Bourne Valley Associates Ltd

Design & Access Statement

For

A Photovoltaic Installation on agricultural buildings.

Henwood Farm, Merrylees, Thornton, Leicester.

Prepared by: Lee Morphy

Of:

Bourne Valley Associates Ltd
Bourne Works
Collingbourne Ducis
Marlborough
Wiltshire
SN8 3EQ

Tel: 01264 850159
Email: info@bournevalley.co.uk

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1. *Introduction*

1.1.

This Design and Access Statement (DAS) accompanies and supports a planning application made to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for the installation of photovoltaic panels onto agricultural buildings. The application is submitted by Bourne Valley Associates, acting as agent on behalf of Mr Stephen Hay.

The site is currently used as agricultural poultry houses. Mr. Stephen Hay wishes to diversify his business to include the production of renewable energy via the installation of photovoltaic panels.

2. *Design*

2.1. Amount

The proposal is for the installation of 304 photovoltaic panels to the roofs of the poultry house buildings. The panel dimensions are approximately 1.5m x 1m. The panels are attached to an aluminium frame evenly spaced close to the eaves of the building roof areas. The proposal incorporates 456m^2 of photovoltaic panels providing up to 65kW generating capacity.

2.2. Layout

The panels have been positioned on the building to provide maximum efficiency by locating them at the optimum orientation to the sun. The panels have been positioned on the roof to minimise visual impact and to ensure they do not protrude above the existing ridge line.

2.3. Scale

The panels are located on existing buildings of various dimension but which are no higher than 2m to the eaves. The panels cover approximately 5% of the building roof area.

2.4. Landscaping

The panels require an unhindered view of the sun to operate efficiently, as such no additional landscaping is proposed. Overall the application has little impact to the visual amenities of the area.

2.5. Appearance

The buildings are comprised of(wooden framed buildings with plastic coated profiled sheet cladding and fibre cement roof sheeting,) typical of many farm buildings. The panels which are black in colour will be located above the existing fibre cement roof on an aluminium framework.

3. *Site Context*

3.1. Site Access & Parking

The proposal will have no effect on current site access and parking provisions. The proposal will not generate and additional traffic.

4. *Planning Policy*

National Policy
Government's objectives identified in Planning Policy Statement 22:
Renewable Energy (**PPS22**), stating:

"Positive planning which facilitates renewable energy developments can contribute to all four elements of the Government's sustainable development strategy''

- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone – by contributing to the nation's energy needs, ensuring all homes are adequately and affordably heated; and providing new sources of energy in remote areas;

- effective protection of the environment – by reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases and thereby reducing the potential for the environment to be affected by climate change;

- prudent use of natural resources – by reducing the nation's reliance on ever diminishing supplies of fossil fuel; and,

- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment – through the creation of jobs directly related to renewable energy developments, and also in the development of new technologies. In rural areas, renewable energy projects have the potential to play an increasingly important role in the diversification of rural economies.

5. *Conclusion*

This application looks to provide a decentralised renewable energy source with minimal visual impact and is in line with national policy PPS22. We therefore recommend that this application is put forward for approval at the earliest opportunity.