

1 Bar Lane
York
YO1 6JU

4th August 2025

Wester Hermiston Data Centre Campus - Data centre and battery storage development

Dear [REDACTED],

We're getting in touch to share early plans for a potential new AI data centre development at Hermiston and to let you know that we have submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) to City of Edinburgh Council.

About us

At Apatura we specialise in delivering large-scale energy infrastructure and next-generation data centre developments. With over a decade of experience and a 10GW portfolio of grid connections across the UK, including 7.52GW in Scotland and seven major sites across the Central Belt, we're helping to meet the growing demand for AI computing, reinforce grid resilience, and accelerate the transition to net zero.

Earlier this summer we put forward Ravenscraig, the largest of our proposed sites, as a candidate in the UK Government's AI Growth Zone competition which is now under consideration by the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology. If selected, this would make Scotland a key location in the UK's AI data centre ambitions.

Why AI data centres?

AI data centres are vital to the UK's digital and economic infrastructure. They enable vast amounts of information processing using artificial intelligence – powering everything from NHS online services and national security operations to cloud storage, financial transactions and digital entertainment.

Recognising their importance, the UK Government has designated data centres as Critical National Infrastructure, reflecting their role in the country's economy, digital resilience, and technological advancement.

As AI adoption accelerates, Scotland is uniquely positioned to lead the way, combining digital innovation with clean energy expertise. We are committed to supporting this ambition by bringing forward infrastructure that enables both.

About the Wester Hermiston AI Data Centre Campus proposal

Our PoAN submission marks the start of the statutory 12-week pre-application consultation process. We intend to pursue a dual-application route to both City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU). This reflects the strategic significance of the project both locally and nationally.

We believe that engaging early and meaningfully with communities and stakeholders is a vital part of the planning process. Our first public consultation event will take place on Thursday 28th August at The National Robotarium, Heriot-Watt University (Boundary Rd N, Third Gait, Edinburgh EH14 4AS), from 3-8pm. A second event will follow on Thursday 2nd October, at The National Robotarium, Heriot-Watt University, also from 3-8pm.

For both events, we will host a dedicated stakeholder preview session from 2-3pm, and we'd be pleased to walk you through the proposals, or at any time during the wider public consultation.



We have also created a dedicated project website, which will include full project details, consultation materials, and an online feedback form. You can see more here: consult.apatura.energy/westerhermiston

Local benefits

If approved, the Wester Hermiston AI Data Centre Campus would represent a major investment in the local and regional economy:

1. £1.4 billion total capital investment with £125 million of construction spend retained in the local supply chain
2. 1,455 jobs created across Scotland annually, 245 being across the City of Edinburgh across the four-year construction period.
3. Once operational the site will create 1,183 jobs across Scotland with, 537 permanent roles in in Edinburgh including 343 on-site.
4. Projected contribution of £205 million in Gross Value Added to the local economy every year once operational.
5. The project is expected to add 0.1% to Scotland's GDP.

Looking ahead

More broadly, Scotland has a unique opportunity to position itself as a leader in AI-driven digital infrastructure. Our seven grid-secured sites across the central belt will ensure AI expansion strengthens grid stability, energy security, and net zero progress, rather than adding pressure to already constrained systems.

Scotland's has strengths that vastly outweigh other parts of the UK. Its renewable energy, digital infrastructure, and climate all make it a natural location for AI data centres, and the development of data centres across central Scotland would ensure it secures its place at the forefront of this growing sector, bringing with it private-sector investment and long-term economic benefits.

Next steps

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the proposals in more detail, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd be happy to arrange a meeting or provide further information.

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Kind Regards,

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www.apatura.energy

