

DECISION DELEGATED TO DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Application No: H02-0053-19 **Applicant:** Push Energy Ltd
Proposal: Landscaping works (retrospective)
Location: Solar Farm: Decoy Farm Spalding Road Crowland
Terminal Date: 13th March 2019

Planning Policies

Local Plan July 2006:

1	Spatial Strategy
2	Development Management
28	The Natural Environment
3	Design of New Development
30	Pollution
31	Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
5	Meeting Physical Infrastructure and Service Needs
SG1	General Sustainable Development
SG2	Distribution of Development
SG4	Development in the Countryside

National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework 2019

s.15 NPPF 2019

Representations:

	Object	Support	No Obj.	Comments
PARISH COUNCIL	0	0	0	1
WARD MEMBER	0	0	0	0
NORTH LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	0	0	1	0

CASE OFFICER ASSESSMENT

This application seeks planning permission for a reduced landscaping plan at an existing solar farm.

The solar farm was approved at 10MW but only 5MW has been built out due to grid connection availability.

The original landscaping was shown on NC14.121-P201 rev A.

The new, reduced, landscaping is shown on NC14.121-P201 revision b.

The applicant states that the reduced scheme is to screen the solar farm as built. It is considered that the landscaping will provide satisfactory screening of the solar farm from the key public vantage points on local roads where receptors would frequently experience views of the site as they travel without adequate screen planting.

The screening would take the form of double staggered native hedge species planted at 45 - 60cm high, this is adequate as in a reasonable period they will grow to a beneficial height

The site at Decoy Farm has a number of planning approvals and is an established solar farm ran by NextEnergy Solar Fund. The original permission was granted on the 15th august 2014 under planning reference H02-0454-14, there were 3 subsequent Non-Material Amendments and a s.73 variation under reference H02-1004-15 which all linked back to the original planning permission.

The most recent significant application (approved) was H02-0606-18 a S73 application to vary condition 3 of the previous s.73 (H02-1004-15), to remove the temporary aspect of the permission as contained within the condition.

H02-0606-18: Proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure - approved under H02-1004-15. Modification of Condition 3 relating to amended wording so that it read as follows:

'The planning permission will expire when the use shall cease due to operational or other such factors. The date of first connection to the grid shall be notified in writing to the Local Planning Authority within 28 days of this event occurring'

There has recently been a further planning approval, H02-0991-18, which is very minor in nature and only relates to installation and operation of ancillary plant and infrastructure, these include;

- storage container;
- CCTV Cameras;
- Access Track;
- Satellite Dish and 3 Antennas.

Representations:

Crowland Parish Council

Comments

"The Parish Council relies on the expertise of the SHDC Planning Officers for this application."

Internal Drainage Board - No comments.

The existing, operational, solar farm is well located within the landscape adjacent to a 'hub' of renewable energy and other commercial activities.

The proposed landscaping would help protect visual amenity and would in themselves have no material adverse amenity or visual/landscape impacts over and above the existing authorised development.

It is considered that based on this a delegated approval is appropriate.

Recommendation: APPROVE.