

Planning Application Ref: PP-11217456

25th May 2022

Copeland Borough Council
The Market Hall
Market Place
Whitehaven
CA28 7JG

PLOT 19, LECONFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CLEATOR MOOR

WORKS FOR TEMPORARY USE OF THE SITE FOR THE ERECTION OF A
TEMPORARY MOCK CHIMNEY AND TRIALLING OF A INNOVTIVE ACCESS
PLATFORM

Planning Statement

Applicant and Development Background

ADAPT (a joint venture of Orano, Doosan Babcock and Atkins) have a contract with Sellafield to manufacture a specialist, one off hydraulic access platform for use in the demolition of the Pile 1 B6 Chimney at Sellafield. There is a requirement to carry out trials of the platform before it is delivered to site. To facilitate the trialing, it is planned to construct a temporary 7.5m tall, 15m diameter concrete replica (mock-up) of the chimney barrel. This planning application covers the temporary use of Plot 19 for a period of two years whist the trials are carried out. On completion of the trialing, the site will be cleared and returned to a similar condition to its current state.

The Application Site

The application site comprises Plot 19 of the Leconfield Industrial Estate. Plot 19 is an unused plot. The total area of the site measures approx. 0.7ha and is illustrated by the red line on the site location plan attached on the online planning portal.

The Proposed Temporary Development

This application seeks planning permission to utilise Plot 19, Leconfield Industrial Estate as the location for the trials. This will involve the construction of a foundation and a temporary 7m high concrete ring as a mock-up of the existing chimney shape and configuration. The ring and its foundation will be constructed on top of the existing ground slab of Plot 19. A specialist demolition platform (SPIDA) will be delivered to the site in parts to be assembled and trialled in operation on the mock-up of the Chimney. The SPIDA platform is hydraulically operated and provides the platform that the demolition team will work from when carrying out the demolition of the Pile 1 chimney at Sellafield.

The trials will include the assembly and commissioning of the SPIDA platform suspended from the mock-up and the demonstration of its operation to Sellafield personnel. The demonstrations will also include concrete cutting operations using low noise diamond-wire saws and a mobile crane for lifting off the cut sections of the mock-up. On completion of the trails the mock-up will be demolished back to the existing ground slab and all material recycled.

The sequence of site use is to be as follows:

- a) Construct concrete mock-up – approx. 6 weeks
- b) SPIDA assembly, testing and trialling – 3 to 6 months
- c) Trialling of concrete cutting operations – 3 to 6 months
- d) SPIDA disassembly and removal – approx. 3 months
- e) Site clearance – 4 weeks

Key points from the planning application

- The hours of operation are 07.00 – 18.30 Monday to Friday and, 08.00 – 16.00 Saturdays if required. Note: Saturday working if not as standard and may be ad hoc when required by the project.
- The site working areas will be safely secured with security fencing at all times to prevent unauthorised access. This fencing will remain in place until the site has been cleared and returned to its original state. Fencing details can be seen on the site block plan submitted with the planning application.
- For the duration of the use of plot 19, welfare facilities will be provided in the Forth Engineering building located adjacent to plot 19. This has been noted on the site block plan submitted with the planning application.
- All waste materials will be segregated and taken off site for correct disposal, including recycling where possible.
- Bunds will be used to capture the water during the cutting and if the water pumped into 'SiltBusters' and storage tanks for disposal at approved locations off site in line with recognised procedures approved by the Environment Agency.
- Water supplies will be provided by bowser.
- Site run-off from rainwater will be no change from the existing.
- Noise is to be kept to a minimum so as not to cause distress to local building or residents. A noise assessment has been developed as part of the planning application. Electrical power requirements for the trialling and construction operations will be provided through the use of hushed generators. Generators will not be required at night and will only be used during the hours of operation.

Full details of the proposed works are shown on the proposed site location plan and elevation drawings submitted as part of this application.

Temporary Phases

1. Construction of Mock barrel

ADAPT will build the mock barrel to the approved design and this will involve constructing off the existing concrete slab, rebar assembly, shuttering the inner and outer walls in sequence and the pouring of concrete via a mobile pump. It is anticipated the build will take approximately 6 weeks and preferred working time would be 0700 to 1830 Monday to Friday.

2. SPIDA Assembly

The fabricated SPIDA parts will be delivered to the Leconfield Industrial Estate and stored in the Units leased by Forth Engineering to ensure safe storage. The items will sequentially be delivered to the secure mock barrel site and assembled in situ. The SPIDA will then be disassembled to manageable sections and lifted on to the concrete mock-up by a mobile crane. This will be done to replicate the lifts that will be carried out on the Sellafield Site. The SPIDA will then be fully assembled in position on top of the mock-up and will be tested and trialled to prove its safety and functionality.

These works will take between 3 and 6 months and will be worked Monday to Friday, working times 0700 to 1800

3. Concrete cutting operations

The successful trialling of the SPIDA's safety and functionality will be followed by the trialling of the concrete cutting and removal of cut blocks from the mock-up. The cutting equipment will be delivered to the site and lifted on to the SPIDA using a mobile crane. The cutting of two rows of blocks from the mock-up will be carried out to prove the capability of all the equipment working together. It is anticipated that this will take 3 to 6 months and will be worked Monday to Friday, working times 0700 to 1800.

4. SPIDA disassembly and removal

The cutting equipment and SPIDA will then be removed from the mock- up barrel and dismantled. The removed items will be loaded and then delivered to the Sellafield site in sequence to suit the installation timescale at Sellafield. It is anticipated that the dismantling operations will take 4 weeks and will be worked Monday to Friday and the working times 0700 to 1800. The removal of the components from the site are expected to take place on a phased basis over a period of three months.

5. End state

Once the SPIDA has been removed from the mock-up the demolition of the Mock Barrel will be carried out. This will involve an excavator or similar with a concrete crusher to size reduce the remaining mock barrel and cut sections. The concrete will be disposed of at a licensed land fill site and the metal will be taken to an approved metal scrap yard for disposal. The security fencing will be removed and taken away from the site once all components and works items have been taken from the site and it is back to its original state. Plot19 and the existing slab will be left in a similar condition to that at the time of commencing the works.

Planning Policies:

For this proposal the most relevant adopted local plan policies (Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028) include the below of which the proposed development in our opinion complies with:

- Policy ST1 Strategic Development Principles – sets out the fundamental principles to guide development in the Borough.

- Policy ST2 Spatial Development Strategy - directs development to the most sustainable locations – the main settlements including Cleator Moor which is a key service centre
- Policy ER4: Land and Premises for Economic Development
- Policy ER6: Location of Employment – supports employment development in the main settlements
- Policy ENV1 Flood Risk and Risk Management
- Policy ENV3 Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Policy DM10 Achieving Quality of Place
- Policy DM11 Sustainable Development Standards
- Policy DM22 Accessible Developments
- Policy DM24 Development Proposals and Flood Risk
- Policy DM25 Protecting Nature Conservation Sites, Habitats and Species
- Policy DM26 Landscaping Policy

Summary

This application seeks planning permission for the temporary use of the unused Plot 19 site on the Leconfield Industrial Estate. This proposal will make use of an unused area of the underused Leconfield Industrial Estate. We also feel that this development will in some way showcase the upcoming redevelopment of the Leconfield Innovation Quarter on this innovative project for our local Nuclear Site.