Orbital Fabrications Ltd
41 Edison Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 3LF

23 October 2026

Development Management
Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN

Dear Sir or Madam

Full planning application: external liquid argon storage vessel, 41 Edison Road, St Ives PE27 3LF

I apply on behalf of Orbital Fabrications Ltd for full planning permission for a 3,100 litre liquid argon storage vessel within a fenced compound on the north side of the unit. This follows the pre-application advice of 6 October 2026, which accepted the principle of the development under Policy LP18 (Established Employment Areas). The application is part retrospective: the concrete plinth and palisade fence were completed at the end of September 2026. The vessel has not yet been installed.

Proposal

The vessel is a BOC VIE 31S, white, 1.62 m diameter and 4.27 m high above its plinth, supplied and filled by BOC under a supply agreement. It stores argon for the shielding gas used in our welding and fabrication processes. The concrete plinth is 3.5 m x 4.0 m, built 20 mm from the north wall and up to 300 mm high at its front edge, because the yard slopes away from the building. It is enclosed by a 1.8 m galvanised palisade fence with double gates 2010 mm wide at the front, opening 180 degrees as BOC requires for tanker access, and a 1000 mm pedestrian gate at the building wall that opens both ways and maintains the emergency exit route. The existing concrete yard in front of the plinth is used for delivery and has not been altered by this proposal.

Design and access

The compound sits in a yard behind the existing building within the established industrial estate formed by Edison Road, Marley Road and Burrel Road. It is set back from the western site boundary. The vessel is white to limit its visual impact. BOC tanker deliveries use the existing yard and estate road.

Safety and environment

Your Environmental Health officer raised no objection at pre-application stage. Argon is an inert, non-flammable gas. BOC design the installation to the British Compressed Gases Association code of practice and the vessel is covered by BOC under the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations.

Other matters

The site is previously developed land with no vegetation affected, so the biodiversity checklist is completed on a de minimis basis. The CIL form is submitted as nil. The change of use of the unit from Class E(g)(iii) to B2 for our fabrication use is the subject of a separate application. Notice has been given to the landlord, Rocprem Ltd, and Certificate B is completed.

Enclosed: site location plan OF-DEW-001; existing site plan OF-DEW-002; proposed site plan OF-DEW-003; proposed elevations OF-DEW-004; BOC vessel drawing CRYOSP'D 01 issue 1; topographical survey CLS26093001; biodiversity checklist; CIL form.

Yours faithfully

Doug Major
Project Manager, Orbital Fabrications Ltd