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Elmya RPC | Melbourne BESS

Statement of Community Involvement

April 2025

Contents

1. Overview

1.1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared by Lexington on behalf of Elmya RPC UK Limited ('the Applicant') in support of a planning application to East Riding of Yorkshire Council ('the Council') to construct and operate a c.300MW/1200MWh (4 hour storage) Battery Energy Storage system ('BESS') with associated underground grid connection to the point of connection at the National Grid Thornton Substation, on land to the north of Ryedale Organics, Melbourne, East Riding of Yorkshire.

1.1.2 The planning application seeks permission for the following:

"The construction and installation of a Battery Storage Facility, associated infrastructure, landscaping, fencing, access tracks, biodiversity net gain planting, and cable corridors."

1.1.3 A full description of the proposal is provided in Chapter 5 of the Planning, Design and Access Statement submitted with the planning application and hereafter is referred to as 'the Site.

1.1.4 One of the key drivers of the Site location is the proximity to the National Grid Thornton Substation which is the point of connection for the Site. The Site has also been carefully selected to minimise its environmental and community impact. The Site was identified following an extensive site selection process which considered environmental designations, the physical characteristics of the site and sourcing a supportive landowner.

1.1.5 The Applicant has committed to delivering a thorough programme of consultation to ensure that the community is fully informed of the plans and presented with an opportunity to help shape the final proposals. To that end, Lexington, a specialist communications consultancy, was instructed to undertake a pre-application consultation and engagement programme on behalf of the Applicant.

1.1.6 Lexington has carried out a robust programme of pre-application consultation in accordance with national and local guidelines (outlined in Section 2.0), which ran between Tuesday 11th February and Tuesday 4th March 2025. The consultation ran for three weeks to allow adequate time for communities to respond, further detailed in Section 3.0. Responders could complete an online feedback form, attend an in-person public exhibition, had access to a freephone line, and could send an email with comments to a dedicated inbox which was monitored daily.

1.1.7 This approach aimed to minimise barriers to engagement, enabling respondents to access the materials in their own time, accommodate for school term time, and work schedules, in order to maximise community participation. The result was a comprehensive and inclusive consultation that fully adhered to best practice guidance.

1.1.8 In total, 83 responses were received across the various feedback channels. Prominent feedback included:

- In favour of investment in BESS
- Support for the proposed community fund
- Safety concerns relating to BESS technology
- Concerns that the Site is too close to residential property
- Concerns that there are already many BESS and renewable energy sites across the East Riding of Yorkshire

1.1.9 The Applicant has subsequently considered this feedback to inform this planning application. This SCI outlines the methods used to engage with the local community. It summarises the feedback received from residents and local businesses and provides a response to pertinent issues raised during the consultation.

1.1.10 A comprehensive breakdown of the feedback gathered during the consultation is outlined in Section 4.0 of this document, while Section 5.0 provides a response to the comments raised. The Applicant is confident that the feedback received has been addressed in this report, which will be submitted alongside the planning application.

2. Planning and Guidance: Role of Community Involvement

2.1.1 Planning guidance states that pre-application consultation with communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring several benefits to the process of determining planning applications. Against this background, the development team has sought to consult with interested parties following policy and guidance concerning community involvement in the planning system.

2.2 East Riding of Yorkshire Council

2.2.1 East Riding of Yorkshire Council's adopted SCI (2024) sets out the Council's proposals for how the community will be involved in the production of planning documents and through consultation on planning applications. The SCI states:

"(Executive Summary) The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the council will involve the community and other stakeholders in planning. Being involved in planning allows people to influence the way an area will change over time.

"(Executive Summary) The council aims to involve the community at an early stage in preparing planning documents. This should ensure that the Local Plan reflects a collective vision for the future of the area. The council recognises that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to consultation and community involvement.

"A range of different methods are necessary to enable as many people and organisations as possible to have an opportunity to take part. Therefore, different methods will be used to involve people in preparing planning documents including:

- *Writing to people, businesses and organisations who the council considers may have an interest in the document*
- *Discussing issues and options with partners and existing forums/groups*

- *Arranging events and workshops to discuss issues and proposals*
- *Offering appropriate advice and information to the public as requested*
- *Making consultation documents (such as draft documents) available at the council's principal office, other locations the council considers appropriate and on the council's website*
- *Using social media to raise awareness*
- *Using local media/press to increase awareness"*

2.3 Government Planning Policy

2.3.1 The Localism Act 2011: The Localism Act 2011 seeks to provide the local community with a voice throughout the planning process, highlighted in the former Department for Communities and Local Government's Decentralisation and Localism Bill: an essential guide, which outlines one of its principles as:

- *"Empowering communities to do things their way – by creating rights for people to get involved with, and direct the development of, their community."*

2.3.2 Elaborating on this, the Localism Act outlines that applicants must notify the local community about their proposals to "*bring the proposed application to the attention of a majority of the persons who live at, or otherwise occupy, premises in the vicinity of the land*." It goes on to state that the publicity must explain how the applicant can be contacted by those *"wishing to comment on, or collaborate…on the design of, the proposed development"* and that applicants must consider the feedback received by having "*regard to any responses to the consultation*".

2.4 National Planning Policy Framework

2.4.1 In February 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government released its updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The document seeks to achieve sustainable development with three overarching objectives: an economic objective; a social objective; and an environmental objective.

2.4.2 The NPPF sets out guidance in relation to pre-application engagement and front-loading. Paragraph 40 sets out how early engagement in the planning process has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties involved in planning applications. The ambition of this guidance, therefore, is to enable better coordination between public and private resources and create improved outcomes for the community and developer.

2.4.3 The policy goes on to state that *"the more issues that can be resolved at pre-application stage, including the need to deliver improvements in infrastructure and affordable housing, the greater the benefits"* (para. 42).

2.5 National Planning Practice Guidance

2.5.1 The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) is intended to make planning guidance more accessible and easier to keep up to date. With regard to consultation and community engagement, the NPPG notes:

"Early and timely engagement between developers, statutory consultees and local authorities at the pre-application phase is important in helping to address issues and opportunities early on and avoid delays occurring at the formal application stage". (para. 15-013-20190722).

2.5.2 The guidance states that this can be achieved by consulting the local planning authority, statutory and non-statutory consultees, elected members and local people, with the level of engagement proportionate to the nature and scale of the Site.

2.6 The Applicant's Approach

2.6.1 The Applicant has sought to ensure that the engagement with the local community on the plans has adhered to the guidance outlined in the Localism Act 2011, the updated NPPF, the NPPG and East Riding of Yorkshire's SCI, as well as industry best practice.

3. Consultation Programme

3.1.1 The consultation for the Site commenced on Tuesday 11th February, and concluded on Tuesday 4th March 2025. The process sought input from the local community and political stakeholders on the proposals.

3.1.2 The consultation was designed to accommodate the diverse needs of various audiences by removing barriers to participation, enhancing accessibility, and providing clear, digestible explanations that addressed common concerns directly. To ensure inclusivity and engagement across all interested parties and groups in the area, a range of methodologies, as outlined below, were employed.

3.2 Early Engagement

3.2.1 Before the consultation launch, a letter was issued to senior political stakeholders to notify them of the proposals and the upcoming public consultation and in-person consultation event on 27th February. Recipients were contacted on Wednesday 5th February and were invited to meet with a member of the project team to discuss the proposals further. The letter was issued to the following political stakeholders:

- Councillor Anne Handley, Leader of East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Councillor Gary McMaster, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

- Councillor Paul West, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport for the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Ward Member for Wolds Weighton
- Councillor Leo Hammond, Ward Member for Wolds Weighton
- Councillor Derek Cary, Ward Member for Wolds Weighton
- Sir David Davis MP, Member of Parliament for Goole and Pocklington
- Melbourne Parish Council

3.2.2 Following no response to the initial email to Council leadership on the 5th February, the Applicant followed up with an additional email on 17th February to keep them informed on the consultation.

3.2.3 A copy of the correspondence sent to political stakeholders is provided in Appendix A.

3.2.4 A subsequent in-person meeting was arranged between the Applicant's project team and Councillor Leo Hammond and Councillor Derek Cary. The meeting took place on 27th February with ward councillors having the opportunity to have a first look at the public consultation event also held that day. Councillor West was unable to attend this meeting but met with the applicant after the consultation closed on Tuesday 18th March.

3.2.5 During the meeting the following topics were discussed:

- Introduction to the Applicant.
- Details of the project, the reasoning for the Site location and an estimated timeline of delivery.
- The community consultation process, and consultation figures to date.
- Details of the Community Benefit Fund, and how it could be invested in the surrounding area. With particular interest in the biodiversity net gain associated with the project.
- Questions regarding Site access, noise impacts, cable routing, and BESS safety.

3.2.6 Following his unavailability for the meeting on 27th February, the project team met virtually with Councillor Paul West on Tuesday 18th March. The project team discussed who the Applicant is, details of the location of the Site and why is it suitable for BESS storage, as well as discussing the primary concerns of the public that were raised during the consultation. Questions asked by Councillor West were aligned to the previous ward councillors' questions on 27th February, including the cable routing impacts on the road, impact assessments that will be taking place and the connection between the Site and other local renewable energy sites.

3.2.7 No response was received from Sir David Davis MP or Melbourne Parish Council.

3.2.8 In addition to engaging with senior political stakeholders, a letter was also issued to the local community and surrounding businesses. The letter included details about the Site including information about the public consultation and in-person consultation event on 27th February.

3.2.9 The letter was issued 5th February 2025, and a copy is provided at Appendix B and Appendix C respectively. Organisations in receipt of the community letter include:

- Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce
- North East Yorkshire Net Zero Hub
- Hull and East Riding Friends of the Earth
- Fossil Free East Yorkshire

3.3 Consultation Launch

3.3.1 The consultation launched on Tuesday 11th February and various methods were used to notify the community. Community organisations and senior political stakeholders were informed via email, including Melbourne Parish Council.

3.3.2 The methods used to promote the consultation and how the details of the plans were shared are outlined in the following sections.

3.4 Consultation Website

3.4.1 A dedicated website, www.melbournebess.com, launched on Tuesday 11th February, to coincide with the start of the consultation. The website included the following information:

- A welcome page detailing the plans
- Detail on what a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is
- An 'Is BESS safe' section
- Benefits of BESS
- A Virtual Exhibition
- A map with the indicative Red Line Boundary of the Site, with interactive elements highlighting surrounding features
- A feedback form to provide comments as part of the consultation
- How to contact the project team with any feedback via phone, email or post
- An 'About' section of the Applicant

3.4.2 Between Tuesday 11th February and 4th March 2025, the consultation website was viewed by 3,447 visitors. Images of the website can be viewed in Appendix E, as well as a copy of the virtual exhibition boards in Appendix F. The online feedback form received 64 submissions.

3.5 Consultation email and postal address

3.5.1 A dedicated email address, melbournebess@havingyoursay.co.uk was established to receive feedback and answer enquiries from the public regarding the plans. Alternatively, respondents were also able to post their comments to a dedicated address. During the

public consultation, nine emails were received and zero letters. More information on this can be found in Section 4.0 'Feedback Received'.

3.6 Community Information Line

3.6.1 A community information line (0333 358 0502) was available throughout the consultation to enable people to speak with members of the development team. It was established from the start of the consultation and was staffed from 09:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday. An answerphone facility was available outside of office hours. No calls were received during the three-week consultation period.

3.7 Social Media

3.7.1 Social media was utilised to engage with residents across the wider East Yorkshire community. During the consultation, the adverts reached 17,933 users, with 862 individuals clicking through to the consultation website. Copies of the social media adverts can be found in Appendix G.

3.7.2 The adverts were distributed to users in a 10km radius around the Site, covering Melbourne village and a number of the surrounding towns and villages, as well as the populated town of Pocklington to the north east. A map of the distribution area can be seen in Appendix H. The adverts ran as a '*traffic generation'* campaign, which encouraged users to click the advert and be directed straight to the consultation website.

3.8 Leaflet to residents and business

3.8.1 To announce the public consultation, letters were hand delivered to c.1,596 residential and business addresses situated near the Site on Tuesday 11th February 2025. The distribution area was chosen to ensure that those most likely to have an interest in the proposals, i.e., those closest to the Site, were made aware of the public consultation and had the opportunity to submit their feedback on the plans.

3.8.2 The leaflet provided an overview of the proposals and the rationale for the scheme. It also included details of how people could view the plans in greater detail and provide their feedback via the following methods:

- Visiting the website and submitting a feedback form at www.melbournebess.com;
- Calling the community information line on 0333 358 0502;
- Emailing melbournebess@havingyoursay.co.uk;
- Posting comments to FREEPOST SHAPE TOMORROW; And
- Attending the in-person public consultation event on Thursday 27th February.

3.8.3 It was noted by some members of the public that the back page of the leaflet had the wrong postcode displayed for Melbourne Village Hall, which is where the in person event was held. When the project team spoke to local residents, they assured us that they knew

where it was and recognised that the post code was correct on the inside page of the leaflet.

3.8.4 The consultation provided the local community three weeks to submit their feedback. A copy of the leaflet to residents and businesses can be seen in Appendix D. A map of the distribution area for the leaflet can be found at Appendix I.

3.9 Media coverage

3.9.1 A press release was issued to both the local and trade press to share the details of the plans and consultation. This garnered the following coverage:

- Residents invited to have their say on new East Yorkshire energy site - https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/residents-invited-say-new-east-9937121
- BESS plans for Melbourne put out to public consultation - https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/24930022.bess-plans-melbourne-put-public-consultation/

3.9.2 The press release provided details of the proposals and the consultation process and can be found in Appendix J.

3.10 In-person consultation event

3.10.1 During the consultation period, a public exhibition took place to give the community an opportunity to meet directly with the project team, ask questions and learn more about the scheme.

3.10.2 The in-person event was held on Thursday 27th February, at Melbourne Village Hall between the hours of 14:00 – 19:00. This venue was selected due its proximity to the Site, its ability to host a large number of people from the local community, and its overall accessibility/proximity.

3.10.3 The exhibition space hosted a series of exhibition boards containing information on the proposals. A copy of the boards can be found in Appendix F.

3.10.4 The exhibition was staffed by members from the project team, representing several different technical disciplines, who were available to answer questions from attendees.

3.10.5 In total 58 people visited the exhibition with 11 feedback forms completed at the event. Prior to the public event, a preview session with two of the three local ward councillors also took place with Councillor Leo Hammond and Councillor Derek Cary attending.

EXHIBITION PHOTOS:

4. Feedback received

4.1 Summary of feedback

4.1.1 In total, 84 submissions were received during the public consultation on the Site, the majority of which were via the consultation website's online form (64). The table below provides a summary of the methods used by the public to provide their feedback or contribute to the consultation, followed by a summary of the feedback received:

Method	Number of Responses
Email	9
Telephone	0
Post	0
Online Feedback Form	64
Physical Feedback Form at Public Exhibition	11

4.2 Email Correspondence

4.2.1 Residents and stakeholders were invited to contact the development team via email or post, with a dedicated project email address, melbournebess@havingyoursay.co.uk, established for the consultation.

4.2.2 In total, nine emails were sent to the dedicated project email address by residents and stakeholders looking to make representations to the consultation.

4.2.3 One email was received from the office of the Sir David Davis MP, the Member of Parliament for Pocklington and Goole, who forwarded a constituent's objection and concerns about the Site.

4.2.4 A detailed response to the constituent's queries was sent to Sir David Davis MP from the Applicant. Key themes covered included details about BESS, fire risk management, environment considerations, noise impact assessments and details about the consultation. No further correspondence was received from Sir David Davis MP or the constituent.

4.2.5 The other eight emails covered a range of themes. An overview of the key themes, ordered by frequency, of these emails is listed below. Respondents tended to cover multiple areas within their answers, so note this will not add up to eight.

Key Themes	Number of mentions
Question - Fire safety plan for the Site	**3**
Question - Landscaping and minimising visual impact of the Site	**3**
Concern - Impact on local roads during the construction period	**2**
Ideas for the Community Benefit Fund including funding for Melbourne Scout Group and support for the Village Hall	**2**
Concern - Noise Pollution	**2**
Support for the Site	**1**
Question - Information about the Applicant	**1**
Question - Accessing the website and feedback form	**1**
Question - Stability of the power network	**1**

4.3 Community Information Line

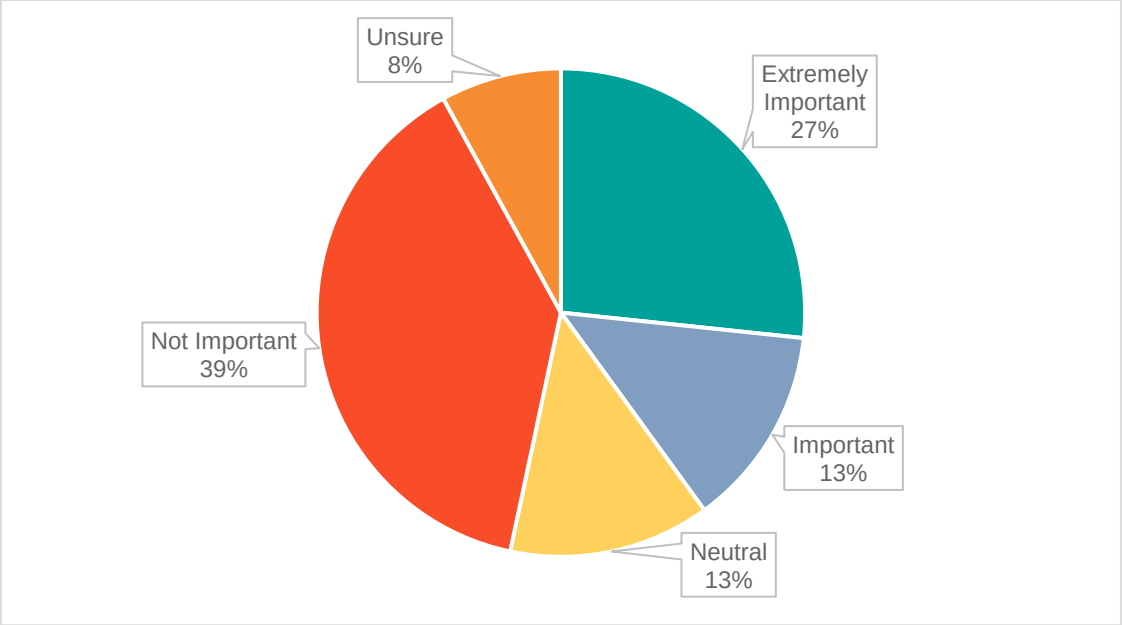
4.3.1 During the public consultation, a Community Information Line facility was available for those who wished to speak with a member of the team or provide their feedback by phone. No calls were received during this period.

4.4 Feedback Form

Question 1: In your opinion, how important it is to invest in battery storage to support our energy sources?

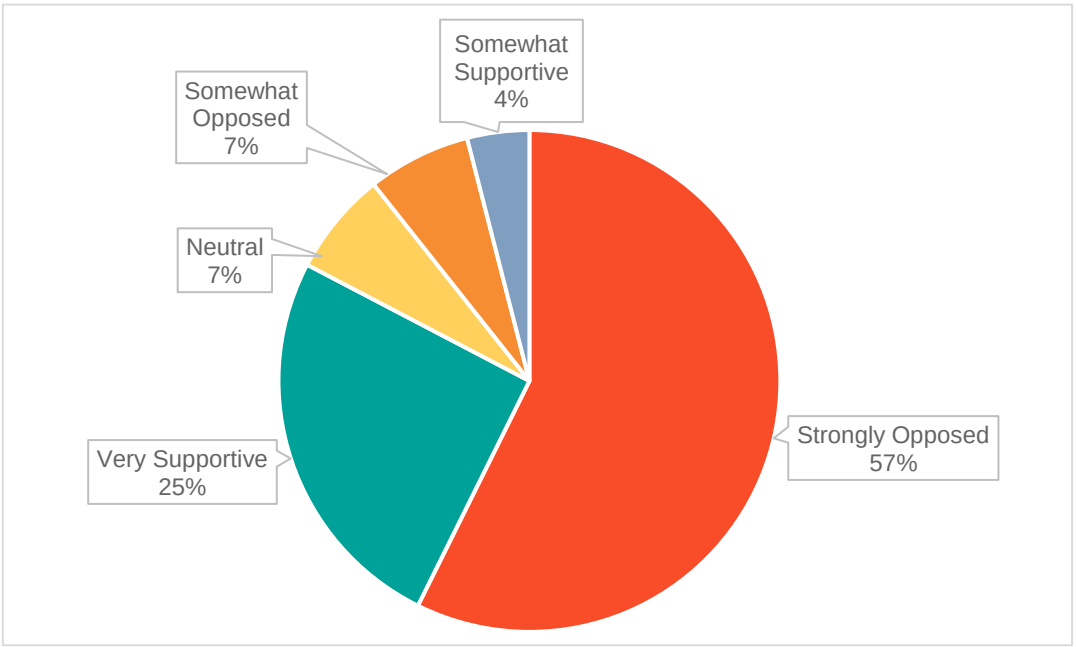
4.4.1 This question asked respondents to select a response to the question ranging from extremely important; important; neutral; not important; unsure. 75 respondents provided an answer to this question, of which, the majority of respondents (39%) stated that investing in battery storage to support our energy sources was ‘Not Important’.

4.4.2 27% of respondents answered this question stating that investing in BESS is important and a further 25% stated that they were unsure or neutral about this statement (13% and 13%).



Question 2: How supportive are you of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in the East Riding of Yorkshire?

4.4.3 This question asked respondents to select a response ranging from: very supportive; somewhat supportive; somewhat oppose; strongly opposed; neutral. This question received 75 responses, of which, 64% stated they were either 'Strongly Opposed' or 'Somewhat Opposed', with 29% either 'Very Supportive' or 'Somewhat Supportive' of the Site.



Question 3: Do you have any ideas on how the Community Benefit Fund could be spent on local initiatives?

4.4.4 This question provided a free-text response to allow respondents to provide suggestions on how the Community Benefit Fund could be used. In total, this question received 26 responses with 49 respondents opting to leave this question 'blank' or making no suggestion.

4.4.5 Free text responses are analysed through a process called '*coding*' to identify common high-level themes and enable the categorisation of comments in '*codes*'. The codes can then be analysed quantitively to identify the most frequently occurring themes in the responses received.

4.4.6 Below is a breakdown of all the free text comments received from the emails and responses via the website.

Suggestions for the Community Fund	Number of mentions
Support for Melbourne village hall	**4**
Funding for recreational spaces such as Melbourne village playing fields	**4**
Restoration of Pocklington Canal	**2**
Upgrading local services and businesses	**2**
Improving local roads	**2**
Improving the natural environment around the Site	**2**
Support for Melbourne Bowling Club	**1**
Support for Melbourne Scout Group	**1**
Improving footpaths and cycling route	**1**
Educational programmes in school on net-zero	**1**
Subsidising insulation in homes in Melbourne village	**1**
Building EV charging points in Melbourne village	**1**
Local power network upgrades	**1**
Support for Willy Howe Model Flying Club near Wold Newton	**1**
Improving public transport links in Melbourne	**1**
Funding for roof repairs at Melbourne village church	**1**

4.4.7 Below is an example of some detailed suggestions of how the community fund could be used:

Comment	Feedback Type
Cycling and walking (Active Travel).	Online form
Fund further restoration of the Pocklington Canal.	Online form
Money to the church, village hall, community for upkeep of the village.	Online form
Melbourne Scout Group and Melbourne Bowling Club could probably benefit from additional funds as could the Village Hall.	Online Form
Better public transport as currently it is extremely limited - 2 days a week	Online form
Pocklington Canal Amenity Society - to reopen the entire length of the canal from the River Derwent in East Cotting with to Canal Head near Pocklington.	Online form
Funding for Village playing fields.	Online form

Question 4: Do you have any further comments on our proposals?

4.4.8 This question provided a free-text field to allow respondents to provide any additional comments on the plans. In total on the feedback form, this question received 57 responses with 18 respondents opting to leave this question *'blank'*.

4.4.9 Below is a breakdown of all the free text comments received from the emails (9) and responses via the online and physical feedback forms (75). For the purposes of this section, responses which did not state that they were in support or opposition, but merely asked questions and suggestions were counted as '*neutral*' responses.

Comment	Frequency
Supportive	9
Neutral or unclear	13
Negative	44
No comment	18
Total	**84**

4.4.10 Nine individuals shared their support for the scheme, with three individuals stating that more green energy infrastructure is needed to help the transition to net-zero, aligning with

the responses received for Question 1, and how investment in battery storage is important to support energy sources.

4.4.11 For those who raised concerns, the primary issues were the impact on the environment, which was cited 12 times, the risk of fire or explosion, which was cited 11 times, with other concerns, such as risk of noise pollution, cited 11 times.

4.4.12 Other issues raised concerned the impact on local wildlife, the location of the Site and general objections based on scepticism about net-zero and climate change. Eight references were specifically made regarding the number of BESS developments in this area with respondents objecting to the Site on the grounds of potential cumulative impact.

4.4.13 Respondents also used the free-text comments box to ask questions of the development team. Two respondents made specific reference to the other BESS developments in the area and asked if the Site was in coordination with other projects. Other questions concerned why the location was chosen for the Site and how the Site will impact electricity distribution in the area.

4.4.14 A full breakdown of the themes that emerged from the free text comments and their frequency is provided in the table below. Respondents tended to cover multiple areas within their answers, so note this will not add up to 84.

Comment	Number of mentions
Objection - Impact on the environment	**12**
Objection - Noise pollution	**11**
Objection - Fire safety	**11**
Objection - Impact on local wildlife	**10**
Objection - Wrong location	**8**
Objection - Already several BESS in the East Riding of Yorkshire	**8**
Objection - Anti net-zero	**8**
Objection - Visual impact	**8**
Objection - Impact on food security	**6**
Objection - Traffic congestion created by construction	**4**
Objection - Site will have a negative impact on house prices	**4**
Support - Helping the transition to net-zero	**3**
Objection - Solar energy will become outdated	**2**

Comment	Number of mentions
Objection - Site would be built on Green Belt not Brownfield land	**2**
Suggestion - Communicate to residents how the Site will benefit the local area directly	**2**
Support - More BESS developments needed for energy security	**2**
Question - Is the Site in coordination with other BESS developments in the area?	**2**
Support - Employment opportunities from the Site	**1**
Support – The Site will help lower energy prices	**1**
Suggestion - Ensure that the Site is hidden by natural environment by planting trees and hedges	**1**
Suggestion - Take measures to reduce light pollution from the Site	**1**
Suggestion - Ensure that all existing public rights of way are preserved	**1**
Objection - Local residents will not see any direct benefits	**1**
Question - Why has this Site been chosen?	**1**
Question - How will the Site impact local electricity distribution?	**1**
Objection - Impact on local tourism industry	**1**
Objection - Health concerns	**1**

4.5 Verbatim Comments

4.5.1 Below is a sample of some of the supportive comments and suggestions received:

Comment	Feedback Type
Do more please!	Online form
This Site will play a key role in making the energy transition to net zero a reality.	Online form
The UK needs more electricity urgently - so push on with your plan quickly.	Online form

Good luck!	Online form
The proposal would appear to be in a very discreet location. It also advances the government's net zero initiatives.	Online form

4.5.2 Below is a sample of some of the negative comments and suggestions received:

Comment	Feedback Type
It is too close to the village. Ryedale Organics is already noisy and smelly. Lorries reversing at all hours of the day and night can be heard in the village. This will create more noise close to a residential area.	Online form
The area is being overwhelmed with solar farm and battery farm proposals. If these all go ahead it will mean that we are surrounded by these facilities. Local roads cannot cope with the pressure this will bring during construction and operation. The local environment will suffer and the green and pleasant land I was surrounded by when I first moved into the area will be gone forever. I am in favour of renewable energy and battery farms but there are too many proposals for this small rural area.	Online form
The proposed site in my opinion is too near to Melbourne village, I have many concerns including damage to the environment, noise, fire safety, reduction in house values and the negative effect it may have on the community.	Online form
There are far too many solar/battery storage proposals planned for the area, using land that should be farmed for food products.	Online form

5. Response to Feedback

5.1.1. The Applicant would like to thank everyone who participated in the public consultation for the Site. During the consultation, several topics were raised by respondents. The development team has sought to respond to these comments within this section.

5.2 Environmental and wildlife Impact

5.2.1 The impact that the BESS will have on the local environment was the most cited objection to the proposals. The Applicant specifically selected the Site following an extensive selection process which considered environmental designations, local electricity network access via the National Grid Thornton Substation and the physical characteristics of the Site.

5.2.2 Appropriate buffers of hedgerows and drainage ditches will be observed. A scheme of planting will also be incorporated into the Sites design to both bolster the existing

screening around the Site and to ensure a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain is achieved. Full details on this can be found in the Biodiversity Impact Assessment and the Landscape and Visual Assessment accompanying the planning application which are publicly available.

5.2.3 Additionally, the Applicant confirms that several other assessments will be conducted prior to the application being submitted, including flood risk and drainage assessments, and the development of a traffic management plan. These plans are designed to minimise the impact of the BESS on the local environment while ensuring full compliance with national and local regulations.

5.2.4 Specifically relating to the proximity of the Site to ecological designations associated with the Lower Derwent Valley, which was a matter raised by several attendees at the consultation event, the Applicant has sought advice from Natural England via their Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) to ensure that Natural England are content with the bird survey efforts proposed.

5.3 Noise and Visual Impacts

5.3.1 A number of questions and feedback was received pertaining to potential noise from the BESS during operation and visual impact on the surrounding area once operational.

4.5.2 The Site has gone through an iterative design process which has taken into account feedback from the consultation event, advice from technical consultants, and planning pre-application guidance.

4.5.3 As part of the planning application, a noise assessment has been submitted. The report details noise levels at receptor points and demonstrating compliance with relevant legislation.

5.3.4 The layout of the plans has also been carefully considered. Given the relatively low height and neutral colouring of the containerised units housing the BESS alongside existing and proposed screening, it is anticipated that the majority of the Site will be screened and a non-assertive feature in the wider landscape. Further, the presence of existing built development on the Ryedale Farm and Ryedale Organics, including a 14.8m high chimney and the high-voltage transmission line crossing the Site means that any views of the Site would be in the context of the existing aforementioned features.

5.3.5 Furthermore, after the 40-year operational period, if no application is submitted to extend the operational life of the Site, it will be decommissioned, and the land will be restored.

5.4 Safety concerns and the risk of fire

5.4.1 The safety of BESS technology, and the likelihood of a fire was also a commonly cited objection to the proposal for Melbourne BESS. The Applicant confirms that the project will comply with all relevant regulations and legislation for the operation of the BESS facilities.

5.4.2 Through extensive testing, certification, and site-specific safety designs, including fire suppression and real-time monitoring via the Battery Management System (BMS), BESS are highly reliable and secure. While the risk of fire is extremely low, the safety measures

implemented during design and construction significantly reduce both its likelihood and potential severity.

5.4.3 Elmya RPC has committed to the Melbourne BESS using the latest technology available at the time of construction, including safety measures. As such, the system will include a water-cooling system and fire suppression mechanisms built into each individual unit.

5.4.4 All fire safety measures are explained in the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan which has been submitted alongside this application. Additionally, this application will also be reviewed by the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service ahead of any decision to ensure compliance.

5.5 Supporting the grid network

5.5.1 BESS have the capacity to reduce demand on the national network and create a more balanced and resilient electricity supply over the long term, essential to supporting economic growth.

5.6 Benefits to the local community

5.6.1 If consented, the Site would deliver multiple benefits for the local community to enjoy.

5.6.2 The Applicant would also like to confirm that where possible local contractors will be used throughout the project, including civil engineering works during construction (c.6 – 12 months), plant hire, security and landscaping services.

5.6.3 Furthermore, should the Site be approved, the Applicant will set up a Community Benefit Fund, reinvesting proceeds into the communities surrounding the Site, supporting initiatives to ensure they benefit the local area.

5.6.4 The consultation website allowed visitors to share their thoughts, via an open text response, on how the Community Benefit Fund could best serve the community. 26 respondents answered the question. Of these respondents the most cited use for the fund were:

- Melbourne Village Hall
- Local recreational facilities such as sports pitches
- Improve local roads
- Improving active travel routes in the local area
- Upgrading local amenities such as shops, health centre and sports centre

5.6.5 Questions were also raised about how a Community Benefit Fund would be administered, including whether it will be channelled through the local parish council. A local example of where a fund has been successfully distributed includes the ‘Soay Solar Farm & Greener Grid Park Community Fund’ funded by Statkraft. The Applicant confirms that upon approval of the plans and the confirmation of the Community Benefit Fun, they will undertake further engagement to inform the final initiatives that can be supported and how.

5.6.6 The Applicant would like to thank all of those that submitted their thoughts on which sectors could be supported by the fund

5.7 Links to other renewable energy projects in the region

5.7.1 During the consultation, a frequently raised concern, both through online feedback and at consultation events, was the close proximity of the Site to other local renewable energy projects in the region. Specifically, these include the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) Mylen Leah 500MW Solar Farm, developed by Statkraft to the south of Melbourne Village, and the 200MW Thornton BESS to the north-east of Melbourne Village.

5.7.2 Respondents also inquired about additional details regarding the pylons and cables needed to connect the BESS to the grid, the specific point of connection, and how the project's route will align with other local renewable energy initiatives. The Applicant confirms that the project will use underground cables to connect to the National Grid Thornton Substation, its designated point of connection, thereby eliminating the need for new pylons. The cable route will follow the road leading to the Thornton Substation, with the Applicant coordinating any potential impacts on the road via a Traffic Management Plan, as well as with the local Council.

5.7.2 The Applicant would like to confirm that the Melbourne BESS proposals are not linked to other project proposals, or consultations that have happened in the region.

6. Conclusions

6.1.1 In preparing proposals for a 300 MW BESS facility in Melbourne, East Riding of Yorkshire, the development team conducted a pre-application consultation in line with East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Statement of Community Involvement, the Localism Act 2011, the National Planning Policy Framework, and National Planning Practice Guidance. This consultation provided an opportunity for residents, politicians and stakeholders to learn about the plans and offer their feedback.

6.1.2 The Applicant and the wider development team extend their gratitude to all participants in the consultation process for sharing their feedback on the proposed plans. This report summarises the views expressed by residents, stakeholders, and elected members during the consultation period, and the Applicant has made efforts to address the concerns raised.

6.1.3 The consultation materials were distributed to approximately 1,596 properties, and the consultation website recorded over 3,447 views during the consultation period, 862 of which were from the social media adverts on Facebook. Additionally, the project email inbox received nine emails. The in-person exhibition was attended by 58 people.

6.1.4 The consultation received 84 responses from residents across all feedback channels, with the majority expressing objection against the proposals in Melbourne. Given over 3,400 people viewed the consultation website, of which 84 provided feedback, it would suggest people viewed the website and did not feel the need to provide feedback as they did not oppose.

6.1.5 The Applicant feels the case for the provision of energy storage to support the UK's transition to net zero is clear, with this Site being chosen due to its proximity to the National Grid Thornton Substation, enclosed nature with screening from mature vegetation and the Ryedale Organics business, and lack of onsite designations.

6.1.6 The development team will continue to keep communication channels open, allowing the local community to stay engaged throughout the planning process.

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix A – Letters to Political Stakeholders

elmya ENERGY Renewable Power Capital

David Davies MP
Member of Parliament for Goole and Pocklington

83 Pasture Road
Goole
East Riding of Yorkshire
DN14 6BP

SENT BY EMAIL

5th February 2025

Dear Sir David Davies MP,

RE: Invitation to meet to discuss proposals for new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) south east of Melbourne, East Riding of Yorkshire

Elmya RPC is bringing forward plans to deliver a 300MW Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS) south east of Melbourne village, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO42 4ST.

To ensure the scheme aligns with local ambitions, the team will shortly be launching a community consultation for local people to have their say on the proposals. As the Member of Parliament for Goole and Pocklington I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposals in more detail ahead of the scheme becoming public.

About Elmya

Elmya is a Sevillian infrastructure company that has operated in the UK for over 10 years. We are committed to driving the energy transition, sustainability and excelling in the renewable energy sector.

We have partnered with Renewable Power Capital on this project, a London-headquartered pan-European renewables company established in 2020, with the backing of CPP Investments.

Our proposals

The project aims to address the growing demand for reliable, clean energy by capturing excess power during off-peak hours and releasing it during periods of peak demand. This energy storage solution will help balance supply and demand, ensuring a more efficient and sustainable energy system that will **power c.163,350 homes annually***.

* This assumes the average UK home consuming 3600 kWh per year, and two cycles of the BESS a day with the batteries working at 89.5% efficiency (total possible output).

elmya ENERGY Renewable Power Capital

As part of National Grid's ongoing reform to the grid connection process, the project's connection date will be confirmed once planning permission is granted. Once operational, the proposed BESS will play a critical future role in stabilising the grid, reducing strain on the electricity network, and supporting the integration of renewable energy sources in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

These benefits will, in turn, contribute to achieving the ambitions set out in the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Climate Change Strategy, helping accelerate decarbonisation and climate resilience across the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Community Consultation

Ahead of submitting a planning application to East Riding of Yorkshire Council, we will be **launching a community consultation on Tuesday 11th February, running for three weeks to Tuesday 4th March. Additionally, we will be hosting an in-person exhibition event at Melbourne Village Hall between 14:00 and 19:00 on Thursday 27th February 2025.**

Throughout the consultation period, the public will have access to a dedicated project website (www.melbournebess.com), where members of the community can find out more about our proposals and submit their feedback.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our proposals in more detail with you and to answer any questions you may have. If this is something that would be of interest, please let us know some dates and times you would be available to meet, whether in person or virtually if this is more convenient.

In the meantime, should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with my colleague, Abbie Spencer, by email via Abbie.Spencer@lexcomm.co.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

James Innes

James Innes
Head of Project Development
Elmya Energy UK

* This assumes the average UK home consuming 3600 kWh per year, and two cycles of the BESS a day with the batteries working at 89.5% efficiency (total possible output).

7.2 Appendix B – Letters to Community Organisations

FAO Melbourne Parish Council Clerk

SENT BY EMAIL

5th February 2025

Dear PC Jane Stewart,

RE: Invitation to meet to discuss proposals for new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) south east of Melbourne Village, East Riding of Yorkshire.

Elmya RPC is bringing forward plans to deliver a 300MW Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS) south east of Melbourne village, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO42 4ST.

About Elmya RPC

Elmya is a Sevillian infrastructure company that has operated in the UK for over 10 years. We are committed to driving the energy transition, sustainability and excelling in the renewable energy sector.

We have partnered with Renewable Power Capital on this project, a London-headquartered pan-European renewables company established in 2020, with the backing of CPP Investments.

Our proposals

The project aims to address the growing demand for reliable, clean energy by capturing excess power during off-peak hours and releasing it during periods of peak demand. This energy storage solution will help balance supply and demand, ensuring a more efficient and sustainable energy system that will **power c.163,350 homes annually***.

As part of National Grid's ongoing reform to the grid connection process, the project's connection date will be confirmed once planning permission is granted. Once operational, the proposed BESS will play a critical future role in stabilising the grid, reducing strain on the electricity network, and supporting the integration of renewable energy sources in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

These benefits will, in turn, contribute to achieving the ambitions set out in the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Climate Change Strategy, helping accelerate decarbonisation and climate resilience across the East Riding of Yorkshire.

* This assumes the average UK home consuming 3600 kWh per year, and two cycles of the BESS a day with the batteries working at 89.5% efficiency (total possible output).

FAO Melbourne Parish Council Clerk

SENT BY EMAIL

5th February 2025

Dear PC Jane Stewart,

RE: Invitation to meet to discuss proposals for new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) south east of Melbourne Village, East Riding of Yorkshire.

Elmya RPC is bringing forward plans to deliver a 300MW Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS) south east of Melbourne village, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO42 4ST.

About Elmya RPC

Elmya is a Sevillian infrastructure company that has operated in the UK for over 10 years. We are committed to driving the energy transition, sustainability and excelling in the renewable energy sector.

We have partnered with Renewable Power Capital on this project, a London-headquartered pan-European renewables company established in 2020, with the backing of CPP Investments.

Our proposals

The project aims to address the growing demand for reliable, clean energy by capturing excess power during off-peak hours and releasing it during periods of peak demand. This energy storage solution will help balance supply and demand, ensuring a more efficient and sustainable energy system that will **power c.163,350 homes annually***.

As part of National Grid's ongoing reform to the grid connection process, the project's connection date will be confirmed once planning permission is granted. Once operational, the proposed BESS will play a critical future role in stabilising the grid, reducing strain on the electricity network, and supporting the integration of renewable energy sources in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

These benefits will, in turn, contribute to achieving the ambitions set out in the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Climate Change Strategy, helping accelerate decarbonisation and climate resilience across the East Riding of Yorkshire.

* This assumes the average UK home consuming 3600 kWh per year, and two cycles of the BESS a day with the batteries working at 89.5% efficiency (total possible output).

Community Consultation

Ahead of submitting a planning application to East Riding of Yorkshire Council, we will be **launching a community consultation on Tuesday 11th February, running for three weeks to Tuesday 4th March. Additionally, we will be hosting an in-person exhibition event at Melbourne Village Hall between 14:00 and 19:00 on Thursday 27th February 2025.**

Throughout the consultation period, the public will have access to a dedicated project website (www.melbournebess.com), where members of the community can find out more about our proposals and submit their feedback.

Your input is valuable to us, and we encourage you to participate. Feedback can be submitted by:

- Feedback form on the dedicated project website (launching 11th February) – www.melbournebess.com
- Phone: **0333 358 0502** (Mon–Fri, 9am–5:30pm)
- Post: **FREEPOST SHAPE TOMORROW** (No stamp needed)
- Email: melbournebess@havingyoursay.co.uk

We are looking forward to working with you and hearing your thoughts on how we can make Melbourne BESS a scheme that not only supports the UK's clean energy goals but also brings meaningful benefits to your community.

Yours sincerely,

James Innes

James Innes

Head of Elmya UK

* This assumes the average UK home consuming 3600 kWh per year, and two cycles of the BESS a day with the batteries working at 89.5% efficiency (total possible output).

7.3 Appendix C - Letter to Local Businesses

Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce
34-38 Beverly Road
Hull
HU3 1YE

SENT BY EMAIL

11th February 2025

To whom it may concern,

RE: Proposals for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) south east of Melbourne Village, East Riding of Yorkshire.

I am writing to introduce you to Elmya RPC and share details about our consultation for a 300MW Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS) south east of Melbourne village, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO42 4ST.

About Elmya RPC

Elmya is a Sevillian infrastructure company who has operated in the UK for over 10 years. We are committed to driving the energy transition, sustainability and excelling in the renewable energy sector.

Elmya has partnered with Renewable Power Capital (RPC) on this scheme, a London-headquartered pan-European renewables company established in 2020, with the backing of CPP Investments.

Our proposals

The project aims to address the growing demand for reliable, clean energy by capturing excess power during off-peak hours and releasing it during periods of peak demand. This energy storage solution will help balance supply and demand, ensuring a more efficient and sustainable energy system that will **power c.163.350 homes annually***.

By storing excess energy and releasing it during peak demand periods, the BESS will help stabilise the grid, reduce strain on the electricity network, and support the continued integration of renewable energy sources helping to reduce energy bills in the long term. Once connected to the National Grid, the 300MW BESS will play a key role in supporting the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Climate Change Strategy, as well as the UK's transition to clean power.

How might this affect local businesses?

We understand that new developments of this scale can raise questions and concerns for local businesses, which is why we are committed to keeping you informed. We aim to minimise disruption during the build phase and ensure that local businesses are part of the conversation.

* This assumes the average UK home consuming 3600 kWh per year, and two cycles of the BESS a day with the batteries working at 89.5% efficiency (total possible output).

The BESS will support the local economy by providing energy stability, which could lower energy bills over time. Additionally, construction activities are expected to bring opportunities for local contractors, suppliers, and service providers, whilst a new community fund will help support to serve the local community through the life cycle of the project.

Engagement and Consultation

As part of our commitment to transparency, our virtual exhibition will be available on the website from **Tuesday 11th February until Tuesday 4th March. Additionally, we will be hosting an in-person exhibition event at Melbourne Village Hall between 14:00 and 19:00 on Thursday 27th February 2025.** Your input is valuable to us, and we encourage you to participate.

Additionally, if you would like to find out more, explore any opportunities this project may present local businesses, or set up a meeting to discuss our plans further, please email our team via melbournebess@havingyoursay.co.uk, and we will host an online webinar session.

Your input is valuable to us, and we encourage you to participate. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact by phone at **0333 358 0502** (Monday to Friday, 9am–5:30pm).

Yours sincerely,

James Innes

James Innes
Head of Project Development
Elmya Energy UK

* This assumes the average UK home consuming 3600 kWh per year, and two cycles of the BESS a day with the batteries working at 89.5% efficiency (total possible output).

7.4 Appendix D – Consultation Leaflet

Public Consultation

Have your say on proposals

Elmya RPC is bringing forward proposals for a 300MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) situated to the south east of Melbourne village, East Riding of Yorkshire.

BESS is a technology which enables energy to be stored and then released to the Grid when it is needed most. If approved, the BESS would be capable of storing up to 300 MW of electricity, and therefore contribute significantly to achieving Net Zero targets.

Ahead of submitting a planning application to East Riding of Yorkshire Council, we want to hear what you think. Your views are very important to us, and we want to ensure our proposals are delivered in close collaboration with the local community, so they achieve the right benefits for Melbourne and the wider region.

The public consultation has launched and will run until **Tuesday 4th March.**

Please turn over for more details on the proposals, and information on how you can have your say.

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The Site

This site is located in the south east of Melbourne, to the north of Ryedale Organics. The site was chosen following an extensive selection process, prioritising a location with minimised impact on neighbours and on the environment.

Please note a larger version of this map is available on our website.

What is BESS and why do we need them?

BESS is a technology that stores energy from the Grid, from multiple sources, that can later be released when power is needed most.

The UK is facing a climate emergency, and East Yorkshire is no different. We need to transition to renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. However, the Grid is oversaturated. Put simply, there are not enough battery storage facilities to allow the UK to store the renewable energy required to combat climate change.

As part of the ongoing significant reform by National Grid of the grid connection process, the connection date for the project will be confirmed once planning permission for the proposal is granted. However, once connected, the BESS will play a key role in supporting the East Riding of Yorkshire's commitment to achieving Net Zero.

The BESS will reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, enhance local energy security by utilising domestic sources, and contribute to lowering energy bills for the community over the long term.

The Benefits

Having a storage facility embedded in the local network means the area is less likely to experience power shortages and blackouts.

BESS facilities reduce demand on the national network, which in turn makes the local network less volatile.

Storage and discharge of power near to the point of use reduces power line transmission losses which helps to reduce CO_2 emissions.

Our proposals also include the creation of a community benefit fund. We are interested to hear your thoughts on how we can best support the local community through this initiative.

Learn more and meet the team

We are committed to listening to your feedback to shape our detailed proposals, which we will submit to the Council this Summer.

We are hosting a local drop-in session in Melbourne to give you the opportunity to meet the team and for us to meet with the community.

Where? Melbourne Village Hall, Main Street, Melbourne, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO42 4QJ.

When? Thursday 27th February, 14:00 - 19:00.

Bring your questions!

elmya ENERGY Renewable Power Capital

Have your say

Ahead of submitting a planning application to East Riding of Yorkshire Council, we want to hear your views. Get in touch and tell us what you think by:

- Visiting our website and submitting a feedback form, available at: **www.melbournebess.com**
- Attending our community consultation event on Thursday 27th February, 13:00 – 20:00, at Melbourne Village Hall, LE16 8LH.
- Calling our community information line on **0333 358 0502** (lines open 9.00am-5.30pm Monday-Friday)
- Emailing us with your comments, questions and/or feedback at: **melbournebess@havingyoursay.co.uk**
- Writing to: **FREEPOST SHAPE TOMORROW**

All feedback we receive will help shape the final plans for the BESS. Please make sure all comments are submitted no later than **Tuesday 4th March** to ensure they are taken into consideration before the plans are submitted to the Council.

We look forward to hearing from you!

About Elmya RPC

Elmya is a Sevillian infrastructure company who has operated in the UK for over 10 years. We are committed to driving the energy transition, sustainability and excelling in the renewable energy sector.

We have partnered with Renewable Power Capital on this project, a London-headquartered pan-European renewables company established in 2020, with the backing of CPP Investments.

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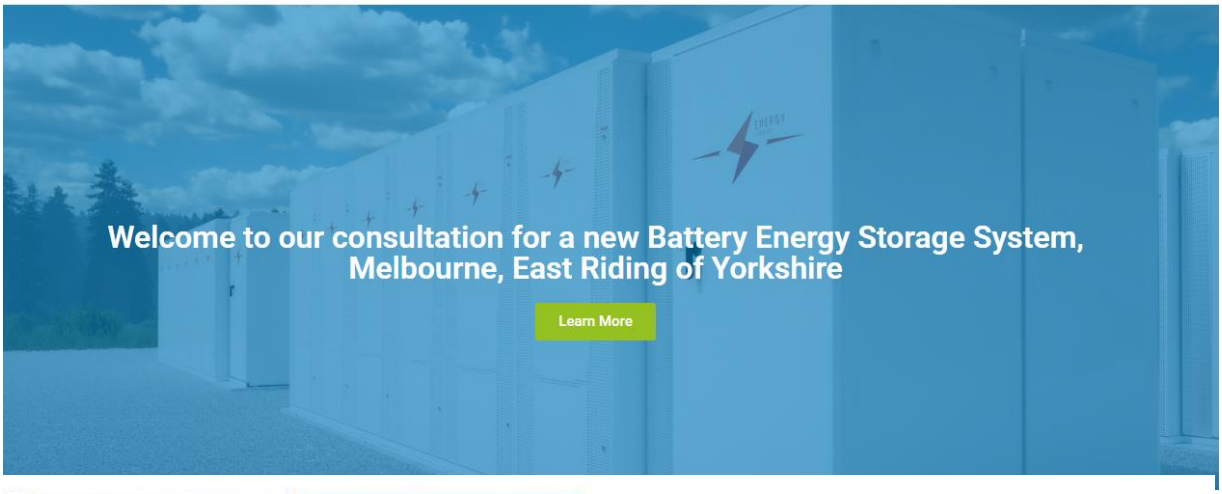
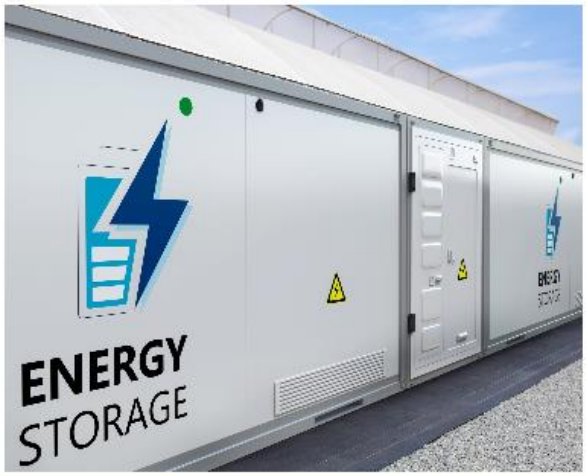
7.5 Appendix E – Consultation Website

elmya ENERGY
Renewable Power Capital

Welcome | What is BESS? | Virtual Exhibition | Site Plan | Your Feedback | Contact Us | About Us





Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about our plans for a new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which if approved, would deliver a 300 MW BESS south east of Melbourne Village, in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Your views are very important to us, and we want to ensure that our proposals are delivered in close collaboration with the local community so they can deliver the right benefits for the East Riding of Yorkshire, and the wider region.

This website has been created to provide more information on our proposals so you can find out more and submit your feedback ahead of us submitting a planning application to East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Our public consultation closed on 4th March. We will be updating the website shortly with the link to our Statement of Community Involvement.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

What is BESS?

BESS is a technology that that can store excess energy generated from multiple sources during periods of low demand, or during periods of high renewable energy production, for later use. This energy, which will be generated increasingly by renewable sources such as wind or solar, will be stored until it is needed and then be released back into the grid at times of either peak demand or when the grid requires additional support.

This technology is essential to speeding up the replacement of fossil fuels with renewable power as renewable energy cannot consistently produce electricity at all hours of the day. Therefore, installing BESS enables energy to power homes and businesses even when the sun isn't shining, or the wind isn't blowing.

As part of National Grid's ongoing reform of the grid connection process, the connection date for the project will be confirmed once planning permission for the proposal is granted. Once connected, the BESS will play a crucial role in enhancing energy security, reducing long-term energy costs, and supporting the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's commitment to achieving Net-Zero carbon emissions, as outlined in the 2022-2030 Climate Change Strategy.

Is BESS safe?

The BESS will be equipped with a sophisticated Battery Management System (BMS) that continuously monitors temperature, voltage, and current to detect any anomalies to ensure the safety and security of the scheme.

There are several steps and measures that we will implement to further prevent the risk of a fire. These include:

- We will follow the National Fire Chiefs Council [NFCC] guidance that sets out a number of fire risk and safety criteria which BESS schemes (typically 1 MW or larger) should seek to adhere to.
- When the application is submitted, a Battery Safety Management Plan will be published where you will be able to read through all the measures in place to ensure the development is brought forward safely.
- In line with the industry guidance, Humber Fire and Rescue will have the opportunity to review and comment the plans to ensure compliance.
- Fire resistant barriers and containment systems will be installed to prevent the spread of fire between battery modules and to the surrounding environment.

Benefits of BESS

Storing electricity in BESS has a number of benefits for local residents and businesses:

- **Stabilising the Grid –** BESS technology helps to balance supply and demand of electricity, whereby once operational it is a reliable power source that can be used when demand on the Grid is higher, or energy production is low. This in turn, prevents Grid instability or the unlikely event of a blackout.
- **Enhanced Energy Security –** By stabilising the Grid, and storing energy from UK sources for when it is needed most, BESS technology allows the UK to rely more on domestic, cleaner energy sources, improving long-term energy security.
- **Energy Costs –** By enabling the storage of cheaper, off-peak electricity and releasing it during peak demand times, BESS can help reduce overall energy costs for consumers in the longer term.
- **Contributing to Net-Zero goals –** By releasing stored energy into the Grid when it is needed most, there is a reduction in need for traditional energy sources from fossil fuels. This storage capacity will be essential as the nation transitions to Net Zero.
- **Community Benefits –** The construction of the BESS will look to provide employment opportunities for local people including apprenticeships and partnerships with local contractors. Elmya RPC have also committed to the creation of a community fund, to serve the local community through the life cycle of the project. Please go to the 'Your Feedback' section of the website to have your say.

Virtual Exhibition

You can explore our virtual exhibition for Melbourne BESS from your desktop browser or mobile phone. To move around the exhibition, click on the screen and drag the cursor to turn to the left or to the right, clicking on the boards directly to learn more information.

Site Plan

Click on the dots below to learn more about this site.

Contact Us

You can contact the project team and share your feedback by:

- Emailing us with your comments, questions or feedback at: email: melbournebess@havingyoursay.co.uk
- Calling the team on 0161 711 0293 (lines open Monday – Friday, 9:00am to 5:30pm)
- Writing to us at FREEPOST SHAPE TOMORROW

All feedback received will be summarised in a Statement of Community Involvement which will be submitted to the Council alongside the planning application.

About Elmya

Elmya is a Sevillian infrastructure company who has operated in the UK for over 10 years. We are committed to driving the energy transition, sustainability and excelling in the renewable energy sector.

With a deep-rooted history and a people-centred approach, our mission is clear and inspiring: to enhance quality of life and actively contribute to decarbonising the economy in the ongoing fight against climate change.

Find out more about us via our website here: https://elmya.com/en/home/

About RPC

Renewable Power Capital is a London-headquartered pan-European renewables company established in 2020, with the backing of CPP Investments.

RPC invests in the development, construction, and long-term operation of onshore wind, solar, and battery storage projects, enabling the energy transition and driving stable long-term, risk-adjusted returns. RPC's flexible mandate allows it to structure investments which recognise the changing market dynamics in Europe and create innovative solutions to build relationships designed for decades rather than months.

RPC is led by a seasoned and established team of energy industry professionals with deep renewable power, technical, and operational expertise, and a strong common purpose. RPC aims to pioneer the European renewables sector, accelerating the already-rapid growth and playing a key role in making the energy transition a reality.For more information, please visit https://www.renewablepowercapital.com/.

7.6 Appendix F – Virtual Exhibition Boards

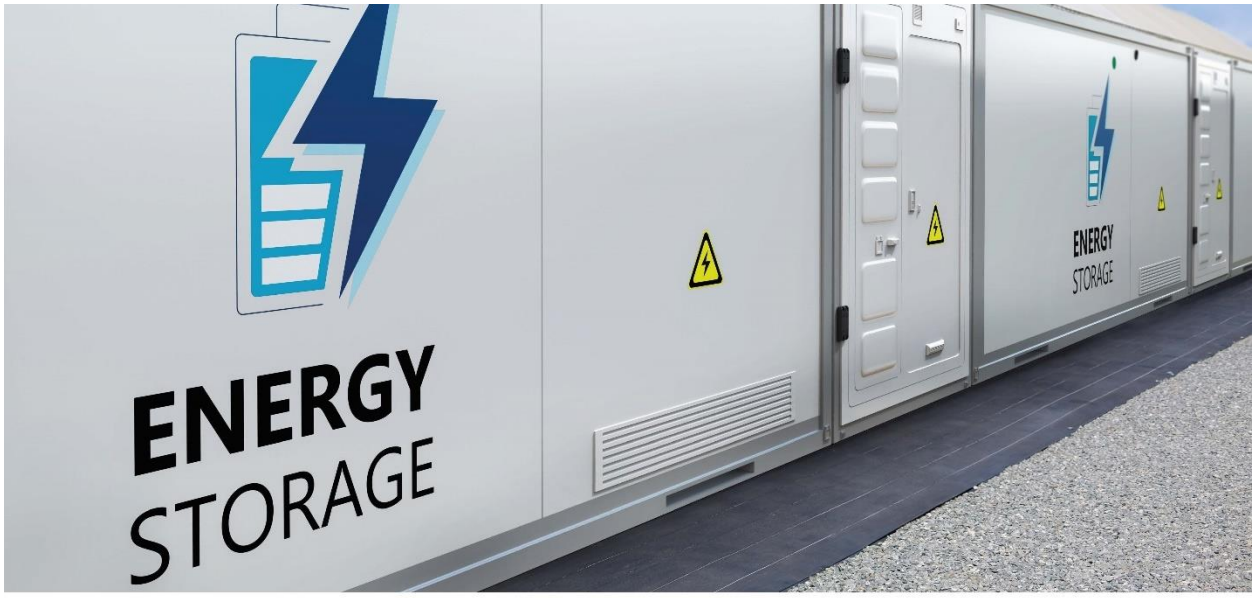
Thank you for taking the time to explore our exhibition, where you can learn more about our proposals for a new 300MW BESS, to the south east of Melbourne village, East Riding of Yorkshire. This is your opportunity to gain insight into our proposals and the thoughtful considerations shaping this development.

How to Provide Your Feedback
Your insight is essential in helping us shape the final proposal. Share your comments by completing the feedback form or use one of the other methods listed on the "What is next?" exhibition board. Your input is an important part of shaping the future of this project.

Our public consultation is open now until Tuesday 4th March. Please make sure all feedback has been submitted before the consultation closes to ensure your views are taken into consideration.

elmya ENERGY Renewable Power Capital

Melbourne BESS
April 2025



Overview of the Proposals

We are bringing forward proposals for a 300 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, including an underground cable route connecting to the National Grid Thornton Substation, located south east of the village of Melbourne, Wolds Weighton, in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

At Elmya RPC, we are committed to long term collaboration and want to establish ourselves as a trusted partner within the community. We have a deep-rooted history with a people centred approach, and a mission that is clear and inspiring, to enhance quality of life and actively contribute to decarbonising the economy in the ongoing fight against climate change. When fully charged and cycling twice a day, the BESS will be able to store enough energy to supply the average annual electricity use of up to 163,338 homes.*

With a lifespan of 40 years, we want to ensure that the BESS is built in the right way, with the needs of the community at the forefront.

The plans will provide the community with greater energy security, using increasingly homegrown energy sources and helping to reduce energy bills over the long term.

Ahead of submitting a planning application to East Riding of Yorkshire Council, we want to hear your thoughts on our consultation. Please navigate this exhibition room, reading the display boards and consider the following as you go:

- **Is there anything you particularly like about our proposals?**
- **Is there anything you would change or think we could improve?**

* This assumes the average UK home consuming 3600 kWh per year. And two cycles of the BESS a day with the batteries working at 89.5% efficiency (total possible output)

elmya ENERGY Renewable Power Capital

What are Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)?

BESS store excess energy created during strong winds, bright sun, or periods of low demand. They can then release the energy when demand is high, even when the sun isn't shining, or the wind isn't blowing. This means BESS can power homes and businesses consistently at all hours of the day, making this technology essential in the replacement of fossil fuels and imported energy.

By balancing the supply and demand of electricity, BESS help to stabilize the Grid and allows the UK to maximise the use of domestic, and increasingly cleaner, energy sources.

Why is BESS needed?

The UK is facing a climate emergency, and the East Riding of Yorkshire is no different. However, there is not enough battery storage facilities to enable the UK to store the amount of renewable energy we need to combat climate change.

Both the previous and current Government emphasised the need to scale up energy storage technologies quickly so that they can play their vital role in decarbonising the electricity system.

As part of the ongoing significant reform by National Grid of the grid connection process, the connection date for the project will be confirmed once planning permission for the proposal is granted. However, once connected, the BESS will play a key role in supporting the East Riding of Yorkshire's commitment to achieving Net Zero.

By providing 300MW of storage, the Melbourne BESS site would allow a greater proportion of renewable energy onto the Grid system, which is at times curtailed.

In turn, this would reduce the reliance on imports of fossil fuels and provide the local community with greater energy security, using homegrown sources and helping to reduce energy bills. See our benefits board to see how Melbourne BESS will contribute to the East Riding of Yorkshire and the UK more widely.

elmya ENERGY Renewable Power Capital

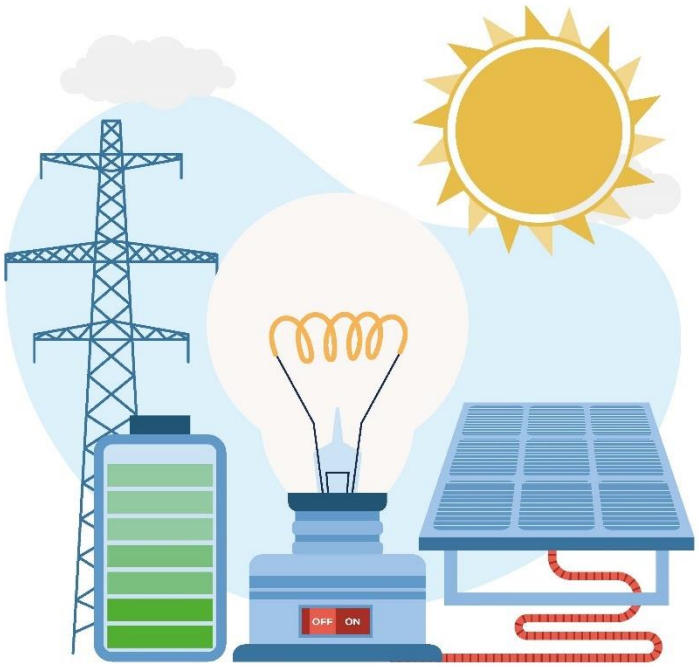
How do Battery Energy Storage Systems work?

BESS is a technology that that can store excess energy generated from multiple sources during periods of low demand, or during periods of high renewable energy production, for later use. This energy, which will be generated increasingly by renewable sources such as wind or solar, will be stored until it is needed and then be released back into the grid at times of either peak demand or when the grid requires additional support.

BESS technology is therefore essential for smoothing out intermittency and can provide balancing services to the Grid both through frequency response and reactive power services.

These services are vital to the Grid, especially within this area of the transmission network, which is known to be heavily constrained, and will become more so as future renewable energy schemes connect to the system in line with Net Zero aims.

In essence, BESS provide a way to store excess energy generated during periods of low demand and release it during peak demand, improving energy efficiency and reliability.



The Site

Why this site?

The proposed site, including the BESS compound area, cable corridor and access tracks, comprises c.21.1ha and is bound by rural agricultural fields to the north, east and west. The Ryedale Organics businesses is stuated to the south of the site.

The majority of field boundaries within the Site are lined with hedges and intermittent mature trees. There are no Public Rights of Way (PRoW) running through the site.

Due to the relatively low height and neutral colours of the containerized units housing the BESS and Power Conversion Systems, combined with existing and proposed screening, it is expected that the majority of the development will be effectively screened and blend discreetly into the wider landscape.

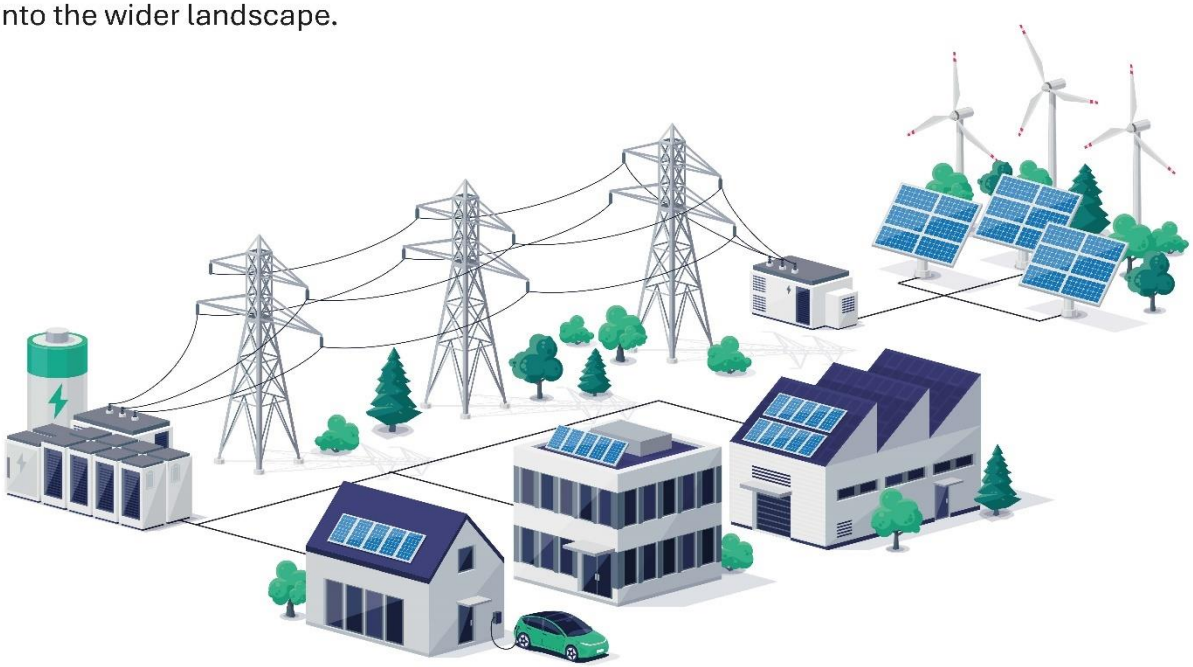
What will it look like?

The proposed development will consist of battery container units which will have a similar appearance to shipping containers.

Power Control System (PCS) Transformers, substations, control cabins, fencing and other ancillary equipment will also be installed.

It is anticipated that the proposed development would comprise approximately 400 containerised units.

The proposed development includes an underground cable route to the Point of Connection at the existing National Grid Thornton Substation.



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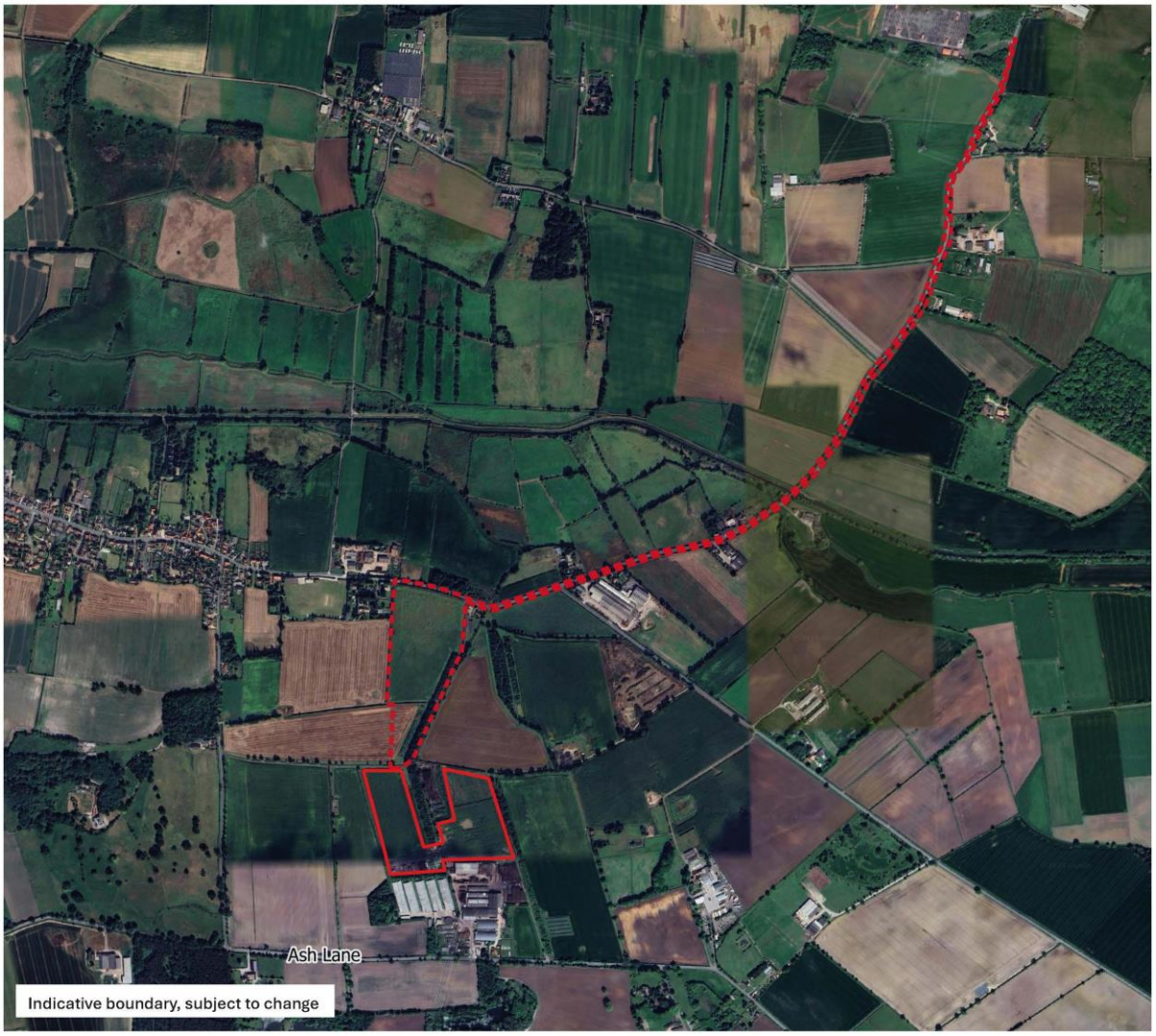
Indicative Site Boundary

The site is located c.600m south-east of the village of Melbourne, with the villages of Thornton and Seaton Ross situated c.1.8km north and c.2.km south-east respectively.

Immediately to the south of the Site lies Ryedale Farm and Ryedale Organics. A private access track to Ryedale Farm bisects the site vertically, however will not be publically accessible.



Indicative BESS Site Boundary

Indicative Cable Corridor

The Benefits

Unlocking the Grid and supporting a Net Zero transition

- The Government recently announced that we must scale up energy storage technologies quickly so that they can play their vital role in decarbonising the electricity system by 2030.
- By providing 300MW of storage, the Melbourne BESS would allow a greater proportion of renewable energy onto the Grid system which at times is curtailed.
- In turn, this would reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and provide the local community with greater energy security, using homegrown sources and helping to reduce energy bills.

A development which respects its locality

- We want the BESS at Melbourne to integrate seamlessly with its surrounding environment.
- We are committed to enhancing the local environment and protecting local wildlife.
- Our development will achieve a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain through planting additional hedgerows and trees, providing diverse habitats that will create new, resilient ecological networks.

Delivering investment and lasting benefits for East Yorkshire

- Melbourne BESS will deliver an investment source to East Yorkshire for 40 years, all while supporting the transition to a Net Zero future and ultimately cheaper bills.
- By investing in the East Riding of Yorkshire, we are not only providing a stable source of income but also delivering meaningful benefits for local businesses and organisations through the supply chain, our community benefit fund and long-term partnerships. Our community fund will last for the life cycle of the BESS and will be available once the BESS is operational.
- The construction and operation of the BESS will look to provide employment opportunities to local people, including apprenticeships. Additionally, Elmya RPC will look to partner with local contractors and businesses to understand how we can best deliver social value.

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Safety and Security

Are BESS Safe?

The BESS will be equipped with a sophisticated Battery Management System (BMS) that continuously monitor temperature, voltage, and current to detect any anomalies to ensure the safety and security of the scheme.

The below outlines measures that exist to further prevent the risk of a fire.

We will follow the National Fire Chiefs Council [NFCC] guidance that sets out a number of fire risk and safety criteria which BESS schemes (typically 1 MW or larger) should seek to adhere to. When the application is submitted, a Battery Safety Management Plan will be published where you will be able to read through all the measures in place to ensure the development is brought forward safely. In line with the industry guidance, Humber Fire and Rescue will have the opportunity to review and comment the plans to ensure compliance.

Automated fire suppression systems will be installed, which can quickly contain and extinguish fires. In the event of a detected failure or a thermal runaway, the BESS can automatically disconnect the affected battery module to prevent the spread of fire.

Fire resistant barriers and containment systems will be installed to prevent the spread of fire between battery modules and to the surrounding environment.

Considerations

Ahead of submitting a planning application, consultants are undertaking a range of assessments to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the local area.

Landscape and Visual Impact

A full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will be submitted as part of the planning application and will advise on the appropriate planting and mitigation to be provided by natural screening.

Heritage

There are no statutory designated heritage assets within the site boundary.

Ecology

Extensive ecological impact assessments will take place as part of this application. Elmya is committed to delivering 10% biodiversity net gain on site and will carry out a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment.

Noise

A noise assessment will be carried out and submitted as part of the planning application. This will conform to the British standard and the scheme will then operate within the limits set by the planning authority.

Flood Risk and Drainage

The site is located on land which falls into Flood Zone 1, which is defined by the Environment Agency as having the lowest risk of flooding.

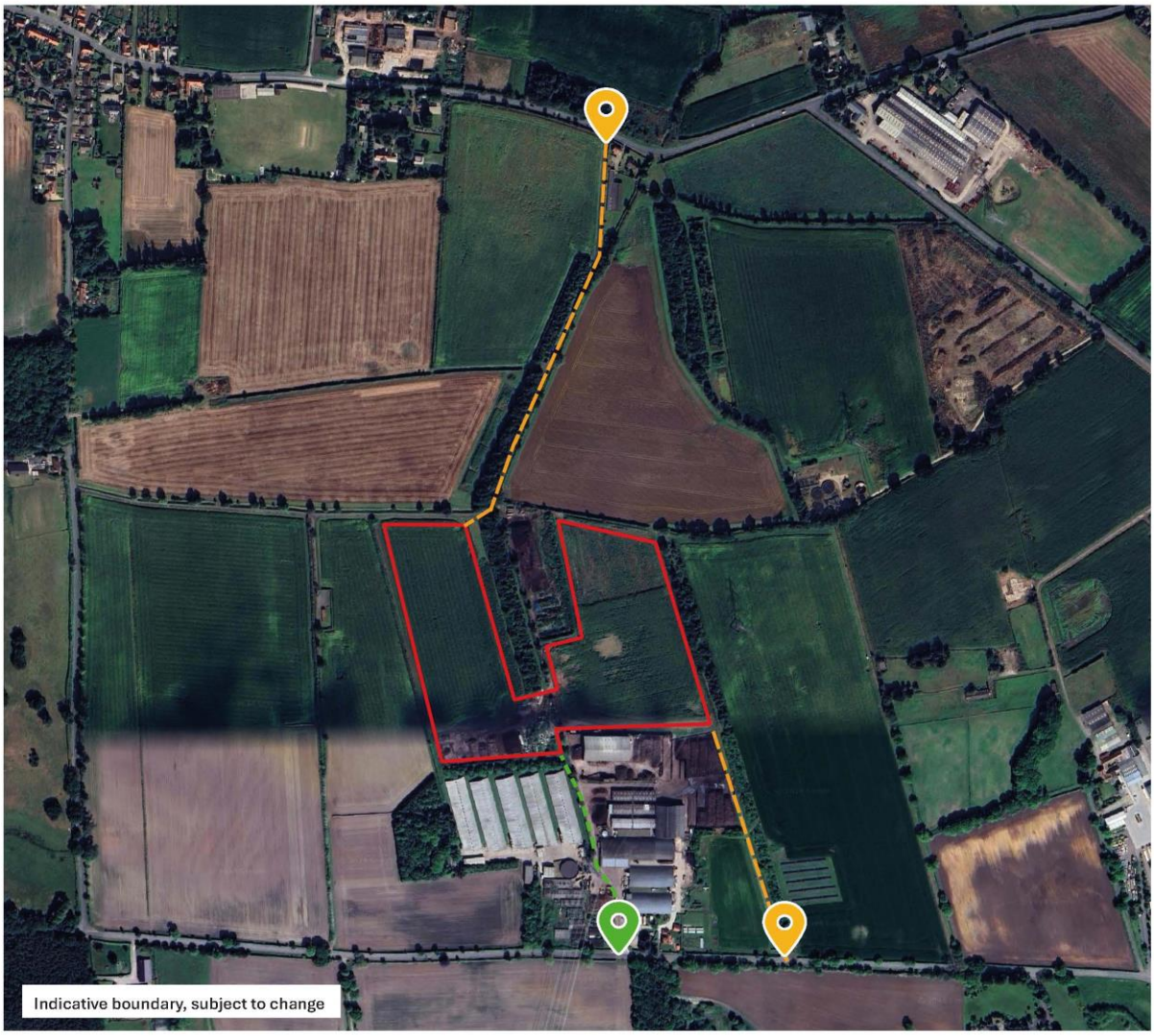
Nevertheless, a Flood Risk and Drainage Strategy will be prepared to support any future planning application and would consider all sources of flood risk, assessing any potential impacts and propose mitigation to reduce these.

Construction Access and Routing

The Site benefits from a suitable existing access off Ash Lane, which is used by Ryedale Farm and Ryedale Organics, and can comfortably accommodate construction traffic.

During construction period (6 to 8 months subject to weather conditions) there is expected to be a slight increase in the number of vehicles, but this will only be temporary whilst the facility is being built.

Once operational it is likely that a small number of vehicles will visit the site per week for routine maintenance.



Primary access route to BESS Compound Area

Emergency access routes to BESS Compound Area required by fire service guidance

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What is next?

Thank you for taking the time to view our exhibition and proposals for Melbourne.

We are committed to providing lasting benefits for Melbourne and the East Riding of Yorkshire, and this is your chance to have your say.

You can tell us what you think by:

Visting our website and filling in an online form at:
www.melbournebess.co.uk

Calling our community information line: **0333 358 0502** (lines open 9.00am-5.30pm Monday-Friday)

Emailing us with your comments:
melbournebess@havingyoursay.co.uk

Writing to:
FREEPOST SHAPE TOMORROW

We look forward to hearing from you, but please make sure all feedback is submitted by **Tuesday 4th March** to ensure that your comments can be taken into consideration before we submit the final plans.

Let us know your views and be part of shaping a clean energy future!

About Elmya RPC

Elmya is a Sevillian infrastructure company who has operated in the UK for over 10 years. We are committed to driving the energy transition, sustainable and excelling in the renewable energy sector.

We have partnered with Renewable Power Capital on this project, a London-headquartered pan-European renewables company established in 2020, with the backing of CPP investments.

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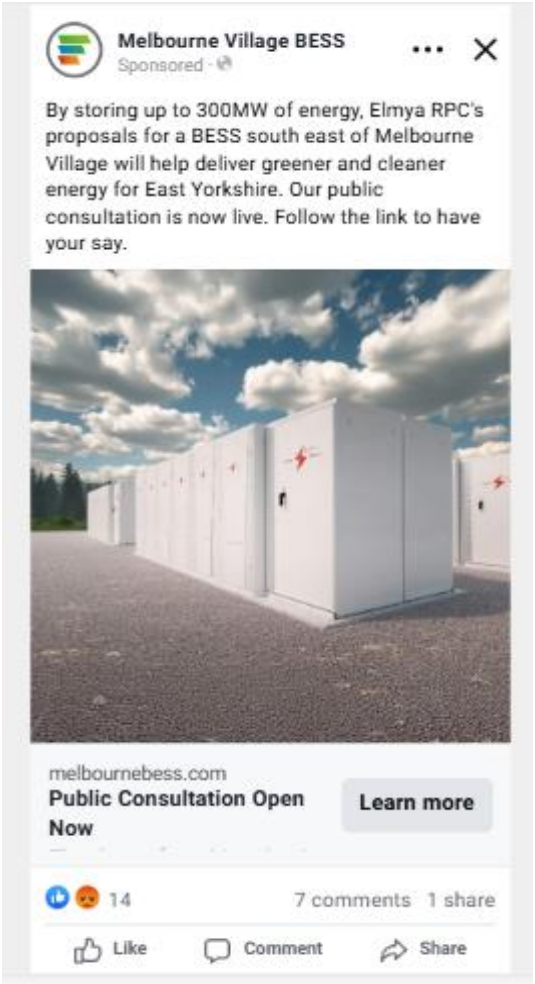
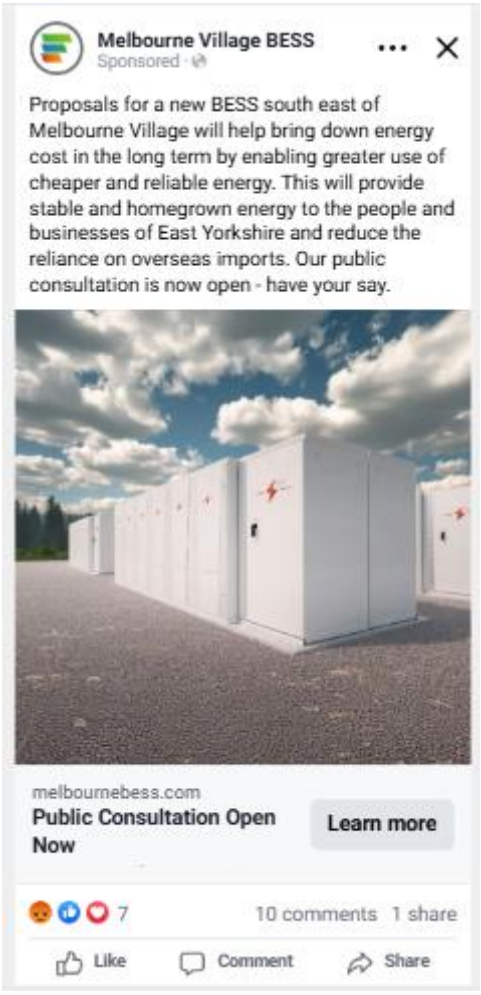
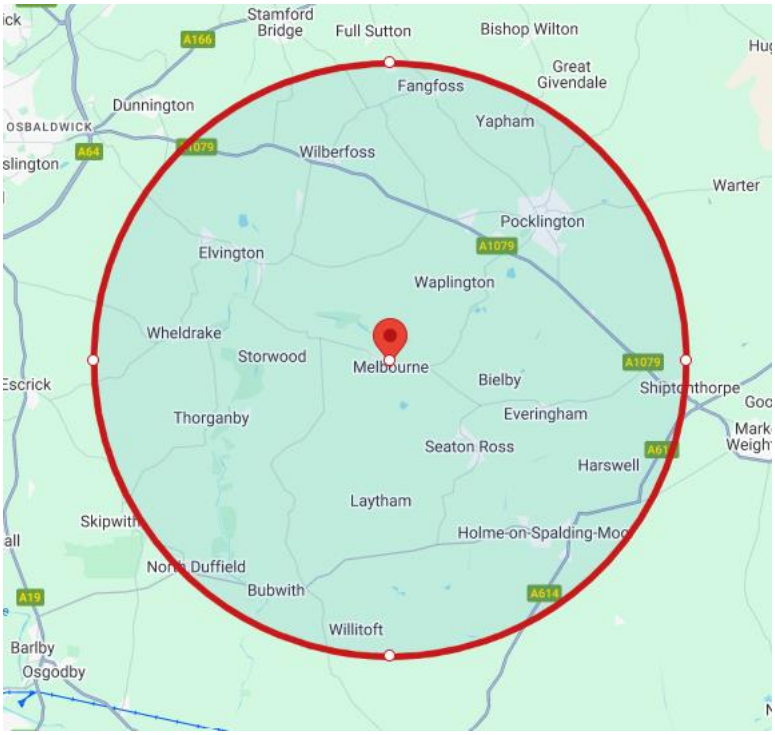
7.7 Appendix G – Social Media Adverts



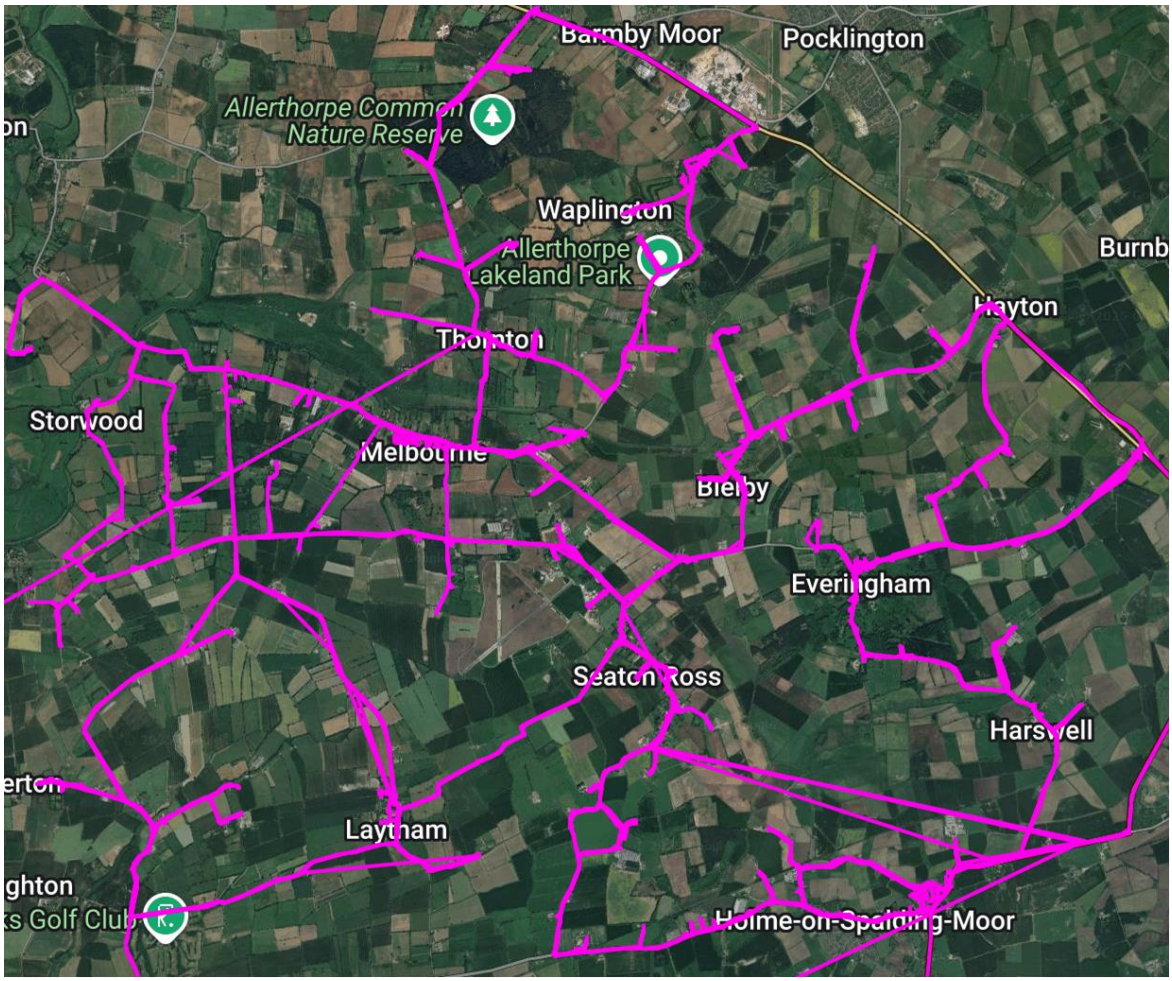
Melbourne BESS
April 2025



7.8 Appendix H - Distribution of Social Media Adverts



7.9 Appendix I - Distribution Area of Leaflets



7.10 Appendix J – Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 11th February 2025

*Image used for illustrative purposes only.

Local community invited to have their say on plans for new energy storage facility

Elmya RPC is inviting the local community to participate in a public consultation on an innovative proposal for a 300MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) south east of Melbourne Village, East Riding of Yorkshire (YO42 4ST).

Elmya Energy, a Sevillian infrastructure company with over 10 years of experience in the UK, has partnered with Renewable Power Capital (RPC) on this innovative project. RPC, a London-based pan-European renewable energy company founded in 2020 and supported by CPP Investments, is committed to advancing sustainable energy solutions.

BESS store excess energy from a mixture of sources, created during strong winds, bright sun, or periods of low demand. BESS can then release the energy when demand is high, even when the sun isn't shining, or the wind isn't blowing. By supplying power to the National Grid during peak demand, BESS ensures a stable and continuous energy supply, even when

renewable sources are unavailable. As a crucial technology for replacing fossil fuels and reducing reliance on imported energy, BESS supports a more reliable and sustainable energy grid, and ensures homes and businesses remain powered at all times of the day.

The proposed site is located 600m south east of the village of Melbourne, East Riding of Yorkshire, and was carefully selected to minimise its environmental and community impact.

If approved, this facility will power c.163,350 homes annually* and play a vital role in both supporting East Riding of Yorkshire Council's climate commitments as outlined in the Climate Change Strategy, as well as contributing to cheaper energy bills and wider national energy security over the long term.

The consultation will run for three weeks, from Tuesday 11th February to Tuesday 4th March, with the community encouraged to share their feedback on this transformative project via the consultation website at www.melbournebess.com.

An in-person consultation event will also be held on Thursday, 27th February, from 14:00 to 19:00 at Melbourne Village Hall (YO42 4QJ), where residents can learn more about the project and ask questions directly. For further information on both consultations residents can get in contact via email - melbournebess@havingyoursay.co.uk.

* This assumes the average UK home consuming 3600 kWh per year, and two cycles of the BESS a day with the batteries working at 89.5% efficiency (total possible output).

James Innes, UK Development Director at Elmya, said:

"The Melbourne BESS project represents an essential step towards decarbonising the economy while ensuring greater energy security for the local community. We're eager to hear from residents and businesses in Melbourne and across East Yorkshire to ensure these proposals reflect their priorities and deliver tangible benefits for the region."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

For more information, please contact:

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About Elmya Energy

Elmya Energy is a Sevillian infrastructure company who has operated in the UK for over 10 years. We are committed to driving the energy transition, sustainability and excelling in the renewable energy sector.

With a deep-rooted history and a people-centred approach, our mission is clear and inspiring: to enhance quality of life and actively contribute to decarbonising the economy in the ongoing fight against climate change.

Find out more about us via our website here: https://elmya.com/en/home/

About RPC

Renewable Power Capital is a London-headquartered pan-European renewables company established in 2020, with the backing of CPP Investments.

RPC invests in the development, construction, and long-term operation of onshore wind, solar, and battery storage projects, enabling the energy transition and driving stable long term, risk-adjusted returns. RPC's flexible mandate allows it to structure investments which recognise the changing market dynamics in Europe and create innovative solutions to build relationships designed for decades rather than months.

RPC is led by a seasoned and established team of energy industry professionals with deep renewable power, technical, and operational expertise, and a strong common purpose. RPC aims to pioneer the European renewables sector, accelerating the already-rapid growth and playing a key role in making the energy transition a reality.

For more information, please visit https://www.renewablepowercapital.com/.