Bourne Valley Associates Ltd

Planning Statement

For the Installation of

A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

consisting of 4no. battery containers

at

Codford Biogas, Malmpit Hill,

Codford, Wiltshire, BA12 0FD

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1. *Introduction*

This Statement accompanies and supports a full planning application made to Wiltshire Council. The application relates to the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) consisting of 4no. container units, which will connect to the existing sub-station and the transformer/inverter station. The site will be contained by fencing and secured by 2no. cctv posts. The application is submitted by Bourne Valley Associates, acting as agent on behalf of J M Stratton.

2. *Site Context*

2.1. BESS System

A BESS is a means of regulating the storage of electricity that has been generated from various means, including from intermittent renewable sources, so that it can be captured form the grid at times of surplus generation and exported back to the grid at times of high demand. Although a battery does not generate energy itself it is critical to the functioning of renewable energy systems and cannot be separated from the wider system. They are therefore a vital part of renewable energy infrastructure and are a key component of the low-carbon energy infrastructure required to achieve net zero emissions.

2.2. The Site

A renewable led energy station comprising of ground OFFTEM mounted photovoltaic solar arrays was approved to the north of the application site in 2014.

The site is within an area of arable land lying between the villages of Codford and Chitterne. The site is situated 2.5 kilometers north of the A36 and 2.5 kilometers south of the B390.

The application site area is located at a central point on the estate with surrounding 1,400 hectares of land owned by the applicant. The land is typical of the area; Salisbury Plain with open arable land that is sparsely populated with residential units.

There is an existing access road to the site as approved in previous applications. This road joins the AD plant access road and onto the A36 to the south at Codford, the access road was upgraded with passing places incorporated, to allow access to and from the site from the one existing roadway (the roadway is private and constructed to a specification to enable articulated lorries to access the site). All vehicular traffic enters the site from the A36.

The site location is shown in Figure 1 below. The location plan for the site is formally submitted as drawing 01972-00-E, Sheet 03, which shows the application site marked in red within a much larger farm area marked in blue. The application site is, as shown by the arrow in Figure 1, isolated in its rural position. The site lies outside the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, of which the boundary is shown as a purple dashed line in Figure 1 below.

As can be seen in Proposed Site Plan, drawing 01972-00-E Sheet 06, the proposed equipment, will be set adjacent to the existing woodland just outside of the glasshouse and solar panels areas.

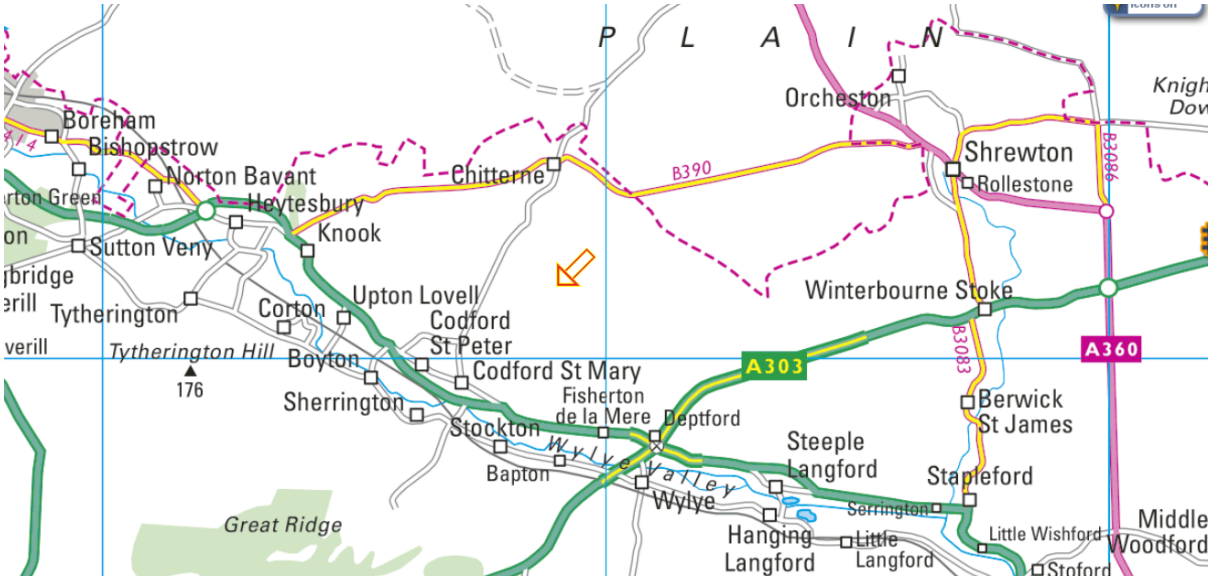


Figure 1 Geographical context of Codford Biogas

Figure 2 shows an aerial photograph of the site, taken in 2022. It shows that the site is located adjacent to the well-established complex of buildings/plant related to Codford Biogas, the associated woodland, the solar panel site, and the newly built glasshouse (the chalked area in the aerial image). The site is in a very isolated location, surrounded by woodland with no residential properties in the vicinity (the nearest being over 1.2km away).



Figure 2 - Aerial photograph of the site, 2022

2.3. Planning History

In recent years, the farm has diversified through a number of projects related to energy. Relevant planning applications at the site include;

- 13/05001/FUL Erection of up to 22,000 ground mounted solar panels, landscaping and associated works. Approved 1st July 2014
- 15/11066/FUL Erection of glasshouse and associated works. Approve with conditions. Approved 6th October 2016.
- 18/02195/FUL Erection of Glasshouses and associated works. Approve with conditions 8th July 2018
- PL/2021/09497 Installation of electrical substation / transformer unit in the form of converted shipping container(s) together with associated works and underground cabling. Change of use from agriculture. Approved 27/01/22.
- PL/2021/11744 Installation of a Private Electricity Sub-Station, a DNO Electricity Sub-Station, Storage Container, Communications Cabinet and Transformer. Approved 18/03/22.
- PL/2022/03070 Non-Material Amendment to 18/02195/FUL Decision 25th April 2022.

There are also many applications related to the AD Plant as set out below:

- Permission was granted in February 2011 under reference W/11/00745/WCM for Demolition of redundant dairy unit, development of Anaerobic Digestion Facility, installation of underground electric cable, improvement of existing private road and associated landscaping works.
- Planning permission to facilitate a change in design and revisions to the original plans was granted under reference W/12/01872/WCM in December 2012 to allow for a variation of conditions 2, 10 and 18 of W/11/00745/WCM.
- Planning permission was granted in 2016 (16/01451/FUL) for an extension to an existing building and erection of feedstock buffer tank. This permission allowed for waste to be stored and segregated more efficiently with sufficient waste to be available for processing at the weekends.
- In 2019 a further application was permitted for the erection of an Efficiency Enhancement Digester Tank, Combined Heat & Power Unit (CHP), Gas-to-Transport Station and Rainwater Reservoir (19/09703/WCM). The Rainwater Reservoir has been implemented.
- In 2022 the Biogas Plant has a variation in condition 7 of 20/02704/WCM to allow HGV vehicle movements to not exceed 80 movements (40 in and 40 out) per day Monday to Friday and 12 movements (6 in and 6 out) per day Saturdays. This amounted to an additional 30 deliveries (15 in and 15 out) per day Monday to Friday, totaling 80 two-way HGV movements per day.

- 2023 there are current applications under consideration, PL/2023/04260 for a New Digester Tank, Hydrolysis Tank, Pasteurisation Equipment, Gas Holder Biodome, CO2 Clean-Up Station and Gas-to-Transport Station, and PL/2023/06854 for a variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on 16/01451/FUL to allow for increased height of the building extension.

Summary of planning history

Planning application PL/2021/09497 permitted the change of use of this area of land to use relating to the electricity generated by the solar site. By granting the planning permissions referred to above, the planning authority has accepted the principle of development for energy generation at the site. The solar farm site has been fully operational since construction and it is known that its operation, in terms of flood risk, ecological impact and landscape impact, has been shown to be minor or negligible in effect.

2.4. Requirement for Development

The proposed development is for a relatively small Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility on land covering an area of approximately 973m^2 capable of storing between 6-10 Megawatts (MW) of power for supply to the local distribution network.

The batteries used will be Tesla batteries capable of storing power to more efficiently use at peak periods to balance the load and reduce the overall cost of electricity into the glasshouse production facility and local electricity distribution system.

The proposed project is a key component of the transition away from fossil fuels as renewables associated infrastructure, directly addressing the climate emergency declared by the Government on 1st May 2019, supporting the transition away from fossil fuels,

The purpose of the development is to support the UK's goal of net-zero carbon by 2050 through the provision of renewable energy generation. A zero-carbon energy system cannot function without the associated infrastructure provided by BESS schemes such as this, and therefore attracts the full support of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, paragraph 156). In October 2018, a special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that the impacts of climate change will be much more severe if global temperatures rise to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, compared to the effects of a 1.5°C rise. Unprecedented global action is needed to limit warming to 1.5°C in order to reduce the risk of dangerous climate change. In response, the 2008 Climate Change Act was updated in 2019 with a target of net-zero carbon emissions in just 30 years, supported by more stringent legally binding five-yearly carbon budgets.

The UK has made progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions over the past decade by enabling significant development of wind and solar projects, coupled with the closure of most coal-fired power stations and a commitment by the Government to close the remainder by 2024. However, the Committee on Climate Change – the Government's advisors on achieving net-zero – have warned that transformational change is needed to achieve the carbon budgets during the 2020s and to set the UK on a path to net-zero. In addition, the UK is not currently on track to meet either its fourth or fifth

carbon budgets 1, and the 2020 Energy White Paper stated that: "There is still much more to do. Our energy system is dominated by the use of fossil fuels and will need to change dramatically by 2050 if we are to achieve net zero emissions." Energy storage is now at the heart of the Government's energy policy.

The 2020 Energy White Paper acknowledged that intermittent renewable energy sources need to be complemented by technologies which provide power, or reduce demand, when the wind is not blowing, or the sun does not shine, and highlighting that battery storage provides a critical part in this. Building on the White Paper, the Government has also published 'Transitioning to a Net Zero Energy System: Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan', which aims to remove barriers to achieving flexibility on the grid, and points out that: "The need for electricity storage will rise as we increase the volume of variable, non-dispatchable renewables on the system and increase peak demand through the electrification of heat and transport. It will be critical to maintaining energy security as we shift away from gas over the 2020s-30s."

The launch of the Government's battery innovation competition for storage in February 2022 confirmed "energy storage will be crucial as the UK transitions towards cheap, clean, domestically produced renewable energy." The Infrastructure Planning (Electricity Storage Facilities) Order 2020 came into force within the Planning Act 2008 and treats BESS "as a form of electrical generating station for planning purposes."

The proposed BESS project will, as a critical element of renewable-associated infrastructure, make a vital contribution towards these targets by providing energy storage that can be called upon to help cope with peaks in demand and reduce stress events to the National Grid. It will also provide the glasshouse with stored energy capacity generated from the solar site to be used efficiently.

The NPPF is clear that "the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future" [Paragraph 156], support the development of the local economy, and encourage "the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based businesses" [Paragraph 84b]. Therefore, along with local planning policy, NPPF paragraph 11's presumption in favour of sustainable development is important and the principle of a BESS facility is acceptable.

2.5. Planning benefits from the development

This Statement demonstrates that the proposed facility will provide significant sustainability benefits in addition to reducing climate changing emissions and facilitating the growth of renewable energy:

- Improved resilience of the glasshouse, through the utilisation of battery storage to reduce the reliance on the grid when the sun is not producing peak.
- Biodiversity enhancement in the form of new bird and bat boxes around the compound edge/within the woodland.
- Farm diversification; regular income from the BESS facility will make an important contribution to the continued viability of the farm holding, including investment in farming

[1] https://www.theccc.org.uk/about/our-expertise/advice-on-red

activities and protecting themselves during years of low agricultural yield or prices. This is becoming increasingly important as a changing climate affects agricultural yields and the UK Government is committed to reducing agricultural subsidies, with the aim of enabling farmers in England to "sustainably produce healthy food profitably without subsidy, whilst taking steps to improve the environment, improve animal health and welfare and reduce carbon emissions" by 2028 2.

- Local community and economic benefits by delivering affordable and secure energy to by contributing to the increasing renewable energy to the distribution network.
- Providing employment opportunities to local people during construction and operation.

Therefore, the environmental, social and economic benefits of the proposed development are significant.

3. *Design*

3.1. Introduction

The proposed development will consist of an enclosed compound area approximately 973m^2 containing 4.no battery containers, a security fence and 2no. cctv posts The proposal is for sufficient capacity to store around 6-10MW of energy. The connection to the existing substation will be made via an underground cable to an existing substation.

The containers will provide housing for battery infrastructure management systems, a power distribution system, and auxiliary systems such as fire suppression and alarm systems, ventilation and cooling system, internal lighting and thermal control systems.

The site area will be enclosed within a wire mesh fence. The system is designed to deliver a 2–4-hour supply of 6-10MW of electricity from full charge and is anticipated to operate for approximately 1,000 hours per year. The batteries will typically discharge during peak hours of demand i.e. 8-10 am and 4-6 pm and are unlikely to be discharging at night. The batteries are more likely to be charging during nighttime hours at periods of low demand using surplus energy that has been generated.

3.2. Development components

- 4no. Battery containers (approximately 12.19m long, 2.4m wide, 2.55m high)
- 2no. CCTV cameras mounted on posts 3m high
- 1.8m weld mesh fencing

[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-path-to-sustainable-farming-from-2021

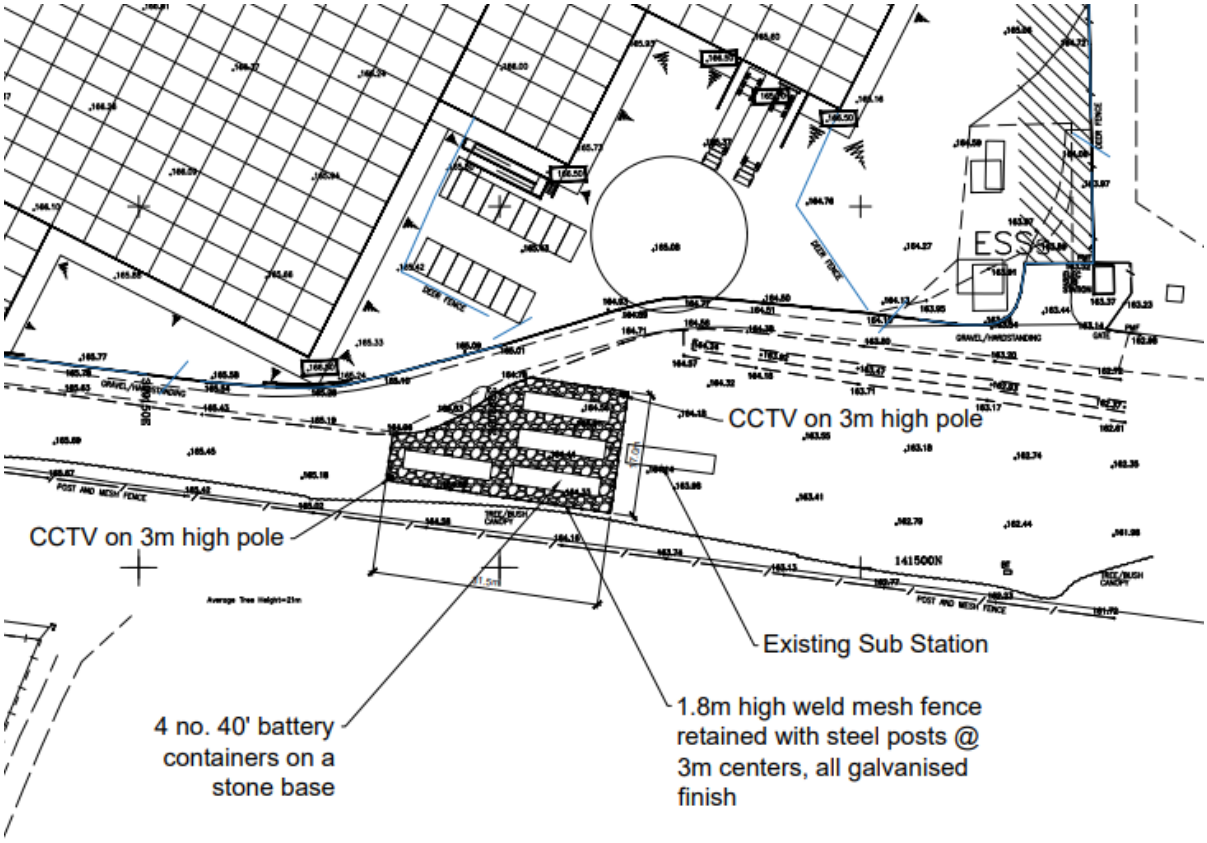


Figure 3 - Clip of Proposed Site Plan

The positioning of the new equipment has been described in Section 2. The new equipment needs to be within close proximity to the existing plant. Any other location nearby would mean placing it away from the established boundary of the solar complex, with resulting potentially greater impact on the landscape. The location also is centrally located, and adjacent to the woodland, therefore the established screening will conceal the development from longer distance views. See Figure 3 below for a view taken from within the site boundary.

The containers will be the same green colour, as utilised with the main plant structures; BS4800 – 14C39 – Holly Green.

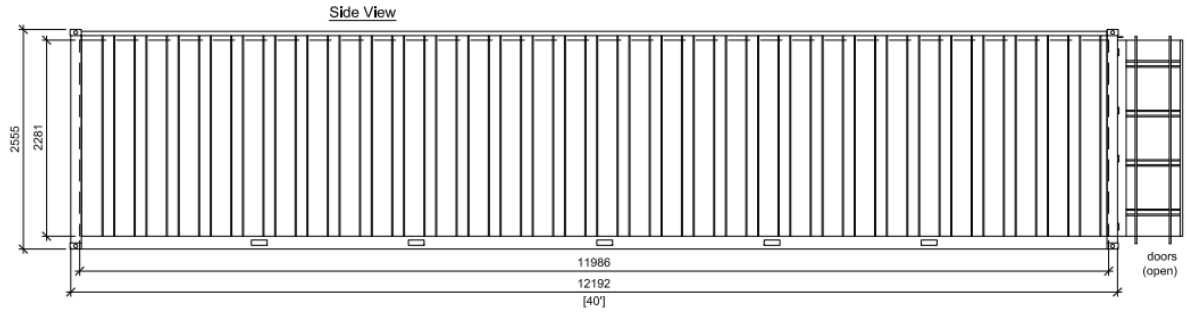


Figure 4 - Proposed Container Elevation



Figure 5 - Internal view of the site showing the existing solar panel paraphernalia

3.3. Landscape Character

A landscape assessment for West Wiltshire was undertaken in 2007. It sets out a classification of landscape character types within the West of the county. The maps provided within the Landscape Assessment make determining the exact position of the site within the defined character areas quite problematic, however it is believed that the site is within the area described as "Chalk Downland Edge". This is described as follows:

"This character area encompasses a series of Chalk Downland Edges (…. Codford Down), which fall sharply and dramatically from the higher Chalk Downland to its north and east. A series of narrow valleys break through the continuous belt of edge or scarp of the chalk, running at right angles to the natural course of the chalk. In places (where the steep topography is not limiting), the slopes are covered with a patchwork of arable fields (with predominantly mature and intact hedgerow field boundaries). Other patches of the Downland Edge are covered with rough grassland. A series of footpaths lead up from surrounding lowland landscapes to the base of the Chalk Downland Edge. Overall, however, the area is generally inaccessible and there is generally a sense of isolation. Patches of woodland are scattered along the scarps, however, generally there is a sense of openness throughout the area."

A management objective is to "*Conserve and manage blocks and strips of woodland on the scarp slopes and limit further woodland planting within this area to maintain the generally open character of the scarps*". The woodland is necessary to screen the Biogas site and the solar site, the approved plans for these sites included the planting of 0.68ha of woodland that was lost during a storm and a further 0.29ha of woodland to the south-east of the site. Thus, the requirement to "*Conserve and manage blocks and strips of woodland*" has been met.

A further management objective is to "*Seek to ensure that tall structures, such as communication masts and wind turbines do not create visual clutter on the skyline of the Chalk Downland Edge"*. As described above, not only would there not be a loss of productive farmland, but also the containers are set well below the tree line and will be coloured recessive Olive Green, so that they are readily visually absorbed. Therefore, it is considered that the impact on landscape character would be negligible.

3.4. Visual Impact

It is important to recognise that the existing AD plant has been regarded as having limited visual impact, and the impact of the glasshouse and solar site have been accepted. These containers centrally located between these features will have little/no visual impact as they will be screened by other existing developments. Therefore, there would be negligible landscape impacts.

The Proposed Site Elevation drawings do not readily convey the screening effects described above, as the notional view is from within the complex, and not from beyond. As can be seen in the OS map in Figure 1, most nearby residential properties are over 1km distance away from the site. The rights of way are to the East and West of the woodland site, so that visual impacts can be regarded as negligible on those sensitive receptors.

The site is not visible from any main roads, listed or historic features or buildings, private dwellings. The site is however open to views from some sections of the adjacent public footpaths, but the proposal will be screened by existing development.



Figure 6 - View Point

Viewpoint A- North elevation from on top of the grassed bank (this is not a public view) – the solar panel array and glasshouse is within the field to the north and no views of proposal will be gained amongst the woodland backdrop, with the more prominent glasshouse and panels being in the foreground.

Viewpoint B – The grass bank prevents views from this point. Again, the glasshouse can just be seen in views, the proposed development will not be visible.



Figure 7 - View Point

Overall, the visual effect is assessed Negligible as views to the site are blocked by the surrounding woodland and existing development. The containers will be recessive due to the darker colour of the equipment and the surrounding woodland creating an effective screen.

4. *Highways/Access*

4.1. Site Access and Construction Traffic

The existing site access is of a standard already serving HGVs therefore will be capable of accommodating the minimal construction traffic.

During construction there will be minimal vehicles movements associated with bringing the containers on site.

4.2. Operational Traffic

There will be no operational traffic associated with the proposal.

5. *Ecology*

There would not be any loss of habitat, given that the site has already been affected by the construction of the Glasshouse and Solar Panels. The adjacent woodland area will be unaffected by the proposals as the battery storage containers are not within close proximity to the trees or their root systems. There would be no implications for ecology/biodiversity. The site has no habitat designations and there will be no need to demolish any buildings which have the possibility to be used as habitat for nesting birds. It is recognized however that there is opportunity for ecological enhancement to take place whilst pursuing developments, the existing surrounding woodland trees could provide opportunities for adding bird/bat nest boxes for a variety of species.

6. *Flood Risk Assessment*

The site lies within the Environment Agency Flood Zone One, suggesting that the risk of flooding is very low. Given that the present application is not likely to produce potential contaminants, the implications of flooding at the site would be low, and thus a comprehensive flood risk assessment for the proposal is not required.

7. *Amenity*

The scheme will not result in any pollution. Potential nuisance would be limited to short-term noise through vibration, vehicle movements, potentially created only during the minimal construction period which will all be indiscernible with the AD Plant movements. There are no residential properties with 1km of the site and therefore no receptors for any noise impacts. The nature of BESS developments means that no hazardous, toxic or noxious substances will be released, nor will there be a risk of contamination to air, water or land. There will be minimal impact on visual amenity due to the layout of the scheme, as described in Section 3.4. There will be no requirement for the development to be lit.

8. *Planning Policy Review*

8.1. *Overview and Overall Energy Policy*

A revised National Planning Policy Framework was published in 2021. Paragraph 11's presumption in favour of sustainable development is important. For decision-taking, this means: "Approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay;" Paragraph 158 states that: "When determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should:

- "not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy…;
- approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable…" Developments such as the proposed are an important component of "the transition to a low carbon future..."

Paragraph 152 of the NPPF states that: "The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future… in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions…; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure."

The Framework defines three dimensions to sustainable development; these being economic, social and environmental. In supporting these three areas of sustainable development, the Framework highlights the planning system's objectives:

a) *an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure.* In this case, the glasshouse will be able to operate more effectively and competitively; *and*

b) *a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.* This is the least significant of the three roles in this context however local jobs are available and renewable energy is available to run homes. *and*

c) *an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.* The new equipment will enable the site to become more efficient. The development itself will have an insignificant impact on the environment and make efficient use of an existing solar/agricultural site, whilst enhancing a renewable energy production site.

Part 6 – Building a strong, competitive economy

"84. Planning policies and decisions should enable:

a) the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings; b) the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses; c) sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside;"

The proposed development will support the existing farm diversification businesses, and their employees. The increased efficiency of the glasshouse system would allow the enterprise to operate more economically and to invest in both infrastructure and staff.

Part 14 – Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

"The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure."

The proposal would ensure the increased efficient and effective operation of the glasshouse and its use of solar power reducing any reliance on energy which produces greenhouse gas emissions.

"155. To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should: a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts); b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for collocating potential heat customers and suppliers."

We have explained that the location and design of this development ensures it fits in with the immediate farm and existing AD, glasshouse and solar site complex and with the wider landscape.

Although primarily a policy related to plan-making, it is clear that the Government expects Local planning authorities to be supportive of renewable energy proposals unless they fail to comply with other planning policies, on balance. The proposal would support and enhance a low-carbon source of renewable energy generation.

"156. Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning."

This is a very important aspect of government policy, going hand-in-hand with the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The message is clear that the government regards renewable and low-carbon energy as beneficial and that, unless there are over-riding reasons for objection, planning applications for such development should be permitted.

8.2. *Local Planning Policy- Wiltshire Council Core Strategy*

The most significant local policy document is the Wiltshire Core Strategy, which was adopted by the Council in January 2015. This review analyses those policies within that document that are relevant to this proposal. The Core Strategy has some policies that apply throughout the whole policy area CP1, CP2 and CP3, but it also adjusts policies to particular community areas, and this site lies within the Warminster Community Area, so the approach to that area is considered here.

Core Policy 42: Standalone Renewable Energy Installations

"Proposals for standalone renewable energy schemes will be supported subject to satisfactory resolution of all site-specific constraints. In particular, proposals will need to demonstrate how impacts on the following factors have been satisfactorily assessed, including any cumulative effects, and taken into account:

i. The landscape, particularly in and around AONBs

ii. The Western Wiltshire Green Belt

iii. The New Forest National Park

iv. Biodiversity

v. The historic environment including the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and its setting

vi. Use of the local transport network

vii. Residential amenity, including noise, odour, visual amenity and safety

viii. Best and most versatile agricultural land.

Applicants will not be required to justify the overall need for renewable energy development, either in a national or local context."

We have set out earlier that this development is associated with the existing facility for generating low carbon energy. In respect of the criteria of Policy CP42:

- There would be no adverse impact upon national or international designations;
- There are no residential properties for over 1km from the site;
- The impact on landscape character will be negligible;
- No heritage assets would be affected by the proposals.

Core Policy 50 – Biodiversity and geodiversity

'Development proposals must demonstrate how they protect features of nature conservation and geological value as part of the design rationale. There is an expectation that such features shall be retained, buffered, and managed favourably in order to maintain their ecological value, connectivity and functionality in the long-term.'

The applicant owns the surrounding area of land including the woodland, that will be retained to ensure the development will be screened.

An attractive area like Wiltshire rightly values its environmental assets. So, a policy to conserve and enhance environmental quality is important and is set out at Policy CP51. The principal part of the policy is set out below:

Core Policy 51: Landscape

"Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance landscape character and must not have a harmful impact upon landscape character, while any negative impacts must be mitigated as far as possible through sensitive design and landscape measures. Proposals should be informed by and sympathetic to the distinctive character areas identified in the relevant Landscape Character Assessment(s) and any other relevant assessments and studies. In particular, proposals will need to demonstrate that the following aspects of landscape character have been conserved and where possible enhanced through sensitive design, landscape mitigation and enhancement measures."

The text then sets out a series of criteria against which proposals will be judged. We consider that the supporting text of this planning statement has provided clear evidence that none of the criteria would be contravened by the proposed development, given its location, form, and degree of screening.

Core Policy 57: Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping

"A high standard of design is required in all new developments, including extensions, alterations, and changes of use of existing buildings. Development is expected to create a strong sense of place through drawing on the local context and being complementary to the locality. Applications for new development must be accompanied by appropriate information to demonstrate how the proposal will make a positive contribution to the character of Wiltshire."

Whilst the development is fit-for-purpose in terms of appearance, it is proposed to be sensitively sited retaining and enhancing the woodland landscape and will take opportunities to enhance biodiversity to integrate the development into its setting.

Core Policy 62 – Development impacts on the transport network

'Developments should provide appropriate mitigating measures to offset any adverse impacts on the transport network at both the construction and operational stages. Proposals for new development should not be accessed directly from the national primary route network outside built-up areas, unless an over-riding need can be demonstrated.'

There will be no increased transport movements with this proposal.

Supplementary Planning Documents

There are no supplementary planning documents that have been adopted that are relevant to this proposal except the Landscape Character Assessment which has been discussed in Section 3.6 above.

9. *Conclusion*

This development is to serve an existing solar site, to store the energy produced at the site primarily to serve the adjacent glasshouse. The solar site has been running successfully, without impacting the local community or environment since its construction in 2014.

The purpose of the development is to support the UK's goal of net-zero carbon by 2050 through the provision of renewable energy generation. A zero-carbon energy system cannot function without the associated infrastructure provided by BESS schemes such as this, and therefore attract the full support of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, paragraph 152).

A review of both national and local policy has been undertaken. It concludes that the development would accord with policy, including Wiltshire Council Policy CP42 – Standalone Renewable Energy Installations, because the use of solar energy is low carbon, green energy. The proposed development accords with environmental policies at both national and local levels. The BESS scheme will provide a more efficient sustainable means of storing renewable energy to provide a source of power to supply to the glasshouse and the National Grid.

Therefore, the development should be regarded as sustainable and should, we contend, be granted planning permission without undue delay, and subject only to reasonable and necessary conditions.