

PRESS RELEASE – February 2025

THIRSK UNITES AGAINST EUROPE'S LARGEST BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SITE

NEARLY 800 OBJECTIONS LODGED IN OVERWHELMING COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Residents of Thirsk and the surrounding countryside have spoken loudly and clearly against the proposed 1GW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development in open fields just outside the town. With nearly 800 formal objections submitted, the community has made its stance unambiguous: this massive industrial project is unwelcome in our rural landscape.

The proposal, which would make the site the largest of its kind in Europe, has drawn widespread criticism for its potential environmental and visual impacts. Nestled in an area of natural beauty, rich in biodiversity and intersected by well-trodden footpaths, the development threatens to disrupt the very character of the land that so many hold dear.

In contrast to the overwhelming local opposition, the application received just four letters of support—two of which came from non-local sources. The stark imbalance highlights the unity of Thirsk in rejecting a project that prioritises corporate interests over the well-being of residents, walkers, and nature lovers. Furthermore, the consultation event conducted by Nat Power only managed to attract 137 local residents, raising concerns about the level of community engagement.

The local campaign group, Thirsk Against Battery Storage, comprised of concerned residents, has been instrumental in mobilising objections and raising awareness. “The numbers speak for themselves,” said Philip Martin, a spokesperson for the group. “Thirsk is a historic market town, surrounded by stunning countryside and a community that values its heritage and environment. This proposal is entirely inappropriate for our area, and we are thrilled that so many people have made their voices heard.”

Key concerns raised by objectors include:

- Significant fire risk from lithium-ion batteries.
- Damage to wildlife habitats and disruption to public footpaths.
- The transformation of good agricultural land into an industrial site.
- The risk of noise pollution and other environmental impacts.
- The damage to the finest view in England from the nearby National Park
- The economic impact from the loss of tourism

Thirsk’s strong response sends a powerful message to decision-makers: residents will not stand idly by while inappropriate industrial-scale developments threaten their way

of life. With the weight of public opposition now firmly on record, all eyes are on local authorities as they consider the next steps in the planning process.

“This is our home,” said Fiona Potter, a nearby resident and local shop owner.

“Developments of this scale belong in brown field, industrial areas of which there are plenty to meet national demand, not in cherished countryside. We urge the planning committee to listen to the community and reject this proposal outright.”



Thirsk Against Battery Storage campaigners Jane Martin, Wendy Roscamp and Antony Roscamp deliver more objections to the planning office.

Photo taken at 3pm on the final day of the consultation; the objections continued to pour in!