



## COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL DELEGATED PLANNING DECISION

1.	<b>Reference No:</b>	4/22/2124/0F1
2.	<b>Proposed Development:</b>	STANDBY EMERGENCY GENERATION PROJECT - RE-PROFILE, RETAINING WALL AND FENCE
3.	<b>Location:</b>	SELLAFIELD SITE, SEASCALE
4.	<b>Parish:</b>	Ponsonby, Seascale, Beckermeth with Thornhill
5.	<b>Constraints:</b>	<p>ASC;Adverts - ASC;Adverts,</p> <p>Flood Area - Flood Zone 2, Flood Area - Flood Zone 3,</p> <p>Safeguard Zone - Safeguard Zone,</p> <p>Coal - Off Coalfield - Data Subject To Change,</p> <p>Key Species - Known Sites for Natterjack Toads, Key Species - Potential areas for Natterjack Toads,</p> <p>Gas Pipeline - Northern Gas Pipeline - 135m buffer,</p> <p>DEPZ Zone - DEPZ Zone, Preferred Route Corridor - Within Preferred Route Corridor,</p> <p>Outer Consultation Zone - Sellafield 10KM</p>
6.	<b>Publicity Representations &amp; Policy</b>	See Report
7.	<p><b>Report:</b></p> <p><b>Site and Location</b></p> <p>Sellafield is an existing licensed nuclear site situated to the north of Seascale. It is highly industrialised covering an area of approximately 6km square and accommodating over 1300 buildings of varying sizes. Vehicular access is via the A595T at Blackbeck, Calderbridge and Seascale.</p> <p>Whilst the site does not benefit from any sensitive designations it is situated circa 3km away from the boundary of the Lake District National Park to the east which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.</p> <p>The application site comprises an area of 460sqm and lies within the North West Quadrant of the Sellafield Site close to an existing site main access gate and comprises a grassed embankment bounded by two access roads and a compound.</p>	

**Proposal**

As part of the electrical upgrade (Standby Emergency Generation Project) for the site it is has been identified that a new cable route is required. For part of this route the cable will need to be contained within an existing grassed embankment which will require some earthworks and the provision of new levels. It will also involve the construction of a new retaining wall some 22.5m in length and 2.4m in height with a 1.1m high handrail on top. This will run in a north to south direction close to the eastern edge of the compound.

**Consultations**Beckermeth with Thornhill Parish Council

No comments/ objections.

Gosforth Parish Council

No objections

Seascale Parish Council

No objections

ONR

Does not advise against the development.

CCC Resilience

No comments in relation to the proposed works.

**Public Consultation**

There were no representations received as a result of the site notice erected.

**Planning Policy**

Planning law requires applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

**Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028**

Adopted in 2013, the Policies in the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD are a material consideration when determining planning applications.

In relation to this application the following Core Strategy Policies of the Plan are considered relevant:

ST 1 Strategic Development Principles

ST 2 Spatial Development Strategy

ST 3 Strategic Development Priorities

ER 1 Planning for the Nuclear Sector

The following Development Management Policy is also relevant:

DM 1 Nuclear related Development

### **National Planning Policy Framework July 2021 (NPPF)**

The NPPF sets out government's planning policies and how these are to be applied and is a material consideration in planning decisions. It emphasises that applications for planning permission should be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

### **Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)**

The aforementioned policies and guidance generally support proposals related to the development of energy/ nuclear related infrastructure on the Sellafield site.

### **Assessment**

#### Principle of Development

This is a relatively minor application for supporting infrastructure development on the Sellafield site which aligns with the adopted Copeland Local Plan policies ST1, ST2, ER1 and DM5 and those of the NPPF.

On the basis of the above, the principle of this development proposal, which will facilitate the development of the electrical upgrade for the Sellafield site is considered to be acceptable.

#### Visual Impact

In terms of appearance and visual impact the wall will be constructed of modular concrete blocks with a light grey cobblestone finish and the handrail will be light grey and will mainly be seen from within the site. It will reduce in height above the reinstated ground and this taken into account with the existing compound it will butt up to, it will barely be visible from outside the site. Adverse visual impact arising from the proposal is therefore likely to be negligible.

#### Ecology

The application is accompanied by an Ecological Survey. This identifies that the survey area comprises an area of neutral grassland with a moderate diversity of grasses. The habitat was deemed suitable habitat for nesting birds with two trees in the area. It is regularly mown patch of amenity

grassland.

It is recognised that the area is isolated from other habitats by road and therefore of limited ecological potential.

No reptiles or evidence of reptiles were found during the walkover. Within the Sellafield site generally there is a slight risk of basking reptiles (adders) during summer months. However the site is not ideal reptile habitat due to the lack of vegetation cover.

No rare or protected species were identified on the site.

There remains a chance of ground nesting birds during nesting season (March to September). There is also potential for nesting birds in the trees on the site. It is noted that these are not affected by the works but need to have an exclusion zone to protect them from excavation if nesting birds are identified.

As regards bats the trees on site are not suitable bat roost features and nor are any existing structures in the project area.

As a result of the above and with the recommended mitigation it is considered that ecology is unlikely to be an issue.

#### Spoil

All suitable excavated material arising as a result of the development is to be reused on site and where it is to be disposed of it will be done so in accordance with SL Ltd procedures. The import of material required to complete the ground profiling is also required. In this respect it is estimated to be relatively small scale at circa 70 cubic metres of bulk excavated material and 320 cubic metres of granular imported fill (top soil and retaining wall base). It is therefore unlikely that the creation, reuse and disposal of spoil will be an issue.

#### Transport

In terms of access the project will use the existing road network serving the site. All material and personnel movements will be made in accordance with Sellafield Ltd's Travel Plan.

Due to the relatively small scale nature of the proposed minor works the potential for adverse traffic impacts to arise as a result of the construction work is considered to be negligible and the additional traffic likely to be created will be minimal.

#### Noise and Disturbance

Due to the small scale nature of the proposed works it is considered they are unlikely to give rise to any significant noise and disturbance during construction.

	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>In order to facilitate a new cable route as part of the electrical upgrade project on the Sellafield site, the development comprising the erection of a retaining wall and associated earthworks, as demonstrated, will not result in any significant adverse material planning impacts. The principle and form of development is therefore considered acceptable and compliant with Copeland Local Plan nuclear policies ST1, ST2, ER1 and DM5 as well as national planning policy and guidance.</p>
8.	<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Approve (commence within 3 years)</p>
9.	<p><b>Conditions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>The development hereby permitted shall be commenced before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.</p> <p>Reason</p> <p>To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.</p> </li> <li> <p>Permission shall relate to the following plans and documents as received on the respective dates and development shall be carried out in accordance with them: -</p> <p>Covering Letter from M. Chown, Chief Executive Officer, Sellafield Ltd, dated 22 February 2022, received 23 February 2022.</p> <p>Design and Access Statement, by Sellafield Ltd, reference NFR/509140/CSA/00206 ISA-INT-NFR-313, received 23 February 2022.</p> <p>Location Plan, drwg no. BE 3032304 Rev A, scale 1:5000, received 23 February 2022.</p> <p>Retaining Wall General Arrangement Plan, drwg no. BE 3086103 Rev A, received 23 February 2022.</p> <p>Retaining Wall Elevations and Sections, drwg no. BE 3086104 Rev A, received 23 February 2022.</p> <p>Standby Emergency Generation Project: Retaining Wall Ecological Survey, reference NFR/509140/CSA/00207 ISA-INT-NFR-314, received 23 February 2022.</p> <p>Reason</p> <p>To conform to the requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.</p> </li> </ol>

	<p><b>Statement</b></p> <p>The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application. As a result the Local Planning Authority has been able to grant planning permission for the development in accordance with Copeland Local Plan policies and the presumption in favour of sustainable development as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.</p>
<p><b>Case Officer: H.S. Morrison</b></p>	<p><b>Date : 27/04/2022</b></p>
<p><b>Authorising Officer: N.J. Hayhurst</b></p>	<p><b>Date : 28/04/2022</b></p>
<p><b>Dedicated responses to:- N/A</b></p>	