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PLANNING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application No	23/02634/FULM
Proposal	Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic farm with associated infrastructure, engineering works, access, and landscaping.
Address	Land to the South of Barnsley Road, To the East and West Of Marr Grange Lane, Marr

Thank you for giving South Yorkshire Police Designing out Crime Officers the opportunity to review this pre planning application.

Similar sites in the Doncaster area have suffered attacks, which include thefts of solar panels and thefts of copper connectors from within the site and damage to the solar panels themselves. Entry is gained in most cases by cutting the fence to allow quad bikes to be ridden onto the site and the attacks carried out. At one nearby solar farm, thefts and damage have occurred to such an extent that it has reduced the capability of the site to operate at full capacity.

A visit to the location for the proposed site highlights the rural and somewhat remote nature of the site. There are a number of domestic residences near to the site with open farmland in abundance. A local Farm shop with a Tea room is located on the southeastern border of the site. The main road to the north of the site is a link road to the adjacent A1 Motorway. Heavy goods vehicles often park overnight on the laybys on Barnsley Road but suffer from high levels of vehicle crime where vehicles are attacked for their goods or fuel. Farms in the area suffer from anti-social behaviour and damage to crops by offenders using the area to ride off road motorcycles and quadbikes.

It is requested that the below recommendations are implemented to reduce the chances of attacks on site to steal or commit damage, both of which are likely to result in a temporary loss of use at the facility.

- It is strongly recommended that the outer fencing at the site is a type that is assessed by the LPCB to achieve LPS 1175 C5 (previously known as SR3) as a minimum. The fence should be fixed preferably using concrete into the ground. The fencing height normally would be at least 2.4 metres, but this could raise objections due to the rural location and visual impact. An alternative is to provide two fences running parallel to each other around the site. The fences should provide an outer and inner layer of protection; the outer fence should be to the maximum height allowed and comply with the

security standard as described above. This fence should incorporate a Perimeter Intruder Detection System (PIDS) to alert a monitoring station of any attempt to breach or attack the fence by cutting or physical force.

- The inner fence need not be to the same height but should incorporate anti climb measures and achieve a security rating of at least LPS 1175 C3. The idea being that an alert will be raised should an attempt be made to enter the site thereby providing a response prior to offenders breaching the inner fence. It may be considered that the strip of land between the two fences is also planted with defensive planting such as berberis or pyracantha.
- Access gates should be the same height and standards as the outer perimeter fencing.
- Both palisade and weld mesh fencing can be manufactured to meet the above security standards
- Palisade fencing consisting of vertical palings attached to horizontal tie bars has excellent anti climb properties, but older stock has issues with the strength of the bolts used to attach the palings to the horizontal bars. Upgraded and higher security specifications reduce and almost eliminate the issues with the fastenings.
- An alternative fencing type to consider is a weld mesh type such as the SecureGuard SL3X mesh fencing. This too achieves the security standard LPS 1175 C5. Weldmesh fencing provides better surveillance of the site and is less visually intrusive.
- Lock shrouds should protect gate padlocks and the padlocks should be Sold secure 'Gold' standard.
- Unless a breach of the perimeter fence is notified to the Police by a security monitoring company, any security installed onsite will be ineffective. Therefore, in addition to the fencing specified above; the installation of a fence security topping
- Monitored CCTV should be installed to current British and European standards and conform to 'ICO' Information Commissioners Office regulations.
- CCTV poles should have 'Anti Climb Spiked Pole Collars' fitted.
- Lighting should be designed in conjunction with the CCTV and PIDs to facilitate intruder detection during the hours of darkness.
- Any external cabling should be buried or protected by conduit.

It is important to have all the security interventions installed and working prior to installation of the panels and control centre. It is important to keep the development secure and safe during the construction phase: Please refer to-

https://www.securedbydesign.com/images/CONSTRUCTION_SITE_SECURITY_GUIDE_A4_8pp.pdf

Any planning applications that may fall under the remit of Protect Duty/PAL's will generate a DOCO notification to SYP CTSA's who may make further comment. This report will therefore also be forwarded to the Counter Terrorist advisors.,

Should you wish to discuss these recommendations or require further details on any of the points mentioned in this report please contact me on the details below.

Regards

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