
Planning Statement for Variation to Condition - Holt Farm – BA14 6RT

Spirit Solar Ltd

Introduction

This planning statement has been produced to support the variation of a condition of the planning application which was granted permission for the installation of 95 no' monocrystalline 475W ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels at Holt Farm, BA14 6RT.

The only changes to the development which are proposed are a change to the mounting system which will be used to support the solar panels and the number of panels to be installed. The new mounting system will support the panels at an angle of approximately 25 degrees and as a result the highest point of the panels will be further from the ground (as shown in the supplied drawings). The panels will be mounted in four sections, and each section will consist of two rows of 12 portrait panels. 96 panels in total. Therefore, there will be an additional panel compared to the initial proposal.

The installation of on-site renewable generation will benefit the client by reducing their dependency on the national grid and therefore also reducing their dependency on fossil fuels. As well as benefitting the homeowner, installing a solar PV system will also aid Wiltshire Council in achieving their carbon footprint targets as set out in the 'Climate Strategy Delivery Plan 2025'. The level of self-sufficiency and the benefits to the community will be enhanced by this change, as detailed below.

How the variation accords with local and national policies

The proposed variation is being made due to the potential benefits to the performance of the system. The change in the pitch of the panels will increase the power output of the system, which will in turn increase the self-sufficiency and carbon offset of the system, contributing towards a cleaner energy grid for the local community. This change to the proposal is consistent with local and national planning policy.

The new proposed installation is expected to generate in the region of 39,311 kWh/year up from 36,567 kWh/year. This is roughly 7.5% more generation due to the change in the pitch of the panels. This will offset circa 7,861 kg CO₂/year up from 7,313 kg CO₂/year (based on MCS approved carbon intensity values), a 548 kg increase. Wiltshire Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019. One of the council's strategic objectives is to become carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030. The council also committed to seeking to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral in the same timeframe. The installation will contribute towards this by offsetting roughly 7,861 kg CO₂/year.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the national planning policy context for renewable energy. This framework supports a transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate and encourages the use of renewable energy. The NPPF states that to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, local planning authorities should recognise the responsibility on all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources. The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to have a positive strategy to promote renewable or low carbon sources. The NPPF paragraph 98 states that when determining planning applications for renewable energy developments, local authorities should not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy and also recognise that small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable.

Example installation photo of an equivalent mounting



The image above shows an example of the proposed racking system, which pitches the panels up by 25 degrees, with the highest point being ~2m above the ground. Note, that whilst the proposed racking system is the same, as in the above, the proposed panel is all black in aesthetic to further reduce the visual impact. An example photo of the proposed all-black module can be seen below.

