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Hello David

Thank you for consulting CCAONB on this proposal and clearly explaining the situation.

I read that the applicant gained permission for a solar farm for 25 years and then immediately sought permission to extend the period to 30 years. The current application would effectively mean the 'life' of the proposal, clearly stated to involve no other changes, would be 55 years from inception.

My understanding is that a planning condition is applied to enable an otherwise unacceptable development to proceed. In this case the temporary nature, limited by a condition to 30 years, enabled the development to proceed. The fact that the decision-makers applied a condition indicates that long term conversion from agricultural use has been deemed inappropriate. The current proposal to regard 55 years as 'temporary' seems likely to be longer than the life span of the decision-makers and it is, effectively, permanent. It seems, therefore, that the decision-makers clearly envisaged a temporary use, with the land returning to growing food for the nation within a reasonable time. This AONB cannot support the proposal to amend the condition, and is profoundly concerned that the applicant appears, from the statement submitted and the application form, to be seeking to change the basis on which solar farm permissions have been granted.

You may also wish to consider whether the now proposed 55 year 'life' would, if presented initially, have triggered an EIA.

I hope those comments are helpful to you.

Regards Richard

Richard Burden BSc DipCons MSc MCMI(rtd) MCIPD FLI PPLI

Chartered Landscape Architect

Principal Landscape & Planning Officer (part-time, Mon-Wed)

Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cranborne Chase AONB Office, Rushmore Farm, Tinkley Bottom, Tollard Royal, Wiltshire, SP5 5QA

Tel: 01725 517417

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From: David Kenyon <david.kenyon@somerset.gov.uk>

Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 4:27 PM

To: Burden, Richard <RichardBurden@cranbornechase.org.uk>

Cc: Nunn, Linda <LindaNunn@cranbornechase.org.uk>

Subject: 22/02519/S73A. Solar Site At Sutor Farm, Moor Lane, Wincanton, Somerset

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Good afternoon Richard

I refer to the above application about which you, on behalf of the Cranborne Chase AONB office, commented on 18th October 2022.

To remind you, the current description of the application reads:

Construction of a 9.3 hectare solar park with associated works. S73A application to amend condition 2 of approval 14/05472/FUL (as varied by 16/03675/S73A) to remove the time limiting element for the solar site of 30 years from the approval date, which will allow the permitted solar installation to continue in perpetuity.

The operative planning permission (ref. 16/03675/S73A) conditioned that the solar park must be removed on or before the 10th November 2046 or within 6 months of the cessation of the use of the solar farm for the generation of electricity, whichever is the sooner (condition 02). The applicant seeks to add 25-years onto the 30-years currently existing, so the planning end date would be 10th November 2071, rather than 'in perpetuity' as set out in the description.

As such the description of the application is to be amended to read as follows:

Construction of a 9.3 hectare solar park with associated works. S73A application to amend condition 2 of approval 14/05472/FUL (as varied by 16/03675/S73A) to remove the time limiting element for the solar site of 30 years from the approval date and to allow the permitted solar installation to continue until 10th November 2071.

I have attached amended submitted application form, site location plan and a supplemental supporting statement for your information, the latter clarifying why a further extension of time is being requested. Any further comments that you would wish to make would be appreciated within the next 21 days.

Regards

Dave Kenyon

David Kenyon

Development Management Specialist

Somerset Council

+44 (0) 300 123 2224

Please note that my email address has now changed to david.kenyon@somerset.gov.uk



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