

Our Ref: Whitley
Your Ref: 2019/3005/VRC

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Planning
Cannards Grave Road
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Somerset BA4 5BT

19th December 2022

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Whitley Farm at Whitley Lane, Somerset
Application for non-material amendment relating to inverter replacements

Introduction

On behalf of Whitley Solar Park (Ashcott Farm) Limited, please find enclosed (via the planning portal) an application for a non-material amendment to the above consented and operational solar farm.

This non-material amendment (NMA) seeks to replace the installed inverters on the site.

Section 96A (2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states that “a local planning authority must have regard to the effect of change” when considering such applications. The effects of the change are considered non-material based on the following observations of the assessment.

Planning History

Based on the information on the LPA’s website, it is understood that the relevant planning history on the site is as follows:

Planning permission for the construction of the solar photovoltaic park and associated equipment (ref. 2013/1515) was approved on 4th October 2013

An application for approval of details reserved by condition 7, 9, 10, 12 and 14 of planning permission 2013/1515 (ref. 2013/2284/APP) was approved on 13th January 2014.

An NMA application (ref. 2014/0934/NMA) to amend planning permission 2013/1515 in order to incorporate changes to the approved layout, including the re-positioning of three inverters and the western most part of the security fence was approved on 9th June 2014.

An NMA application (ref. 2015/1525/NMA) to amend planning permission 2013/1515 regarding alterations to inverter station detail was approved on 10th July 2015.

An NMA application (ref. 2016/2896/NMA) to amend planning permission 2013/1515 involving the addition of a satellite dish to the approved layout was approved on 13th December 2016.

An NMA application (ref. 2019/1225/NMA) to amend planning permission 2013/1515 for the regularisation of the re-siting of the storage unit was approved on 7th June 2019

A S73 application (2019/3005/VRC) for construction of solar photovoltaic park and associated equipment (without complying to condition 3 of planning permission 2013/1515, to extend operational lifespan of Solar Farm to 40 years) was approved on 26th February 2020.

In terms of this application, the principal approvals of interest are the original application (2013/1515), the NMA application for alterations to the inverter station detail (ref. 2015/1525/NMA) and planning permission 2019/3005/VRC, which is understood to the extant permission.

Proposed Changes

As shown on the plans and drawings which have been submitted with this application, the inverters on the site are to be replaced with inverters of a different size and slightly different configuration.

They will be installed in the same location as the installed inverters, so there is no location change.

As per drawing 1097-0207-12 Issue 02, which was approved under 2015/1525/NMA, as referred to in 2019/3005/VRC, the dimensions of the approved and installed inverters are: height 3.90m, width 3.05m and length 5.18m.

The dimensions of the proposed inverters are: height 2.32m, width 1.59m and length 2.78m.

Overall, it is noted that the proposed inverter is narrower than the approved and installed inverter, shorter in length and not as high. Therefore, the impact of this change is considered non material.

There is a minor reconfiguration of the busbar connection between the inverter and the adjacent transformer, the latter of which is not being affected.

As part of these changes, an auxiliary transformer is proposed adjacent to the inverter.

The installed inverters are RAL 6005 Moss Green, whereas the proposed inverter and auxiliary transformer cabinet are RAL 7035 Light Grey. This will not be readily visible from around the site, as the inverters are in the centre of the solar farm. Therefore, the impact of this change is considered negligible and non-material.

Overall and based on the above, it is considered that the effects of the proposed changes are non-material in nature.

Closure

The effects of the proposed changes to the inverters on the site are considered non-material based on the above comments and observations.

I trust the above is clear and hope you agree that the proposed change can be considered as non-material. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



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Planning & Development Manager

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