Sustainability Statement:

REFERENCE: DM/26/0006

DESCRIPTION: RETROSPECTIVE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR ARRAY SUPPLYING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

LOCATION: FIVE OAKS LODGE POMPER LANE HURSTPIERPOINT HASSOCKS

Site Location:

Five Oaks Lodge, Pomper Lane, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks BN6 9LJ

Lat: 50.955495 Long: -0.17143071

Prepared By:

John Houlton

[redacted]

Date:

09/01/26

1. Summary

This proposal comprises the installation of a small-scale, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array within a paddock of an existing residential property. The development is intended to enhance the sustainability and energy efficiency of the dwelling through the generation of on-site renewable energy.

The proposal accords with the objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which places significant weight on the need to support the transition to a low carbon future. Paragraphs 152, 153 and 158 of the NPPF encourage the use and development of renewable and low-carbon energy sources and support appropriately located small-scale renewable energy schemes.

The solar PV array will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by lowering reliance on non-renewable, fossil fuel–based electricity. This supports the NPPF's overarching aim of achieving sustainable development and responding to climate change through mitigation measures.

The scale of the development is modest and proportionate to the needs of a single household. The siting has been carefully selected to maximise solar efficiency while minimising visual impact and avoiding harm to the character and appearance of the surrounding area. In accordance with NPPF paragraph 158, the proposal has been designed to ensure that any impacts are acceptable, with no adverse effects on residential amenity, landscape character, or biodiversity.

The installation involves minimal ground disturbance and is fully reversible, ensuring that the land can be reinstated to its former condition should the array be removed in the future. As such, the proposal represents a sustainable form of development that delivers environmental benefits without resulting in unacceptable planning harm.

Positive biodiversity impacts of the array can include:

- enhanced invertebrate habitat - therefore increasing foraging sources for insectivores
- increased pollination for ecosystem services
- provision of mosaic of habitats relatively undisturbed for many species

Overall, the development is considered to be compliant with national planning policy and represents a positive contribution towards meeting renewable energy objectives at a domestic scale.

2. Technology

Panel type: SUNRISE SR-54M410HLPro 1720mm high x 1130mm wide x 12 units

Panel/array standard output: 410W x 12 units = 4,920W

Panel angle to ground: 33 degrees

Panel productivity average kWh:

Daily: 0.4 kW × 4 hours = 1.64 kWh per day

Monthly: 1.64 kWh × 30 days = 49.2 kWh per month

Annually: 1.64 kWh × 365 days = 598.6 kWh per year

Array of 12x panels: 12x 598.6kWh = 7,183.2kWh per year

Panel certification:

IEC61215/IEC61730

ISO9001:Quality Management System

ISO14001:Environmental Management System

ISO45001:Occupational Health and Safety Management System

3. Placement

See attached plans for placement – the solar PV array is placed in a grass paddock allowing continued grazing of livestock below the array. It can be noted that the solar array provides shelter for an array for wildlife within the shaded grass underneath. The positioning is in such a way that no neighbouring properties can see the array. Neighbours were consulted and fully support the installation. Correspondence from 2 neighbours has been included in this application. This installation is not permanent and can be easily dismantled. The proposal will not result in any ground disturbance and avoids harm to existing vegetation or habitats. The installation is fully reversible, ensuring the land can be reinstated if required. The installation has no foundations nor is it fixed to the ground – it stands on timber sleepers under its own weight

4. Further site specific information

This installation is linked to a 13.5kW Telsa Powerbank 3 battery storage system which is integrated with an EV car charger and has capability to feed back into the grid.

It is estimated that this solar PV array will meet approximately 50% of the buildings energy demand. During peak production periods the array will firstly charge the Tesla battery system and once fully charged will feed back into the grid. The Tesla system is integrated into an EV car charger at the dwelling to optimise solar/battery and grid utilisation.