dated 3rd December 2021), a revised Heritage Statement and Archaeological Desk Based Assessment was conducted and issued to accompany the application. No further correspondence has been received on this matter from the Council, therefore we assume the two reports have alleviated any concerns.

Noise

Concerns were raised to potential noise impact via the EHO's consultation comment (dated 24th November 2021). A response was provided on the 17th of January 2022 to the Local Planning Authority via email highlighting that the noise assessment methodology was sent to South Derbyshire Council (25th August 2021 as part of the pre-application process) but no response was received prior to the submission of the application. It was considered that due to the rural nature of the location, that noise levels up to 5dB above background would be acceptable, in line with BS4142 assessment guidelines, and due to the existing background noise levels being low.

Despite reference to the BS4142 guidelines, the EHO requested mitigation to reduce noise levels at the nearest sensitive receptors of at least 10dB (email on the 7th April 2022). To maintain the positive relationship between the Applicant and the LPA, the Applicant agreed to propose 1.8m high close board fence along the site perimeter in order to achieve a noise level that falls below

background noise levels during the daytime internally and externally and during the night-time internally.

Through direct engagement with the EHO, noise calculations at different heights were discussed (5th May 2022) and it was concluded that a 2.4m acoustic fence would be sufficient to counteract noise impacts from the development. Utilising this specific height, the barrier correction is negative 5.5 decibels at receiver location 1 and negative 6.6 decibels at receiver location 2. This mitigation measure achieves the required noise reductions at each receptor during the daytime and night-time. This fence has also been strategically chosen as it remains lower than the heights of the equipment within the compound and therefore will not affect the overall visual impact of the site (as submitted previously).

When considering the site context, and in accordance with the relevant regulations, including the proposed mitigation, noise from the proposed development will cause a low impact at existing sensitive receptors during daytime and night-time hours. For further information, please refer to the Noise Assessment Report (May 2022, CA12288) which accompanies the planning application.

Consequently, the Applicant has updated the application plans to reflect the proposed acoustic fence (2.4m tall, previously 1.8m tall). The plans are referenced below.

- Site Layout Plan – Ref: 32445 PL-GRE-02d Site Layout;
- Site Elevation Plan A – Ref: 32445 DET-GRE-03c A-A Boundary and Sectional Elevations; and
- Site Elevation Plan B – Ref: 32445 DET-GRE-03c B-B Boundary and Sectional Elevations.

I trust the above is useful and provides you with everything you require to make a formal decision on the application. If you require any further information, please contact us.

Yours sincerely,

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