HPK/2011/0483

ESE

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

PM 3393 Solar Panels for Little Hollins
Design and Access Statement

The government is seeking a programme to achieve international standards on reduction of greenhouse gasses by the micro-generation of 4kilowatts of electricity by use of photovoltaic cells at dwelling houses. The target of 4 kilowatts will be achieved by up to a maximum of 18 solar panels of size 1,650 x 980 each.

The generation of electricity by solar energy is a sustainable development and the presumption must be in favour of granting approval.

The General Development Order has granted approval for this development should it be erected on the a roof, but this is subject to achieving the minimum visual impact. This is rejected as a satisfactory proposal because:

- Panels will be in partial shade by roof shape and trees and will not achieve acceptable output.
- A major investment in providing a natural slate roof has been recently completed, and the solar cells will result in an unacceptable visual impediment to the existing roof which is prominent, albeit that it is not visible from the road.
- The panels can be provided on appropriate south facing slope in a position that is not easily visible.
- The panels in this position achieve uninterrupted and good sunlight – representing the optimum position on site when taking also into account the visual impact.
- The panels are easily maintained in a safe way.
- The panels are close to electrical supply cables.

The panels will be supported on a masonry base, which also assists retention of the garden, and where visible (albeit close to ground level), will be faced in stone.

Access will be at ground level allowing good access for maintenance and repair.

Due to the slope and position this land has been unused, and the proposal will improve the utilisation of land by creating solar power and improve adjacent areas by forming a small terrace.

Roger Smith

3 AUG 2011