

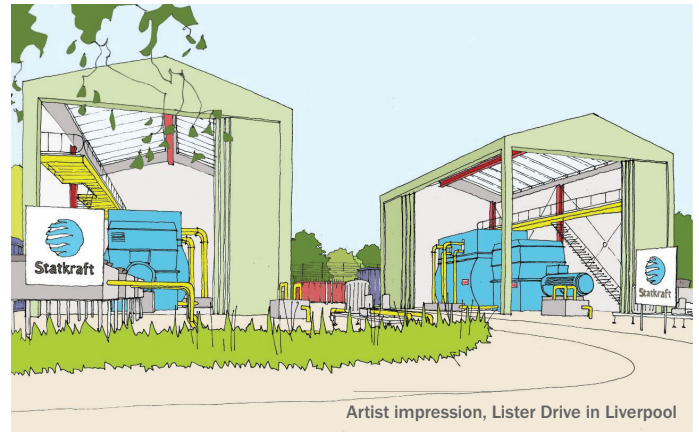
# Necton Greener Grid Park –

## Application reference 3PL/2023/0848/F

**Recommended for approval.**

**No outstanding objections from statutory consultees.**

On Tuesday 7th May, Breckland Council will decide on the planning application for Necton Greener Grid Park. This project, located south of Necton Substation, will help achieve zero-carbon emissions in Norfolk by increasing the stability of the electricity grid and the amount of renewable energy that can be delivered onto the grid network.



## Greener Grid Parks

**As Great Britain generates increasing amounts of electricity from renewable sources, Statkraft's Greener Grid Parks are an essential component of a successful transition to a Net Zero energy system.**

Greener Grid Parks are facilities comprised of zero carbon technologies which stabilise the grid, allowing more renewable energy to be transmitted through the network. Keeping the grid stable means ensuring the amount of electricity flowing through the grid always remains level.

They are not a wind farm or solar farm, but are a collection of buildings which look similar to agricultural barns, warehouses and shipping containers. These buildings house large machines with built-in flywheels to provide grid stability without emitting any carbon dioxide.

## Why Necton Greener Grid Park:

- National Grid Energy Systems Operator (NGESO) have identified Norfolk as an area which requires more grid stabilisation due to the amount of renewable energy being generated across the UK.
- Necton Substation was identified by NGESO as the most suitable Point of Connection for this project, based on the timescales allowed for connecting to the grid and the availability of physical space for a new connection.
- Located next to the substation, the scheme avoids lengthy transmission cables, ensuring an efficient connection to the grid whilst minimising disturbance and maximising stability.
- We have carried out an Alternative Site Assessment, which demonstrates the suitability of our proposed location. There are no suitable brownfield sites, or locations within the settlement boundary of Necton, and much of the other land near the substation is of a higher agricultural grade.
- We make efficient use of a site constrained by the requirements of nearby DCO schemes.

# The best scheme for Necton

**To bring forward the best scheme for Necton, we've listened to feedback before and after submission, and made significant amendments to our original proposals by:**

- Significantly increasing the landscape buffer, trebling its deepest point from 12m to 42m and proposing a higher proportion of trees to create more of a woodland block.
- Improving the drainage design by creating a basin in the north-east corner of the site to safely store excess rain and storm water.
- Conducting a colour study and proposing recessive building colours assessed as suitable to blend into the surrounding landscape across summer and winter.
- Amending our proposals, post-application to take on board policies in Necton's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

**Officers have concluded that there will be a significant level of screening and mitigation planting in the long term, and that there would only be a limited visual impact. They conclude that the benefits of the scheme attract "very substantial weight" in favour of the application, which outweighs any landscape impacts.**

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**The applicant has increased the amount of land available for landscaping to the maximum to which rights can be secured following pre-application advice and public consultation**

*Officer's report, section 3.17*

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*Environmental Officers from Place Services have also said:*

**We are satisfied that Biodiversity Net Gain has been calculated appropriately for this site, it is estimated that the development will result in a biodiversity net gain of 13.49% Habitat Units and 86.45% Linear Hedgerow Units.**

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**The development is acceptable and can be assessed as in compliance with the development plan as a whole**

*Officer's report, section 3.24*

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CGI visualisation of Necton Greener Grid Park

## INVESTMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITY:

If the project is consented it would generate a **community benefit fund of £20,000 per year**, supporting low-carbon community projects throughout the development's lifespan, beginning at construction.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE INVESTMENT IN THE AREA:

We're committed to increasing local economic benefits. We estimate **Statkraft will contribute over £100,000 per annum in business rates**. We work with local business groups to increase awareness of opportunities to get involved in the construction and operation of our projects.



## SENSITIVE DESIGN:

Should we get consent we will plant a landscape buffer of over **500 new trees and shrubs, minimising visual impact and enhancing biodiversity**. This area is equivalent in size to approximately two football pitches.

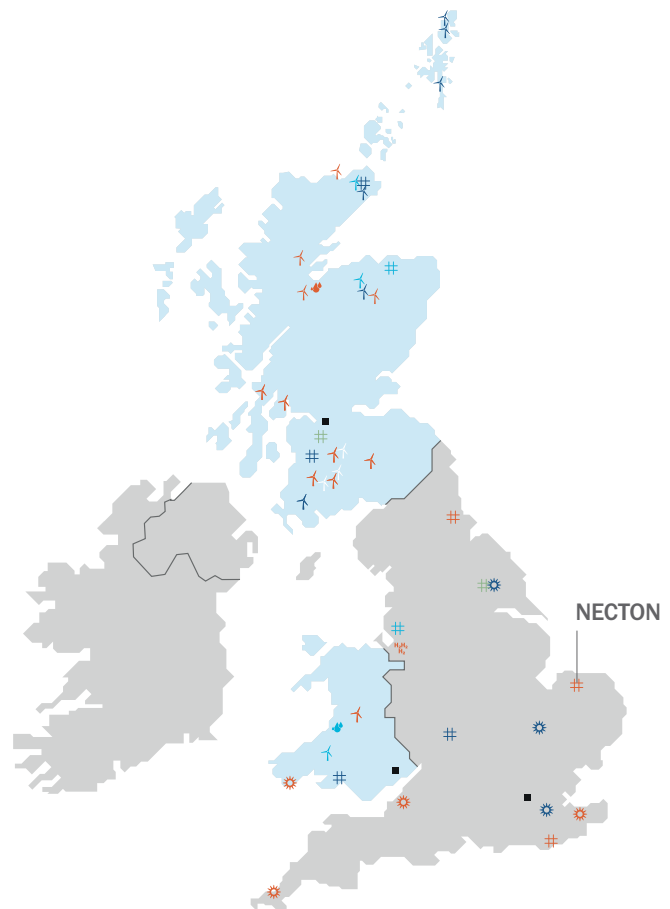


# About Statkraft

Statkraft is at the heart of the UK's energy transition. Since 2006, Statkraft has gone from strength to strength in the UK, building experience across wind, solar, hydro, storage, grid stability, EV charging, green hydrogen.

We've invested over £1.4 billion in the UK's renewable energy. Across our UK businesses we employ nearly 500 staff in England, Scotland and Wales.

- Operational
- Operational (sold)
- Consented
- Construction
- Development
- Offices
- ⋈ Wind
- ⌘ Greener Grid Park™
- ⚡ Hydro
- ☀ Solar



For more information about Necton Greener Grid Park, please visit [www.statkraft.co.uk/necton](http://www.statkraft.co.uk/necton)