



Your Ref: H19-0329-24

17th April 2024

Our Ref: PG//

South Holland District Council
Council Offices
Priory Road
Spalding
PE11 2XE

Temporary ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm with battery storage, substation, and associated works.

Land East of Guanockgate Road Sutton St Edmund

Lincolnshire Police do not have any objections to this application.

I would make the following comments and recommendations in relation to this application.

Solar Farms or Solar Parks have over recent years have been subject of some significant thefts of the installed solar panels with replacement costs more than £40,000.

It is noted the security arrangements that have been included and my comments are for the purpose of clarity and detail.

Fencing and Boundary Treatment.

Land selected should aim to avoid affecting the visual aspect of landscapes, maintain the natural beauty and should be predominantly flat, well screened by hedges, tree lines, etc. and not cause undue impact to nearby domestic properties or roads. (*BRE. Planning guidance for the large-scale ground mounted solar PV systems*)

I would recommend that the boundary fence is to a minimum of LPS 1175 level 3 and to a height of 2.4 metres or to the current UK Government standard, SEAP (Security Equipment Approval Panel) class 1-3.

The use of 2.4 metre welded mesh fencing (in green) would be the most unobtrusive method of providing a secure perimeter border. All gated entrances should be secured with appropriate access systems.



The NFU Mutual recommends good perimeter security fencing for all solar installations along with CCTV, motion sensors and infrared beams, depending on location. It also recommends panels are secured to frames with unique fastenings, requiring special tools – much like alloy wheel bolts?

Monitored CCTV System.

Whilst considering the often-isolated locations that Solar Farms are to be installed the installation of a remotely **monitored** with motion detection CCTV system is an effective deterrent and is most likely to provide effective evidence should a crime occur.

Installers of remotely monitored detector activated CCTV systems will comply with all of the following standards and guidelines:

- NPCC Security Systems Policy
- BS 8418 Installation and remote monitoring of detector activated CCTV systems – Code of Practice
- BS EN 50132-7: CCTV Application guidelines

RVRCs monitoring detector activated CCTV systems will conform to all of the following standards:

- BS 5979 (Cat II):
- BS 8418: Installation and remote monitoring of detector activated CCTV systems – Code of Practice

There will probably be little reward in deploying CCTV or other defence unless it is monitored in some way or can provide an instant alert in some form.

Physical security of panels.

It has been identified that individual panels can be easily removed from the aluminium frames which are usually secured by a small bracket which is in turn secured by an alum key. Whilst aluminium can itself be easily forced the use of an additional security bracket may help reduce the ease by which panels can be removed adding to the time that a criminal would need to remove panels increasing the risk to offenders.

Whilst not intending to draw attention to a solar farm the effective use of signage to act as an informative deterrent may also be considered.

I would ask that the applicant considers a perimeter alarm system now we are aware that these sites are attracting criminal interest.

There have also been several incidents where crimes have been committed on power transmission sites with some offenders risking their lives after targeting live cabling.

Use of Defensive Ditches and Berms (Bunds)

Landscaping techniques such as ditches and berms (bunds) may also be appropriate in some instances. To be effective in stopping vehicles these need to be designed carefully. Police can provide further specific advice in relation to the design of such defences upon request. There should be a minimum number of vehicular access points onto site, ideally only one.

Use of Natural Features and Vegetation.

The development will need to have regard in both its design layout, and future maintenance plans for the retention of growth of vegetation on these important boundaries, including the opportunity for trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity.

The use of natural vegetation as a feature should not compromise the benefit of clear and unobstructed natural and formal (CCTV System) surveillance.

Existing hedges and established vegetation, including mature trees, should be retained wherever possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need further information or clarification.

Please refer to *Secured by Design Homes 2024 and/or the Commercial Guide 2023* which can be located on www.securedbydesign.com

Crime prevention advice is given free without the intention of creating a contract. Neither the Home Office nor the Police Service takes any legal responsibility for the advice given. However, if the advice is implemented it will reduce the opportunity for crimes to be committed.

Yours sincerely

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Designing Out Crime Officers

