

Your Ref: 24/00161/FUL

Our Ref: 24/00788/PLANAP

Proposal: Construction, operation and subsequent decommissioning of a renewable energy park comprising ground mounted Solar PV with co-located battery energy storage system (BESS) at the point of connection, together with associated infrastructure, access, landscaping and cabling.

Location: Land West Of Bradmore Road And North Of Wysall Road Land West Of Wysall Wysall

Date: 3rd April 2024

Thank you for consulting us on the above planning application. I can advise we have no objections, in principle, to the proposal on environmental health grounds.

We understand from the Pegasus Group Design and Access Statement (Ref: Rev A; dated 22nd January 2024) the proposed development comprises two parcels of land with the northern section proposed for solar only and the southern parcel proposed for solar and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

The application is supported by the following report prepared by Metrica Environmental Consulting Ltd '*Noise Impact Assessment Version 3.0 (dated November 2023)*'. A noise survey was undertaken at two locations representative of the nearest noise sensitive receptors to establish representative background sound levels for day and night-time. The report indicates the equipment modelled as part of the assessment was based on similar BESS / solar developments and as a worst-case approach, all plant is assumed to be operating simultaneously, at full power, during both daytime and night-time periods. A correct of 3dB has also been applied for distinctiveness. The report concludes rating levels due to noise from the proposed development, either in isolation or in combination with the consented Highfields Solar Farm would be below the level of adverse impact in terms of BS4142 criteria. As the assumptions in the report reflect a worst-case scenario we would be in general agreement with this conclusion.

We note the above referenced report refers to the Council's recommended noise limit of 5 dB above the representative background noise level. We would make it clear each application is considered on its own merits and we do not have an overarching policy on rating levels. Whilst we may make informal comments on a proposed approach for a noise assessment as there is an overriding requirement in good practice guidance (BS4142) to consider the site context we do not set recommended noise limits for proposed development.

As the actual plant chosen for installation is yet to be finalised, we would recommend a condition is attached to any permission granted requiring the submission for approval of an updated noise assessment/statement confirming the conclusions of the above referenced report remain relevant to the actual plant to be installed.

To protect the amenity of neighbouring premises during the construction works we would recommend the following condition is attached to any permission granted:

Prior to the commencement of any on site works (including site clearance), a Construction Method Statement detailing the proposed construction hours and techniques for the control of noise, dust and vibration during the works shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Construction Method Statement.

We understand from the Design and Access Statement no permanent lighting will be required on Site. We would recommend the following condition is attached to any permission granted to protect the amenity should there be any future intention to install flood/security lighting.

Prior to any external flood/security lighting being brought into first use, a lighting assessment (together with a lux plot of the estimated illuminance) shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Any such assessment should consider the potential for light spill and/or glare, in accordance with the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) Guidance Note for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light 01/21).

If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Caroline

Caroline McCaffrey

Senior Environmental Health Officer