

Proposed Site Siren: Design and Access Statement

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Proposal

Sellafield Ltd has a requirement to install a new site siren. This will replace an existing site siren which is no longer fit-for-purpose in its current location due to its positioning relative to new construction activities. The site sirens perform an important safety function by providing an audible warning system to personnel working on the Sellafield site in the event of a nuclear incident occurring.

Location

The proposed site siren will be located on industrial laydown ground in the south-eastern part of the Sellafield site. The location of the new site siren is approximately 260 metres to the NNW of the existing site siren scheduled to be replaced, as shown in Figure 1 (see Appendix).

The location of the new site siren has been informed by a sound mapping exercise; this has taken account of new development on-site and has determined that a new site siren needs to be installed in order to provide adequate coverage to personnel working in the south-eastern part of the site where new construction activities are shortly planned to begin.

Use

In terms of the siren's use, there will be no change from current practises i.e. the siren will remain silent for the majority of the time. The site siren will only be used in the following instances:

- in the unlikely event of a site emergency occurring;
- for site emergency exercises which take place throughout the year; and
- for maintenance/testing purposes which are carried out using low volume tests and should not be audible beyond the site's perimeter fence. This usually occurs no more than once per year.

Noise Impact

The sound produced by the siren will be the same type of sound that the current siren uses and the number of times that the siren is used should be approximately equivalent to its current usage. Therefore, the impact upon any residents living close to the site should not noticeably change.

For the siren to perform its function of providing an alarm, in the unlikely event of an incident occurring, it needs to be audible across a wide area of the site. The siren has been designed to emit at a sound level of approximately 85 decibels (dB) within the site perimeter fence. The noise impact will reduce as the distance from the site increases. Therefore, the nearest off-site receptors should not experience an unacceptable level of noise.

Appearance

The dimensions of the new site siren are as follows:

- The column height, including the horn assembly, will be approximately 16m.
- The siren base will be approximately 4m x 4m with a ramp 1.8m wide.

The construction and equipment materials have been selected for their weather-resistant properties and finishes that will not deteriorate (i.e. stainless steel, galvanised steel and weather-resistant

aluminium). Therefore, the colours and finishes will blend into the background of the industrial setting. Please refer to Figure 2 (see Appendix) for further detail on the siren's appearance.

The appearance of the new site siren should not have any adverse effect on the visual amenity of the surrounding area, particularly as it will be sited on an existing industrial site, where tall buildings and structures are commonplace and will form the backdrop to the site siren.

Landscaping

Given the small-scale nature of the proposal and its siting on industrial laydown ground, it is not considered that the new site siren will result in any disturbance to existing landscape features, habitats or ground levels. There is no landscaping proposed around the siren base and any land disturbed during construction will be returned to its original state after installation is complete.

Access

The installation of the new site siren is planned to take approximately 8 weeks of work scheduled over a 12-week period with 5 personnel working week days. The construction workers will travel to the site in accordance with Sellafield Ltd's Travel Plan and therefore, given the very small numbers of people working on the project and its limited duration, there should not be any impact on the local road network as a consequence of this development.

The materials and equipment for the new site siren will also be delivered to the site in accordance with Sellafield Ltd's Travel Plan December 2020 i.e. the deliveries will be scheduled using the Delivery Management System (DMS) and will arrive via the Main Gate outside rush hours.

Once the site siren becomes operational, it will be subject to maintenance by the existing maintenance teams and no additional traffic will result from this development.

Summary

For the reasons above, this development proposal is of minor nature and effectively constitutes the relocation of an existing site siren by approximately 260 metres. Aside from the new location, there will be no change to any other factors as a result of the new site siren and there should be no demonstrable impacts to the local community as a consequence of this planning application.

Please note once the new site siren has been built and commissioned, the existing site siren will be switched off and dismantled.

APPENDIX

Figure 1 – Location of Existing and Proposed Site Sirens

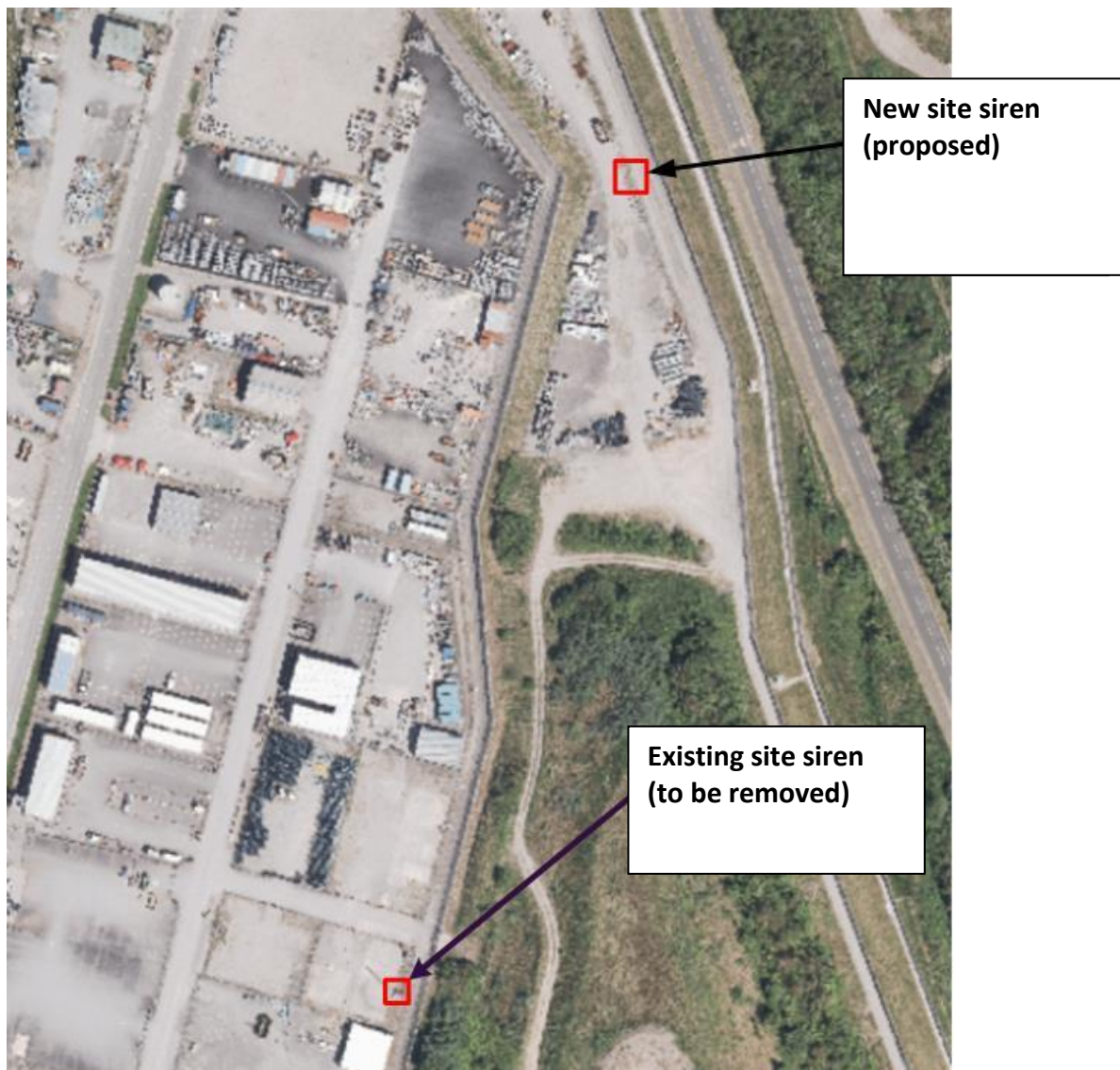
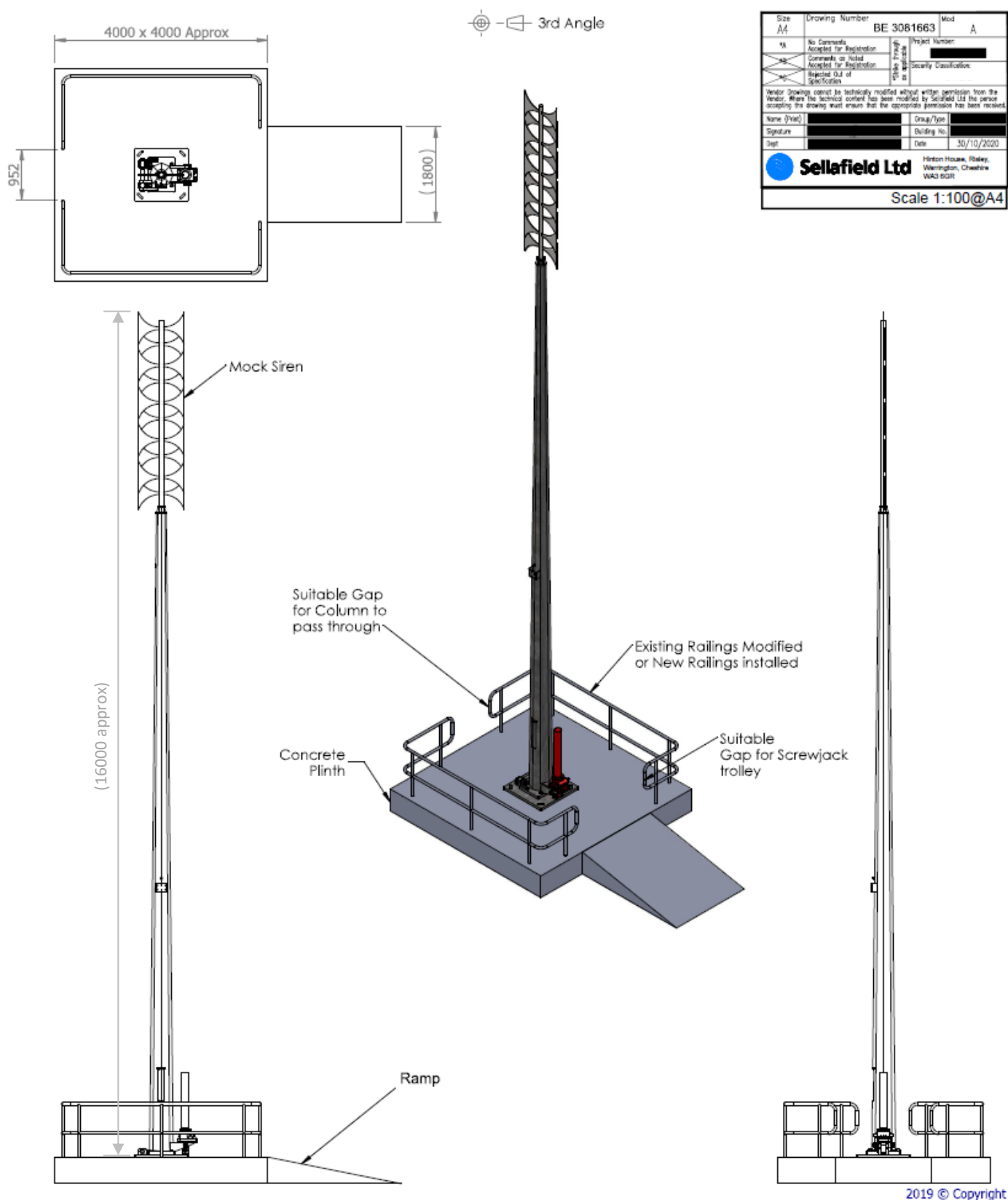


Figure 2 – Site Siren Specification and Appearance



(All measurements in mm unless otherwise stated)