

**PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A SINGLE PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR TRACKING
SYSTEM
AT
LINACRES FARM WARK HEXHAM NORTHUMBERLAND NE48 3DP
30 October 2014**

PLANNING STATEMENT

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.

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK

The proposed site is located within the Northumberland National Park, however the site for the proposed solar tracker has been carefully selected to minimise the affect on the local landscape and visibility from neighbouring properties.

While every effort has been taken to minimise the impact on the landscape with site selection it is felt that the overall benefits to the environment in the terms of carbon emissions savings comply with the following policy:

NPPF 10. Meeting the challenges of climate change, flooding and coastal change

Paragraph 93 states that:

Planning plays a key role in helping shape places to secure radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change, and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. This is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development

The proposal supports the challenges of climate change by the production of carbon free electricity which will supply Linacres Farm.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Nationally there is a specific emphasis on the provision of renewable energy being required to meet legally binding carbon reduction targets.

The scheme is regarded as special circumstances for this type of development which allows the proposed ground mounted solar tracker to save approximately **6.10 tonnes** (calculated using figures published by DECC and based on an annual production of 11,202KWh) of carbon emissions annually which will in turn contribute towards the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target as outlined by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

1. USE

The application relates to the installation of a single Photovoltaic Solar tracking system mounted on 4.00m masts fixed to a concrete foundation. The tracker will be fitted with 36no. photovoltaic panels, each system is expected to produce 11,202 KWh of electricity annually which is for use at Linacres Farm. Using Carbon Trust (www.carbontrust.co.uk) figures of 545gm/KWh generated, therefore 11,202 KWh x 545gm = 6.10 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 tracking system, no permanent or temporary tracks are to be constructed.

3. LAYOUT

The location of the Solar Tracking system and existing buildings is shown on the Location Plan (scale 1:1250), Block Plan (scale 1:200) Planning Policy Statement 22 for renewable energy is seen as relevant to this application.

4. SCALE AND TYPE

The solar tracking system will have 36No.Renesolar 156 Series Polycrystalline photovoltaic modules mounted on Sonnen System 360 Dual-Axis Tracker. All details and dimensions are shown on the manufacturers information.

5. LANDSCAPING

The proposed Solar Tracking System will have minimal effect on the existing landscape, the system is designed to allow free grazing for animals under and around the apparatus without any obstacle. All cables are to be installed underground and all ground disturbed will be reinstated.

6. APPEARANCE

The proposed Solar Photovoltaic panels are manufactured with a dark glass finish, the tracker framework is manufactured with galvanised steel.

7. ACCESS

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

Brian Newman
Agent