

Planning Consultation Response

To: Graham French

From: Andrea King

Date: 06/10/22

PLANNING REFERENCE: 22/04355/FUL | Erection of an up to 30 MW Solar PV Array, comprising ground mounted solar PV panels, vehicular access, internal access tracks, landscaping and associated infrastructure, including security fencing, CCTV, client storage containers and grid connection infrastructure, including substation buildings and off-site cabling | Proposed Solar Farm To The West Of Berrington Shrewsbury Shropshire

Tree Comments

Summary

I have read the submitted RSK ADAS Ltd Arboricultural Planning Statement submitted with this application and consider that the main arboricultural impacts on this site which have been addressed are:

1) Necessary removals to facilitate development

Highlighted in the submitted Arboricultural Planning Statement are two tree features which will require partial removal, a 15m section of G50 along with a 10m section of H24. Both of these are due to a conflict with a proposed permanent access into and around the site. I accept that the partial loss of these features is unlikely to have any significant adverse impact due to their low-quality grading ("C" category) and that any loss of amenity or bio-diversity can be mitigated with proposed new planting, and therefore I have no objection to the removal of these identified trees and hedges.

2) The presence of veteran trees and whether the protection measures proposed are in line with The Forestry Commission / Natural England Standing Advice on Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees (which gives a position statement on and explains in detail with references the value of veteran trees and the need for them to be adequately protected during and assimilated into new development through good planning), **NPPF advice on veteran trees Section 180c and local policies CS6, CS17 and British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction: recommendations.**

The site is positioned at an elevated level and tree cover to the centre of the two field site is fairly minimal with most being boundary trees and hedges, though a small number of important Oak trees are present including 11 Oak trees identified in the submitted survey as being veteran trees, either within or within 15m of the application site boundary (T6, T7, T11, T20, T22, T28, T31, T42, T43, T44, T52). These trees are exceptionally valuable and one of their key attributes is the biodiversity value in which they provide. Therefore, additional tree protection fencing of a greater distance than for non-veteran trees will be required and is indicated on the Tree Protection Plan around T6, T7, T11, T12, G13 and T14 and T43 (located in the centre of the site) and around T34, T39, T44, T57 and T58 as their RPA's encroach into the site.

I am satisfied that The Forestry Commission / Natural England Standing Advice on Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees to increase buffer zones to the maximum of 15m radius root protection area has been applied to all the identified veteran trees on the submitted ADAS Tree Protection Plan. Therefore, I have no objection on arboricultural grounds if the following conditions are applied to an approval:

Tree Protection conditions

- 1) All trees which are to be retained in accordance with the approved plan shall be protected in accordance with the submitted Protection Plan drawing no 1051610 ECOENERGY TPP SHEETS 1- 3 (Appendix 5) and in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 "Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction recommendations for tree protection". The protective fencing shall be installed prior to commencing any approved development related activities such as site preparation or construction. The fences shall be maintained throughout the duration of the development and be moved or removed only with the prior approval of the LPA.

Reason: To safeguard the amenities of the local area by protecting trees.

- 2) Prior to the commencement of the development the consulting arboriculturist shall be appointed to undertake supervision and monitoring of the tree protection fencing and other measures at pre-commencement stage and throughout the construction period as outlined at Appendix 10 of the ADAS Tree Report : Key Sequence of Events after Planning Approval and submit to the LA a satisfactory completion statement to demonstrate compliance with the approved tree protection measures at each stage listed.

Reason: To safeguard the amenities of the local area by protecting trees

- 3) All services will be routed outside the root protection areas indicated on the Tree Protection Plan or, where this is not possible, a detailed method statement and task specific tree protection plan will be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to any work commencing.

Reason: To safeguard the amenities of the local area by protecting trees