

21 January 2022

Mrs Heather Morrison  
Development Management  
Copeland Borough Council  
Market Hall  
Market Place  
Whitehaven  
CA28 7JG

Email:

Your ref:

Our ref: PLC/BCC/2047

Dear Mrs Morrison,

**PLANNING APPLICATION – ENABLING WORKS TO FACILITATE THE RE-OPENING OF  
EXISTING ACCESS ‘RBLA GATE’, SELLAFIELD**

Sellafield Ltd is hereby applying for full planning permission for enabling works to facilitate the re-opening of an existing access point to the Sellafield Site, commonly referred to as ‘RBLA Gate’, which is located on the site’s eastern boundary. The RBLA Gate has been out of regular use for a number of years but Sellafield Ltd now intends to utilise this existing access in association with on-site activities, specifically the transportation of spoil arising from land preparation / construction activities taking place within the site boundary to Landscape Mound Area D1.

The use of RBLA Gate for this purpose has already been established through the grant of planning permission by Cumbria County Council (CCC) (ref: 4/20/9005) for bulk excavation and reprofiling works to create a level development platform for future construction activities. Above all, the reinstatement of RBLA Gate will provide a direct and accessible route for HGVs transporting spoil and will circumvent their need to travel on the public highway via Sellafield’s Main Gate. This will minimise disturbance to local residents and will also deliver carbon reduction benefits by reducing HGV travel distances.

The purpose and scope of this planning application relates to the package of improvement works required to enable the efficient operation of RBLA Gate. It does not seek consent for the installation or use of the gate itself, which is already in existence and will not be subject to change. The use of the term “enabling works” within the description of development has

therefore been used as a collective to describe the following elements for which planning permission is being sought:

- 1no. retaining wall, varying height (0.5 metres to 1.5 metres)
- 2no. prefabricated shelters (1.5 metres x 1.5 metres x 2.58 metres)
- 1no. vehicle inspection area
- 1no. elevated inspection platform (1.2 metres x 5 metres x 2.5 metres)
- 5no. lighting columns (8 metres high)

The re-opening of RBLA Gate will also require modifications to the adopted public highway (Calder Road) to ensure its safe and efficient operation for all road users while spoil movements are ongoing. These works include the installation of 4-way semi-permanent traffic signals, associated signage and road markings, and minor realignment of the kerbside at the Calder Road / Fellside T-junction to accommodate HGV movements. CCC Highways Authority has engaged in ongoing discussions about the proposal and has raised no objection to the proposed changes. These highways works do not require planning permission in their own right and will be covered by a legal agreement between the relevant parties in accordance with Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980.

The following electronic files have been prepared in support of the planning application:

- Completed Application Form
- Site Location Plan (drawing no: 1BE 3032307, scale 1:5000@A1)
- Existing Site Layout (drawing no: 1BE 3101217 A, scale 1:500@A1)
- Proposed Development (drawing no: 1BE 3101216 A, scale 1:500@A1)
- Retaining Wall Details (drawing no: 1BE 3101215 A, scale 1:20@A1)
- Retaining Wall Long Section (drawing no: 1BE 3101233 A, scale 1:50@A1)
- Design and Access Statement
- Ecological Impact Assessment & Non-technical Summary
- Manufacturer Specifications:
  - 'Genesis K1515' (2no. prefabricated shelters)
  - 'Safesmart Access' (1no. elevated inspection platform)
  - 'Abacus Lighting Columns: Heavy Duty' and 'Thorn CiviTEQ LED lighting' (5no. lighting columns).

Please find enclosed for your consideration.

The appropriate planning fee of £468 ('other operations') has been sent under separate cover.

Please send all planning enquiries and correspondence to the Sellafield Ltd Development Control Team at

Yours sincerely

p.p. Martin Chown  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sellafield Ltd