

M Scott / Architectural Design

Heritage Impact Statement

For

Proposed New Gas Tank and Fencing

At

Standalone Farm Wilbury Rd, Letchworth Garden City SG6 4JN



1. Introduction

This Heritage Impact Statement assesses the proposed installation of a new above-ground gas tank and associated 2.0-meter high close-boarded fencing, that relates to the previously approved applications, 24/01673/FPH & 24/01674/LBC. The location of the proposed gas tank is approximately 8 meters from the historical dwelling, ensuring that the installation will not impact the historical fabric of the building. This statement outlines the project's heritage context, assesses potential impacts, and proposes mitigation measures to preserve the area's historical integrity.

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2. Project Description

The proposal includes:

- Gas Tank Installation: An above-ground gas tank of [insert dimensions and specifications], necessary to provide an alternative energy source as natural gas supply is not feasible in this locality.
- Fencing: A 2.0-meter high close-boarded fence, designed to screen the gas tank from view and provide security to the facility.
- Site Location: The gas tank will be set back more than 4.0 meters from the western boundary and 7.0 meters from the southern boundary, ensuring a considerable distance from the historical dwelling.

3. Heritage Context

- The building and farm have a long history, and this can be read on the Standalone Farm's web page <https://standalonefarm.com/our-story/>. The farmhouse was occupied farm manager up to a few years ago when the previous manager left. The Farm now has a new manager who is looking forward to moving into the house once the renovations and alterations have been completed. The house has not been upgraded for many years and currently is not fit for occupation.

4. Assessment of Impact

- Impact on Historical Fabric: The proposed installation site is strategically located 8 meters from the historical dwelling, ensuring that the installation does not physically alter or disturb the historical fabric of the building or its immediate context. The distance provides a buffer, allowing the heritage asset to retain its integrity.
- Visual Impact: The close-boarded fencing, standing at 2.0 meters high, will effectively screen the gas tank from view, with two sides screened by the existing 2.0m high hedgerow. This design element is intended to minimize any visual disruptions to the heritage landscape, maintaining the visual continuity of the area.
- Distancing from Boundaries: The gas tank's placement, more than 4.0 meters from the western boundary and 7.0 meters from the southern boundary, reinforces the commitment to preserving the surrounding heritage features and ensures there are no encroachments into historically significant areas.
- The location is on a working public farm where tanks and storage containers are commonplace.

5. Mitigation Measures

To further ensure the minimal heritage impact of the proposed installation, the following measures will be implemented:

1. Fencing Design:
 - The close-boarded fencing will be constructed from materials that are sympathetic to the surrounding character, using finishes that complement the existing heritage structures.
2. Construction Management:
 - A construction management plan will be developed to minimize ground disturbance and protect the immediate historical context during installation. This

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plan will include protective measures to safeguard existing vegetation and any nearby heritage features.

3. Post-Construction Monitoring:

- Following installation, the site will be monitored to ensure that the integrity of the heritage dwelling remains intact and that no unforeseen impacts arise from the new installation.

6. Conclusion

The proposal for a new gas tank with 2.0-meter high close-boarded fencing is designed with careful consideration of the heritage context. With a significant distance from the historical dwelling and thoughtful design elements aimed at reducing visual impact, the project will not compromise the historical fabric of the area.

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