

Design and Access Statement in respect of the installation of ground mounted Solar Panels at Old Park Farm, Abbey Road Beech, Alton , GU34 4AP

PROPOSAL

As one part of our endeavours to help reduce our own carbon footprint we are proposing to install an array of ground mounted solar panels at Old Park Farm to generate solar electricity.

The proposed array of seventy two solar panels will be mounted at ground level on metal framing of size and arrangement shown on Proposed Site Block Plan drawing (FA-C-23-11-A-102- Proposed Site Block Plan) to provide solar electric power to the three following properties all within the ownership of the applicant:

Old Park Farmhouse
Hayloft Flat
Old Park Farm Buildings (aka Jardinique Barn)

The solar panels will be connected to the "Concrete Barn" where the associated inverters and battery storage backup will be housed. Accordingly on the ground the only visible elements of the proposed scheme will be the solar panels and racking to support them. From the "Barn" the solar electricity generated will be connected to the three properties detailed above. It is proposed that any electricity produced in excess of the needs of the properties that cannot be stored in the battery storage system/s will be exported back to the National Grid.

SITING/DESIGN CRITERA

The array of seventy two panels will be arranged on nine (8 Panel) racks facing due South as illustrated on the Proposed Site Block Plan drawing (FA-C-23-11-A-102- Proposed Site Block Plan) in order to:

- a. Achieve maximum solar gain and facilitate flexibility and maintenance.
- b. To minimise as far as possible the visual impact of the proposal. The proposed site and scheme would not be visible from any adjoining properties or public rights of way due to existing natural screening on adjoining properties..

To further screen the site area it is proposed that a new conservation mix hedge be planted on land within the control of the applicants on the Northern, Western and Eastern site boundaries.

The proposed use of low level racks has further reduced the visual impact which will also be less prone to wind damage.

Details of the proposed ground mounted racks as well as proposed type of solar panels to be used including example photographs and Data Sheets have been provided in the form of Supporting Documentation.

- c. In order to minimise any effect on nesting birds or bat roosts no panels are proposed to be sited within 50metres from any "Veteran" trees (particularly large old trees) with specific attention being give to the large oak tree immediately to the East of the Concrete Barn.

d. Take account of the fact that the scheme has been designed to incorporate what is currently a small area (0.30ha) of agricultural land being more particularly permanent grassland predominately grazed by sheep. The intention is to continue utilising the site area for grazing of sheep assuming the management aspects prove possible and the stock do not cause damage to the proposed infrastructure of panels, racking and wiring etc. If the livestock do prove a problem the underlying grass will be retained but managed by mechanical methods .

e. An approximately 20 metre wide gap to the South of the proposed site, between the existing fenceline and new site fence is to be maintained. This will ensure the current access way between fields for livestock and machinery as well as access to the existing water trough will be retained.

ACCESS

Access to the site is via the existing drive to Old Park Farm. Parking is readily available to contractors accordingly no changes / works will be needed to enable access to the site.

FLOODING

There is no flood history at the site as it is located on high ground where any surface water will be readily absorbed into the underlying soil. No additional rainwater runoff will be generated by the proposed scheme.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following supporting documentation has been provided with this **application**

No:	Document Reference	Details
1	<i>Design and Access Statement - Ground mounted Solar Panels at Old Park Farm</i>	As contained hereinbefore.
2	FA-C-23-11-A-100- Site Location Plan	Site Location Plan
3	FA-C-23-11-A-101- Existing Site Block Plan	Existing Site Block Plan
4	FA-C-23-11-A-102- Proposed Site Block Plan	Proposed Site Block Plan
5	Bimble Tm -Ground Mount Drawing	Tm Type ground mount design data
6	Tm- Ground Mount Photo (1)	Example photograph of Tm type ground mount panel from the front
7	Tm- Ground Mount Photo (2)	Example photograph of Tm type ground mount panel from the rear
8	Trina_solar-405-425W_VertexS_Datasheet	Datasheet for proposed solar panels
9	BiodiversityChecklist_Old Park Farm	Completed Biodiversity Checklist

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