

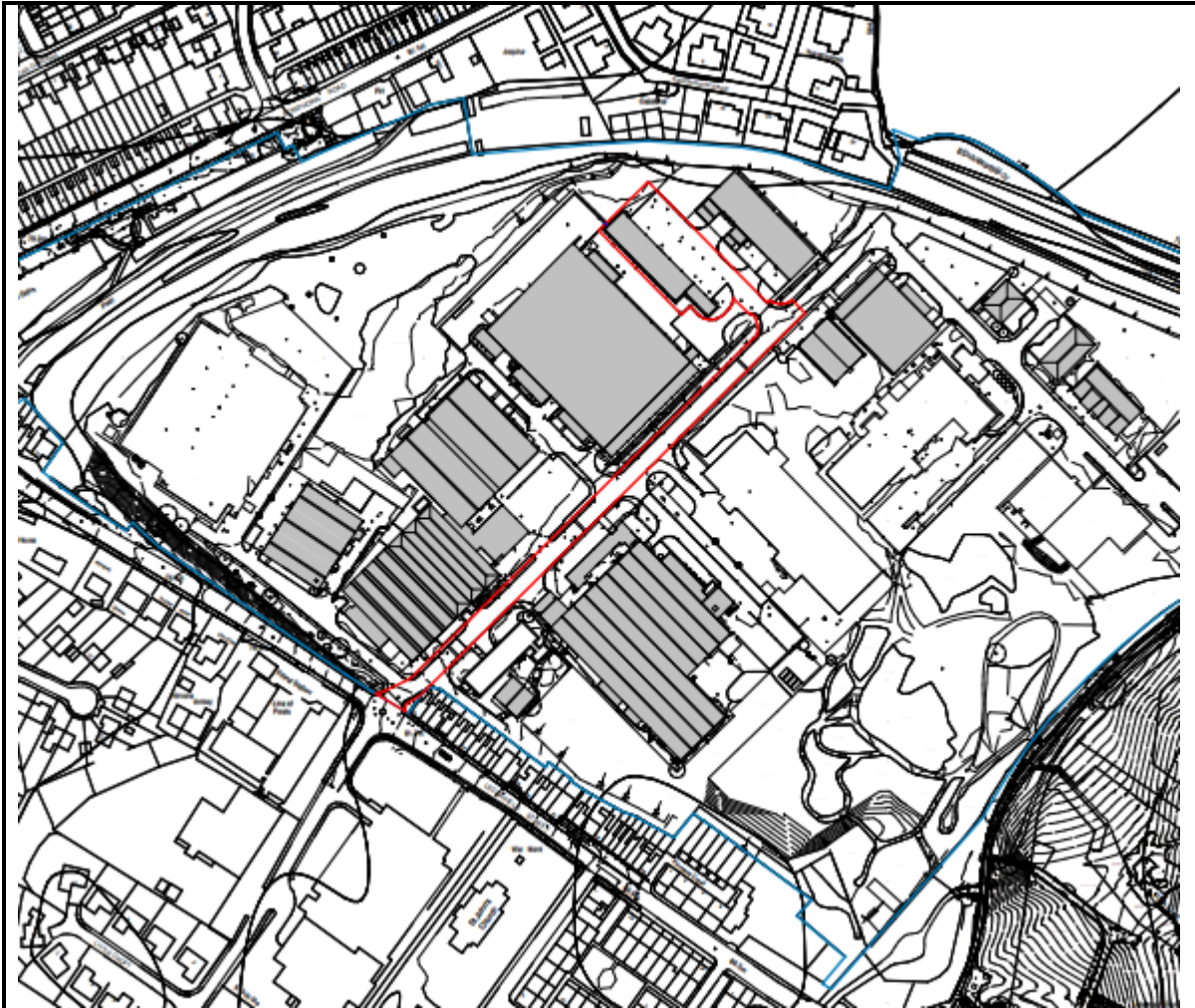


To: PLANNING PANEL

Development Management Section

Date of Meeting: 05/07/2022

Application Number:	4/22/2212/0F1
Application Type:	Full : CBC
Applicant:	Copeland Borough Council
Application Address:	15A-H LECONFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CLEATOR MOOR
Proposal	WORKS TO REFURBISH EXISTING INDUSTRIAL UNITS
Parish:	Cleator Moor
Recommendation Summary:	Approve (commence within 3 years)



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Reason for Determination by Planning Panel

As this application seeks planning permission for the Council to develop its own land at Leconfield Industrial Estate, Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 applies and requires that such applications are determined in public by the Council's Planning Panel.

Site and Location

The application site is located within Leconfield an established industrial estate, located in Cleator Moor, some 600m to the north-west of the town centre. Accessed via a mini roundabout off the B5295 /Leconfield Street this forms the main part of the southern boundary, with the C2C cycle route forming the boundary to the North. To the west and east the Estate is flanked by predominantly residential areas and community uses.

The estate currently accommodates some 20 industrial and warehouse units of varying sizes of standard commercial construction, including brick, profiled metal cladding and prefabricated steel frames, a number of which are vacant. There are also a number of vacant / cleared plots. This established industrial estate has been in use since the 1940`s and more recently suffered from a period of decline.

Plot 15 is situated in the northern corner of the estate. To the north and south it neighbours other detached industrial buildings/ plots on the estate, to the west it is adjacent to the C2C cycleway with an intervening blanket of trees and to the east the main estate road.

It comprises a detached single storey rectangular building of brick construction under a mono pitched roof. It is split into 8 industrial units, a number of which are occupied. To the front are the main access doors to the units and parking with a grassed area to the side and rear backing on to a neighbouring plot`s service yard. The total area of the plot measures 0.53ha.

The Proposal

This application seeks planning permission for external physical works to this building which is in need of refurbishment and modernisation. It is one of three applications for similar works to other existing units on the estate with the aim being to upgrade and improve the overall appearance of the site making the units more suitable for modern industry.

The refurbishment of the block will involve a series of external and internal works as follows:

- Recladding of the building and refurbishment of facades including:
 - Profiled flashings are added to both gables to create portal features.
 - Lower blue brick plinth.
 - Vibrant accent colour of cladding to gables and parts of front elevation to give the unit individuality.
- Roller shutters providing goods access are replaced with insulated colour coated sectional overhead doors.
- Personnel entrance doors are replaced with double glazed metal framed doors with double glazed fanlights.
- Rear doors are replaced with colour coated flush steel security doors.
- Windows to the front and rear are replaced with double glazed uPVC framed windows incorporating opening lights.
- All glazed areas will be protected by colour coated steel security shutters, concealed within the new cladding.
- Recladding of the roof is also proposed which will increase the height of the building from 6.2 m to 6.3 m.
- As a result of the over cladding the building footprint will increase by 51 square metres to 794 square metres.

- Creation of a grass verge and planting.
- Existing external parking for 32 cars to the front will be upgraded.
- Possibility of Solar PV's on the roof of the building is being considered but will form a separate detailed application at a later stage.

As regards the external colour scheme, the proposed wall and roof cladding is anthracite grey as a base with cornflower blue as the accent colour for the gable ends and window panel features.

Consultation Responses

Cleator Moor Town Council

No concerns raised.

CCC Highway & Local Lead Flood Authority

No objection to the proposed development as it is considered that it will not have a material effect on existing highway conditions, nor will it increase the flood risk on the site or elsewhere.

Natural England

Comments awaited.

Flood and Coastal Defence Engineer

No objections to this application but would ultimately like a more sustainable drainage option being adopted for the Estate with surface water being drained into a separate system.

Public Representation

This application has been advertised by way of a site notice and neighbour notification. No responses to date have been received to either.

Planning Policy

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

Adopted Copeland - Local Plan 2013-2028 (CLP)

Relevant CLP policies:

Policy ST1 Strategic Development Principles

Policy ST2 Spatial Development Strategy

Policy ER5 Improving the Quality of Employment Space.

Policy DM10 Achieving Quality of Place

Policy DM11 Sustainable Development Standards

Policy ENV3 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Policy DM25 Protecting Nature Conservation Sites, Habitats and Species.

Copeland Local Plan 2001-2016 (LP):

Saved Policy EMP1 of the Copeland Local Plan (2001-2016) designates Leconfield Industrial Estate as an employment site where development for employment and industry uses (Class B1 Office and Business, B2 General Industrial and B8 Storage and Distribution Uses will be permitted.

Emerging Local Plan Copeland Local Plan – 2021-2038 (ECLP)

The emerging Copeland Local Plan has recently been the subject of a Publication Draft Consultation. The Publication Draft Consultation builds upon the previously completed Issues and Options and Preferred Options consultations. Given the stage of preparation of the Copeland Local Plan 2017-2035 some weight can be attached to policies within the Publication Draft where no objections have been received. The Publication Draft provides an indication of the direction of travel of the emerging planning policies, which themselves have been developed in accordance with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The following ECLP policies are relevant to this proposal:

Strategic Policy DS1PU: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development

Strategic Policy DS2PU: Reducing the impacts of development on Climate Change

Strategic Policy DS6PU: Design and Development Standards

Strategic Policy DS7PU: Hard and Soft Landscaping

Strategic Policy DS8PU: Reducing Flood Risk

Strategic Policy DS9PU: Sustainable Drainage

Strategic Policy N1PU: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Strategic Policy N3PU: Biodiversity Net Gain

Strategic Policy E4PU of the emerging Copeland Local Plan (2021-2038) allocates Leconfield Industrial Estate and adjacent land to accommodate the Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter business cluster. The primary uses on the Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter development will be limited to Use Class B2, Use Class B8 and Use Class E(g) only.

However, it should be noted that the CLP currently carries the primary weight in relation to decision making.

Other Material Considerations

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

National Planning Policy Guidance

National Design Guide

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (CHSR).

Cumbria Development Design Guide (CDDG).

Assessment – Key Planning Considerations

The main considerations relevant to the determination of this application are as follows:

Principle of Development

The principle of development is already established with existing employment use rights on the application site which is located within the settlement boundary for Cleator Moor on an industrial estate and contains existing employment units. The proposal comprising mainly external cladding of walls and roof, replacement windows and doors of an existing building will enhance the appearance and attractiveness of the site and support its continued use for employment aligning with CLP Policy ST1 Strategic Development Principles. The works are consistent with the role and function of the estate as an established industrial/commercial location and will help maintain and support its role in providing employment land to serve the local area, thus contributing to economic growth.

Design

The proposal will significantly enhance the appearance of the unit and contribute to that of the wider estate. It accords with CLP Policy ER5 Improving the Quality of Employment Space, Criterion B of which supports improvements of specific industrial areas. It specifically recognises that a more attractive environment and better quality premises are needed to promote economic diversification.

Policy ST1 Strategic Development Principles Criterion D (i) and Policy DM10 Achieving Quality of Place aim to ensure the creation and retention of quality places by requiring and supporting improved design.

The design has had regard to the objectives of both local and national planning policies which seek to secure high quality design in all new developments. The proposed works include using a modern design and high-quality materials which accord with the aspirations and objectives of these design policies.

Ecology

Policy ENV3 seeks to ensure that new development will protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.

The applicant has recently undertaken an updated Bat Roost Assessment of the site. This informs that the plot has low suitability for roosting bats as no bats were recorded during the survey confirming the outcome of earlier surveys. As bats are known to be in the area enhancement is proposed via the installation of bat boxes in the vicinity of the building. It is also advised that any replacement lighting is installed in the same positions and that warm

LED lights are used. A planning condition is proposed to secure that the completion of relevant mitigation.

This is considered acceptable and accords with Policy ENV3 and DM25 of the CLP which seek to protect and enhance biodiversity interests.

Drainage

A Drainage Plan has been submitted with the application. As part of the works any internal rainwater pipes are to be moved externally and boxed out in new positions. The new rainwater pipes are to utilise the existing combined sewer on site.

Although the Flood and Coastal Defence Engineer raises no objections to this proposal per se, he would ultimately wish to see a more sustainable drainage system with the separation of the surface water system on the Estate.

Planning Balance and Conclusion

This application seeks planning permission for physical works to refurbish a block of eight industrial units on Leconfield Industrial Estate. The site lies within the settlement boundary of Cleator Moor.

On balance, it is considered that the proposed development will not raise any adverse material planning issues that will cause any demonstrable harm and outweighing the benefits of the proposal. The latter will significantly improve the appearance of the building on the industrial estate, and thus fully accord with the principle of securing good design.

Taking the above into account, it is concluded that the proposed development is compliant with the local plan and national planning policies, and particularly the overarching objective of the NPPF to deliver sustainable development.

Recommendation:-

Approve subject to the following conditions:-

Conditions

1. The development hereby permitted shall be commenced before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason

To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. 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: -

Documents

- Design and Access Statement, by NORR, dated May 2022.
- Interim Bat Roost Assessment by Tetra Tech, ref 784-B034942 Rev 1, dated April 2022.
- Bat Roost Assessment Report by Tetra Tech, ref 784-B034942 Rev 2, dated June 2022.
- Drainage Statement, DS002_001, by Donna Khan of NORR, dated 29 April 2022

Plans and Drawings

- SITE - LOCATION PLAN, Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-ZZ-DR-A-90091 Rev P02
- SITE - EXISTING PLAN Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-ZZ-DR-A-90094 Rev P02
- SITE - PROPOSED PLAN Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-ZZ-DR-A-90095 Rev P02
- SITE - EXISTING BLOCK PLAN Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-ZZ-DR-A-90092 Rev P02
- SITE - PROPOSED BLOCK PLAN Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-ZZ-DR-A-90093 Rev P02
- LEVEL 00 EXISTING PLAN (Planning) Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-00-DR-A-00091 Rev P02
- LEVEL 00 PROPOSED PLAN (Planning) Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-00-DR-A-00092 Rev P02
- EXISTING - ROOF PLAN Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-RF-DR-A-27091 Rev P02
- PROPOSED- ROOF PLAN Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-RF-DR-A-27092 Rev P02
- EXISTING - GA ELEVATIONS (Planning) Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-ZZ-DR-A-00191 Rev P02
- PROPOSED - GA ELEVATIONS (Planning) Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-ZZ-DR-A-00192 Rev P02
- EXISTING - GA SECTIONS (Planning) Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-ZZ-DR-A-00291 Rev P02
- PROPOSED - GA SECTIONS (Planning) Drawing no. CMIQ-NOR-A15-ZZ-DR-A-00292 Rev P02
- Landscape Site Plan Drawing no. N1045-ONE-ZZ-A15-DR-L-0001-P02
- Proposed Drainage Plan, Drawing no. CMIQ BGP-07-XX-DR-C-52-07131 Rev P01
- Existing Drainage Plan, Drawing no. CMIQ BGP-07-XX-DR-C-52-07130 Rev P03
- Amended Proposed Drainage Plan, Drawing no. CMIQ BGP-07-XX-DR-C-52-07131 Rev P02

- Amended Existing Drainage Plan, Drawing no. CMIQ BGP-07-XX-DR-C-52-07130 Rev P04
- PROPOSED - CLADDING COLOURS Unit 15A-H, Drawing no CMIQ-NOR-A15-ZZ-DR-A-00193

Reason

To conform with the requirement of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

3. The development shall implement all of the mitigation and compensation measures set out in the Bat Roost Assessment Report reference 784-B034942 Rev 2, prepared by Tetra Tech, dated June 2022, and submitted as part of the planning application.

Reasons

To protect the ecological interests evident on the site.

Informative

The proposed development lies within a coal mining area which may contain unrecorded coal mining related hazards. If any coal mining feature is encountered during development, this should be reported immediately to the Coal Authority on 0345 762 6848.

Further information is also available on the Coal Authority website at:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority

Statement

The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by assessing the proposal against all material considerations, including planning policies and any representations that may have been received, and subsequently determining to grant planning permission in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.