

Design and Access Statement

Planning Application for a Solar Farm and Ancillary
Infrastructure

at

**Studley Grange Landfill Site, Hay Lane, Lydiard
Tregoze, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN4 9QT.**

on behalf of



by



Contents

1.1	Summary of the Proposals.....	1
1.2	Role and Purpose of the DAS.....	1
1.3	Use	2
1.4	Amount	3
1.5	Layout	3
1.6	Scale	3
1.7	Landscaping	3
1.8	Appearance.....	4
1.9	Access	4
1.10	Security	4

1.1 Summary of the Proposals

- 1.1.1 This document is a Design and Access (DAS) prepared by Heaton's on behalf of Biffa Waste Services Ltd. (the applicant) to support a planning application at the former Studley Grange Landfill Site, Hay Lane, Lydiard Tregoze, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN4 9QT (Studley Grange Landfill Site (the site)).
- 1.1.2 The application seeks permission for the installation of a solar farm on approximately 6.5 ha of land at Studley Grange Landfill. The proposed development is temporary in nature and would be operational for a period of 25 years from the date of first operation.
- 1.1.3 The site consists predominately of modified grassland. The site is grazed by sheep. A small area of tall forbs is present to the west of the access track close to the current gas compound. The gas compound and the existing access road are both classified as developed land (sealed surface).
- 1.1.4 The proposal seeks to utilise an area of land which has limited alternative uses due to historic landfill operations.
- 1.1.5 Individual elements of the proposed development are set out in further detail within the Planning Statement.

1.2 Role and Purpose of the DAS

- 1.2.1 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides guidance on the role and scope of a DAS within the planning application and determination process. It states that a DAS must:
 - (a) explain the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the proposed development; and
 - (b) demonstrate the steps taken to appraise the context of the proposed development, and how the design of the development takes that context into account.
- 1.2.2 This DAS accompanies the planning application and sets out the design and access considerations that have informed the final scheme design, including embedded and additional mitigation measures, to ensure the proposed photovoltaic (PV) panels are appropriate for their location.

1.2.3 This DAS provides details on the following schematic elements of the proposed development:

- Use;
- Amount;
- Layout;
- Scale;
- Landscaping;
- Appearance;
- Access; and
- Security.

1.2.4 This Design and Access Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Planning Statement which assesses the planning policy context relating to the design and access issues of the proposed development.

1.3 Use

1.3.1 The proposed development comprises a ground-mounted solar farm. Elements of the proposed development are listed below:

- Solar panels;
- Mounting frames;
- Inverters and transformers and associated cabling;
- Control cabin;
- Deer fencing and security gates;
- Infrared CCTV cameras;
- Temporary set down and construction compounds; and
- Habitat enhancement and creation.

1.4 Amount

- 1.4.1 The PV panels themselves would cover between 40 – 60% of the overall site. This enables land not around and in-between the solar panels, site infrastructure or the compound area to be utilised for ecological and biodiversity improvements. The solar farm is anticipated to generate up to 2.2 Megawatts (MW) of electricity at maximum capacity.

1.5 Layout

- 1.5.1 The proposed layout has undergone several iterations which have been informed by the existing access, site levels and screening. As such, the site has been split into two separate installations, informed by the system of internal tracks. The layout has also been informed by the zone of theoretical visibility identified through the landscape and visual assessment. The panels are located within a discrete, well-contained and naturally screened part of the landfill site.

- 1.5.2 The panels would be south facing to maximise the amount of sunlight being absorbed.

1.6 Scale

- 1.6.1 The solar panels and supporting infrastructure would be no more than 3m in height. This is to ensure that any potential adverse landscape and visual impacts on the wider landscape and sensitive receptors in proximity to the site are mitigated.

- 1.6.2 The proposed development will include new infrastructure, e.g. the installation of switchgear, a control building, inverters and transformers. These would be positioned close to the existing landfill site management area, which forms part of the landfill gas control and electricity generation compound associated with the restored landfill. The location is also in close proximity to the existing access shared access lane which lead to Wharf Road (B4005).

- 1.6.3 The containers housing the inverters and transformers would be sited on existing concrete pads within the site compound area. The housing containers would be approximately 2.5m in height.

1.7 Landscaping

- 1.7.1 The site covers two field parcels which are restored to agricultural grassland, with hedgerows and trees around the boundaries, managed as per the approved landfill

restoration scheme. The approach to design development and built-in mitigation developed as part of the landscape strategy includes siting the PV panels within a discrete and well-contained part of the landfill site and maintaining standoffs to the site perimeters for tree and scrub retention and to allow ongoing management.

1.8 Appearance

- 1.8.1 The site structures are proposed to be dark green or grey in colour with a matt finish. The mounting frames of the PV panels are proposed to be matt finish steel or aluminium. These colours would assimilate with the natural muted greens and browns of the grassland and tree belts in the local area, reducing any potential visual contrasts.
- 1.8.2 The colours and finish of the structures can be agreed via planning condition if necessary.

1.9 Access

- 1.9.1 The site would be accessed from a shared access lane off Wharf Road (B4005), as illustrated on Drawing Number HEA064-002 (Site Plan). The access road will be upgraded to accommodate the proposed scheme.
- 1.9.2 The construction period would result in a limited amount of traffic generation. This would be over a relatively short period (approximately 2-3 months) and appropriate routing information for HGVs is provided as part of the Construction Traffic Management Plan (included at Appendix 9 of the PS). Once operational, traffic movements would be minimal with only periodic maintenance access required.

1.10 Security

- 1.10.1 Due to the nature of the development and the infrastructure being installed, the proposals require security measures to be put in place. Deer fencing is proposed around the perimeter of the site which would provide necessary security with minimal visual impacts. Security cameras are proposed around the perimeter of the site. These would comprise infra-red cameras, negating the need for security lighting, which would minimise the potential for light pollution on sensitive receptors, including neighbouring properties.