

PLANNING STATEMENT - REVISED

Field Head Barn, Bent Road, Hepworth, Holmfirth, HD9 1TS

Application reference: 2026/92810

Proposal: Installation of 22 no. ground-mounted solar photovoltaic panels arranged as two separate single-panel-high rows (11 panels per row), with associated underground cabling to an existing building containing the inverter and battery storage.

Applicant	Mr Richard Pogson
PV array	22 x AIKO Neostar 2S AIKO-A510-MAH60Mb modules
Array arrangement	2 separate rows x 11 panels; 1-in-portrait / single-panel-high
Module rating	510 W each
Installed capacity	11.22 kWp
Mounting	Solarport Modular 1-in-portrait twin-post ground-mount system
Array angle	20 degrees
Foundation	Ground-screw system
Battery	5.8 kWh battery storage, within existing building
Cable route	Underground trench, approx. 600 mm deep, sand protection and yellow electrical warning tape before backfilling.

1. Purpose of statement

This revised statement reflects the final proposed panel arrangement of two separate single-panel-high rows, comprising 11 panels in each row. It addresses the Green Belt, renewable-energy benefits, electricity output and use, underground cabling and public right of way HOL/200/20.

2. Site and proposal

The proposal is a small domestic-scale ground-mounted solar PV installation within the agricultural field associated with Field Head Barn. The 22 full-black AIKO 510 W modules provide 11.22 kWp installed capacity. They will be arranged as two separate rows of 11 modules, each row one panel high in portrait orientation. The lower-profile Solarport 1-in-portrait twin-post system will be set at 20 degrees and fixed using ground screws. The inverter and 5.8 kWh battery will be located inside an existing building.

3. Green Belt

The site lies within the Green Belt. The revised single-panel-high arrangement further reduces the visual height and massing of the array compared with a two-panel-high arrangement. The installation remains modest, lightweight and reversible, with no new building or extensive hardstanding. Its siting close to existing buildings and the field boundary limits effects on openness.

4. Very special circumstances and renewable-energy benefits

National Green Belt policy recognises that the wider environmental benefits associated with increased renewable-energy production may contribute to very special circumstances. The proposal generates renewable electricity on site while using a low-profile, reversible ground-screw system. The two single rows minimise visual impact while retaining the full 11.22 kWp generating capacity.

5. Renewable and low-carbon energy policy

The proposal is a small-scale renewable-energy installation with no moving parts, no operational emissions, no routine vehicle movements and no material operational noise. Dark full-black modules, a 20 degree pitch and a single-panel-high row format assist integration into the rural setting.

6. Electricity output and use

Installed capacity is 11.22 kWp. An indicative planning-stage estimate is approximately 9,300 kWh (9.3 MWh) per year, subject to the final MCS/installer performance estimate, orientation, shading and weather. Electricity will be used primarily at Field Head Barn, with 5.8 kWh battery storage. Surplus not consumed or stored will be exported to the grid. A fixed self-consumption/export percentage is not available at this stage because it depends on actual demand and seasonal generation.

7. Cabling and public right of way HOL/200/20

Electrical cabling will run underground from the array to the existing building. The trench will be approximately 600 mm deep, with sand protection and yellow electrical warning tape above the cable before backfilling and reinstatement. Where works interact with HOL/200/20, any localised crossing will be temporary, safely managed and fully reinstated. No permanent obstruction or above-ground apparatus is proposed on the right of way.

8. Landscape and amenity

The revised design comprises two low single-panel-high rows of 11 panels. This reduces the overall height and visual bulk of the installation. Existing boundaries are retained and there is no external lighting, additional traffic, foul drainage, waste storage or routine operational disturbance.

9. Construction and reversibility

Construction comprises ground-screw installation, modular frame assembly, panel fixing and the underground cable trench. Ground screws minimise excavation and concrete use. The panels, frames and screws can be removed and the land reinstated at the end of the installation's service life.

10. Conclusion

The revised two-row, single-panel-high design retains the renewable-energy benefit of an 11.22 kWp system while reducing the height and visual mass of the array. The proposal remains small-scale, low-profile and reversible, with the inverter and battery housed in an existing building and cabling underground.

Planning policy references

National Planning Policy Framework (September 2026), Chapter 13; Kirklees Local Plan (2019), including LP24 and LP26; Kirklees Planning Applications Climate Change Guidance.

Annual generation is an indicative planning-stage estimate. Replace it with the site-specific MCS/installer estimate if supplied before determination.