

Planning Department
West Suffolk Council,
West Suffolk House,
Western Way,
Bury St Edmunds
IP33 3YU

E628.C1.Let06b
11th September 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PANELS

LAND SOUTH OF HESSETT ROAD, BRADFIELD ST GEORGE

This planning application is for the installation of ground-mounted solar panels in the corner of a field near the village of Bradfield St George. This is a small development of solar panels on 1 ground-mounted frame which will provide a source of renewable energy.

Both local and national planning policies support the need for low-carbon energy production. As stated in the West Suffolk Joint Development Management Policies Document, “small-scale projects can provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions.”

The proposed solar panels will not harm the landscape as they are a small development in a discreet location in the corner of a field, measuring approximately 0.08 ha. The site is well screened by a large woodland to the south, east and west and a hedge to the north. The nearest road to the site is Hesselton Road to the north which is approximately 160 metres from the site and is an unclassified rural road. The view of the solar panels from Hesselton Road will not be prominent as a native hedge has recently been planted along the roadside by the applicant. This hedge will mature and will screen the view across the field towards the proposed solar panels. It is also proposed that a hedge is planted along the north and east boundary of the site as shown in the proposed site plan. This hedge will provide further screening and will have a positive landscape and ecology impact.

Evolution Town Planning Limited

Registered Office:

Opus House Elm Farm Park
Thurston Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 3SH

Registered in England Number
10636748



There is a restricted byway which runs to the east of the site. This byway is positioned behind a well-established, tall hedge and so there are no views towards the application site from this byway. This byway will not be interrupted by the installation or operation of the solar panels.

The land is currently used to grow arable crops. This use has a low ecological value as the land is regularly ploughed and the crops harvested. With the proposed development grassland and wildflowers will be allowed to grow on the land around and beneath the solar panels which will provide foraging habitat for local wildlife. The hedges which are proposed on the north and east boundaries will also provide additional habitat.

There are two houses nearby to the site, the house Broadleas 140 metres to the north of the site off Hesselton Road and Freewood Cottage which is 60 metres to the southwest set amongst woodland. Due to the discreet positioning of the development and proposed hedgerow screening, there will be no impact on the amenity of these nearby houses.

This application is for a small solar development. The position of the proposed solar panels has been carefully considered to ensure there is no impact on the wider landscape and the proposed planting will mitigate any minor impact which would have been caused. National and local planning policies support the development of sources of renewable energy; therefore, we look forward to receiving confirmation of support from the local planning authority.

This application is supported by the following documents:

1. Planning Application Forms
2. This Covering Letter – Ref E628.C1.Let06b
3. Planning Statement – Ref E628.C1.Rep05a
4. Site and Location Plan
5. Proposed Elevations and Panel Plan
6. Solar Panel Specification Datasheet
7. West Suffolk Biodiversity Questionnaire

We trust that the LPA has everything needed to progress this application, however, please do contact us if you have any queries concerning this.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Stonehouse'.

SAM STONEHOUSE
SENIOR PLANNER