

lexington

Rossendale BESS

Statement of Community Involvement

March 2025





Contents

1. OVERVIEW	2
2. PLANNING AND GUIDANCE: ROLE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	3
3. CONSULTATION PROGRAMME	5
4. FEEDBACK RECEIVED	7
5. RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK	8
6. POST CONSULTATION ACTIVITY	11
7. CONCLUSIONS	11
8. APPENDICES	13



1. Overview

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared by Lexington on behalf of Cubico UK Developments Ltd (the Applicant). It forms part of a suite of documents in support of a planning application for Rossendale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), an energy storage facility located on land at Rochdale Road and Bamford Road, Turn Village. The development includes the construction, management and operation of a BESS with associated infrastructure, including access, drainage, security measures and landscaping and provision of a connecting cable to Croston Close Road substation.
- 1.1.2 The consultation took place from Tuesday 5th November to Tuesday 26th November 2024 and sought feedback from the local community. This consultation was conducted alongside the Applicant's engagement on Scout Moor II, a proposed 100MW onshore wind farm across the administrative boundaries of Rossendale Borough Council and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council. Although the two projects were consulted on concurrently, they were managed as separate applications with distinct consultation processes. This SCI outlines the methods used for consultation and engagement for the Rossendale BESS application.
- 1.1.3 The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and is in line with expectations set out in Rossendale Borough Council's Statement of Community Involvement. A summary of the activity is outlined below, and further details can be found in Section 3.0.
- Letters were issued to local councillors, including members for Greenfield & Eden ward, where the site is located; the Leader of Rossendale Borough Council; the Deputy Leader of Rossendale Borough Council; the Lead Member for Planning, Licensing & Enforcement; and the Lead Member for Environment & Corporate Services to offer a meeting to discuss the scheme.
 - A letter was distributed to approximately 350 nearby commercial and residential properties to provide an overview of the plans and how feedback could be provided.
 - A consultation website, www.rossendalebatterystorage.co.uk, was established to provide further information on the proposals, as well as a facility to submit feedback via an online form.
 - An online webinar was hosted, providing residents with the opportunity to learn more about the scheme and ask questions directly to the project team.
 - A community information telephone line, email address and postal address were available throughout the consultation period for those wanting to correspond with a member of the development team and provide feedback.
- 1.1.4 The Applicant has subsequently considered this feedback to inform this planning application. The SCI outlines the methods used to engage with the local community. It summarises the feedback received and provides a response to pertinent issues raised during the consultation.
- 1.1.5 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 Applicant has sought to consult with interested parties following policy and guidance concerning community involvement in the planning system.

2.2 Rossendale Borough Council

2.2.1 Rossendale Borough Council's adopted SCI encourages developers to undertake pre-application public consultation with the local community. The SCI provides a number of methods to encourage participation, including:

- Letters or emails to stakeholders to provide *"opportunity for people to be informed and signposted to further information."*
- Leaflets and brochures to target *"specific areas and groups with summarised information and signposting."*
- Public meetings to provide *"further opportunity for people to comment on issues that affect them."*
- Dedicated website, providing the opportunity to comment online about the scheme.

2.3 Government Planning Policy

The Localism Act 2011

2.3.1 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"*.



National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3.3 In February 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government updated its 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.
- 2.3.4 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.
- 2.3.5 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).

National Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.3.6 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).
- 2.3.7 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 proposed development.

2.4 The Applicant’s Approach

- 2.4.1 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 NPPF, the NPPG and Rossendale Borough Council’s SCI, as well as industry best practice.

3. Consultation Programme

3.1.1 The consultation for Rossendale BESS was launched on Tuesday 5th November and ran until Tuesday 26th November 2024. The consultation process included inviting comments from the local community and political stakeholders on the proposals. To ensure the consultation process was accessible to all interested parties and groups in the area, several methodologies were employed, including those described below.

3.2 Letters to local political stakeholders

3.2.1 Before the consultation launch, a letter was issued to local political stakeholders to notify them of the proposals and advise of the public consultation. Members were also invited to meet with the team to discuss the proposals and consultation in more detail.

The letter was sent to the following members of Rossendale Council:

- Councillor Alyson Barnes, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development
- Councillor Michelle Smith, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development
- Councillor Adrian Lythgoe, Lead Member for Environment & Corporate Services
- Councillor Anne Cartner Cheetham, Member for Greenfield & Eden ward
- Councillor Neil Looker, Member for Greenfield & Eden ward
- Councillor Simon Holland, Member for Greenfield & Eden ward

3.2.2 As the consultation was conducted concurrently with the Applicant's scheme for Scout Moor II, the stakeholder letter included information on both consultations. A dedicated paragraph specifically outlined the Rossendale BESS scheme and extended an invitation to arrange a meeting for further discussion.

3.2.3 A copy of the correspondence sent to local politicians is provided in Appendix A.

3.3 Website

3.3.1 A dedicated website, www.rossendalebatterystorage.co.uk, went live on Tuesday 5th November 2024. The website provided an overview of the scheme, more information on what a BESS facility is, FAQs and the benefits of battery storage. An online feedback form was also provided to capture residents' views and comments.

3.3.2 Between Tuesday 5th November and Tuesday 26th November 2024, the consultation website was viewed 731 times. Images of the website can be viewed in Appendix B.

3.3.3 The website also included an online feedback form which asked for feedback on the scheme. Despite the website being viewed 731 times, the feedback form received two submissions.



3.4 Consultation email and postal address

- 3.4.1 A dedicated email address, rossendalebatterystorage@havingyoursay.co.uk, was established to receive feedback and answer enquiries from the public regarding the plans. Alternatively, respondents were able to post their comments. During the public consultation, two emails were received and zero letters. More information about this can be found in Section 4.0 'Feedback Received'.

3.5 Community Information Line

- 3.5.1 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 9.00am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. An answerphone facility was available outside of office hours. One call was received during the three-week consultation period.

3.6 Leaflet to residents and businesses

- 3.6.1 To announce the public consultation, letters were sent to approximately 350 residential and business addresses situated near the site on Tuesday 5th November 2024. This 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.
- 3.6.2 The leaflet provided an overview of the proposals and details of how people could view the plans in greater detail and provide comments via the following methods:
- Visiting the website and completing the online feedback form at www.rossendalebatterystorage.co.uk;
 - Calling the community information line on 0333 358 0502;
 - Emailing rossendalebatterystorage@havingyoursay.co.uk
- 3.6.3 A copy of the leaflet to residents and businesses can be seen in Appendix C. A map of the distribution area can be seen in Appendix D.

3.7 Webinar

- 3.7.1 On Thursday 21st November, the Applicant hosted a webinar to provide members of the public with an opportunity to engage with the project team, learn more about the proposals, and ask questions.
- 3.7.2 The webinar was promoted through the consultation website and leaflet, attracting six registrations.
- 3.7.3 Two members of the public attended the webinar and raised a variety of questions. These questions, along with the responses, are detailed in Section 4.0 of this report.



- 3.7.4 To accommodate those who were unable to attend, a recording of the webinar was made available on the consultation website for later viewing. The webinar slides can be found in Appendix E.

4. Feedback Received

4.1 Summary of feedback

- 4.1.1 During the consultation, a variety of questions and themes were raised. Residents shared their perspectives on the scheme, the need for battery storage and raised questions. The key themes are summarised below.

Support for Renewable Energy and the Role of Battery Storage

- 4.1.2 A respondent highlighted support for battery storage as an effective solution for storing renewable energy, reducing reliance on gas during periods of low renewable generation. Battery storage was viewed as a vital step in addressing climate change and assisting the UK's journey to net zero.

Community Benefit Fund

- 4.1.3 Several respondents supported the concept of a Community Benefit Fund and offered suggestions for its use, including:
- Providing energy debt advisors.
 - Installing renewable energy systems.
 - Addressing illegal off-roading at Scout Moor.
- 4.1.4 One respondent asked for clarification on the definition of the "local community" that would benefit from the fund.

Visual Impact

- 4.1.5 Concerns were raised about the visual impact of the proposed site, specifically its potential effect on the rural character of the area. Respondents noted its potential visibility from nearby roads and the public footpath crossing the site.

Noise Impact

- 4.1.6 A respondent living near the proposed site expressed concerns about potential noise from the battery storage facility.

Fire Safety

- 4.1.7 A concern was raised regarding the lack of mains water on the site, which could complicate fire safety and response efforts.

Site Selection

- 4.1.8 Questions were asked about the rationale behind selecting the proposed site for the BESS facility. One respondent suggested alternative locations, specifically sites further from public footpaths and not on agricultural land.

Impact on Agriculture

- 4.1.9 Concerns were raised that the BESS will impact the farmer that uses the land for grazing and silage production.

Planning Inspectorate's Decision on Close Nook Farm

- 4.1.10 A respondent queried whether the decision by the Planning Inspectorate to refuse development at Close Nook Farm in 2022 had been taken into account.
- 4.1.11 The Planning Inspectorate's refusal cited harm to the character and appearance of the area due to the scale and prominence of the proposed agricultural building, as well as inappropriate Green Belt development for the replacement farmhouse.
- 4.1.12 Respondents questioned how these considerations might relate to the proposed BESS project.

5. Response to Feedback

The Applicant has outlined the response to the questions and comments received as part of the consultation process:

Feedback	Response
Support was expressed for the concept of battery storage as a solution to store renewable energy, helping to reduce reliance on fossil fuels when renewable sources are not generating electricity.	The Applicant is grateful for the supportive feedback regarding battery storage. This technology plays a critical role in enabling renewable energy to continue powering homes and businesses, even during periods without wind or sunshine.
There were suggestions for the Community Benefit Fund, including the provision of energy debt advisors, the installation of renewable energy systems, and addressing illegal off-roading.	The Applicant is thankful for the suggestions regarding the Community Benefit Fund. As part of the planning application, these ideas will be considered, and an update on the allocation of the fund will be provided as part of the planning process.
It was asked how the area that will receive the Community Benefit Fund will be determined.	The consultation process aims to gather input from the local community to understand which areas are likely to experience the greatest impact from the development.



Feedback	Response
	Given that there are relatively few residential properties near the site, the Applicant will consider the broader community, including areas that could be affected by factors such as traffic, noise, or changes to the local landscape. We will continue to work with key stakeholders to ensure the fund is directed where it will provide the most benefit.
The visual impact of the proposed site was raised, particularly in terms of its effect on the rural landscape. Concerns were expressed regarding its visibility from nearby roads and the public footpath crossing the site.	As part of the design approach, the Applicant has prioritised minimising the visual impact of the scheme. The batteries and infrastructure will be positioned at a distance from residential properties to reduce visibility. Landscaping features, including a pond and habitat management in an adjacent field, will help integrate the development into the surrounding environment, converting pastureland into species-rich grassland. Existing stone walls will be preserved and repaired, and a discreet green mesh fence will be used to secure the site. Additionally, lighting will be kept to a minimum, with no floodlighting, to reduce visual impact and disturbance.
Concerns were raised regarding the lack of mains water or drainage on the site, and whether water tanks would be required for fire safety, specifically in relation to perceived fire hazards.	BESS systems are designed with safety protocols in place to minimise fire risks, including fire detection, regular maintenance, and monitoring to mitigate potential hazards. There are national guidelines on managing fire risk, and the Applicant will collaborate with local fire services to ensure all safety measures are met. Additionally, fire suppression systems, including water storage, will be provided on-site.
Concerns were raised regarding potential noise from the site, particularly during operation.	The Applicant has carefully considered these concerns and will ensure that noise levels remain at or below the Representative Background Noise Level during both daytime and nighttime. Additionally, all receptors will remain below the 35 dB absolute limit. A comprehensive Noise Impact Assessment, conducted by TNEI, provides full details on this matter. To further safeguard against any adverse impacts, noise levels will be secured through a planning condition.
The site selection process was questioned.	The site was chosen after considering various factors, including technical, commercial, and environmental impacts.



Feedback	Response
	This location was selected because it is close to the existing grid connection and in proximity to Scout Moor wind farm, which helps to maximise the efficiency of the energy network. Additionally, the availability of space and the willingness of landowners to collaborate were key considerations. The site's closeness to the substation also makes it an ideal choice for connecting the BESS to the grid.
Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact of the development on the Public Right of Way (PROW) that crosses the site.	The development will not impact any Public Right of Way. The site will have a single vehicle access point off the road, and the existing footpath will be maintained with a dropped crossing to ensure continuous access throughout the site.
Concerns were raised regarding the scheme's impact on the agricultural use of the land.	The land is classified as Grade 5, which is low-quality agricultural land unsuitable for crop production. The site also covers 13 acres, less than 0.1% of Rossendale's total agricultural land. The Applicant believes the site will have minimal impact on local agriculture while contributing to a sustainable energy supply. As part of the scheme, the Applicant is working with the landowner to explore opportunities to maintain parts of the site for grazing. This initiative will be delivered in conjunction with the biodiversity net gain measures planned, ensuring the BESS delivers significant environmental benefits.
A question was raised about whether the Planning Inspectorate's decision to refuse development at Close Nook Farm would have any impact on the Rossendale BESS application.	The Planning Inspectorate's refusal of the agricultural building and farmhouse replacement at Close Nook Farm was based on different factors. The agricultural building was deemed harmful to the character and appearance of the area due to its scale and prominence, while the replacement farmhouse was considered inappropriate within the Green Belt without very special circumstances to justify it. The Rossendale BESS project is a fundamentally different scheme with distinct objectives. Its purpose is to enhance grid stability as part of the UK's transition to renewable energy and achieve net-zero goals. The project has been designed to minimise visual impact, with the site positioned at a sufficient distance from residential properties. Landscaping measures will be implemented to

Feedback	Response
	help integrate the development into its surroundings effectively.

6. Post Consultation Activity

5.1 In March 2025, the Applicant met with the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum and Edenfield Residents Association to discuss its plans for Scout Moor II.

5.2 During these discussions, Rossendale BESS was also mentioned. The Applicant committed to hosting a drop-in session as part of the Edenfield physical exhibition scheduled for Scout Moor II. This session, planned for April 2025, will provide residents with an opportunity to speak directly with the Senior Planner responsible for Rossendale BESS and ask any further questions about the scheme.

7. Conclusions

6.1.1 In preparing the proposals for Rossendale BESS, the development team conducted a pre-application consultation in line with Rossendale Borough 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 would like to extend their appreciation to all who participated in the consultation process and shared their views on the plans.

6.1.3 The consultation website attracted a significant number of views, although the level of direct feedback received was relatively low. This is often indicative of individuals accessing the website, reviewing the information, and choosing not to comment if they feel they do not have any objections.

6.1.4 The Applicant remains keen to gather further input, particularly regarding the Community Benefit Fund, to better understand how it can best support the local community. Moving forward, the Applicant will engage with key stakeholders at Rossendale Borough Council to formalise the Fund so it is designed to have the greatest impact on those living in the vicinity.

6.1.5 The Applicant appreciates the support received. The concerns raised mainly related to the visual and noise impacts on the rural character of the area, as well as fire safety. Responses to these concerns have been outlined in Section 5.0 along with a commitment to minimising any impact associated with the development.

6.1.6 This report reflects the views expressed by residents, stakeholders, and elected members during the public consultation and addresses the feedback received concerning the



development. Moving forward, the development team will keep communication channels open, allowing the local community to stay engaged throughout the planning process.

8. Appendices

Appendix A – Correspondence



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70 St Mary Axe
London EC3A 8BE
+44 (0)20 3805 3900

ARRIVE Blue Building
MediaCity Salford M50 2ST

contact@cubicoinvest.com
www.cubicoinvest.com

Monday 4th November 2024

Dear [NAME],

RE: Scout Moor II - Driving the North's Clean Energy Agenda

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us recently to discuss the plans for Scout Moor II. As we progress with this exciting project, we are keen to continue engaging with local representatives like yourself and to hear your insights on how the development can best benefit the community.

Additionally, we will be consulting on our plans for Rossendale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with an 85MW capacity. While the Rossendale BESS and Scout Moor II Wind Farm are independent projects, their proximity allows us to streamline the consultation process and enhance community engagement by addressing both projects simultaneously.

Both consultations will take place from **Tuesday 5th November to Tuesday 26th November**. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you again during this period to address any questions you may have.

About Scout Moor II

Scout Moor II is a pivotal project for the North, marking a major step in transforming the region into a renewable energy hub. Our proposals aim to generate up to **100MW of clean electricity (c. 21 turbines)**, enough to power **100,000 homes annually**, reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and offsetting significant carbon emissions. This makes Scout Moor II one of the first major onshore wind developments in the UK following the lift of the onshore wind ban, presenting a crucial opportunity to contribute to the UK's ambitious net-zero targets.

Local Community Consultation

We are committed to ensuring this project is developed in a way that reflects the needs and priorities of the community. The consultation is designed to seek the local community's feedback on how Scout Moor II can best serve the area and enhance local benefits.

We will be engaging the community through a combination of leaflet drops, social media outreach, and public exhibitions, where residents will have the chance to meet directly with the project team. These events will be held at the following locations:

- Edenfield Community Centre – Tuesday 12th November, 2pm to 6:30pm
- Cowpe Community Hall – Wednesday 13th November, 12:30pm to 7pm
- Rochdale AFC – Tuesday 19th November, 12:30pm to 7pm



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- The Ashcroft, Whitworth – Wednesday 20th November, 12:30pm to 7pm

To make sure everyone has access to the information, we will launch a dedicated project website at www.scoutmoor2.co.uk, which will **go live on Tuesday 5th November**. The website will serve as the central hub for all project-related details and allow residents to submit their feedback directly through the online consultation form.

Alternatively, feedback can be submitted by:

- Phone: **0333 358 0502** (Mon–Fri, 9am–5:30pm)
- Post: **Scout Moor II, c/o Lexington, Third Floor Queens House, Queen Street, Manchester, M2 5HT**
- Email: scoutmoor2@havingyoursay.co.uk

About Rossendale BESS

We are advancing plans for Rossendale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), situated on Rochdale Road near ~~Cheesden~~. This project proposes an 85MW BESS designed to strengthen the local grid infrastructure by efficiently storing and balancing energy to meet demand.

As this is a separate application, we will distribute leaflets specific to the scheme within a 2km radius of the site and will launch a dedicated website for the project. This site will also provide separate channels for local residents to share their feedback: www.rossendalebatterystorage.co.uk.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact [REDACTED]

We look forward to working with you and hearing your thoughts on how we can make Scout Moor II a project that not only supports the UK's clean energy goals but also brings meaningful benefits to your community.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Tate
Head of Development UK
Cubico UK Ltd

Appendix B – Consultation Website

[Welcome](#)
[About the Site](#)
[Our Plans](#)
[Get Involved](#)
[About Us](#)

Introducing Rossendale BESS

We are delighted to share our plans for a new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Rossendale as part of Cubico's commitment to advancing renewable energy and strengthening the UK's energy security.

This scheme will help ensure a sustainable energy supply, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and improve grid stability. By storing electricity and releasing it when demand is higher, BESS provides a consistent and reliable energy flow, even when wind and solar production fluctuates. This technology enables more renewable energy on the grid, strengthens energy security, and supports net-zero goals.

Please take a moment to review the information below and share your thoughts on this project. Our consultation runs from 5th to 26th November—sign up for our webinar and use any of our feedback channels to provide your input. Every contribution will be thoughtfully considered and will help shape our detailed proposals

[Register for webinar](#)
[Share your feedback](#)

What is BESS?

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

This technology is central to unlocking the replacement of fossil fuels with renewable power. Installing storage systems means energy from renewable sources can continue to power homes and businesses even at times without wind or sunshine!

Rossendale Borough Council has produced 'Our Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan' setting out its roadmap to achieving a target of net-zero by 2030. Part of this includes adopting the use of more renewable energy sources to meet local demand. The UK Government considers battery storage facilities as critical energy infrastructure as it allows for utilisation of energy generated from renewable sources to be maximised.

Why is this development important?

Right now, when energy demand peaks, gas power stations have to fire up to meet that extra need. But that's not a long-term solution and relying on this is inconsistent with our net-zero goals. Renewable energy schemes such as wind and solar can meet energy needs but do not always produce energy when it is needed. As such, we need infrastructure to store energy generated by renewable schemes in low-demand times for use later when demand increases.

To put it simply, to reach net-zero and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, we need battery storage to keep renewable energy available whenever we need it.

About the Site

Location

The site is located off Rochdale Road, at the junction with Bamford Road to the east of Ramsbottom and south east of Edenfield. It is currently grassland, used to graze sheep. The proposals will include the battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure.

Why Here?

We're connecting the new system directly into the local substation, making the most of energy produced by the existing wind farm. It's a straightforward way to ensure the local area benefits the most from the clean energy it produces, without the need for new infrastructure.

To get the most from both the existing wind farm and any storage solution both need a grid connection. By sharing the same infrastructure, it means that the storage can support the wind farm, help balance the local network and minimise losses whilst avoiding having to build any new overhead lines or substations.

When electricity travels over long distances through power lines, some of it is lost as heat. This is known as energy loss. The further electricity has to travel, the more energy is lost along the way. By placing the battery storage facility close to the grid connection and the wind farm, we minimise this energy loss, making the system more efficient and ensuring that more of the renewable energy generated can be stored and used when needed.

Site Location

Our Plans

Our Design Approach

We are designing the project to address key factors like landscape, ecology, drainage and flood risk, noise, traffic, and fire risk. Our main priorities include:

- Minimising visibility of battery units from nearby areas
- Keeping safe distances from residential properties to reduce noise and visual impact
- Implementing strong fire safety measures
- Using low-impact construction methods to protect the environment
- Achieving a biodiversity net gain over 10% to support local habitats

Battery units will be installed in an optimal location to boost efficiency and minimise landscape impact. Detailed plans, including layout and access, will be shared in our planning application to keep the community informed and involved.

What will the project look like?

The battery units will be housed in low-profile, container-style enclosures arranged in rows between perimeter access roads, designed to blend unobtrusively into the site.

The area will be levelled to ensure stability, with any excess material redistributed onsite.

Landscaping, including an attenuation pond and habitat management in an adjacent field, will help integrate the development with the surroundings, transforming pastureland into a species-rich grassland. Existing stone walls will be preserved and repaired, while a discreet green mesh fence will secure the site. Lighting will be minimal, with no floodlighting, to reduce visual impact and disturbance.

The scheme will include:

- Battery containers, inverters, and a control room with an on-site substation
- New access from Edenfield Road, internal roads, and an attenuation pond
- A habitat management area and temporary construction facilities
- A security fence
- Underground cables connecting to the existing substation

It will also include a comprehensive landscaping strategy. A large portion of the site will remain undeveloped and contribute a significant improvement in biodiversity and habitats.



Maximising Local Benefits

Cubico is dedicated to ensuring local businesses and residents gain the most from the project's investment. Our mission is to drive local economic growth, create job and training opportunities, inspire the next generation through educational programmes, and actively engage local businesses in our supply chain.

Community Benefit Fund

This project isn't just about energy, it's about investing in your local area.

The BESS will unlock a Community Benefit Fund to be spent on local initiatives. We want your input on how the Community Benefit Fund for the Rossendale BESS project can best support initiatives within the immediate local area. This fund is separate from, and in addition to, the Community Wealth Fund associated with the proposed Scout Moor II Wind Farm expansion. The BESS fund will be ring-fenced specifically for local projects nearest the site, ensuring targeted support for the surrounding community. We welcome your ideas on how this fund can be spent to make a meaningful impact.



Supporting local priorities and initiatives through a Community Benefit Fund.



\$40M capital investment with a focus on maximising local expenditure.



Reducing emissions by around 38,000 tCO₂e, equivalent to taking 20,000 cars off the road.



Achieving over 10% biodiversity net gain through habitat creation and careful site management.

Project Timeline

Explore our project timeline to see the key stages of our consultation and planning process, from initial consultation and EIA scoping through to planning decisions, construction, and final commissioning.

Consultation



Application & Planning



Construction and Commissioning



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)?

A BESS stores excess electricity at times when there is surplus (typically when wind and solar output is high), and releases it when demand is high during peak times. This helps stabilise the grid, reducing the use of fossil fuel alternatives and ensuring reliable power supply.

Is the Rossendale BESS part of the same project as the Scout Moor II Wind Farm? Why are they being consulted on together?

No, Rossendale BESS and Scout Moor II Wind Farm are independent projects situated near each other. To provide a cohesive consultation process and transparent community engagement, both projects are being consulted on simultaneously for clarity. For more information about the Scout Moor II Wind Farm, [please visit Scout Moor II Wind Farm](#).

Why is this BESS project being proposed here?

The location was chosen for its proximity to the grid and minimal impact on the surrounding landscape. This site allows for efficient energy storage and supports local renewable energy infrastructure.

How safe are Battery Energy Storage Systems?

Fundamentally, Battery Energy Storage Systems are very safe. The risks associated with potential fires are extremely low. These systems are based on mature technologies and include various safety measures in design and operation to reduce the risk of fire and, if one occurs, to minimise its severity. As part of the planning application, we will be engaging with the local Fire Service to provide a Battery Safety Management Plan, outlining the measures taken to ensure a safe development.

Will the BESS be noisy?

BESS units generate minimal noise. Most noise comes from cooling fans and transformers, which are engineered to operate within low-noise guidelines. We will also position units away from residential areas to minimise any noise impact further.

How will the BESS affect local wildlife and habitats?

Protecting local ecology is a top priority and our application will include detailed surveys. We aim to achieve a biodiversity net gain in excess of 10%, enhancing local habitats. Our design avoids sensitive ecological areas, and construction practices are chosen to reduce disturbance to wildlife.

What benefits will this project bring to the local community?

This BESS project will support the local grid, helping stabilise electricity supply from renewable sources. Additionally, it will contribute to local economic growth, creating jobs, training opportunities, and potentially supporting local businesses.

What measures will be in place to manage traffic during construction?

A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be developed to minimise disruption. This plan will outline preferred access routes, restrict heavy vehicle movements to certain times, and ensure safe travel around the site and local area.

How long will construction take, and what can we expect during this period?

Construction is expected to take several months, depending on conditions. We will implement measures to reduce noise, dust, and traffic impacts during this time, with regular updates provided to keep the community informed.

Have you secured a grid connection?

Cubico has an agreement with Electricity North West to connect the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to the Scout Moor substation in Cheesden. This will allow the BESS to import and export electricity, supporting the local grid by balancing supply and demand. The connection is planned along Rochdale Road, with the final route to be confirmed after planning permission is granted.

Does the development need to be located within the Green Belt?

Yes, the development does need to be located within the Green Belt. BESS can only be placed where there is available 'capacity' on the electricity network, which is highly constrained across the country. For this project, we have secured a connection agreement with Electricity North West to link to the Scout Moor substation. To meet environmental and engineering requirements, the development must be within approximately 2 km of this connection point. As all land within this 2 km radius is designated Green Belt, the proposed site, ideally located just 600 metres from the substation, is ideally positioned.

Get Involved

We want you to help shape this project. What ideas do you have for the Community Benefit Fund? What are your thoughts on the BESS development? We want to hear from as many people as possible!

As part of our consultation programme, we will be hosting a webinar of the plans on Thursday 21st November at 6:30pm. This will involve a presentation from the project team followed by a question-and-answer session. [You can register here](#). You can submit your questions in advance or you can ask them on the webinar direct.

We are grateful for you taking the time to review our proposals and we want you to join the conversation. You can provide comments using the form below, by emailing the project team or by giving us a call.

Contact Us



Call us on 0333 358 0502 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm)



Email us at rossendalebatterystorage@havingyoursay.co.uk



Send a letter to FREEPOST SHAPE TOMORROW

Submit your comments from 5th November to 26th November, and be part of shaping a brighter, greener future for Rossendale.

Rossendale BESS

March 2025



Your Views

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the plans for Rossendale BESS. We invite you to share your thoughts and join the conversation. You can provide feedback by filling out the online form, reaching out to us via phone, email, or post (contact details are in the 'Contact Us' section).

Please make sure to submit your comments by Tuesday 26th November to ensure they are considered in the first consultation.

Name:

Email:

Postcode:

Q1 - How supportive are you of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in Rossendale?

- Very Supportive ☐
Somewhat Supportive ☐
Neutral ☐
Somewhat Opposed ☐
Strongly Opposed ☐

Q2 - Please explain your answer

Q3 - In your opinion, how important is it to invest in battery storage to support renewable energy sources like wind power?

- Extremely Important ☐
Important ☐
Neutral ☐
Not Important ☐
Unsure ☐

Q4 - Do you have any ideas on how the BESS Community Benefit Fund could be spent on local initiatives?

Q5 - As part of the landscaping strategy, there will be significant improvement in biodiversity. How important do you think it is to enhance local biodiversity as part of energy developments?

- Extremely Important ☐
Important ☐
Neutral ☐
Not Important ☐
Unsure ☐

Q6 - Do you have any suggestions or concerns about how we can improve biodiversity in the area around the BESS development?

Q7 - Do you have any further comments on the proposals?

Submit

About Cubico

Cubico is one of the world's largest privately owned renewable energy companies, dedicated to investing in and developing renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure.

As a long-term owner and asset manager, we prioritise building strong community relationships to ensure our projects address local needs throughout their lifetime.

Based in Manchester, our UK Development Team is passionate about collaborating with residents around the wind farm to shape our proposals and deliver lasting benefits.



Rossendale BESS

March 2025



Cubico's Commitment to You

Cubico is committed to open engagement with the community at every project stage—development, construction, and operation. We will maintain this project website to provide regular updates, and our team will be available for any questions.

We're keen to meet local groups to incorporate community feedback into the project. If we succeed in gaining planning permission, we'll provide a dedicated contact within our delivery team and a considerate contractor to minimise disruption.

Once operational, our asset management team will maintain positive community relations, ensuring benefits are shared locally and support long-term community wellbeing.

Cubico's Social Value Contract

Cubico's Corporate Social Responsibility strategy aims to create lasting, positive impacts in the communities we serve, guided by these principles:

- **Community Identity:** We respect each community's unique character and support local economic and social development.
- **Clean Energy:** We provide clean, affordable energy that reduces CO₂ emissions and tackles climate change.
- **Environmental Conservation:** We prioritise environmental sustainability through responsible practices.
- **Transparency:** We ensure open communication and accountability with stakeholders.
- **Social Wellbeing:** We support projects that enhance the wellbeing of our communities and employees.

Learn more about our global social value initiatives [here](#).



[Privacy Policy](#)

Contact Us



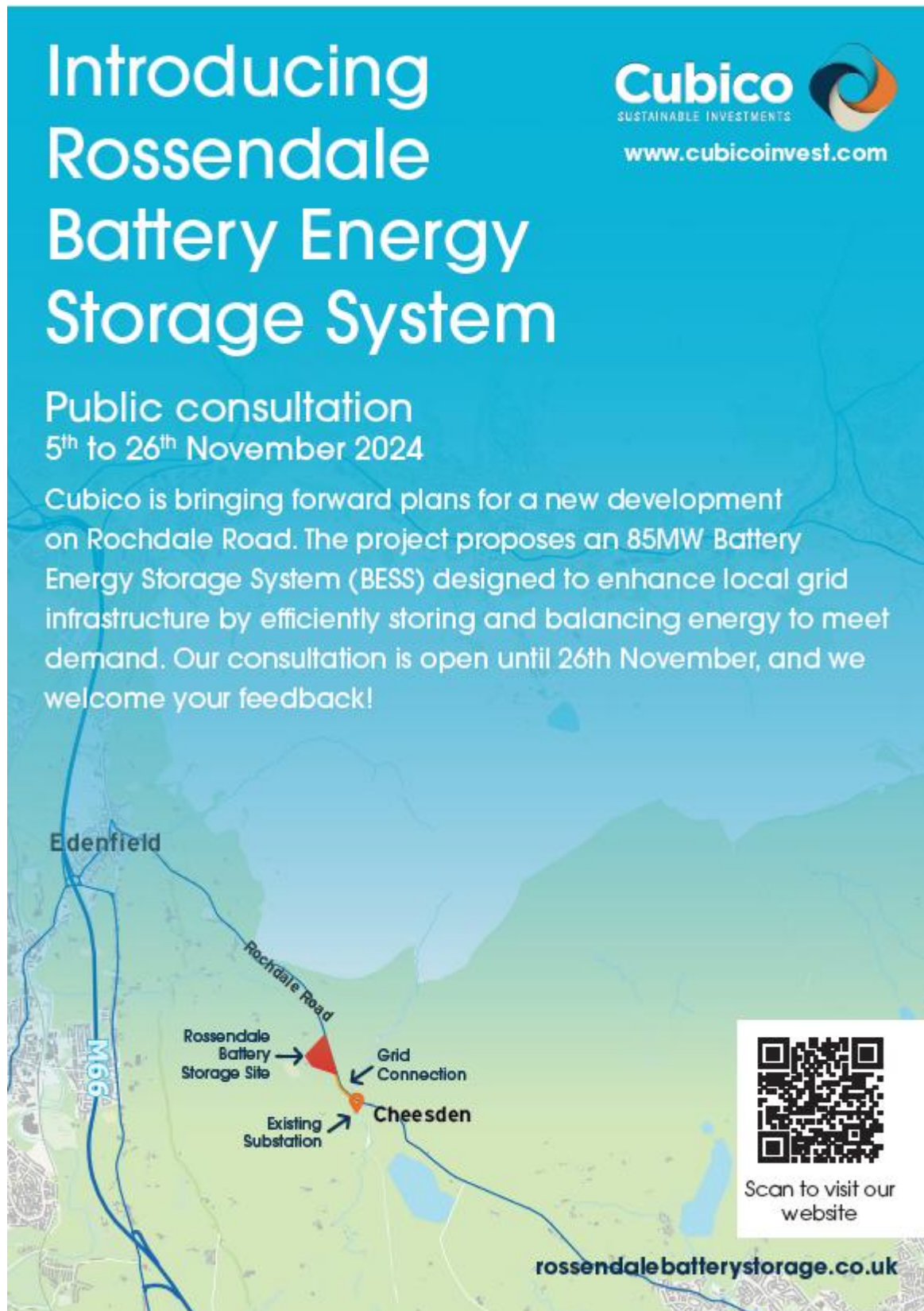
Call us on 0333 358 0502 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm)



Email us at rossendalebatterystorage@havingyoursay.co.uk



Send a letter to FREEPOST SHAPE TOMORROW (no stamp necessary!)



**Introducing
Rossendale
Battery Energy
Storage System**

Cubico
SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS
www.cubicoinvest.com

Public consultation
5th to 26th November 2024

Cubico is bringing forward plans for a new development on Rochdale Road. The project proposes an 85MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) designed to enhance local grid infrastructure by efficiently storing and balancing energy to meet demand. Our consultation is open until 26th November, and we welcome your feedback!

Edenfield

Rochdale Road

Rossendale Battery Storage Site

Grid Connection

Existing Substation

Cheesden

M66

rossendalebatterystorage.co.uk

Scan to visit our website

Our Scheme



Cleaner Energy: BESS stores renewable energy, reducing the need for gas power stations during peak times and helping the UK reach its net-zero goals.



Local Grid Connection: The system will plug directly into the existing substation, making it efficient and minimising new infrastructure.



Community Benefit Fund: Funding will be available annually for local projects, and we'd love to hear your ideas on how it can best be put to use.



Job Creation: Local jobs will be created during the construction phase, boosting the local economy.



Long-Term Benefits: This project will help to stabilise energy prices, support more renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Get Involved and have your say

You can get involved in many different ways:



View our plans on the dedicated project website, rossendalebatterystorage.co.uk



Register to attend our project team webinar of the plans and ask any questions (Register online)



Email us at rossendalebatterystorage@havingyoursay.co.uk



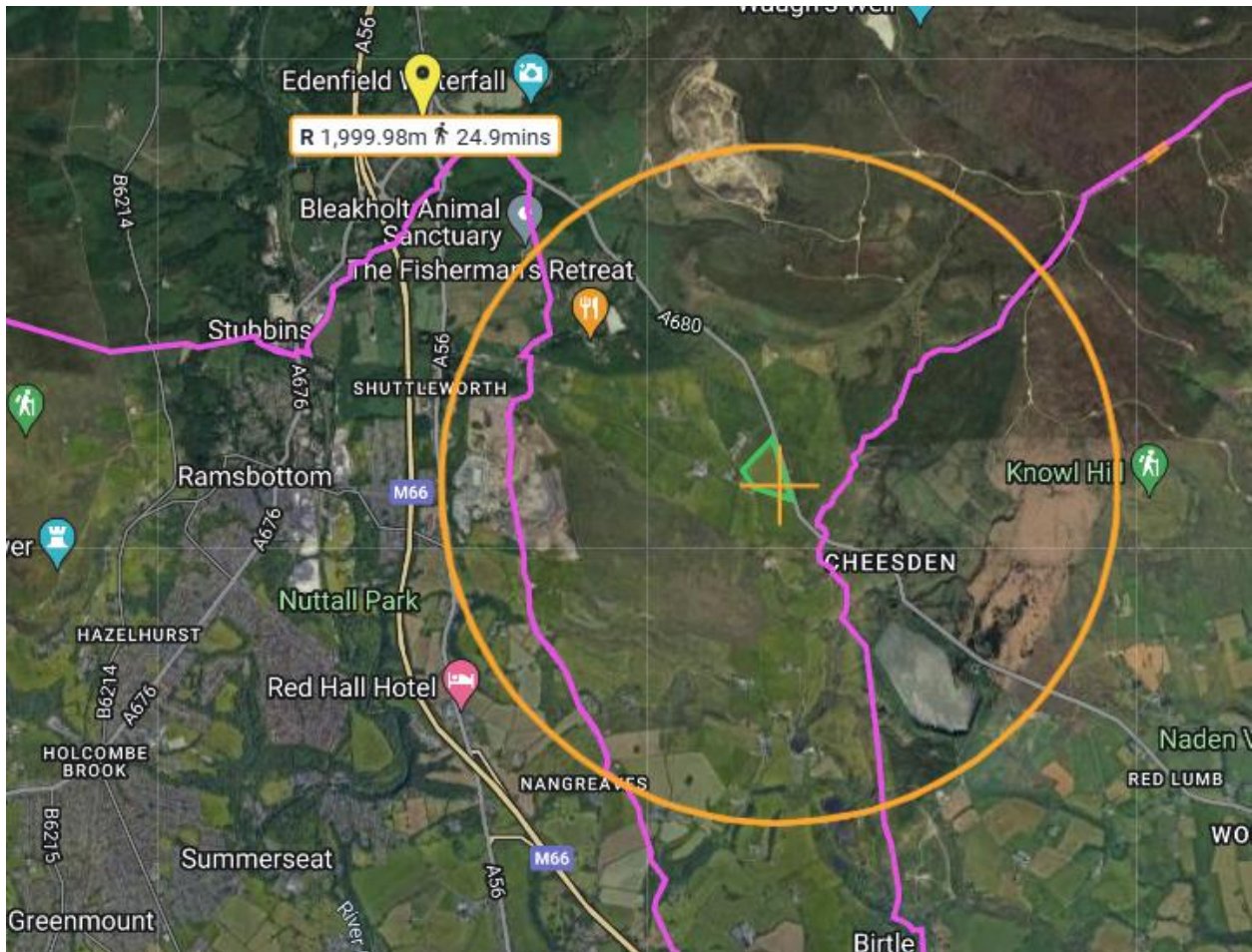
Call us on **0333 358 0502** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm)



Send a letter to **FREEPOST SHAPE TOMORROW** (no stamp necessary!)

Please ensure your feedback is submitted by the **26th November** to give the team time to review and analyse before a planning application is submitted to Rossendale Borough Council.

Appendix D – Leaflet Distribution Area



Appendix E – Webinar Slides



Cubico
SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS

Rossendale BESS

Stakeholder Consultation Webinar

21st November 2024

Agenda



Cubico
SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS

1. Introductions
 - Joe Chambers, Senior Development Manager
 - Peter Rowe, Development Manager
 - Frances Cosby, Lexington Communications
 - Steven Healey, Turley Planning
2. Who are Cubico?
3. About Battery Energy Storage (BESS)
4. About the Project
 - Why here?
 - Our design approach
 - Local Benefits
5. Programme
6. Q&A

Who are Cubico?

Who we are and our commitment to the community



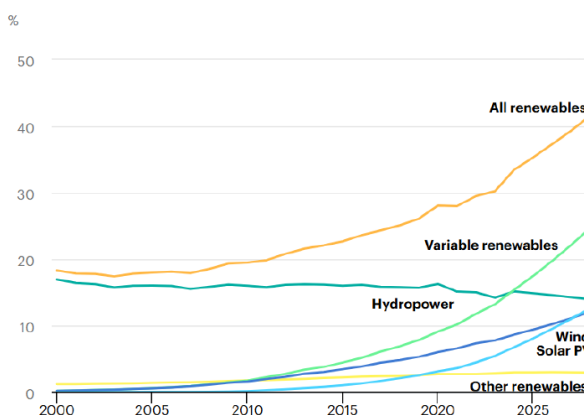
- Cubico is one of the world's leading privately owned renewable energy companies, focused on developing sustainable infrastructure and renewable energy projects.
- As a long-term owner and operator, we prioritise strong community relationships to ensure our projects meet local needs throughout their lifecycle.
- Based in Manchester, our UK Development Team is dedicated to working closely with residents to shape proposals that deliver lasting benefits.
- We are committed to transparent engagement at every stage—development, construction, and operation. This website will be regularly updated, and our team is available to answer any questions.
- We welcome feedback from local groups and aim to incorporate community input into the project. If planning permission is granted, we'll appoint a dedicated contact within our delivery team and a considerate contractor to minimise disruption.
- Once operational, our asset management team will continue fostering positive community relations, ensuring local benefits and supporting long-term wellbeing.



About BESS

What is BESS and why is it important?

- In recent years, the deployment of renewable energy in the UK has been a huge success story.
- The new Labour government aims to make further progress with its target to make the UK a clean energy superpower by 2030, with mission of:
 - delivering cheap clean power
 - advancing net-zero targets
 - boosting energy independence, and
 - supporting job growth nationwide.
- Right now, when energy demand peaks, gas power stations often have to fire up to meet that extra need, but that is not a long-term solution and is inconsistent with our net zero goals.
- A battery energy storage system (BESS) is a device that enables electricity to be stored and then released when it is needed most.
- It will be a key technology to enabling the transition to net-zero, with projects designed to import electricity when it is abundant, for storage and later export at peak times.
- To put it simply, to reach net-zero and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, we need battery storage to keep renewable energy available whenever we need it.



About the Project

Why Here?

- The site is located off Rochdale Road, at the junction with Bamford Road to the east of Ramsbottom and south-east of Edenfield. It is currently grassland, used to graze sheep.
- We're connecting the new system directly into the local substation, making the most of energy produced by the existing wind farm. It's a straightforward way to ensure the local area benefits the most from the clean energy it produces, without the need for new infrastructure.
- To get the most from both the existing wind farm and any storage solution both need a grid connection. By sharing the same infrastructure, it means that the storage can support the wind farm, help balance the local network and minimise losses whilst avoiding having to build any new overhead lines or substations.
- In utilising infrastructure at the existing Scout Moor wind farm substation, we will make the most of available capacity in the grid, helping to reduce losses.



Our Design Approach



We are designing the project to address key factors like landscape, ecology, drainage and flood risk, noise, traffic, and fire risk. Our main priorities include:

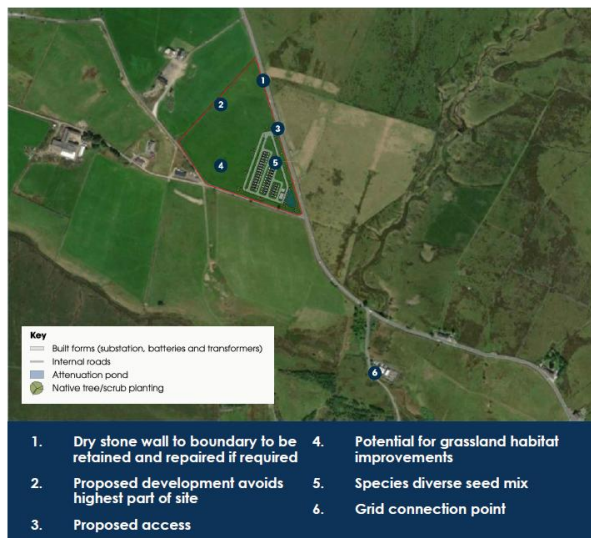


Cubico Sustainable Investments © 9

What will the project look like?



- Battery units housed in low-profile container enclosures, arranged in rows.
- The area will be levelled, with excess material redistributed onsite.
- Landscaping includes an attenuation pond, habitat management, and conversion of pastureland to species-rich grassland.
- Existing stone walls will be preserved and repaired, with a green mesh fence securing the site.
- Minimal lighting will reduce visual impact and disturbance.
- Key components:**
 - Battery containers, inverters, control room, and on-site substation.
 - New access from Edenfield Road, internal roads, and an attenuation pond.
 - Habitat management area, temporary construction facilities, and underground cables to the existing substation.
 - A comprehensive landscaping strategy will leave large areas undeveloped, enhancing biodiversity and habitats.



Cubico Sustainable Investments © 10



Maximising Local Benefits



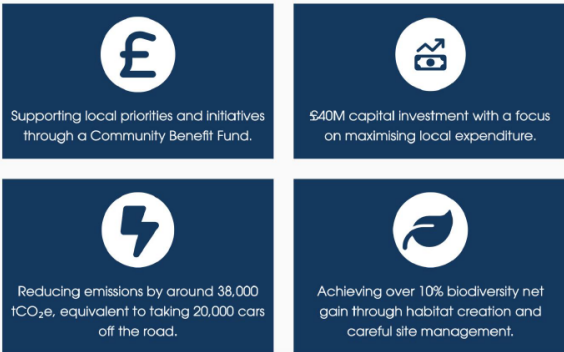
Cubico is dedicated to ensuring local businesses and residents gain the most from the project's investment. Our mission is to drive local economic growth, create job and training opportunities, inspire the next generation through educational programmes, and actively engage local businesses in our supply chain.

Community Benefit Fund

This project isn't just about energy, it's about investing in your local area.

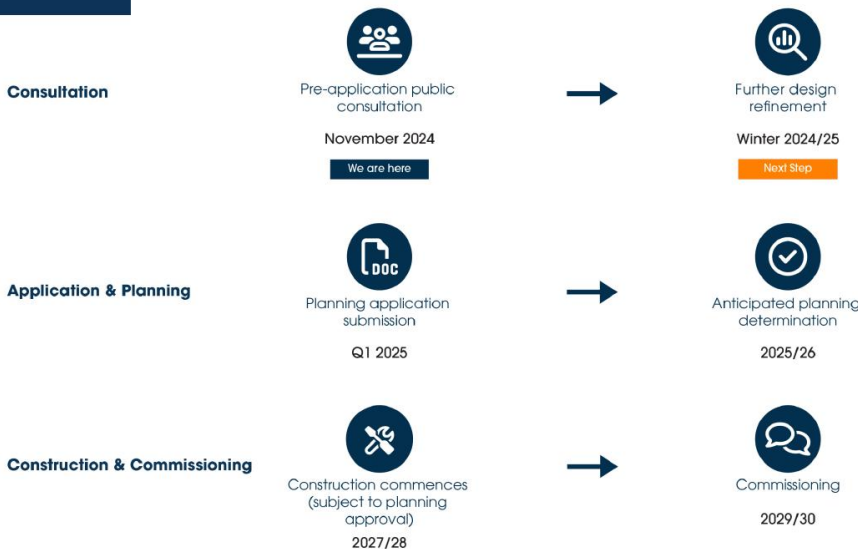
The BESS will unlock a Community Benefit Fund to be spent on local initiatives. We want your input on how the Community Benefit Fund for the Rossendale BESS project can best support initiatives within the immediate local area.

This fund is separate from, and in addition to, the Community Wealth Fund associated with the proposed Scout Moor II Wind Farm expansion. The BESS fund will be ring-fenced specifically for local projects nearest the site, ensuring targeted support for the surrounding community. We welcome your ideas on how this fund can be spent to make a meaningful impact.



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Timescales



Cubico Sustainable Investments © 12

A large dark blue rectangular graphic occupies the upper half of the page. It features several lighter blue, semi-transparent wavy shapes that overlap each other, creating a layered, abstract effect. The text 'Q&A' is positioned on the left side of this graphic.

Q&A