

Why this site

International and national policy has changed significantly since 2015, when the Conference of Parties (CoP) led to a new international climate agreement, the Paris Agreement, being agreed in order to tackle climate change and achieve Net- Zero.

The Government has set a binding target of achieving Net Zero by 2050, with an aim to source 95% of our energy from low carbon technologies by 2030.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) have stated - '*We know that climate change is happening. In Rotherham we have seen the impacts of climate change, with devastating floods and heatwaves over recent years. Rotherham Council has committed to take steps to reduce the impact of climate change*'.

In October 2019, RMBC declared a **Climate Emergency** and now produce an ongoing Action Plan, with the latest goals set for the years 2024 and 2025. This is a plan of action to reduce greenhouse gas emission which includes the whole borough to be **net zero by 2040**. The Proposed Development will go some way to addressing this commitment as, once operational, enough renewable energy will be produced to power approximately 10,000 homes. Additionally, the BESS would be charged while renewable sources are generating, and discharged when demand is high, e.g., in the evenings, therefore assisting in balancing the grid.

In May 2022 RMBC made a **nature crises declaration**. This includes identifying sites for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and planting over 10,000 new woodland and 500 urban trees. The Proposed Development would help RMBC towards achieving such aims.

Other location-specific factors which make this site a suitable location include:

- Located on moderate quality land (Grade 3 Agricultural Land Classification) .
- Ability to connect into existing on-site electrical infrastructure.
- Opportunities for extensive landscape and ecological enhancement measures allows for a significant BNG.
- The settings of heritage assets would not be compromised.
- The Proposed Development will be viewed in context with the existing industrialised landscape, including the motorway, wind turbines and communication and electrical infrastructure.

