

Introducing Zenobē and Branxton BESS

Zenobē develops, finances, builds and operates battery storage projects that support the UK electricity network and help maximise the use of renewable energy.

Zenobē recently acquired the consented Branxton Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project and is preparing to submit a planning application for a proposed haul road and long-term access arrangements associated with the development.

The currently consented access arrangements include the movement of construction traffic on local roads, including abnormal loads through Birnieknowes which would require road upgrades and HGV movements beneath the railway bridge on the U219. Zenobē recognises that this presents several challenges and is a key concern for local communities. An alternative haul road is therefore being explored to provide direct access from the A1 during construction and operation, with the aim of reducing impacts on local roads and nearby residents.

The project will require a connection to Branxton Substation. The current expectation is that the grid connection would be within the red line boundary of the existing planning application and, therefore, no further planning application is expected to be required for the cable route, although the approach will be confirmed as the detailed design progresses.

Construction is estimated to start late 2027/ early 2028 with connection 2029/30 (depending on the completion of Branxton Substation).

East Lammermuir is already home to several energy developments and clear information, transparency and meaningful opportunities for participation are important. As part of its commitment to good practice, Zenobē has signed up to the East Lammermuir Principles of Community Engagement and will work through existing local forums and networks wherever possible.

Over the coming months, public consultation events and community engagement forums will allow residents and stakeholders to learn more about the proposed haul road and share views before the planning application is submitted.

Once confirmed, consultation activities and events will be shared through local community channels and made available on a project webpage. Zenobē looks forward to meeting local residents and hearing their feedback.

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