



Kevin Cox
Designing Out Crime Officer
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REF: P25/V0269/FUL

**Location: Red House Farm Eynsham Road Farmoor
Oxford OX2 9ND**

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Dear Amanda,

Thank you for consulting me on the above application. I have reviewed the submitted documents and crime statistics for the local area. Thames Valley Police have concerns regarding the security of solar farms and I provide the following comments to ensure forthcoming applications meet the requirements of;

- The National Planning Policy Framework 2024 paragraph 96(b); which states that Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion...
- The National Planning Policy Framework 2024, paragraph 135(f) which states that "Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible... and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience".

In addition, I do not feel the Design and Access Statement (DAS) adequately addresses crime and disorder as required by CABE's 'Design & Access Statements- How to write, read and use them'. This states that a DAS' should; 'Demonstrate how development can create accessible and safe environments, including addressing crime and disorder and fear of crime'. I recommend that the applicants provide an addendum to the DAS that comprehensively addresses crime and disorder, incorporating the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) prior to approval.

1. DeterTech's Crime Intelligence unit revealed that over 750 kilometres of cable were stolen from solar farms in the UK between January and August 2024, with many sites being repeatedly targeted by organised criminals soon after cables are replaced.
2. Cables on solar farms are usually copper, and are stolen for their scrap value.
3. Solar panels are usually stolen for their resale value.
4. Domestic organised crime groups continue to target solar farms, primarily for earthing cable, which accounted for 43% of all solar farm thefts between January 2022 and September 2024. It is likely that earthing cable is stolen for its scrap value. Theft from solar farms caused an estimated total loss of £7.1 million in this period
5. There continues to be a high level of repeat victimisation; once a solar farm has been targeted once, it is likely to be targeted again. 61% of solar farms that reported a crime in 2022 either suffered another offence in the same year, or a solar farm within 5 miles did.
6. The price of copper is forecast to increase in to 2025. This will drive up the rate of cable theft across all industries, including solar.
7. Rural crime is increasing—the cost of rural crime in the UK rose over 40% in the first quarter of 2022.
8. The proposal for this installation is a 2.1m high stock proof boundary treatment which will provide little deterrence value at all.
9. Thames Valley Police have considered the issue of security of Solar Farms, most of which are sited in rural areas and can perhaps expect at best a response taking up to 15-20 minutes and have formulated an appropriate recommendation based on that expectation.

10. Security fencing, rather than post and rail is the minimum requirement for a Solar Farm. The purpose of security fencing is to Deter, Delay and Detect. LPS 1175 Issue 8 Security fencing is tested to withstand attack over certain periods of time against a progressive and more inclusive array of tools.

We have considered the risk profile of a number of solar arrays planned for the Thames Valley Police Area and have determined that remote sites should be protected by perimeter security fencing specified to LPS 1175 issue 8.1:D10 when the site is remotely situated.

The rationale for this, particularly important for remoter sites, is that a standard fence may Deter the casual more opportunistic criminal, but not an organised attacker, and Detection by remote CCTV or Perimeter Intrusion Detection Systems might inform a monitoring station that an attack is in progress, but a response still has to travel to the site, so we need to Delay an attack as long as possible.

A review of national crime trends indicates that the criminal attacks tend to involve the use of portable power tools, and the LPS 1175 is security rated dependent on the delay a product provides in minutes, against a specific toolkit. These are indicated in the rating by a letter and a number. Therefore a D10 security rating is tested against A up to D toolkits that includes disc grinders etc (see fig 1 below) and will withstand attack for up to 10 minutes.

Tool Category	A	B	C	D	E
Tools Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cable cutter• Pliers• Screwdriver• Spanners• Knife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bolt cutter• Claw hammer• Hand drill• Pipe wrench + Cat. A tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Axe• Crowbar• Gas torch• Hacksaw + Cat. A, B tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disc grinder• Fire axe• Jigsaw• Sledgehammer + Cat. A, B, C tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circular saw• Reciprocating saw + Cat. A, B, C, D tools

Fig 1

The above comments are made on behalf of Thames Valley Police and relate to crime prevention design only. I hope that you find these comments of assistance. If you have any queries relating to crime prevention design, please do not hesitate to contact myself.

Kind regards
Kevin Cox.