

WHITE PAPER



ESS are a Solution to the UK Construction Backlog Headache

Building Safety Regulator Delays Hit 36 Weeks

The construction industry in the UK is currently experiencing a severe bottleneck. [The Building Safety Act 2022](#) implemented essential safety measures for high-rise buildings following the Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017; however, the authorization process that subsequently followed has resulted in an increasing backlog of paperwork that is stalling projects nationwide. This is not just a legal challenge for developers and contractors; it is also a practical one that impacts budgets, schedules, and resources.

Despite regulatory delays, Ampd's advanced [Battery Energy Storage Systems \(ESS\)](#), namely the [Enertainer and the Ampd Silo™](#), are keeping construction sites up and running, sustainable, and efficient. We're helping projects meet their commitments and advance the UK's net-zero objectives by reducing dependency on diesel generators and ensuring construction sites have a dependable power supply.

This paper examines the present issue of the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) backlog, its implications for the construction industry, and how developers can gain a competitive edge by having early discussions about quick-to-rollout energy solutions like Ampd's ESS.

The Current Situation

Applications for Gateway 2 approvals for high-risk building projects, which must be submitted before construction begins, are taking on average 36 weeks to gain approval.¹ This is three times longer than the 12-week target for approvals.

Gateway 2 is a stop/go point as defined by the Building Safety Act 2022. At this point, developers must obtain the Building Safety Regulator's approval by demonstrating that their proposals conform to building regulations in a comprehensive, practical manner. Gateway 2 aims to ensure that safety is integrated into projects from the outset, rather than being tackled upon completion.

Many high-rise developments in the UK are currently behind schedule due to the implementation of Gateway 2. Approval is essential to ensure the buildings' safety and compliance before construction starts. Between late 2023 and early 2025, only 338 of the 2,108 applications that were submitted to the BSR were approved, while only 15 (8%) of the 193 new-build, higher-risk building applications submitted since the system's launch on 1 October 2023 have made it through the approval gateway.¹

Extended project timelines are affecting the supply chains of housing and commercial developments, and increased financial costs are further straining projects across the UK. At the same time, demand for housing continues to exceed supply, especially in urban regions, and these planning delays are causing further challenges in securing the required materials, workers, and machinery.

When Could Backlogs Ease?

Given the UK's ongoing housing crisis (current estimates are that the UK has a backlog of approximately 4.3 million homes²), the government has announced a series of modifications to the BSR in an attempt to address the backlog and expedite the construction of high-rise buildings. A new Fast Track Process brought additional inspector and engineer capacity directly into the BSR to accelerate the review of both new-build and renovation applications.³ The organisation's new leadership and investment, which includes more than 100 new employees, supports a major pledge in the UK government's [Plan for Change](#), committing to ensuring safety in construction while supporting the delivery of 1.5 million safe, high-quality homes.

The new Chair of the BSR, Andy Roe, pledged at the start of this month to "significantly reduce delays" by the end of the year. Although this commitment is encouraging, the 12-week target seems a long way off. It remains crucial for UK developers and contractors to plan for operational flexibility in their projects and to start working with key suppliers as early as possible to be prepared for the moment of approval.

How Ampd's Solutions are Supporting UK Construction Projects

With hundreds of high-rise projects already waiting months due to approval delays, developers cannot afford further postponements once planning is granted. When a project is approved for construction, sites must be operational and prepared. That's where Ampd comes in.

A fully electric, plug-and-play ESS, provides dependable, emissions-free energy from day one. By reducing or eliminating diesel fire hazards, spillage risks, and tailpipe emissions, it not only safeguards on-site teams but also helps contractors reduce their carbon footprint and stay aligned with the UK's net-zero goals.

By securing Ampd's ESS early in the planning process, you can protect your workforce, maintain safe and sustainable construction practices, and keep projects moving despite regulatory backlogs. In an industry where every day matters, proactive energy planning can make the difference between further postponements and the timely completion of projects. By booking with Ampd in advance, your ESS will be operational as soon as authorization is received, protecting your schedule and proving that efficiency and sustainability are compatible. With an Ampd ESS, once planning is approved, you can begin your project immediately, avoiding delays typically associated with connecting to HV grid infrastructure.



¹ <https://www.constructionenquirer.com/2025/07/11/bsr-backlog-swells-as-new-build-approvals-take-36-weeks/>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reforms-to-building-safety-regulator-to-accelerate-housebuilding>

³ <https://housingdigital.co.uk/the-uk-housing-crisis-causes-impact-and-solutions/>

At Ampd Energy, we are ready to power that journey. Whether it's a short-term build or a long-term development, our energy solutions help you deliver projects safely and sustainably, keeping them on track today while preparing for a future where regulatory constraints ease.

[Let's start the conversation today.](#)

About Ampd Energy

Ampd Energy is pioneering a more sustainable and prosperous future for heavy industries globally by delivering mobile ESS products which deliver cleaner, quieter and more efficient power.

Our state-of-the-art ESS products, connectivity and data technologies have benefitted from over 330 units deployed around the world and prevented over 100,000 tons of CO₂ emissions. Dozens of leading industrial, property and construction companies choose Ampd Energy.

Why not join them?

An emission-free future for industries.



If you're interested in using an ESS for your project or company, contact Ampd Energy at contact@ampd.energy for a customized power plan.

