

Goodrest Farm BESS Update 9th October 2026

It is now a year since the Goodrest Farm BESS application was approved by the Bromsgrove Planning Committee (9th October), so we thought this was an appropriate time to provide an update. Since the application was approved, we have been monitoring the overall BESS situation very closely and there has been some significant developments which affect the Grenergy application. We apologise in advance for the detail, but it is important to understand the full context. A brief summary is as follows:

- Goodrest Farm is still shown as Gate 1 in the NESO/NGED datasets with a connection date of 2035.
- NESO have announced that the Gate 2 priority schemes alone still show an oversupply of 310% against targets.
- Goodrest Farm is not in the Kitwell connection queue, despite Grenergy having planning permission. Kitwell is also shown as having zero headroom and requires an upgrade, scheduled for 2033. *It is therefore unlikely that Goodrest Farm will be built before that date, if at all.*
- NESO are now proposing an “Oversubscribed. Technologies Commitment Fee” (OTCF) which is a pay to stay fee for simply staying in the Gate 2 queue.
- The Goodrest Farm planning application lapses in October 2028.

1. NESO Connections Reform and its Impact on Grenergy

One of HPCs key arguments against the Grenergy application was the national oversupply in relation to the government’s targets for 2030 and 2035. This was based on our own analysis, and which at the time wasn’t acknowledged. Immediately after the approval of the planning application, the National Energy System Operator (NESO) announced that there was a significant oversubscription of schemes (including solar farms) and introduced “Connections Reform”. This was intended to weed out weak or speculative applications, and they allocated schemes to either Gate 1 or Gate 2 status.

The Gate 2 schemes are those which are approved to go forward, and new grid connection dates are subsequently offered to these schemes. Gate 1 schemes will not proceed until the Gate 2 schemes have been completed. *Grenergy’s Goodrest Farm scheme was allocated to Gate 1, with a projected connection date of 2035 (as with all Gate1 schemes).*

2. Communication with Grenergy

In February this year HPC contacted Grenergy who advised us that as they had planning permission, they were expecting to be reassessed from Gate 1 to Gate 2 status, and they were therefore awaiting a grid connection offer from NESO. They also said that they would be in contact once this had happened. On 3rd August we contacted Grenergy again, as there had been no contact from them, and it had been 6 months since their last update. They replied stating that their position remains unchanged. The Goodrest Farm scheme still shows as Gate 1 on the national datasets, with a connection date of 2035, and *the NESO Gate 2 connection offer window closed at the end of September.*

3. Oversubscribed Technologies Commitment Fee (OTCF)

In June there was another significant development. NESO identified that the Gate 2 schemes still represent an oversupply of 310%, and they are now proposing an “Oversubscribed Technologies Commitment Fee (OTCF).” In simple terms it is a “pay

to stay” penalty fee for projects to stay in the Gate 2 queue, and an incentive for developers to withdraw from the queue completely. Developers will have to pay an upfront financial guarantee starting at £3,000 per Megawatt (MW) to keep their spot in the queue. This will be assessed biannually and ramped up if the queue doesn’t shrink adequately and could reach a maximum level of £25k/MW. These proposals are intended to be introduced 1st January 2027.

Goodrest Farm is currently a 70MW Gate 1 scheme. *If it was reassessed to Gate 2 then it would incur an initial OTCF cost of £210,000 for Grenergy to simply stay in the queue. This could eventually ramp up to £1,750,000!*

4. Kitwell Substation

The current Kitwell connection queue shows 5 BESS schemes which does not include Goodrest Farm. The National Grid also states that there is “Zero Headroom” for further developer capacity at Kitwell, and any further capacity is directly conditional upon wider upgrades. The national Grid’s operational target for completing these upgrades is **October 2033**. Grenergy have already stated on their website that the site operational date is dependent on a network upgrade at Kitwell.

5. Conclusion

The Goodrest farm BESS remains at Gate 1 with no connection offer from NESO. Progression to Gate 2 will incur significant OTCF costs for Grenergy, and there is currently limited capacity at the Kitwell substation. Furthermore, the granted planning application expires in October 2028. Under these circumstances it seems unlikely that the Goodrest Farm BESS will progress before 2033. Under the present circumstances it is not possible (or wise) to say that Goodrest Farm BESS will *never* be built, as Grenergy are not going to publicly admit failure, and NESO and NGED (the National Grid) view such information as commercial and in confidence.

However, HPC will continue to monitor the situation closely, and will provide updates whenever necessary.

Hunington Parish Council - 9th October 2026