

31/3/2020

To whom it may concern

**Planning ref: 20/00574/F. Land North of Hill Farm, Hill Farm Lane, Duns Tew, OX25 0JJ**

In response to the consultation response by Ian Carmichael of the Thames Valley Police, we firstly attach a letter from the landowner confirming that no acts of vandalism or theft have occurred on the existing solar farm adjacent to the proposed site since it's construction in 2017. Whilst we acknowledge the concerns of Thames Police, they do note that they have not visited the site and may not be aware of the existing array which has the exact security measures we are proposing.

The site is situated on a private farm with access only via a gated track from the Oxford Road or via Hill Farm Lane, through the farmyard. There is no public access near to the site.

The proposed site has the same type of monitored security system and the same type of fencing as the adjacent existing solar farm constructed in 2017.

The site will have 24/7 CCTV perimeter monitoring with night-time capability which installed as standard in most commercial scale solar farms. The CCTV monitoring station is alerted when movement is detected on site and relevant action can then be taken by the security monitoring company.

The stock fencing selected for the perimeter is used as standard on most solar farms in the UK. It is agricultural fencing, which blends into the existing environment and is effective in deterring unauthorised access. Signage displayed on the fenced perimeter will warn against unauthorised access and the electrical dangers present inside the site.

With reference to Thames Police's comment that the site will become a high value target for precious metal theft, we note the caution, but the fencing used is ultimately a commercial decision and if our insurers are happy then we consider that it should not be a condition of planning. It is important to us in ensuring we meet the requirements of good design that the security fencing is in keeping with the rural character of the site and design of the development and does not give rise to unacceptable visual impact. This design approach adopted by the applicant follows the *Oxfordshire County Council Position Statement - Major Development Proposals for Ground-mounted Solar PV Arrays* which sets out inter alia that equipment (i.e. CCTV) and security fencing should be well designed and sympathetic to the setting and landscape.

We hope this explanation of the location and equipment to be installed together with evidence from the landowner of no prior vandalism and theft will reassure Cherwell District Council that enhanced security standards over and above those already submitted are not required to be added as a condition to planning.