



GP PLANNING LTD



STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS)
FACILITY

LAND TO THE EAST OF SHORE TOP FARM, KEARSLEY ROAD,
RADCLIFFE, M26 1FA

TAIYO POWER & STORAGE LIMITED

APRIL 2025

Statement of Community Involvement		
Taiyo Power & Storage Limited	Radcliffe BESS	T016-02

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Contents

1 INTRODUCTION 3

1.1 Overview3

1.2 The Need for Consultation.....3

1.3 The Strategy5

2 THE CONSULTATION STRATEGY 6

2.1 Introduction6

2.2 The Proposed Development6

2.3 Consultation Methods6

3 SCHEDULE OF INVOLVEMENT 8

3.1 Introduction8

3.2 Community, Local Authority and Consultee Involvement8

4 SUMMARY 11

4.1 Community Involvement11

4.2 Conclusion.....11

Appendices

Appendix 1: Consultation Letter

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 In support of a Planning Application, this Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the measures taken to engage the relevant stakeholders in the process of developing the proposals and mitigation for a proposed 11MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility (the 'Proposed Development'), on land to the east of Shore Top Farm, Kearsley Road, Radcliffe, M26 1FA (the 'Site').
- 1.1.2 The application seeks planning permission for the construction, operation and subsequent decommissioning of the above referenced development and associated infrastructure.
- 1.1.3 Taiyo Power & Storage Limited (the Applicant) has taken an active role in stakeholder engagement. This has been achieved through various methods and from an early stage in the planning process.
- 1.1.4 The feedback from pre-application and the consultation process has informed the advancement and refinement of the proposed development, the details of which are submitted in the Planning Application supporting documents.

1.2 The Need for Consultation

National Planning Policy

- 1.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024 (last updated February 2025) *"sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied"*. It encourages pre-application engagement by prospective Applicants.
- 1.2.2 The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) 2016, last updated 14th February 2024, provides accessible guidance for the application of the NPPF. It describes pre-application engagement as offering *"significant potential to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system and improve the quality of planning applications and their likelihood of success"*.
- 1.2.3 The NPPG suggests pre-application engagement is a collaborative process between the prospective Applicant and parties which may include the following:

- The Local Planning Authority;
- Statutory and non-statutory consultees;
- Elected members, and
- Local people.

1.2.4 The supporting text goes on to note that the level of engagement needs to be proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposed development.

The Development Plan

1.2.5 As the Local Planning Authority (LPA), it is the documents adopted by The Metropolitan Borough of Bury Council (MBBC) that form the Local Development Framework (LDF) comprising Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents, Masterplans and other LDF documents. Details of the adopted policy documents (the Development Plan) are included within the Planning Design and Access Statement.

1.2.6 The requirement to prepare an SCI was introduced in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as required under Section 18).

1.2.7 MBBC has adopted a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which was last updated in December 2024.

1.2.8 The SCI forms part of the LDF and sets out how the Council will engage with the community in planning policy, planning applications and neighbourhood plans.

1.2.9 Section 5 addresses planning applications and provides an overview of the application process and how to comment on applications.

1.2.10 It reminds applicants of the pre-application advice service.

Pre-application enquiries help the applicant get their application 'right first time' and whilst they are not a guarantee of obtaining planning permission, the exercise ensures that all relevant planning issues are identified early so as to enable the applicant to put forward the best possible application.

- 1.2.11 There is no specific guidance for applicants regarding pre-application consultation with the community and other stakeholders.
- 1.2.12 Notwithstanding this, the Council's Application Checklist requires the submission of a statement detailing the steps to ensure the application complies with the Council's SCI. This relates to applications that likely to generate significant public interest and the statement shall include the views of the local community, and where appropriate the views of Statutory Consultees have been sought and taken into account in the formulation of development proposals.
- 1.2.13 Such an approach is considered necessary for:
- All major planning applications, and
 - Other developments if specified in pre-application advice.
- 1.2.14 Given the nature of the development, an appropriate and proportionate engagement strategy was developed in line with best practice and the above referenced guidance.

1.3 The Strategy

- 1.3.1 The Applicant was, and remains, committed to working alongside local residents and stakeholders.
- 1.3.2 A consultation exercise was carried out in anticipation and in support of this Planning Application.
- 1.3.3 This document details the strategy and provides commentary on how the feedback received has played a key role in the iterative process of refining the proposals.
- 1.3.4 A number of appendices are also included in the document to provide the reader with examples of the material and correspondence involved; these are referred to specifically throughout the text.

2 THE CONSULTATION STRATEGY

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 As highlighted by both national and local planning policy, a consultation process that begins at the earliest stage possible - 'front loaded' – provides a greater opportunity for the views of stakeholders to be reflected in decisions made. In devising the consultation strategy, early engagement with stakeholders was a priority. In order to reach out to interested parties, a number of techniques were employed including a variety of methods of communication and multiple channels for providing feedback.
- 2.1.2 As stated in the NPPF, the level of pre-application engagement should be informed by and be proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposed development. In light of this, this chapter summarises the proposed development, before going on to detail the consultation strategy that was followed.

2.2 The Proposed Development

- 2.2.1 This proposal relates to the development of 11MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility (the 'Proposed Development'), on land to the east of Shore Top Farm, Kearsley Road, Radcliffe, M26 1FA (the 'Site').
- 2.2.2 Full details are found in the Planning Design and Access Statement, April 2025.
- 2.2.3 A key aim of the consultation strategy was to explain the role of BESS developments and their contribution to renewable energy in the current energy crisis and the contribution the facility could make to energy supply and CO₂ reduction when compared to traditional electricity generation.

2.3 Consultation Methods

- 2.3.1 In order to comply with national and local planning policy and to engage in both early and effective pre-application discussions, the Applicant (and their Agent) have reached out to interested parties within the following groups:

- Metropolitan Borough of Bury Council
- Manchester Fire and Rescue Services, and
- Local community.

2.3.2 Contact with the above listed interested parties has involved meetings, e-mails, phone calls, and distribution of a letter inviting comments.

3 SCHEDULE OF INVOLVEMENT

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Pre-application engagement has taken place during the last 33 months as this Planning Application submission was prepared, details of which are included in this chapter.
- 3.1.2 Details are provided of the nature of the communication, how and when it took place and who was involved. An explanation is also given about how the feedback from this engagement has influenced the final proposal submitted alongside this document

3.2 Community, Local Authority and Consultee Involvement

Metropolitan Borough of Bury Council

- 3.2.1 The Applicant engaged with MBBC through its formal paid pre-application advice service in 2023.
- 3.2.2 A site meeting was held on 28th November 2023.
- 3.2.3 The formal pre-application Advice (02898E) was received on 6th December 2023 .
- 3.2.4 The Pre-application Advice did not include a specific conclusion on the principle of the development but advised across a range of matters.
- 3.2.5 The pre-application requested consideration of:
- Transport and access
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Contaminated Land
 - Minerals Safeguarding
 - Ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain
- 3.2.6 Accordingly, the application for full planning permission has been prepared on this basis.

- 3.2.7 A full suite of assessments is submitted with the planning application to demonstrate compliance with both national and local policies.

Public Consultation

- 3.2.8 One letter form consultation was undertaken in March 2025.
- 3.2.9 22 letters were sent out to residents of Wood Street and two nearby farms, as shown on Figures 1 and 2 below.



Figure 1: Nearby Farms (Shore top and Yew Tree)



Figure 2: Residents on Wood Street

3.2.10 A copy of the letter (dated 4th March 2025) is attached as Appendix 1.

Feedback and Outcomes

3.2.11 No feedback was received from circulation of the letter.

4 SUMMARY

4.1 Community Involvement

- 4.1.1 Public consultation was carried out with stakeholders in the proposed development, including local residents.
- 4.1.2 Notwithstanding the lack of feedback from the consultation, feedback from pre-application engagement with the Council has resulted in changes to the site layout and the provision of additional screening, planting and biodiversity enhancements.

4.2 Conclusion

- 4.2.1 In conclusion, the consultation was designed to meet the Applicant's requirements for meaningful engagement with local community.
- 4.2.2 Pre-application engagement has also been carried out with MBBC.
- 4.2.3 The pre-application engagement with MBBC has been extremely valuable and has enabled the Design and wider team to reappraise the development proposals and refine the layout and enhance the landscaping Which will provide further screening around the site.
- 4.2.4 The introduction of a substantial landscaping means that landscape and visual impacts are reduced, and significant levels of bio-diversity net gain are achieved.

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION LETTER

The Owner/Occupier
124 Ringley Road West
MANCHESTER
M26 1DE

04/03/2025

Dear Resident,

RE: Radcliffe Battery Energy Storage System

I am writing to let you know that Taiyo Power and Storage Limited is preparing to submit a planning application for a battery energy storage system (BESS) facility on land located to the east of Shore Top Farm. The facility is to be known as Radcliffe BESS.

About Us

Taiyo specialises in developing energy storage and solar facilities to power the UK with cheap, clean, and reliable energy. Our team is highly experienced and passionate about building infrastructure that is needed for a net zero future.

As an experienced renewable energy developer, we specialise in finding viable and cost-effective grid connection points and engaging with landowners to deliver sustainable infrastructure.

To learn more about us, you can visit our website via the following link: <https://taiyo2050.co.uk>

What is a BESS?

A battery energy storage system (BESS) is a facility that enables electricity to be stored and then released when it is needed most.

This technology is central to the UK's transition from fossil fuels to renewable power and plays an increasingly pivotal role regulating electricity supply generated from renewable energy sources. Installing storage systems means energy from renewable sources can continue to power homes and businesses even at times without wind or sunshine.

For more information, visit the Government's Clean Action Power Plan 2030 website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-power-2030-action-plan>

About the Site

The site is located immediately south of the Radcliffe electrical substation and has been identified following a thorough site selection process which considered environmental designations, local electricity network access and capacity, the physical characteristics of the site and the need for a supportive landowner.

Our project is in line with direction given by Bury Council, which has declared a climate emergency in 2019 and set a target to be carbon neutral by 2038. Bury's Climate Action Strategy calls for an increase

Taiyo Power & Storage Limited 10 St. Giles Square London WC2H 8AP
T 020 3075 1800 • F 020 3075 1899 • E enquiries@kajima.co.uk • www.kajima.co.uk

Registered in England No 13358548 • Registered office address: 10 St. Giles Square London WC2H 8AP

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in the efficiency of renewable energy generation technology, including BESS facilities, as a potential pathway for carbon reduction.

Our Plans

The project is in the final development stages. Please find enclosed, a copy of the current layout plans.

Construction of the facility is anticipated to take up to 6 months and would involve the formation of a series of concrete bases for the buildings and battery units, siting of the infrastructure, service trenches/cabling, an access road, fencing, CCTV and gates. Following the completion of construction works, additional electrical connection and testing of the facility will continue for a further 6 months, during which there will be significantly less construction activity on the site and minimal or no heavy vehicles.

Temporary construction access is planned via Wood Street, before crossing the adjoining field to the compound. Temporary heavy duty roadway matting will be used to provide protection and reduce impacts. Any impact to the field from vehicle movements will be rectified upon the completion of works.

Ongoing access for maintenance would be via Ringley Road West and Yew Tree Farm. The only vehicles required to attend the site when the facility is operational would be those associated with security and maintenance. This is anticipated to be no greater than 1 large van / 4x4 type vehicle per fortnight.

We are designing our project to minimise any disturbance to the environment and our neighbours. Our key priorities include:

- Minimising visibility of the facility from surrounding areas, in particular Public Rights of Way
- Positioning the facility away from residential properties
- Implementing best practice fire safety measures
- Minimising construction related disturbance and disturbance to grazing areas
- Providing new landscape planting and improvements to biodiversity which will screen the development and attract additional wildlife to the site and nearby habitats.

In advance of submitting a planning application, our consultants have undertaken a range of assessments, including traffic, noise, ecology, landscape and visual impact, flood risk and drainage.

Once operational, Radcliffe BESS would make a valuable contribution towards tackling the climate emergency in Bury and wider area. The project will be capable of storing a significant amount of electricity to supply to the grid in times of need, providing crucial backup energy for local homes and businesses.

Get Involved

We appreciate you taking the time to read this and review our plans and would welcome any feedback you may have by **Wednesday 19 March 2025**.

Please note that there will be an additional opportunity for consultation through the formal application process once the application is validated by Bury Council, which would notify you about our submission.

Please get in touch with us via email at: dylan@lowcarbonalliance.co.uk (Dylan Mitchell)

Taiyo Power & Storage Limited 10 St. Giles Square London WC2H 8AP
T 020 3075 1800 • F 020 3075 1899 • E enquiries@kajima.co.uk • www.kajima.co.uk

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Mr Christian Smith DipTP MRTPI MCMI
Miss Maureen Darrie BSc (Hons) MRTPI

Registered in England
Number 6019666

Registered Office:
iCon Innovation Centre, Eastern Way,
Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 0QB

