EAST PARK ENERGY

East Park Energy

EN010141

Grid Connection Statement

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Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009: Regulation 5(2)(p)

~~**September 2025**~~**July 2026**

Version ~~P01~~P02

EAST PARK ENERGY

Planning Act 2008

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Grid Connection Statement

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this document

1.1.1 This Grid Connection Statement has been prepared by BSSL Cambsbed 1 Ltd (the 'Applicant') in support of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) (the 'DCO Application') made to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS), pursuant to section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).

1.1.2 The DCO Application is for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for the installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure (the 'Scheme') which would allow for the generation and export of electricity to the National Grid.

1.1.3 The Scheme is made up of four land areas (A, B, C and D), interconnecting underground cables between areas, and a 400 kilovolt (kV) underground cable route connecting to National Grid Eaton Socon 400kV Substation (Eaton Socon Substation).

1.1.4 Further details on the Scheme are contained in **Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010141/DR/6.2]**.

1.1.5 The Scheme is defined under Sections 14(1)(a), 15(1) and 15(2) of the PA 2008 as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it comprises an onshore generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). It therefore requires a DCO from the SoS. This document has been prepared and should be read in conjunction with the other documents submitted with the application.

1.1.6 This Grid Connection Statement is submitted pursuant to Section 55 of the PA 2008 and Regulations 5 and 6 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the APFP Regulations). In particular, Regulation 6(1)(a)(i) of the APFP Regulations

requires an applicant for a DCO in respect of onshore generating stations to provide a statement of who will be responsible for designing and constructing the connection to the National Electricity Transmission System ('NETS').

1.1.7 This statement confirms that a connection to the Eaton Socon Substation will be provided via a 400kV underground cable from the Scheme.

1.1.8 It explains the key elements of the Scheme up to the boundary of the Eaton Socon Substation and addresses the works which are to be carried out within the boundary of the Eaton Socon Substation. This statement further confirms that all works necessary to connect the Scheme to the NETS will be authorised by the DCO.

1.1.9 National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) owns the freehold land within the Eaton Socon Substation. National Energy System Operator (NESO) is responsible for operating the Eaton Socon Substation. NESO has obligations under its licence to operate and plan the electricity system and to ensure energy security and affordability.

2.0 GRID CONNECTION AGREEMENT

2.1.1 The Scheme will supply electricity to the NETS. National Energy System Operator Limited (NESO) is the system operator for the complete NETS while NGET is the Transmission Owner for England and Wales pursuant to a transmission license issued under the Electricity Act 1989. NGET is the freeholder owner of the Eaton Socon Substation and NESO is responsible for operating the Eaton Socon Substation.

2.1.2 The Applicant received a grid connection offer from NESO on 15 March 2021, offering connection to the Eaton Socon Substation. That offer was accepted by the Applicant on 14 April 2021 (the 'Grid Connection Agreement').

2.1.3 The Applicant has signed the Grid Connection Agreement with NESO to connect ~~400 MW of solar PV and 100 MW of BESS to Eaton Socon Substation~~the Scheme to Eaton Socon Substation.

2.1.4 Since the Grid Connection Agreement was signed, NESO has undertaken a reform of the electricity connections process, known as Connections Reform.

2.1.5 Connections Reform replaced the previous "first come, first served" connections queue with a new, gated process intended to align the connections queue with the Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan.

2.1.6 Under this reformed process, all projects seeking a grid connection, including those with existing signed connection agreements such as the Grid Connection Agreement, have been assessed against Readiness and Strategic Alignment criteria.

2.1.7 In Connections Reform, Projects that meet both the Readiness and Strategic Alignment criteria receive a Gate 2 offer. A Gate 2 offer confirms a connection date, connection point and queue position. Gate 2 offers are issued in two tranches: Phase 1 for projects connecting up to and including 2030, and Phase 2 for projects connecting between 2031 and 2035.

2.1.8 Projects that do not meet one or both of the above mentioned Gate 2 criteria instead receive a Gate 1 offer, which is an indicative position that does not include a confirmed connection date. Projects that receive a Gate 1 offer may reapply for Gate 2 status during a future Gated Application Window.

~~2.1.3~~2.1.9 The Applicant received notification of a Gate 2 Phase 1 offer for a 400 MW export connection.

3.0 THE GRID CONNECTION

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 Electricity generated by the Scheme will be exported to the NETS at the Eaton Socon Substation. The Eaton Socon Substation is located approximately 5km away from the proposed on-site substation, therefore the Scheme includes works to install underground cabling to connect the on-site substation to the Eaton Socon Substation.

3.1.2 The key elements forming part of the Scheme which are necessary to connect it to the NETS are listed below and are identified on the **Works Plan [EN010141/DR/2.3]**:

- Work No. 1 – a ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station;
- Work No. 2 – a BESS;
- Work No. 3 – an on-site substation;
- Work No. 4 – a 400 kV electrical cable connection from the on-site substation to the Eaton Socon Substation;
- Work No. 5 – works within the Eaton Socon Substation;
- Work No. 6 – works for internal cabling and ancillary infrastructure;

3.1.3 These works are included in Schedule 1 of the **draft DCO [EN010141/DR/3.1]** and are described in detail within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010141/DR/6.2]**.

3.1.4 In summary, the Applicant will be responsible for designing and building as part of the Scheme each element of the electrical connection from its designated busbar within Eaton Socon Substation up to and including the on-site substation. The Applicant will construct the 400 kV connection between the on-site substation and the Eaton Socon Substation. The Applicant will also carry out the connection bay construction works within Eaton Socon Substation which are part of the 'user's works' listed in the Grid Connection Agreement. The remainder of the works within Eaton Socon Substation which are required to provide the connection point will be carried out by NGET.

4.0 ACQUISITION OF LAND RIGHTS

4.1 Panel Areas, BESS and On-site Substation

4.1.1 The Applicant has successfully negotiated voluntary option agreements for freehold interest to allow for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme ~~within most of~~for the area required for panels, the BESS and on-site substation.

4.1.2 Where voluntary agreement has not so far been possible, it is necessary for the Applicant to seek compulsory acquisition powers to secure such land, rights and interests.

4.2 Cable Route

4.2.1 The Scheme includes an underground 400 kV cable route to connect the on-site substation to the NETS at Eaton Socon Substation. Where the cable route is outside of panel areas for which voluntary lease agreements have been secured, the preference is to use an off-road cable route. Ongoing negotiations are currently being progressed to reach voluntary agreements with all landowners along the cable route.

4.2.2 Where voluntary agreement has not so far been possible, it is necessary for the Applicant to seek compulsory acquisition powers to secure such land, rights and interests. This is to ensure that any third-party interest or encumbrances affecting such land, rights and interests may be acquired, overridden or extinguished pursuant to the **draft DCO [EN010141/DR/3.1]** and that the Scheme can therefore be constructed, operated and maintained.

4.3 Eaton Socon Substation

4.3.1 The Eaton Socon Substation is owned by NGET as the freeholder. In order to accommodate the proposed connection associated with the Scheme and other potential projects in the area, upgrades are required to the Subs tation. NGET is unable to confirm the scope of these upgrades at this time and

therefore cannot confirm the exact point of connection. The Applicant is in regular dialogue with NGET and has agreed a strategy of adopting a wide corridor around the Substation in the DCO flexibility linked to the unknown point of connection.

4.3.2 As NGET is unable to confirm where point of connection will be at the time of DCO submission, the Applicant seeks to compulsorily acquire new rights in respect of the substation area, to ensure a degree of flexibility in order to accommodate for different alternative connection points. The Applicant is in discussions with NGET and protective provisions will be agreed during the course of examination to ensure a satisfactory position for all parties. Delivery of Works

4.3.3 The Applicant and its appointed contractors will be responsible for designing and constructing works required to connect the Scheme to the NETS, including:

- Work No. 1 – a ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station;
- Work No. 2 – a BESS;
- Work No. 3 – an on-site substation;
- Work No. 4 – a 400 kV electrical cable connection from the on-site substation to the Eaton Socon Substation;
- Work No. 5 – works within the Eaton Socon Substation;
- Work No. 6 – works for internal cabling and ancillary infrastructure;

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1.1 The Applicant is required to submit a statement pursuant to Regulation 6(1)(a)(i) of the APFP Regulations, stating who will be responsible for designing and building the connection to the NETS.

5.1.2 It is considered that this Grid Connection Statement provides confirmation to the SoS of the requirement above, namely:

- The Applicant has received a grid connection offer from NESO to connect the Scheme to the NETS at the Eaton Socon Substation and that offer has been accepted.
- The Applicant has subsequently received notification that a Gate 2 Phase 1 offer will be issued for the Scheme.
- All necessary works to complete the connection of the Scheme to the NETS and enable the export of electricity generated and stored by the Scheme will be authorised by the DCO.
- A connection to the Eaton Socon Substation will be provided via a 400 kV underground cable from the on-site substation within the Scheme.
- The Applicant has secured some voluntary option agreements for freehold interests to allow for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the panel areas, BESS and on-site substation. Where voluntary option agreements have not been secured, compulsory acquisition powers will be required and are therefore being sought under the DCO.
- Landowner negotiations are ongoing to secure the necessary land rights and interests for the cable route by voluntary agreement. In the event these negotiations are unsuccessful, the Applicant is seeking compulsory acquisition powers over the necessary land.
- The Applicant will be responsible for delivering the panel areas, BESS and underground 33 kV cabling to connect these components to the on-site substation. Under the terms of the Grid Connection Agreement, the Applicant will be responsible for delivering the on-site substation and the

underground 400 kV cabling to connect the on-site substation to the Eaton Socon Substation.

5.1.3 Certain electrical works within Eaton Socon Substation will be delivered by the Applicant. Other works within Eaton Socon Substation required to provide the grid connection will be delivered by NGET and are outside the scope of this DCO.