



Proposed Sheepfold energy storage project

Lightsource bp is working on a proposal for an energy storage project at land south of Lauder and west of Blainslie. We will fund and operate a 150MW/600MWh (4-hour duration) battery connected into the national grid.

The energy storage project will facilitate the integration of renewable energy into the grid, helping to support low-cost electricity and the enhanced reliability of the electricity grid.

We've chosen this site after careful consideration, and we're now undertaking a wide range of environmental assessments to help shape our plans. These include landscape and visual, heritage and archaeology, ecology and ornithology, flooding and more.

A key part of developing plans for the energy storage project is consulting with local communities, so we're holding two consultation events to display our plans and gather feedback. Members of the Lightsource bp team will be on hand to answer any questions about the proposal from local residents and interested parties.

STATISTICS



150MW
installed capacity



68
battery containers



49
acres of land



40
years operational life

This project will contribute to Scotland's ambitions of reaching net zero emissions by 2045.

Community consultation events

Get involved!

Want to talk to us about our proposals? We're holding two consultation events to display our plans and gather feedback. Come and speak to us...



Thursday 7th August 2025

Blainslie Village Hall



Tuesday 16th September 2025

Lauder Public Hall

Drop in any time between 2pm and 8pm

Proposed energy storage project at

land south of Lauder and west of Blainslie

We're still in the early stages, and our plans will evolve based on local input and the results of our ecological, landscape and heritage assessments. For further details, please join us at our consultation events on Thursday 7th August at Blainslie Village Hall and Tuesday 16th September at Lauder Public Hall. Drop in any time between 2pm and 8pm.

Native Species

An ecological assessment of the Site recorded no signs or sightings of protected species such as bats, otter, badger, pine marten, or red squirrel. Overall, the Site provides moderate habitat connectivity but shows limited confirmed use by protected species. Appropriate mitigation will be incorporated to ensure compliance with ecological regulations and protect key species and habitats.

Views and Screening

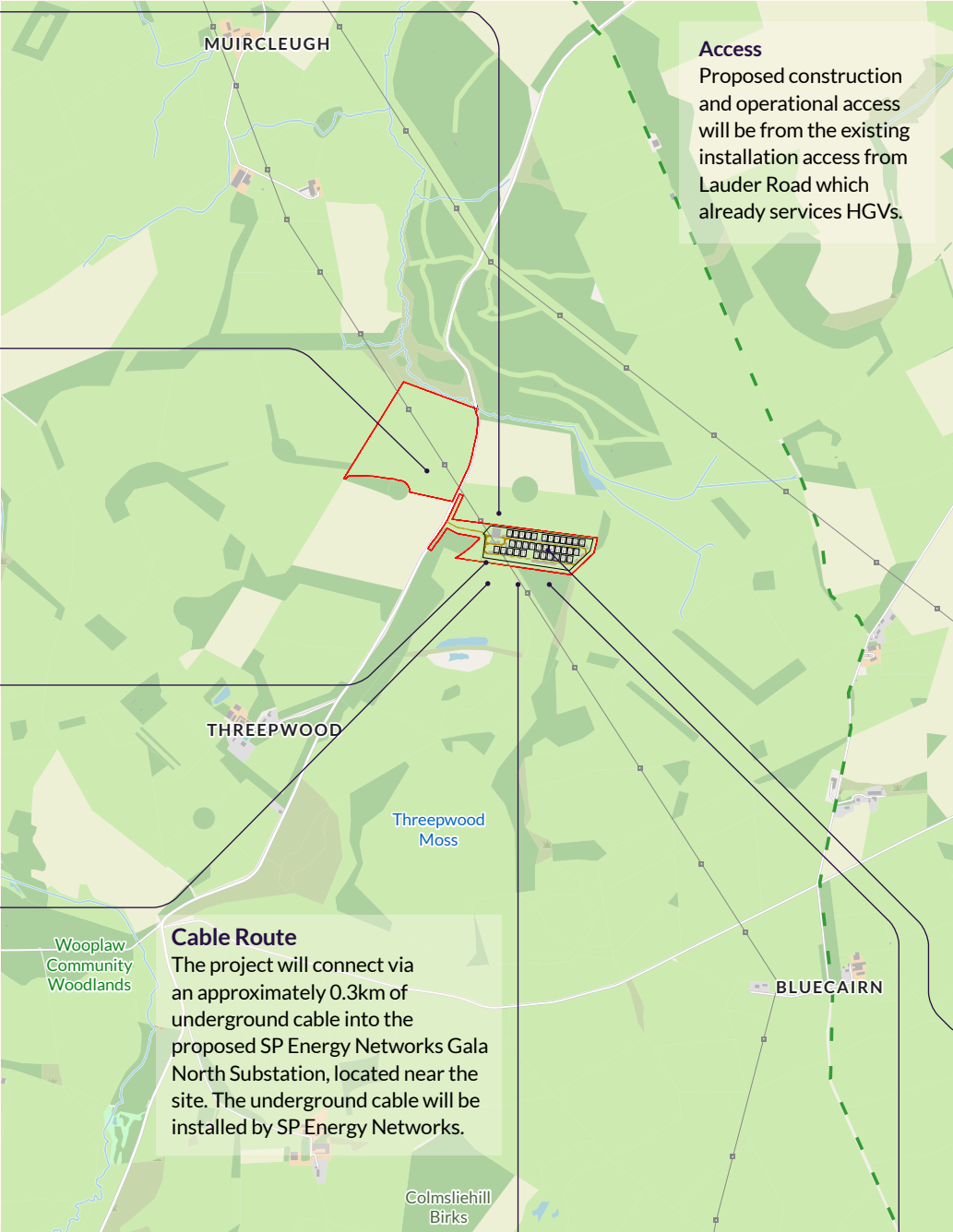
The landscape is characterised by smooth, rolling pasture covered hills with a distinctive grid pattern of drystone walls. Views from the sparse residential properties would be very restricted by intervening landform and tree screening. There are no core paths within or adjacent to the site. The closest is Core Path 189 approximately 750m north east of the site.

New Vegetation Planting

We will submit a detailed planting plan as part of the planning application, which will focus on screening potential views of the installation using vegetation and increasing biodiversity, along the southern and eastern site boundaries.

Cultural Heritage Impact

We have commissioned independent surveys to make sure our proposals will fully assess the potential for archaeology within the site. The surveys have found there are no designated or non-designated archaeology and heritage assets present within the Site.



Access

Proposed construction and operational access will be from the existing installation access from Lauder Road which already services HGVs.

Cable Route

The project will connect via an approximately 0.3km of underground cable into the proposed SP Energy Networks Gala North Substation, located near the site. The underground cable will be installed by SP Energy Networks.

Flood Risk

A drainage strategy is being developed to ensure that flooding is mitigated on site. We are currently working with the Environment Agency to help evolve the drainage strategy.

Existing Vegetation

While developing the layout we have sought to maintain the majority of the existing vegetation around the perimeter of the site, retaining trees and hedgerows to preserve biodiversity and provide natural screening.

- NATIONAL TRAIL
- POWER LINE
- SITE BOUNDARY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is this project important?

Energy storage projects are a vital part of transitioning to a low-carbon electricity network, allowing us to balance the grid across the UK. This not only decreases our reliance on conventional fuels, but also contributes positively to energy security and lower electricity prices. Battery storage is a crucial part of Scotland's ambitions of reaching net zero emissions by 2045.

What is an energy storage project and how does it work?

An energy storage project, or battery energy storage system (BESS), is a modular facility capable of storing and releasing energy generated by any power source, working in a similar way to standard household batteries. It consists of several components including battery units, inverters, and a substation to connect into the local transmission network.

Using the energy storage project, it is possible to reduce energy costs for consumers by storing the low-cost energy generated by renewable sources during sunny or windy periods, and releasing it during peak demand periods. Energy storage project can also improve the stability of the power grid by providing a reliable back up energy supply, delaying the need for costly and time-consuming upgrades.

Are energy storage projects a fire or safety risk?

The fire risk for Lithium batteries such as these are extremely low, and incidences of Lithium battery fires are rare. The battery will come equipped with the latest technology and will be integrated with advanced safety measures. This will include features such as external access rather than internal access, and individual units within each container that are sealed and monitored with their own fire suppression system. This means that if a single cell fails, a small section of the battery is electrically isolated, without compromising the fire safety of the rest of the container unit, minimising the risk of larger-scale damage.

The project will be developed with a bespoke Fire Management Plan, created in concert with the relevant local authorities and the local fire brigade. Safety is a core value at Lightsource bp and all our energy storage projects are developed with the highest standards of safety in mind.

How will the equipment be protected?

The energy storage project will be enclosed by a timber and wire agricultural fence about 2 metres in height, and CCTV cameras will monitor the boundary fence and area within the energy storage project. These will be specifically positioned to make sure they do not impinge on the privacy of residents.

Will the energy storage project be noisy?

An energy storage project can produce noise from various sources, including the cooling system, fans, and power electronics. We are currently undertaking a detailed Noise Impact Assessment, however, based on the location of the project and the distance from residential areas, the probability of noise disturbances for local community members is expected to be minimal. If necessary we will implement measures to mitigate any potential impact.

Will the energy storage project cause traffic disruption?

Once the energy storage project is in place it requires very little maintenance and approximately monthly visits in regular cars or 4x4s would cause no traffic disruption. Whilst the project is being constructed, a traffic management plan will be put in place.

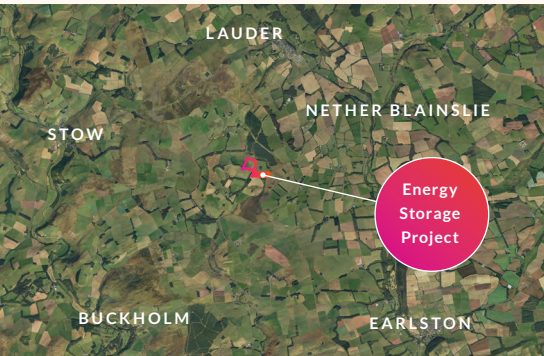
Agricultural Land Grading

The agricultural land comprising the site is mapped under the publicly available National Land Capability for Agriculture (LCA -partial cover) as a mixture of Class 4.2, Class 5.2 and Class 5.3 agricultural land. Based on the publicly available information the entire site consists of non-prime agricultural land.

Boosting Biodiversity

A bespoke Biodiversity Management Plan will ensure that the existing and new habitats are enhanced or created to benefit local wildlife. As part of this initiative, our landscape planting, seeding and habitat creation plans will focus on native species. We are keen to hear from and work with any local beekeepers and land management organisations to support wildlife and boost the local habitats.

This map is a combination of Ordnance Survey map reference: NT 51954 43439 and aerial imagery dated [2025]



Community engagement

It's important to us that the local community are fully informed of the plans for the energy storage project, and have the opportunity to comment and learn about the proposal. We will be holding two consultation events to provide details about our project ideas at this stage, and we welcome your feedback.

The consultation events will be held on



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Find out more

If you have queries in relation to this project, please contact the project team:

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WHO ARE WE?

Lightsource bp is on a mission to become a global leader in onshore renewables, anchored by our proven track record in solar development.

We work with utilities, businesses, local communities and governments to help meet the rising demand for affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

We're dedicated to securing a low-carbon future, and to meeting the dual challenge of an increased demand for energy alongside a need to reduce emissions, in the UK and worldwide.

