

**PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF 16 No. GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR
PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS
AT
USWAYFORD FARM HARBOTTLE MORPETH NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 7BU
FOR
USWAYFORD FARM LTD**

PLANNING STATEMENT

27 August 2014

National Planning Policy Framework – March 2012

Paragraph 94 states that:

Local planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations.

Paragraph 97 outlines how local planning authorities should determine planning applications for renewable energy. 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. They should:

- Have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources;
- Design their policies to maximise renewable and low carbon energy development while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, including cumulative landscape and visual impacts;
- Consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources;
- Support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside such areas being taken forward through neighbourhood planning;
- Identify opportunities where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.

Paragraph 98 states that when determining planning applications, local planning Authorities should:

- Not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy and also recognise that even 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. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should also expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

1. USE

Uswayford Farm is situated in an 'off grid' location and electricity has to be generated on site for the farm and house. Uswayford is located in the heart of the Cheviot Hills which forms part of the Northumberland National Park the photovoltaic panels will have little affect on the landscape and will form a vital part of the farm stading.

The application relates to the installation of 16 No. Solar Photovoltaic panels ground mounted to Corbin Solar System 'H' steel framework The solar photovoltaic panels are expected to produce 3,432 KWh of electricity annually which is for use at Uswayford Farm. Using Carbon Trust (www.carbontrust.co.uk) figures of 545gm/KWh generated, therefore 3,432 KWh x 545gm = 1.87 tonnes carbon emissions saved. This will contribute towards the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) as outlined by the Department of Energy & Climate Change.

2. AMOUNT

The planning application only refers to the proposed Solar Photovoltaic ground mounted panels, no access tracks or roads are to be constructed.

3. LAYOUT

The location of the Solar Panel system is shown on the Location Plan (scale 1:1250), Block Plan (scale 1:500) Planning Policy Statement 22 for renewable energy is seen as relevant to this application.

4. SCALE AND TYPE

The 16 solar panels are consists of one double row of 8 panels mounted in portrait and attached to Corbin Solar System H steel framework which is fixed to the ground, details of the this system can be seen at www.corbinindustries.co.uk The approximate maximum height of the solar panels from ground level is 2.5m

5. LANDSCAPING

The proposed Solar Photovoltaic ground mounted panels will have minimal effect on the existing landscape.

6. APPEARANCE

The proposed Solar Panels are manufactured with dark grey glass finish.

7. ACCESS

Access is over private land, it does not affect any pedestrians.

Brian Newman
Agent