



Lincolnshire
FIRE & RESCUE

Fire and Police Headquarters
Deepdale Lane
Nettleham
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LN2 2LT
Tel: 01522 555777
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lfr

My Reference: H16068725/JR

Your Reference: H16-0687-25

South Holland District Council

Priory Road,
Spalding,
PE11 2XE

For attention of Jacob Bryan

Sent by email to planningadvice@sholland.gov.uk

Date: 04/08/25

Development: Construction and operation of a micro energy storage project

Location: Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field Winfrey Avenue Spalding PE11 1DA

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Requirements

We would ask that all the below requirements are met to allow LFR to support the development:

As the UK moves toward more sustainable energy solutions, we are seeing increased use of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), even at micro or small-scale levels. While this development is welcomed in principle, we must emphasize that even smaller-scale BESS installations present significant safety, environmental, and operational risks that must be appropriately mitigated.

Although Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service (LFR) is not a statutory consultee, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) encourages early and ongoing engagement with local fire services throughout the planning process, regardless of the scale of development. This is outlined in the [government guidance on planning for renewable and low carbon energy](#).

The UK Government has now published [health and safety guidance](#) for this type of energy storage system. The guidance aims to improve the navigability of existing standards and provide a clearer understanding of relevant health and safety standards that the grid scale electrical energy storage system industry, which includes lithium-ion batteries, can apply to its own process(es).



Grid scale battery energy storage systems.

The NFCC has produced guidance for fire and rescue services, which gives recommendations on [Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage System Planning](#). This guidance is based upon a range of supporting materials including academic research, national and international standards, case studies and industry guidance. It relates specifically to grid scale (typically 1 MW or larger) BESS in open air environments, using lithium-ion batteries.

LFR recognise that this is not a large BESS site however we would recommend the minimum safety standards to meet those in the NFCC guidance, especially around the design, construction and installation of the guidance. It is crucial that all fire can be contained to the BESS of origin, and we would recommend tests such as UL9540 / UL 9540A. As well as NES containers being fitted with an explosion protection or deflagration venting appropriate to the hazard and battery technology deployed.

The location for the BESS must comply with the NFCC guidance, is it especially important that no combustible material is adjacent to the BESS unites and clear access is maintained. Areas within 10m of the BESS units should be kept clear of combustible vegetation and all other vegetation within the curtilage of the site should be kept in a condition such that it doesn't increase the risk of fire on the site.

Environment considerations:

Suitable environmental protection measures should be provided; this should include systems for containing and managing water runoff.

LFR would expect that any early engagement sent to us via the dedicated email address below, outlines how your proposed site meets the expectations of this guidance document. Once you have considered this document, and provided us with a detailed plan, the Service will be able to provide further guidance on your proposal.

Whilst every site is different the NFCC guidance will be used by fire and rescue services to evaluate the measures you propose. With early engagement and advice using the guidance, the risks posed to people, property and the environment can be planned for by you and control measures can be put in place to minimise disruption and harm to people, property and the environment.

Please email any queries or consultations regarding Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems that are proposed to be or are in Lincolnshire to Fire.Safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk



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Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Rousseau'.

Jessica Rousseau
Water Planning Manager
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue
Email: Fire.Safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk