

GRO/BRS.4254

31 January 2020

Rhys Rigby
Case Officer
Major Casework Team
Planning Inspectorate Wales
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

BY E-MAIL

Dear Rhys

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (WALES) REGULATIONS 2016
APPLICATION BY: VOLTALIA UK LTD
SITE: LAND AT BLAENHIRAETH FARM, LLANGENNECH, LLANELLI, SA14 8PX

On behalf of Voltalia UK Ltd [the applicant], I hereby submit an application for planning permission for a Development of National Significance for the construction, operation, management and subsequent decommissioning of a solar farm at Blaenhiraeth Farm, Llangennech, Llanelli, SA14 8PX.

The main element of the proposal is the installation of a ground mounted solar farm with a maximum design capacity of up to 38MWp (megawatts peak) to achieve a maximum export capacity value of 30MW. The solar panels would be erected within three distinct land parcels surrounding Blaenhiraeth Farm. The proposal would provide a clean, renewable and sustainable form of electricity and will make a valuable contribution to the generation of electricity at a local level. The scheme would add to the host authority's progress in meeting its renewable energy target and would also assist in meeting national targets for both energy supply and low carbon energy development. A request for a secondary consent accompanies the application and this relates to Listed Building Consent for the laying of cables through the modern concrete overlay of the Grade II masonry arch bridge at Cilddewi Bridge.

Planning Application Documentation

The planning application has been prepared and submitted in line with the statutory consultees advice received at the pre-application stage and meets PINS validation requirements for a DNS application. The application documents are: -

- 1. Application Form;**
- 2. Application Form (secondary consent for listed building consent);**
- 3. Planning Application Drawings: -**

Pegasus Group

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DESIGN | **ENVIRONMENT** | **PLANNING** | **ECONOMICS** | **HERITAGE**

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- i. DV_GEN_101_02.00 - Site Location Plan;
- ii. EPC_PEN_C_E_LA_ELV_01 - Electrical Sections;
- iii. EPC_PEN_C_E_LA_SS_01 - Electrical Layout;
- iv. PEN01_DV_CS_102_01 - Mounting Structure And Fence Detail;
- v. PEN01_DV_CS_103_00 - Fence Details;
- vi. PEN01_DV_CS_105_00 - Gate Details;
- vii. PEN01_DV_CS_205_00 - Pathways Details;
- viii. PEN01_DV_CS_603_00 - Control House Details;
- ix. PEN01_DV_CS_604_01 - Mounting Structure;
- x. PEN01_DV_CS_605_01 - Proposed Elevations;
- xi. PEN01_DV_HV_120_00 - Transformer Centre Connection Details;
- xii. DV_LV_101_02.00 - General Implementation Plan;
- xiii. DV_LV_101_02.01 - General Implementation Plan (Detail 1/3);
- xiv. DV_LV_101_02.02 - General Implementation Plan (Detail 2/3);
- xv. DV_LV_101_02.03 - General Implementation Plan (Detail 3/3);
- xvi. DV_LV_101_02 - General Implementation Plan (Scale 1:3000);
- xvii. PEN01_DV_MON_401_00 - Weather Station Layout;
- xviii. PEN01_DV_SEC_410_00 - Security System Pole Layout;
- xix. BRS.4254_27 REV: H SHEET 1/4 - Site A - Site Layout And Landscape Framework;
- xx. BRS.4254_27 REV: H SHEET 2/4 - Site B - Site Layout And Landscape Framework;
- xxi. BRS.4254_27 REV: H SHEET 3/4 - Site C - Site Layout And Landscape Framework;
- xxii. BRS.4254_27 REV: H SHEET 4/4 - All Sites - Site Layout And Landscape Framework;

4. Design and Access Statement;

5. Planning Statement;

6. Consultation Report;

7. Heritage Desk Based Assessment;

8. Economic Benefits Report;

9. Transport Statement and Construction Management Plan;

10.Noise Assessment for Planning;

11.Glint and Glare Assessment;

12.Agricultural Assessment;

13.Environmental Statement Main Statement;

14.Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary in Welsh;

15.Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary in English;

16.Environmental Statement Technical Appendices comprising: -

- i. **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan;**
- ii. **Arboricultural Survey, Impact Assessment and Protection Plan;**
- iii. **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment;**
- iv. **Extended Phase 1 Ecological Survey Report;**
- v. **Wintering Bird Survey Report;**
- vi. **Breeding Bird Survey Report;**
- vii. **Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Matrix;**
- viii. **Construction Ecological Management Plan;**
- ix. **Landscape and Ecological Management Plan;**
- x. **Flood Consequence Assessment; and**
- xi. **Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study.**

The following confidential document is submitted in support of the application: -

17. Confidential Badger Report

A paper copy of the application is being provided and this should arrive at the Planning Inspectorate early next week along with a USB memory stick containing all documentation and drawings. A paper copy and USB stick are also being issue to the Local Planning Authority.

The applicant has already paid the statutory application submission fee of £15,350 and Local Impact Report Fee of £7,750.00.

The application proposal has evolved following detailed non-statutory and statutory pre-application consultation with the Local Planning Authority, local stakeholders and statutory consultees. The Council conclude that subject to the consideration of detailed matters as part of their Local Impact Report, the proposed development would be acceptable in principle. Details of how the project team have continuously refined the scheme's design to encompass the Council and other stakeholder feedback, at numerous junctures, are provided in the supporting Consultation Report and Design and Access Statement.

The Welsh Government targets for Wales includes the need to generate 70% of its electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030. It has a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 but it also announced in June 2019 to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, in response to recommendations by the Committee on Climate Change. The Energy Generation in Wales 2018 report identifies how, of all electricity generated in Wales, 25% is from renewable sources, up from 22% in 2017. In terms of its own electrical consumption target of 70% by 2030, Wales reached the milestone of 50% electrical consumption being generated by renewable energy by 2018. In terms of progress toward the 70% target, the Energy Generating in Wales 2018 report states how renewable energy installation rates have significantly cut as a result of reductions in government subsidies and "*There remain significant challenges to meeting the 70% target by 2030, notably the lack of available price support for renewable generation, as well as network constraints and network unavailability in some areas restricting the ability for new projects to connect*". At a local level, Carmarthenshire Council have also declared a climate change emergency and are seeking to become a carbon zero authority.

The Government places significant emphasis on securing increased investment across the energy systems whilst minimising, as much as possible, the public costs for securing such investments and makes multiple references to how they are seeking the delivery of solar without subsidy. The application proposal would contribute towards this requirement and as set out above there is a clear need for the development.

Statement of Common Ground

As mutually agreed with Carmarthenshire County Council, the applicant and Council have agreed to complete and submit the SoCG during the statutory consultation period. This approach was also discussed with and accepted by the Planning Inspectorate prior to the submission of this application.

Overall, the proposals are entirely suitable to the site and its surrounds; consistent with Planning Policy and all relevant material planning considerations; and will achieve a high-quality design as envisaged by the applicant and as required by the Local Planning Authority, the Planning Inspectorate and the Welsh Minister.

I trust the application meets the DNS validation standards and I look forward to receiving confirmation within the statutory 42 days' timeframe from receipt of the paper copy.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gareth Robert", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gareth Robert
Associate
e-mail: gareth.roberts@pegasusgroup.co.uk

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