

Neath Port Talbot CBC
Civic Centre,
Port Talbot
SA13 1PJ

21/09/2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Full planning application for a storage container and hardstanding at Baglan photovoltaic (PV) array, Former BP Chemicals Ltd, Seaway Parade, Sandfields, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

This letter accompanies a full planning application for a spares storage container associated with the Baglan PV array at Sandfields, Port Talbot. The application is prepared on behalf of Baglan Solar Ltd. Drawings submitted with the application include:

Location plan – BL-474-01

Block plan – BL-474-02

Container plans and elevations – BL-474-03

1 Background

Full planning permission (app ref: P2011/0054) for the photovoltaic array was granted by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council on the 31st January 2013. The wider Baglan site, inclusive of the PV array area, is undergoing a comprehensive contamination remediation strategy. Ongoing monitoring and reporting is required by conditions attached to permission P2011/0054 until such time it can be demonstrated to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) that no further remediation is required. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) submitted with the application advised that mitigation planting around the array was not necessary due to the industrial character of the site and its surroundings. No facility for spares storage was approved under that application.

An application for a sub-station (ref P2014/0128) with an associated compound to support the array was made and approved on 1st May 2014.

2 Proposal

The proposal is for a container to store spares associated with the operation of the solar farm.

The container is to be located near the substation and other buildings in the north east of the site.

The container dimension are as follows:

- Exterior Dimensions (in feet): 20' long x 8' wide x 8' 6" high - (in meters): 6.10m long x 2.44m wide x 2.59m high
- Interior Dimensions (in feet): 19' 4" long x 7' 9" wide x 7' 10" high - (in meters): 5.898m long x 2.352m wide x 2.393m high
- Capacity: 32.6m³

The container will be sited on an area of hardstanding comprised of a bed of 100 mm of MOT Type 1 limestone. This is permeable material and free draining.

The container would be dark green in colour to match existing ancillary structures, in particular the security fencing that surrounds the site. The storage container would be viewed in the context of the array's existing infrastructure and is entirely in keeping with the industrial character and appearance of the area.

3 *Discussion and conclusion*

The site forms part of a wider regeneration strategy totalling 425 ha and benefits from specific guidance in the Baglan Energy Park SPD. The area in which the array is located falls within Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan policy EC1/1 – which allocates 75 ha of land for employment uses including land to meet the needs of the energy sector. Page 10 of the SPD refers to the 'first phase' of a solar farm having been implemented.

The proposed storage container is located within the existing first phase area of the solar farm and will assist in the effective and efficient operation of the solar array and continued supply of renewable energy. The container is proposed in an appropriate location, its character and appearance are sympathetic to the industrial surrounds and will have no impact on the ongoing contamination remediation strategy for the site or wider park.

I trust that you find the above to be in order and sufficient to enable you to validate this application. However, if there is any further information that you require, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Tanya Mathias

for Corylus Planning & Environmental Ltd

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