

Appendix 1 Project website content www.blandfordhillecohub.co.uk



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On Thursday 4 March 2021 we held an online public consultation event where members could meet the team online, ask questions and provide their feedback on the plans. The recording of the event and presentation slides are available below.

We are in the process of providing answers to questions we have received, if you haven't heard from us yet please bear with us, we will get back to you. We will be posting a number of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on this website soon.

A document comprising these will be available in hard copy, at request, for residents who do not have digital access.

All channels for feedback remain available, including this website, Freephone number 0800 25 45 185, project email address blandfordhillecohub@pegasusgroup.co.uk and Freepost address; *Freepost Middlemarch Consultation*.

We look forward to hearing from you.

[WATCH RECORDED WEBINAR](#)

[DOWNLOAD PRESENTATION SLIDES](#)

Welcome

Welcome to the Blandford Hill Eco Hub. On this website we introduce the proposals to you, add more information as the project progresses and provide a way to get in touch with us.

The Blandford Hill Eco Hub project consists of an electric vehicle (EV) charging station, a circa 15 megawatt ground-mounted solar farm and a 3 megawatt battery storage facility on land south of the A354 at Blandford Hill, Winterborne Whitechurch near Blandford Forum in Dorset. By combining green electricity generation, storage and charging, we're maximising the green potential of up to 12 EVs at a time.



Solar Farm

EV Charging

Zero Carbon



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About Us

These development proposals are being proposed by Naturalis Energy Developments Ltd ('Naturalis'). Naturalis is a joint venture between the REG Power Management group ('REG') and the Falck Group ('Falck Renewables').



About Reg Power Management

Since 2005, the team at REG has been dedicated to developing a variety of renewable energy projects to help in the shift to a zero-carbon future. REG is based in the UK and has, to date, developed over 1 gigawatt of wind, solar and bio-fuel projects in the UK, Poland and Canada. REG has over 40 projects built and in operation today, the vast majority in its core market of the UK. REG and Falck Renewables are working together through Naturalis to develop, build and operate this project. Falck Renewables are expected to be the long-term owners and operators of the Blandford Hill Eco Hub.

About Falck Renewables

Falck Renewables and its affiliated companies are experienced worldwide players in the development, construction, purchase and management of wind and solar power projects at all stages of their development. They have a proven track record of successfully developing, constructing and operating wind and solar projects across Europe. Falck Renewables currently owns a wind and solar portfolio of 1,123 Megawatts in operation with over 400 Megawatts of onshore wind operational in the UK across 12 sites.



The Site

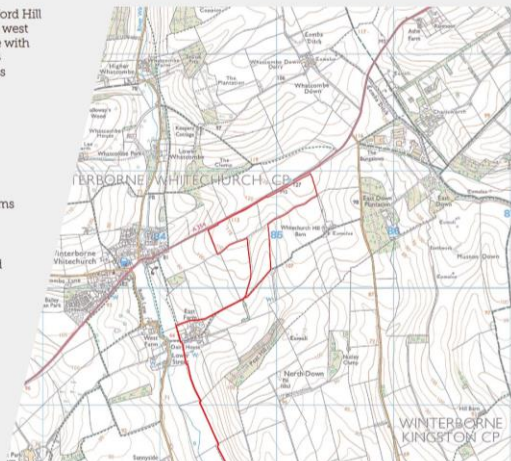
The Blandford Hill Eco Hub is to be located immediately to the south of Blandford Hill (the A354), just east of Winterborne Whitechurch. The site lies circa 6km south west of Blandford Forum. The site comprises four fields presently in agricultural use with mature and established boundary vegetation, which will be retained. The A354 runs along the northern boundary of the site and will form the means of access from an existing layby. Footpath E32/6 runs broadly east-west along the southern boundary of the proposed site near East Farm and together with the other Public Rights of Way would be retained. The loss of the layby parking would be offset by non-EV parking provision and improved public facilities within the EV charging station.

The River Winterborne lies circa 650m to the west of the site. The site itself forms Flood Zone 1 land (i.e. land with the least probability of flooding).

There are no heritage assets or designated ecological sites within the proposed development footprint. The Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lies to the north of the site. The site is wholly within the Dorset County Council administrative area and within the Winterborne Whitechurch Parish area. The proposal will include plans that will enhance the biodiversity of the site.

A copy of the Site Location Plan can be downloaded from this website.

The site design will be refined as the Blandford Hill Eco Hub development proposals progress and will be informed by a number of site surveys. The findings of these surveys will be presented as part of the public consultation associated with the scheme and will form part of the planning application.



Our Proposals

The proposed development comprises three main parts. First, an electric vehicle charging station. Second, a ground-mounted solar farm together with all associated equipment and infrastructure. Third, a battery storage system. The EV charging station is an innovative form of technology with only a few other comparable such examples in the country. The location reflects an identified regional 'gap' in charging infrastructure for EVs. It is anticipated the combined capacity of the solar farm and batteries would be circa. 18 megawatts.

The electric vehicle charging station element of the scheme would comprise:

Construction of a new access off the existing lay-by to the south of the A354;

Up to 6 ultra-rapid (up to 350kW) and 6 rapid (43-100kW) charging points providing the ability to charge up to 12 EVs at any one time. These chargers would be suitable for all types of modern, light-duty EVs and would not be restricted to any particular EV manufacturer;

Public rest facilities including public conveniences, a small café/shop and seating/rest area within an up to two storey building located near to the covered walkway and canopy of the EV charging points;

All necessary associated development and facilities, including car parking space, hardstanding, landscaping and outdoor seating.



Economic Benefits

P20-1118



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

LAND SOUTH OF BLANDFORD HILL, DORSET
CONSTRUCTION OF THE BLANDFORD HILL ECO HUB

SUPPORTING A GROWING SECTOR



Jan-May 2019
For the first time since the Industrial Revolution, Britain obtained more power from zero-carbon sources (48%) than fossil fuels (47%).

SUPPORTING THE MOVE TO ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES

Sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans to end from 2030, a decade earlier than planned.²

BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

Investment of approximately **£10million** to develop a 15MWp solar farm, a battery storage facility, ultra-rapid electric vehicle chargers and a shop and cafe area.

Generating enough power for **c. 4,000** homes.

Up to **117** temporary jobs, both on-site and in the wider supply chain during the 3 to 6-month construction phase.

Supporting **8** permanent direct and indirect jobs once the proposed development is built and operational.

£42,000 Estimated potential annual business rates generated by the solar farm.

Up to **£3.5million** in gross value added to the economy over the 3 to 6-month construction phase.

Contributing **£3.8million** in gross value added³ to the economy over the next 10 years.⁴

¹Based on data in the 2020 Digest of British Energy Statistics (DEES), published by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. For additional information see the Green Future, Energy White Paper, December 2020.

²GVA, or gross value added, is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, sector or industry. Where, such benefits are calculated over a longer timeframe, they have been discounted to produce a present value.

News

As the Blandford Hill Eco Hub proposals develop over the coming months, we will continue to upload on this website relevant new information and provide project updates.

Update 22nd April 2021: BLANDFORD HILL ECO HUB MARKS WORLD EARTH DAY: Today is Earth Day, observed around the world to celebrate the birth of the environmental movement in 1970 and to create awareness about key environmental issues affecting all of us, such as climate change. This year's theme is 'Restore Our Earth', which shines the spotlight on the role that emerging green technologies have to play to restore the world's ecosystems.

Development Director for the Blandford Hill Eco Hub, Matt Partridge, commented: "We have only one planet and we need to ensure it can sustain us. It is important to celebrate Earth Day, to mark the efforts that are taking place globally to live more sustainably and stop depleting our natural resources. The shift away from fossil fuels is a key step. Projects such as the Blandford Hill Eco Hub help make the transition towards clean energy and electric driving a reality."

Some more than others, but governments around the globe are stepping up their game. In the United States, President Biden is hosting a world leaders' summit today to discuss what major economies can do more to tackle the climate emergency and to make the most of the economic advantages the change to green technologies can bring. Earlier this week, the UK Government announced their pledge for a law underpinning the target to slash emissions by 78% by 2035.

For more information on Earth Day, please visit <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/>

Download

As these proposals develop over the coming months, relevant documents and high resolution copies of plans will be available for download on this website.

- Site Location Plan [\[click to download\]](#)
- Environmental Impact Assessment screening request letter to Dorset Council [\[click to download\]](#)
- Environmental Impact Assessment screening opinion made by Dorset Council [\[click to download\]](#)
- Consultation Leaflet [\[click to download\]](#)

Phone: 0800 25 43 185 (Freephone)

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Post: Treetop Middlemarch Consultation (no further address details or stamps required).



Feedback

Please ask us any questions and share your views with us. We look forward to hearing from you.



Name *

Email *

Are you responding as: *

Comments *

Submit

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naturalis

Falck
Renewables
ASSET DEVELOPMENT

FAQs

Please find below a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Blandford Hill Eco Hub and their answers. If you would like to know more, please [get in touch](#)

Frequently asked questions



1. Why is Blandford Hill deemed a suitable location for the proposed eco hub?

2. Why is there a need for an eco hub?

3. How does the eco hub work?

4. What happens to the batteries used in EVs and in the hub?

5. Will there be an increase in traffic once the hub is operational?

6. Where will the proposed eco hub be visible from?

7. How about local wildlife, would it be displaced?

Contact



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