

LAND AT BUMPERS FARM, ILMER, HP27 9RE

Proposed Energy Storage Facility

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT (Including Parking Provision Statement)

October 2021

REPORT CONTROL

Document	Design and Access Statement
Project	Bumpers Farm
Client	Harmony Energy Storage Ltd
Job Number	21-1004_04
File storage	Z:\Client files\21-1002 to 21-\21-1004 Harmony Term Agreement\21-1004_04 Bumpers Farm

Document Checking

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Revision Status

Issue	Date	Status	Checked for issue
1	14/10/2021	Draft V1	GT
2	15/10/2021	Draft V2	GT
3	20/10/2021	FINAL	GT
4			

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION
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2	THE DESIGN PROCESS
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3	DESIGN PROPOSALS
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4	PARKING PROVISION STATEMENT
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/1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. A Design and Access Statement must:

(a) explain the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the proposed development; and

(b) demonstrate the steps taken to appraise the context of the proposed development, and how the design of the development takes that context into account.

1.2. A development's context refers to the particular characteristics of the application site and its wider setting. These will be specific to the circumstances of an individual application and a Design and Access Statement should be tailored accordingly.

1.3. Design and Access Statements must also explain the applicant's approach to access and how relevant Local Plan policies have been considered. They must detail any consultation undertaken in relation to access issues, and how the outcome of this consultation has informed the proposed development. Applicants must also explain how any specific issues which might affect access to the proposed development have been addressed.

1.4. The Design and Access Statement (DAS) explains the considerations taken into account during the design of the development and acts as an explanation as to how the site layout has been achieved and the decisions taken during its evolution.

/2 THE DESIGN PROCESS

Assessment / Design Constraints

- 2.1. During the design process, particular consideration has been given to the surrounding context combined with the technological requirements of the scheme. A full landscaping management plan has been prepared in support of this application which details shrub, hedgerow, and tree planting to aid in the screening of the development from view and to help blend the proposed development into the existing landscape.

Nature Conservation and Ecology

- 2.2. The site is not designated as having any wildlife / ecology value. An ecological survey has been undertaken. The results of which confirm that the linear enhancements proposed including species-rich hedgerows will increase suitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians and reptiles within the Site as well as increase the habitat connectivity of commuting populations of amphibians and reptiles. The onsite creation of scrub also provides suitable foraging habitat for amphibians and reptiles. Furthermore, the creation of c530m of hedgerows, 0.04 hectares of structured native scrub and the planting of 45 standard native trees will increase the long-term breeding potential habitat for breeding birds associated with field boundary habitats. It is also detailed within the Biodiversity Net Gain Note that as a result of the proposed off-site habitat enhancement of adjacent grassland, the overall Biodiversity Net Gain of the development could achieve 13.15% (an increase of 0.9 habitat units).

Evaluation

- 2.3. The access point, site dimensions and topography, combine to create an arrangement of the type shown on the submitted layout.

/3 DESIGN PROPOSALS

Amount and Scale

- 3.1. The site area (red line edge) is 24,347m² (2.4ha) and this incorporates the access. The footprint of the battery site to the north is 8,323m², the access and DNO areas equate to 16,024m² which incorporates the land within the fenced compound to the south.
- 3.2. The proposed development comprises of a 99MW energy storage facility split into two main sections; the battery containers and associated equipment is located in the northern portion of the site, whilst the taller transformer equipment is located in the southern section.
- 3.3. The northern section of the site will contain the battery energy storage equipment. This comprises of a fenced compound, separated by an additional fence down its centre, effectively containing two phases of energy storage equipment. This is shown in plan Ref. HES_009_Bumpers Layout Phase 1&2-001 Rev B.
- 3.4. In brief, there are 28no. battery storage blocks (height 3m), 14no. transformer blocks (height 3.7m), 1no. customer switch room (height 3.6m) and 14 no. field network enclosures (height 1.6m) in each section (east and west). There will be 7no. CCTV poles proposed in the eastern section and 4no. of the same in the west section with a height of 6m.

Use

- 3.5. The proposed development will provide essential grid balancing services to the National Grid. The proposed development is subject to a number of locational constraints as outlined earlier in this statement; the most important of which is the availability of a viable connection point to the National Grid which is readily available in this location. The proposed use of the site as an energy storage facility in this location is therefore considered wholly appropriate.

Layout

- 3.6. The apparatus will be laid out in a uniform manner across the site as shown in the site layout plan. The facility is surrounded by a 2.4m high palisade security fence, with gates for access.

Landscaping

- 3.7. Perimeter planting is proposed around the site. A landscape plan/strategy setting out the species mix and spacing of planting has been prepared and submitted in support of this application. This has been prepared to aid in the screening of the proposed development and to assist in increasing biodiversity on site. The proposed planting has been included to screen the development from the wider open countryside setting and landscape backdrop through the inclusion of soft boundary treatments that merge into the existing.

Context and Appearance

- 3.8. The proposed energy storage facility is within close proximity to the solar farm to the north and would be viewed in the context of this much larger energy development.

Access

- 3.9. The compound area will be hard surfaced, finished with Type 1 aggregate, with a harder sub-base used for the sections of track within the compounds. The battery storage and transformer blocks, customer switch room and field network enclosures will sit on concrete foundations.
- 3.10. Access will be taken from the north of the site off Thame Road, via the same route as was used for construction access of the solar farm. Maintenance access for the development would be taken off the existing access track to the east of the site off Ilmer Lane. This access was the approved construction and maintenance access for the original energy storage consent and was approved subject to improvement works to Ilmer Lane. The use of Ilmer Lane as part of the route to site was unpopular with local residents, although ultimately it was determined to be a safe and acceptable access route by the LPA. When the original energy storage consent was granted,

access from the north was not available since the land required was under option to the solar farm developer. This is no longer the case, and as such the applicants have negotiated access from the north, avoiding Imer Lane for all construction traffic.

/4 **PARKING PROVISION STATEMENT**

4.1. Four car parking spaces are provided in total.



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