

Application for Installation of 36 Solar Panels

Ground Mounted in the Corner of a Field

Bonwycks Place, Ifield Wood,
Ifield, Crawley RH11 0LE

Part Retrospective Letter DC/26/0771

DATED 22 JULY 2026

DC/26/0771

This letter updates the information provided in the original application that was submitted on 12 May 2026.

At the time when the planning application was submitted, none of the grounds works or installation had commenced.

While waiting for planning approval, certain worldwide events have occurred that affected global trade and shipping, so the applicant made a decision to install half of the solar panels, being 18 of the 36 solar panels being applied for in this planning application.

This planning application (DC/26/0771) is requesting planning to install 36 solar panels ground mounted to complement and plug into the recently installed equipment that is detailed in planning application DC/26/0515. DC/26/0515 application was approved on 20 May 2026 for the installation of 23 solar panels on a barn roof and the associated solar equipment.

DC/26/0771 application was submitted on 12 May 2026. Following several phone calls to HDC to follow up, on 23 June 2026 being six weeks later, HDC sent an email requesting that the block plan marking the solar panel location be altered from a “rectangle” representing the area in which the 5 rows on solar panels would be sited (*see Figure 1 below*) to draw “5 lines” to represent the 5 rows of solar panels (*see Figure 2 below*). The consequence of this moved the validation date by 6 weeks and affected installation dates.

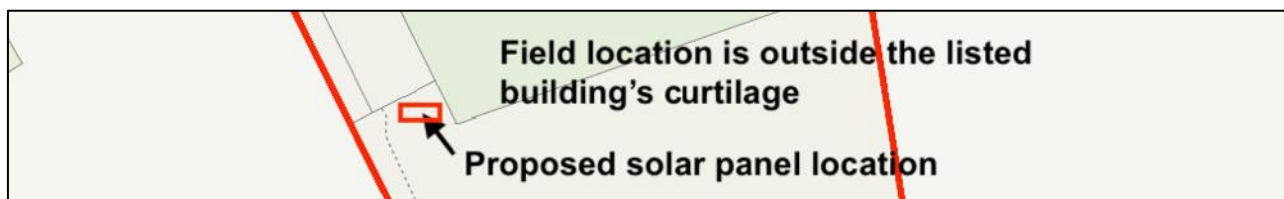


Figure 1: 12 May 2026 application – extract from block plan

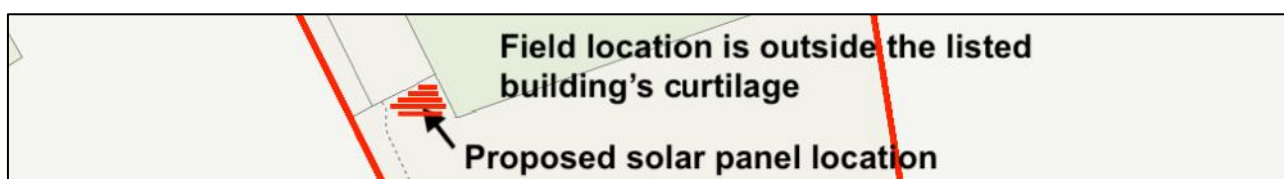


Figure 2: 23 June 2026 amendment – extract from block plan

During this period, the solar company that subsequently installed the solar equipment approved in planning application DC/26/0515 encountered a shortage of solar panels in the UK warehouses due to world politics and an increase in demand for solar panels. A shipment from China was cancelled, so warehouses in the UK had a shortage, prices escalated, and the solar company secured what it could from an alternate supplier.

As further background, during the planning of DC/26/0515, on the 7th May 2026, the applicant received an email stating “I have checked with ..., and he is happy with the additional panels/location”.

The applicant made the decision to agree and pay for those 18 extra panels while those stocks were available. Also, the installer is extremely busy due to current demand and their next available date to install the remaining 18 solar panels is earliest September 2026. The ground works is ready to install the additional 18 solar panels; and to clarify those 18 solar panels are not on site.

The applicant would not normally commence ground works and part installation before a planning approval. As the solar panels are not fixed but just placed on the ground, and combined with the above circumstances, plus the site visit conducted by HDC Planning Office Halima Chowdhury on 21 July 2026, the applicant wishes to inform HDC planning office of the above and request an amendment to planning application DC/26/0771 accordingly.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Hugh Martin