

PLANNING STATEMENT

Introduction

This should be read together with the full application, drawings and other supporting documentation.

The Worth Abbey estate is located approx. 1.5 miles south-west from Turners Hill and includes both residential & non-residential buildings and is home to the international renowned Benedictine Monastery & Church and Worth Independent day and boarding School.

The Worth Abbey estate has experienced frequent power outages over the last 24 months, ranging from just a few minutes up to 24hrs+ of loss of power which greatly impacted operations to be organisations, causing significant disruption to planned events & additional business costs.

During the Easter Bank Holiday weekend, the power outage meant the Church had to cancel its Maundy Thursday Easter service and as power was still down the following day, the Church could not live stream Compline, Matins or Lauds on Good Friday. Whilst at the School, in the morning, no traffic could enter or leave the estate, as the main powered gates, defaulted to shut and no hot food was available at supper time for the private letting group who were staying overnight and had no lighting, power or heating. The most recent power outage happened only last month on 21st & 29th July.

The Catholic church calendar can attract large numbers of guests throughout the year and the need for guaranteed, continuous electricity, lighting and heating is paramount to their planned services and therefore wish to submit a full planning application for the emergency standby diesel generator to be installed on the grounds to maintain normal operation during these frequent power outages and whilst Worth Abbey estate remain committed to sustainability, the current technology in 'green' electricity stored batteries, remain some years away to be considered for this application.

The proposed location of the emergency standby generator needs to be within proximity of the estate's electrical substation and in terms of scale & appearance, will have minimal impact to the surrounding area as its prefeed location is already screened by the existing trees and bushes. For added protection, a timber fence enclosure with planed interlocking boards, posts & gate will be built around its concrete perimeter base, allowing it to sit unobtrusively in its natural surroundings.

The Cummins 100kVA standby generator & fuel tank is within an acoustic steel enclosure which is designed to be 'super silent' when operational with a low hum of 68dB and complies with British Standards: Category B3 rating according to BS EN 1793-2:1998 Category A3 rating according to BS EN 1793- 1:1998.

Access to the generator for cyclical maintenance and delivery of fuel will be via the existing estates main access road and will limit maintenance activities to Monday to Saturday: 08:00 - 18:00 hrs so not to impact on the school's student boarding accommodation nearby.

Photo of Cummins 1000kVA Standby Generator

