

PLANNING STATEMENT

Land at Mount Stamper Road, St Austell



Date: February 2024

Prepared for: Aldustria Ltd

Prepared by:

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Document Checking

	Prepared By	Date	Approved By	Date
Signature	ALB & CAH	31/07/2023	CAH	27/02/2024

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Scope of the Report

1.1.1 This Planning Statement has been prepared by Greenslade Taylor Hunt on behalf of Aldustria Limited. It supports the submission of a full planning application to Cornwall Council for the siting of a 10MW battery storage system and associated works, including formation of onsite parking area and erection of fencing.

1.1.2 The application is accompanied by the following documents:

- Transport Statement;
- Construction Traffic Management Plan;
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal;
- Noise Assessment;
- Flood Risk Assessment;
- Planning drawings.

1.1.3 These documents form part of the content of the planning application for the proposed development together with the statutory application form and the submitted plans.

1.1.4 Due to the modest size of the proposed development, the lack of sensitive receptors in close proximity to the site and the non-polluting nature of the scheme, it is considered that the proposed development does not comprise Environmental Impact Assessment development.

1.1.5 This statement provides an appraisal of the site and its broader context, followed by a description of the proposed development with reference to access and design. It then goes on to assess the proposals against relevant local and national planning policies. The planning case is then made and conclusions provided, demonstrating the conformity of the proposals with the development plan policies and that the proposals constitute a sustainable form of development.

2.0 The Application Site

2.1 The Site

- 2.1.1 The location and extent of the site is identified on the accompanying plans. The site is located to the west side of Mount Stamper Road, St Austell, Cornwall.
- 2.1.2 The site is currently in agricultural use and forms part of a wider agricultural field. The application site totals approximately 0.14 hectares of grade 3 agricultural land.
- 2.1.3 The site benefits from an existing vehicular access and the land slopes gently away from the adjoining highway (east to west). The site is adjacent to a Western Power Electricity Sub-Station.

2.2 Site Context

- 2.2.1 The land is located wholly within Flood Zone 1, land at the lowest risk of flooding. The site is located within a Critical Drainage Area as identified on the Cornwall Council website, and therefore, a Flood Risk Assessment has been prepared to support the proposed development on the site.
- 2.2.2 There are no public rights of way through the site. The land is not subject to any landscape, environmental or heritage designations.
- 2.2.3 The land adjoining to the east has been identified as suitable for development within the next six to ten years by the Council.

3.0 Proposed Development

3.1 Development Rationale

- 3.1.1 The proposal seeks full planning permission for the construction of a grid-connected battery energy storage system. In the UK, the National Grid is struggling to cope with fluctuating peaks in power demand. Energy storage utilises flexible technology to absorb surplus electricity at times of excess generation, and releasing it when needed. The technology has the ability to import or export energy for seconds, minutes or hours. The system is responsive to the demand for energy and can switch from charge to discharge within seconds.

3.1.2 Energy storage facilitates the balancing of volatility in supply and demand of energy, and performs a valuable role in the continued adoption of renewable energy projects that contribute towards the UK's initiative to combat climate change and the targets for achieving carbon net zero status.

3.2 Development Composition

3.2.1 The proposed development is the siting of a 10MW battery energy storage facility and associated works. The battery storage facility is sought for a temporary period of 25 years, after which time, it is anticipated the facility would be decommissioned and replaced with more efficient technology. The proposals comprise the installation of the following:

- 6 x battery racks;
- 6 x Power Centre Substations (PCS);
- 3 x transformers;
- 1 x switchroom;
- 1 x DNO switchroom;
- Concrete plinths/pads on which the above elements will be sited;
- 2.4m high fence to surround battery site;
- Formation of on-site hardstanding for parking and turning.

3.2.2 The submitted plans provide full details relating to the scale of the infrastructure proposed. The battery racks, PCS, transformers and switchrooms are all placed on top of a concrete plinth and all have grey or black coloured steel cabinets as the external finish. The proposed fencing is 2.4 metres high galvanised steel palisade railings.

3.2.3 Access to the site will be from the existing vehicular access from Mount Stamper Road which will be upgraded to serve the intended use.

3.2.4 The applicant has sought a viable connection to the National Grid, and hence the feasibility of the site to serve as a battery storage facility is secure. The grid connection for the proposed development would be installed below ground and would be undertaken by the statutory undertaker, under permitted development rights. Accordingly, planning permission is not sought for this element of the scheme and is not included within the red line boundary.

4.0 Planning History & Pre-application Consultation

4.1 Planning History

4.1.1 There is no planning history relating to the proposed site.

4.2 Pre-application Consultation

4.2.1 There have been no pre-application enquiries made regarding these proposals.

5.0 Planning Policy Context

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 In relation to the proposed development, a range of planning policy documents and guidance must be considered as key material planning considerations.

5.1.2 National policy comprises the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), as well as a range of supplementary policy and guidance notes. At the local level, the Cornwall Local Plan and the associated Cornwall Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) constitute the statutory development plan, against which, the proposals are assessed.

5.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)

5.2.1 The revised NPPF was published in December 2023 and is a material consideration. This document sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

5.2.2 Paragraph 7 of the NPPF confirms that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Paragraph 8 expands on this and states that there are three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. This includes an economic objective, a social objective and an environmental objective.

5.2.3 Chapter 14 of the NPPF focusses on meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change. Paragraph 157 confirms that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate. The planning system should support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. The proposed development is for associated infrastructure which supports the development of renewable and low carbon energy and is therefore supported by the NPPF.

5.2.4 When determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development paragraph 162 states that local planning authorities should:

- a) Not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and
- b) Approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.

5.3 Energy White Paper (2020)

5.3.1 The Energy White Paper (EWP) – Powering our Net Zero Future was published in December 2020, and sets out a Ten Point Plan to address the challenge of climate change and achieve a target of net zero emissions.

5.3.2 A major focus of the document is a move towards greener energy, with clean electricity generation given a pivotal role in delivering net zero emissions. Chapter 3 of the document states, *“A low-cost, net zero consistent system is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar. But ensuring the system is also reliable, means intermittent renewables need to be complemented by technologies which provide power, or reduce demand, when the wind is not blowing, or the sun does not shine. Today this includes nuclear, gas with carbon capture and storage and flexibility provided by batteries, demand side response, interconnectors and short-term dispatchable generation providing peaking capacity, which can be flexed as required.”*

5.3.3 Chapter 4 of the document recognises the need for flexibility within supply and demand of electricity will come from new, cleaner sources, such as energy storage in batteries. The document also commits through the Net Zero Innovation Portfolio, investment in longer term energy storage.

5.4 National Policy Statement for Energy (2011)

In July 2011, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) published an overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy EN-1. NPS EN-1 sets out national policy for energy infrastructure and states that: “[it] is likely to be a material consideration in decision making on applications that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).” (paragraph 1.2.1).

5.4.1 In terms of energy security, NPS EN-1 states that: “It is critical that the UK continues to have secure and reliable supplies of energy as we make the transition to a low carbon economy...” (paragraph 2.2.20). In addition, the NPS recognises that a flexible approach to energy generation is required in order to provide backup supply for renewable energy sources, by stating: “the more renewable generating capacity we have the more generation capacity we will require overall, to provide back-up at times when the availability of intermittent renewable sources is low.” (paragraph 3.3.11).

5.4.2 The NPS identifies that the overall capacity of the grid will require additional resources to meet future demands. This is reinforced by paragraph 3.3.12, which states: “...we need more total electricity capacity than we have now, with a larger proportion being built only or mainly to perform back-up functions.”

5.4.3 It is clear from a review of NPS EN-1 that the Government expect new balancing services to come forward through the planning system to ensure energy security and to support low carbon electricity generation. As such the proposed development is considered consistent with the aims of NPS EN-1.

5.5 Planning Our Electric Future: A White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low Carbon Energy (2011)

5.5.1 In July 2011 DECC published the White Paper ‘Planning our Electrical Future: A White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low-Carbon Electricity’ under its Electricity Market Reform agenda. The white paper set out the Government’s commitment to transforming the UK’s electricity system to ensure that future electricity supply is secure, low-carbon and affordable.

5.5.2 The reforms seek to ensure that, by 2030, the UK will have a flexible, smart and responsive electricity system, powered by a diverse and secure range of low-carbon sources of electricity. It recognises that, in order to ensure continued international competitiveness, a number of unprecedented challenges need to be addressed, namely:

- Security of supply is threatened as existing generating plants close, noting that over the current decade around a quarter (20GW) of existing generation capacity will be lost as old plants close;
- Decarbonising electricity generation to transform the UK permanently into a low carbon economy to meet renewable energy targets;
- Accommodating increased demand for electricity, noting that despite improvements in domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency, overall demand for electricity is likely to double by 2050; and
- Managing electricity costs, noting that whilst the UK is likely to experience short term fluctuations in power prices, it is likely that there will in the long-term be overall increases in wholesale costs arising from the carbon price, stricter environmental policies and major investment in new large-scale infrastructure.

5.5.3 The proposed development would help deliver the flexible energy network envisaged by the white paper.

5.6 Upgrading our Energy System: Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan (July 2017) and Progress Report (October 2018)

5.6.1 In July 2017, the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Ofgem published a policy paper entitled: 'Upgrading our Energy System: Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan'. The Executive Summary identifies that the, *"...plan is an important part of the Government's Industrial Strategy, the forthcoming Clean Growth Plan, and a core component of Ofgem's future-facing work to enable the energy system transition."*

5.6.2 The plan set out 29 actions that seek to remove barriers to smart technologies (such as storage which includes batteries as illustrated within the case studies); enable smart homes and businesses; and improve access to energy markets for new technologies and business models. The actions are designed to support clean growth, reduce the cost of the energy system and keep energy bills low for consumers.

5.6.3 As set out in the conclusion to the plan, it seeks to enable the development of a smart, flexible energy system that will reduce costs for consumers and industry, and support the growth of innovative new businesses. The aim of which is to upgrade the regulatory and market framework, open up new

opportunities for consumers / market participants, and provide conditions in which innovation can flourish. Finally, it recognises: *“As a core part of the Industrial Strategy, it is an opportunity to increase productivity at home, and put the UK in a leading position to export smart energy technologies and services to the rest of the world.”*

5.6.4 A progress update was published in October 2018. This confirmed that at the date of publication, 15 actions had been implemented with the commitment to delivering the remaining 14 actions by 2022. It also set out nine new actions beyond those set out previously that have been committed to since the original publication. These include actions to ensure that the network connections process is appropriate and does not present any undue burdens to storage.

5.6.5 The proposed development would help deliver the flexible energy network envisaged by this plan.

5.7 Clean Growth Strategy (October 2017)

5.7.1 The Clean Growth Strategy was published in October 2017. The strategy outlines the ambition of delivering a, *“diverse electricity system that supplies our homes and businesses with secure, affordable and clean power.”* It goes on to state that this: *“... means upgrading our electricity system so it is smarter (using data to provide greater control), more flexible (providing energy when it is needed) and takes advantage of rapidly developing technologies such as energy storage...”* (page 95)

5.7.2 Page 96 identifies that one possible clean growth pathway (to 2032), *“could see power emissions fall by 80 per cent compared to today, to around 16 Mt.”* It goes on to identify that, *“This could be achieved by:*

- *Growing low carbon sources such as renewables and nuclear to over 80 per cent of electricity generation, and phasing out unabated coal power.*
- *Enabling a smarter, more flexible system, unlocking significant expansion of interconnection, electricity storage, and demand side response, the first steps of which are set out in the Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan...”*

5.7.3 A range of policies and proposals are set out within the strategy; those of relevance to the Proposed Development include:

- *“The Government, Ofgem and industry will implement the 29 actions set out in the Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan published on 24 July. These will echnologies such as energy storage and demand side response to compete effectively within the energy market, help integrate more low carbon generation such as solar into our energy system, and deliver secure, smart appliances and smart tariffs to allow consumers to benefit from using energy at times when it is cheaper. Innovations and other steps to increase flexibility could unlock up to £40 billion in energy cost savings up to 2050.”*
- *“We will work with Ofgem to ensure the necessary regulatory and market arrangements evolve to support the development of a clean, smart and flexible energy system as outlined in their strategy for regulating the future energy system.”*
- *“The Government expects to invest around £900 million of public funds between 2015 and 2021 in research and innovation in the power sector.” For power and smart systems, this includes: “Ensuring that the power system is smart and resilient to new demands and new sources of supply will be important for energy security, cost and industrial opportunities. The Government, in partnership with the Research Councils and Innovate UK, expects to invest around £265 million in research, development and deployment in this area which will help to reduce the cost of electricity storage, advance innovative demand response technologies and develop new ways of balancing the grid...”*

5.7.4 The proposed development would help deliver the flexible energy network and move to a low carbon economy envisaged by the strategy.

5.8 Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)

5.8.1 The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener policy paper, was published jointly by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Energy Security & Net Zero in October 2021. It sets out the long term plan to help decarbonise all sectors of the UK economy to meet the net zero targets by 2050.

5.8.2 The plan details 14 key commitments relating to the delivery of a decarbonised power system by 2035, below are the relevant commitments for this proposal:

- Explore the system need and case for further market intervention for long duration storage and hydrogen in power;
- Ensure the planning system can support the deployment of low carbon energy infrastructure;

- Take action so that by 2035, all our electricity will come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply, bringing forward the Government’s commitment to a fully decarbonised power system within 15 years;
- Deliver the actions within the recent Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan and Energy Digitalisation Strategy to maximise system flexibility.

5.8.3 The documents identifies that, “*a clean, reliable power system is the foundation of a productive net zero economy*” (page 19). This transformation of the power sector will bring high wage, high skill job opportunities, which align with the Government’s aim of providing better economic opportunities whilst contributing towards the sustainability targets.

5.8.4 Electricity storage is one of the flexible technologies highlighted in the paper which would complement intermittent renewable energy sources to ensure the system is reliable. The strategy recognises, “*These flexible technologies can help to minimise the amount of generation and network capacity needed to meet our demand needs*” (page 98) helping work towards a decarbonised energy system.

5.8.5 The proposed development would help deliver the flexible energy network envisioned by the Net Zero Strategy.

5.9 BEIS Outcome Delivery Plan 2021 to 2022

5.9.1 The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Outcome Delivery Plan was published in July 2021. It sets out plans to “*work together, across government and with businesses and communities across the UK to deliver this ambitious agenda and deliver this government’s Plan For Growth.*”

5.9.2 The priority outcomes discussed are;

1: Fighting coronavirus: supporting business through the pandemic and recovery;

2: Tackling climate change and delivering net zero;

3: Unleashing innovation;

4: Backing long-term growth and boosting enterprise.

5.9.3 Priority Outcome 2 is to tackle climate change by reducing UK greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The legally binding 2050 target alongside the EWP aims to make the UK a leader of the New Green Industrial Revolution with Government investment spanning clean energy, buildings, transport, nature and innovative technologies.

5.9.4 This plan is complemented by a variety of other Government issued policy and report papers, such as, EWP and the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy, published in March 2021, which sets out complementary plans for the transformation of our energy system and industries, including actions to fully decarbonise electricity generation by 2050.

5.10 The British Energy Security Strategy (2022)

5.10.1 The British Energy Security Strategy Paper, published April 2022, sets out the goals to provide a clean and affordable supply of electricity, whilst creating a system which is hyper-flexible to match supply and demand, so minimal energy is wasted.

5.10.2 The document recognises that the current system is complex and slow to transform into the one the country needs for the future, with aims to address this by halving the time it takes to install new energy infrastructure. The document states that, *“now we need to be bolder in removing the red tape that holds back new clean energy developments and exploit the potential of all renewable technologies”* (page 6).

5.10.3 Within the Networks, Storage and Flexibility chapter in the paper, the relationship between clean energy and a flexible network is recognised as valuable to ensure supply is able to keep up with demand. Additionally, it shows understanding that building now ahead of future needs, *“may mean paying more in the short term for an asset that isn't efficiently utilised immediately but is the cheapest option over the long term and reduces the need for repeated disruptive works to continually upgrade the system”* (page 24). Helping future proof the energy system in response to climate change where demand is predicted to double by 2050.

5.10.4 The proposal would provide the energy storage infrastructure to help meet the predicted demand in 2050.

5.11 Powering Up Britain (2023)

- 5.11.1 The Powering up Britain – Energy Security Plan, was published in March 2023, and sets out how the government will enhance the country’s energy security and deliver on the net zero commitments by 2050.
- 5.11.2 The focus of the document is to increase the share of the UK’s domestic energy production whilst reducing consumer demand, with the intention of being energy dependent through doubling our electricity generation capacity by the late 2030s.
- 5.11.3 Chapter 4, walks through the steps needed to transition from fossil fuels to clean energy production, with the aim of meeting the 2050 net zero target. It recognises the need for flexible technologies within our power system to “either increase supply or reduce demand at short notice to close any gap between consumer demand and what is being generated by renewables and nuclear technologies”(page 28). The document further states, “*Flexibility could save up to £10 billion per year by 2050, by reducing the amount of generation and network needed to decarbonise electricity*” (page 28).
- 5.11.4 This proposal would contribute towards the goals set out in this policy paper through providing the necessary infrastructure.

5.12 The Climate Crisis (2021)

- 5.12.1 The Climate Crisis was published in October 2021, jointly by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and the Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA). It is a guidance document aimed at local planning authorities, which advises on planning for climate change.
- 5.12.2 Section 4 of the document refers to the role of development management in mitigating climate change, and specifically, in 4.1.3, principles and good practice for assessing renewable energy generation, storage and distribution.
- 5.12.3 The guidance sets out that, “*Development management should support and not prevent, delay or inhibit proposals for renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure...*” and, “*decision makers...should be prepared to deal positively with the implications of new transport and energy technologies, such as battery storage at scale, infrastructure for electric vehicles, and the deployment of hydrogen technology.*”

5.12.4 In determining planning applications for the development of renewable or low-carbon energy and associated infrastructure, local planning authorities are recommended to:

- Expect applicants to have taken appropriate steps to avoid and then mitigate any adverse impacts through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures, including ensuring that all reasonable steps have been taken, and will be taken, to minimise any negative impacts.
- Give significant weight to the wider environmental, social and economic benefits of renewable or low-carbon energy projects and fuel sources, whatever their scale, recognising that small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to the local area and contribute to security of supply and to cutting greenhouse gas emissions – do not reject planning applications simply because the level of output, or the number of buildings involved, is small.
- Not require applicants for renewable energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low-carbon energy.
- Expect developers of decentralised energy to support the local planning approach for renewable and low-carbon energy set out in the local development plan, and, if not, to provide compelling reasons to justify the departure – but, otherwise, not question the energy justification for why a proposal for renewable and low-carbon energy must be sited in a particular location.

5.13 Building a Britain Fit for the Future (November 2017)

5.13.1 The 'Building a Britain Fit for the Future' White Paper was published by the Department for BEIS in November 2017. It sets out the long-term plan to help businesses create better, higher paying jobs with investment in the skills, industries and infrastructure of the future.

5.13.2 The plan is supported by five foundations of productivity (ideas, people, infrastructure, business environment and places) which align with the Government's vision for a transformed economy. It also defines four 'grand challenges', one of which is the aim of: "*maximising the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth.*" (page 10)

- 5.13.3 The Government identifies that: “The move to cleaner economic growth – through low carbon technologies and the efficient use of resources – is one of the greatest industrial opportunities of our time...” (page 42). The strategy goes on to identify that the Government: “...will take action to establish and extend UK leadership in the following priority areas”, which amongst others includes developing: “...smart systems for cheap and clean energy across power, heating and transport” (page 44).
- 5.13.4 Page 45 of the Strategy recognises that: “Smart systems transform our ability to use clean energy cost-effectively...we are setting ourselves the challenge of remodelling it [the national electricity grid] so it can handle many different sources of clean energy, and use new technologies to store energy and manage demand...”

5.14 Single Department Plan (June 2019)

- 5.14.1 In June 2019, the Department for BEIS published ‘The Single Department Plan’. The plan identifies five overarching objectives, including ensuring that: *‘the UK has a reliable, low cost and clean energy system’*. This objective is broken down into the following sub-objectives:
- 5.14.2 *“Set out a vision for the energy system consistent with the Government’s 2050 climate goals, with concrete actions that the Government will take up to 2030”* – to be achieved by (amongst others): *“delivering an ambitious Energy White Paper addressing the transformation of the GB electricity system, including proposed legislation where appropriate”*; and *“further developing carbon capture, use and storage deployment, to support decarbonisation and meet our legally binding carbon budgets, including potential ‘net zero’ by 2050.”*
- 5.14.3 *“Support clean growth and promote global action to tackle climate change”* – to be achieved by (amongst others), *“working with business...to deliver the Clean Growth Strategy, our legally binding greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets...”*; *“becoming the first major economy to legislate for net zero. Maintain the UK’s position as a global leader in cutting emissions while growing the economy, and develop world leading sectors to drive clean growth across the UK”*; and *“continuing to decarbonise the power sector by running the next Contracts for Difference allocation round to secure new renewable capacity.”*
- 5.14.4 *“Ensure our energy system is reliable and secure”* – to be achieved by (amongst others): *“ensuring reliable supplies of electricity and gas, including for example through...industry to reinstate the capacity market and undertaking a statutory 5- year review of the capacity market.”*

5.14.5 “Deliver affordable energy for households and businesses” – to be achieved by, “continuing to implement the Government and Ofgem’s ‘Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan’ by 2022, removing barriers to smart technologies, enabling smart homes and businesses, and improving access to markets for new technologies and business models.”

5.15 Cornwall Local Plan (2016)

5.15.1 The Cornwall Local Plan was adopted in 2016, and the following policies are considered to be of relevance to the proposals.

5.15.2 **Policy 1** of the Local Plan confirms the Councils commitment to a presumption in favour of sustainable development as contained within the NPPF.

5.15.3 **Policy 2** sets out the Council’s Spatial Strategy. Part 2 of the strategy seeks to provide solutions to current and future issues. Proposals should assist the creation of resilient and cohesive communities by delivering renewable and low carbon energies, increasing energy efficiency and minimising resource consumption through a range of renewable and low carbon technologies.

5.15.4 **Policy 14** relates the development of renewable and low carbon energy. The Policy seeks to increase the use of and production of renewable and low carbon energy generation. Development proposals will be supported where they maximise the use of the available resource by deploying installations with the greatest energy output practicable taking into account the provisions of this plan and do not have an overbearing or overshadowing effect on nearby habitations. When considering proposals for renewable and low carbon energy, regard will be given to the wider benefits of providing energy from renewable sources, as well as the potential effects on the local environment; including any cumulative impact of the proposals.

5.15.5 **Policy 15** relates to safeguarding renewable energy. New development, where appropriate, should show that it does not significantly harm the performance of any existing facility and the potential for optimisation of strategic renewable energy installations, or the availability of their resource.

5.16 Climate Emergency Development Plan Document (DPD) (2023)

5.16.1 Also of relevance to the consideration of this application is the Climate Emergency DPD which was adopted in February 2023. The introductory text confirms that Cornwall Council continues to work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

5.16.2 **Policy C1** of the DPD sets out the Climate Change Principles. Development in Cornwall should represent sustainable development and manage our natural, historic and cultural assets wisely for future generations, contributing in line with the scale and type of development to achieve the Council's objectives. The policy seeks to make the fullest possible contribution to minimising greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the energy and waste hierarchies through ensuring resource efficiency, minimisation of waste and the prioritisation of renewable energy.

5.16.3 **Policy RE1** (Renewable and Local Carbon Energy) supports proposals for renewable and low carbon energy-generating and distribution networks. Proposals will be supported where (inter alia):

- a) They contribute to meeting Cornwall's target of 100% renewable electricity supply by 2030; and
- b) They balance the wider environmental, social and economic benefits of renewable electricity, heat and/or fuel production and distribution; and
- c) It will not result in significant adverse impacts on the local environment that cannot be satisfactorily mitigated, including cumulative landscape and visual impacts, the special qualities of all nationally important landscapes, and the significance of heritage assets including their settings, landscapes and seascapes, which must be conserved or enhanced; and
- d) There are appropriate plans and a mechanism in place for the removal of the technology on cessation of generation, and restoration of the site to its original use or an acceptable alternative use.

5.16.4 **Policy RE1** goes on to confirm that there is a presumption in favour of energy storage where it meets one or more of the following:

- a) It is co-located with an existing or proposed renewable energy development;
- b) It can be shown that it alleviates grid constraints;
- c) It allows further renewable developments to be deployed.

5.17 **Policy & Guidance Summary**

5.17.1 It can be seen from the above review that the national policy message on energy security is strong and unambiguous. There is a clear need to ensure security of supply through the development of a diverse energy generation system to support the increased deployment of renewable energy, increased peak demands and the move to electric vehicles.

- 5.17.2 Energy storage is considered to be a key component of the future energy mix. The existing storage provision will need to increase significantly by 2030 to be on track to achieve net zero by 2050.
- 5.17.3 The proposed development would provide a flexible modular energy storage system which could instantly deliver or store power in response to system stress events on the national grid transmission network.

6.0 Planning Assessment

6.1 Principle of Development

- 6.1.1 There is extensive policy support for the development of battery storage facilities to support renewable energy generation at both local and national levels.
- 6.1.2 In particular chapter 14 of the NPPF focusses on meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change. Paragraph 157 confirms that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate. The planning system should support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. Accordingly, the proposed development is for associated infrastructure which supports the development and reliability of renewable and low carbon energy.
- 6.1.3 It is important that the National Grid maintains a sufficient supply of energy at all times. The demand for power can significantly fluctuate throughout different times of the day or year. Without an adequate supply of energy there is a risk of power shortages and blackouts. In order to mitigate this risk, the National Grid relies on either additional energy generation/source to run as a backup, or a reduction in electricity demand to ensure the essential balance between energy and supply. The proposals are at an advanced stage in terms of grid connection negotiations and are considered to be feasible and approved by the network provider.
- 6.1.4 Battery storage is an important element in the UK energy mix as part of the shift from conventional power stations to renewable energy sources as part of efforts to cut CO₂ emissions and to address the climate emergency. In June 2009 the Government raised the UK's ambition on tackling climate change by legislating for a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target for the whole economy by 2050. Policy RE-1 of the Cornwall Council Climate Emergency DPD aims to achieve a target of 100% renewable electricity by 2030. In order to achieve this goal, decarbonising the power sector will be a vital component requiring major investment in proven technologies, such as battery storage.

- 6.1.5 The UK Government has committed to meeting a legally binding target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and the Council has declared a Climate Emergency. This requires major investment in proven technologies, such as renewable energy and battery storage, which is supported by planning policy at local and national level. Battery storage proposals, such as the proposed development, help to support the development of renewable energy, which is intermittent by its nature, taking energy from the grid at times of higher supply/lower demand and feeding it back at times of lower supply/higher demand.
- 6.1.6 Whilst the battery storage facility does not in itself generate renewable energy, it facilitates the generation of renewable energy (such as solar and wind) by creating flexibility in the network to address fluctuations in demand and supply. Battery storage systems play a vital part in the transition to a low carbon energy system.
- 6.1.7 The proposed development is a sustainable development utilising proven technology to support the use of renewable energy as the UK moves towards net-zero carbon. The proposals meet the requirements of the NPPF and are supported by local plan policies 1, 2, 14 and 15 and the policies in the Climate Emergency DPD. In particular Local Plan Policy 2 which supports the creation of resilient communities by delivering renewable and low carbon energies, increasing efficiency and minimising resource consumption through a range of renewable and low carbon technologies and policy 14 which seeks to increase the use and production of renewable and low carbon energy generation of which battery storage is a key component.

6.2 Highways and Transport

- 6.2.1 The submitted Transport Statement (TS) confirms that traffic generated during construction is minimal and will be over a very limited period as the compound is largely prefabricated off-site. Construction is expected to take in the region of four to six weeks, with few vehicle movements.
- 6.2.2 Once operational, there will be no staff based on site and the facility will be managed remotely. The site will be visited for routine maintenance and inspections, which is expected as a maximum of one movement per week as a worst case assumption.
- 6.2.3 The TS concludes that the proposed development would not have a severe impact upon the operation of the local highway network, and there are no transport related reasons why the development should not be permitted.

6.3 Landscape and Visual Impact (including Heritage)

- 6.3.1 The proposed site layout and equipment has been designed to serve a specific function and to fulfil its purpose. The siting of the facility has been carefully selected to occupy a discrete position within the site benefiting from existing landscaping to the south and west.
- 6.3.2 The proposed development is well clear of adjacent hedgerows to ensure that the development does not harm existing hedgerows and trees. Additional soft landscaping can be conditioned if deemed necessary in order to provide additional screening.

6.4 Wildlife and Biodiversity

- 6.4.1 The application is supported by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.
- 6.4.2 The proposed development has very limited impact upon local ecology. As the proposed development is a minor application, mandatory BNG is not currently required.

6.5 Residential Amenity

- 6.5.1 There will be no emissions associated with the facility.
- 6.5.2 The noise level is limited to the air conditioning units on each container that only operate at times of high temperatures and, although essential to performance, is attenuated to be less than 60dB at one metre; the battery is odourless. The submitted Noise Assessment confirms that the proposed development will not generate noise levels at a rate that would cause harm to local residential amenity.

6.6 Flooding

- 6.6.1 The submitted Flood Risk Assessment confirms that the site is located in Flood Zone 1, the lowest category of flood risk. The proposed development does not generate an increase in flood risk and is not at risk from potential flooding.
- 6.6.2 The proposed development introduces a very limited area of impermeable surfacing and the construction of French drains adjacent to concrete pads will absorb run-off from the proposed development.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1.1 The proposed development comprises the construction and operation of a battery energy storage system on land at Mount Stamper Road, St Austell.
- 7.1.2 The principle of battery storage is supported by local and national policy as it seeks to address sustainable development by playing a key role in supporting renewable energy generation, a key component of the Government's target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 7.1.3 The proposed development can be carried out without resulting in harm to highways, residential amenity, flood risk, the landscape or biodiversity. The benefits of the proposal significantly outweigh any perceived harm.
- 7.1.4 The proposal is therefore considered to benefit from the presumption in favour of sustainable development and planning permission should be granted accordingly.

