



ENERGY STORAGE AT ECCLES SUB-STATION

24th July, 2023

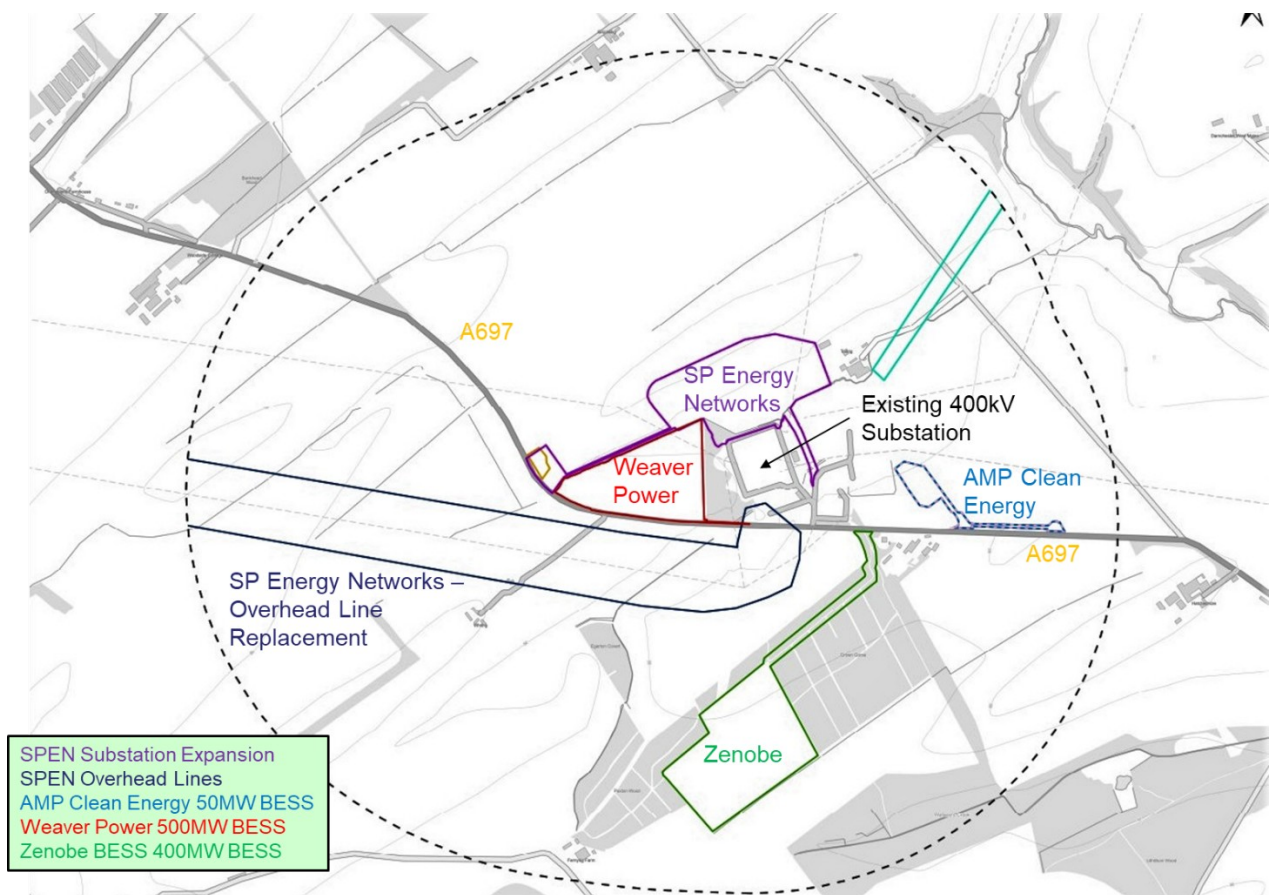
Eccles
Birgham

COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

Introduction:

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are a critical part of the Scottish Government's strategy for achieving environmental targets. The principle is simple: wind farms generate electricity almost constantly irrespective of demand. Battery storage allows this electricity to be stored during period of low demand and returned to the grid when needed.

BESS need to be sited close to key electricity sub-stations. There are two key sub-stations providing electricity to major conurbations south of the border, one in the West of Scotland and Eccles on the East.



Planning Applications:

We are aware of the following applications in respect of Eccles:

Amp Clean Energy: submitted an application during the summer of 2022 to develop a small (50MW) battery storage facility adjacent and to the south of the sub-station. This application was passed by Scottish Borders Council in 2023. The site is unlikely to be developed before 2028 as connection date to grid is 2029.



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Zenobe: have an application pending with the Scottish Government's Energy Consent Unit (due to size this is not a SBC decision) to develop a large 400MW battery storage facility between the Sawmill and Fernyrig to the south side of the A697. It is likely that this application will be passed.

Weaver Power: have submitted an application to the Scottish Government to develop a large 500MW battery storage facility west the sub-station to the north of the A697.

Sub-Station extension: Planning granted to extend sub-station to about twice original size.

Upgrade Power Lines: Planning pending to upgrade power line from Galashiels to Eccles sub-station.

Consultation Process:

The first two applications: Amp Clean Energy and Zenobe, were submitted during the summer of 2022 at a time when our Community Council and other bodies were emerging from Covid lockdown. **Amp Clean Energy's** application was to the Scottish Borders Council and was subjected to normal planning process. **Zenobe** application was submitted via the Scottish Government who advised that consultation was not mandatory. No consultation was done at that time. Zenobe has since met with our Community Council and members of the community to provide information and answer questions. They have apologized that they did not consult earlier. Weaver Power have carried out both online and face to face consultation, albeit, at Coldstream. No-one affected by the development were aware that this was taking place.

Community Council Meeting with Zenobe on 20th July, 2023:

Senior managers from Zenobe met with our community council and members of the public on 20th July at which time they gave a presentation <https://we.tl/t-XW7PTZCDCV> and answered a range of questions:

Safety concerns regarding battery storage:

There have been a number of explosions/fires at battery storage facilities over recent years. These are chemical based, hard to control and likely to give off toxic fumes:

Response: Many lessons have been learned through these accidents and technology has moved forward. Our site will be closely monitored 24/7 with batteries shut down should there be any noted increase in temperature. Fire inhibitor systems are fully incorporated into the design of each battery unit. Critical space between units are strictly adhered to ensure that should a unit explode/catch fire, then the fire will not spread to neighbouring units. Our company, during development process will work closely with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and others to ensure that they are trained and able to cope with any emergency.

Sound and Light Pollution:

These concerns were raised by residents close to the sites.

Response: We are working to very strict limits on noise pollution. Our plant should not be heard in homes close to our site. Limits imposed once fully developed 20 decibels inside bedroom of nearby house, 30 decibels outside. With regard to lights pollution, our site lighting is all down facing and will



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only be lit when site is occupied. PIR systems will be in place. Main light pollution will be from the sub-station itself.

Zenobe highlighted that they are working to strict conditions in relation to noise, construction hours, drainage, flooding, landscaping, habitat protection and lighting and these will be posted on the Scottish Borders Council website. Should planning permission be granted they are keen to work with the Community Council and local people impacted by there development to mitigate impact.

Roads & Traffic:

Concerns were raised about additional heavy traffic on the A697, particularly during construction and the cumulative effect of multiple large construction projects in the area.

Response: There will be a new access road to the Zenobe site from the A697 and this will designed in conjunction with SBC to appropriate standards for heavy construction traffic. Peak activity will be up to 80 additional vehicle (40 vehicles each with a return journey) movements a day, mostly routed from the north via Greenlaw.

How Many more applications can we expect:

Zenobe advise that the three applications listed above will take up all the capacity of the sub-station and as such there should be no further developments for the foreseeable future.

Please note: the above is a brief summary of the position as we know it at this time. A full minute of our meeting with Zenobe is being prepared and will be made public in due course.

As a Community Council we are working hard to keep abreast of planning applications and are committed to support those affected by developments and to work with any company who have been granted permission to mitigate the impact as much as possible.

Bob Hope,
Chair