

Our Ref: JBM1001/CC/JC

Date: 12th January 2016



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4245 Park Approach
Thorpe Park
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By Email: adavisonphysio@aol.com

Dear Mrs Davison,

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM ON THE FORMER BABDOWN AIRFIELD, LAND TO THE WEST OF BABDOWN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, OFF THE A4135.

I am contacting you on behalf of my clients, Elgin Energy and JBM Solutions Limited, regarding a proposed solar farm at the former Babdown Airfield. The site is located on the former Babdown Airfield on land to the immediate west of Babdown Industrial Estate. A site location plan is attached to this letter.

The proposed development will involve the installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels which will be mounted on frames with a maximum height of 2.8m; the lowest part of the panel will be circa 800mm above ground level. The panels require no foundation works, allowing them to be easily removed following the decommissioning of the solar farm at the end of its 25-year life. It is envisaged that the proposals will generate up to approximately 23MWp of renewable energy, which will be exported to the local electricity network for use in local homes and businesses. The solar farm will provide the equivalent power to supply approximately 5,300 homes.

Most solar farms built to date in this country have benefited from the government's solar subsidies. Babdown Solar Farm however, is envisaged to be one of the first subsidy-free projects in the country, an important milestone we believe, in establishing a strong and independent solar industry.

As part of the proposals a scheme of landscaping and ecological management would be implemented and managed for the life of the proposal. Given the topography of the site we believe that a well considered scheme of landscaping would allow the proposal to be accommodated sympathetically in the landscape. It is also well documented that solar farms can have significant benefits to local biodiversity through the provision of wildflower meadows for example, but can equally accommodate grazing stock (sheep) as part of the meadow management.

Given the Government's current emphasis on making renewable energy projects more community focused JBM Solutions and Elgin Energy are looking at a range of options to make the proposal environmentally, socially and financially attractive to local residents.

The range of options being considered could include:



- Provision of information boards along publically accessible areas around the proposal site;
- Arrangements for educational visits for interested parties/schools; and
- An Electricity Savings Scheme to reduce energy bills for nearby residents.

I enclose a plan to show the general location of the proposed solar farm (outlined in red). Whilst at a very early stage in the development process, the site does benefit from:

- A close connection to the local distribution network;
- Lower quality agricultural land;
- Limited visibility from the surrounding areas; and
- A former airfield and adjacent to commercial premises that includes existing renewable energy developments

In order to provide a better understanding of the solar farm proposal, I would like to invite you to a public exhibition on the proposal at Beverston Village Hall between 2:30pm and 7:30pm on Thursday 28th January 2016.

Details on renewable energy, solar power and the proposal will be available to view at the public exhibition and representatives of Elgin Energy and JBM Solutions Limited will be at the exhibition to answer any queries.

As part of the consultation process, we will be contacting Councillor Jim Parsons of the Grumbolds Ash with Avening Ward, County Councillor Anthony Hicks, Beverston Parish Council, Westonbirt with Lasborough Parish Council and Tetbury Upton Parish Council. We shall also be distributing leaflets to local residents to inform them of the proposal and to invite them to the exhibition. Furthermore, we will be publicising the public exhibition in the Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard on Thursday 21st January 2016.

Should you have any questions or require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0113 2328571 or email me at james.cook@stratus-environmental.co.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Cook".

James Cook
Stratus Environmental Limited
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james.cook@stratus-environmental.co.uk



Figure 1: Site Location shown above outlined in red