

Matthew Adams - Archaeologist
LCC - Archaeology

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Date: 15 July 2020

Consultation Date: 15 July 2020

Proposal:	Construction of a solar farm and battery stations together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure.
Site Address:	Land North Of Halloughton Southwell
Planning Application Ref:	20/01242/FULM
Target Date for Decision:	9 October 2020
Case Officer:	Honor Whitfield

You are invited to make comment on the above planning application. Please indicate below whether you support or object to the proposal. Your comments need to be with us by **5 August 2020**.

Details of the case officer will be confirmed on our website within 48 hours.

Application details, including plans, site boundary (using 'Map' facility) and supporting information are available to view on our website at www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/planningapplications. If this consultation relates to the renewal of an extant planning permission, please refer to documents associated with the previous application also available online (the previous planning application number is mentioned in the proposal).

Your comments can be submitted either online using the above website (if you are a registered user), by email to planning@nsdc.info or by post to the above address.

Please be aware, all information including signatures and contact details you provide will be publicly available.

In the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, if the application refers to a 'householder application', any representations made this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

A copy of the decision notice and officer/committee report will be available on our website after the application has been decided.

Data protection and privacy:

We are committed to protecting your personal data and privacy. The personal information you provide will only be used by the Council, in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016 and used for the purposes of determining the application.

All information including signatures and contact details you provide will be published (publically available) in full. You should also ensure that there are no third party references which could breach the privacy requirements of the GDPR.

Please see our website for further information regarding our privacy notice.

Support Proposal Object to Proposal

Comments:

The application is accompanied by a desk-based assessment (DBA) which forms a good base-line for the known heritage around the site. A geophysical survey has also been undertaken which recorded predominantly agricultural features, but also a potential enclosure and burning that may relate to a kiln.

The DBA concludes that there is little evidence for anything of archaeological/heritage significance within the site area.

I also note the comments from the Southwell Community Archaeology Group which supplied the applicant with a LiDAR survey of the site which showed potential archaeology within the site boundary, however this data has not been considered in the DBA or the geophysical survey which did not pick up these features.

Consequently, I have concerns that the current level of archaeological investigation has not been sufficient to identify either way the presence or absence of archaeology on the site, although it does form a good start.

With regard to the low potential identified in the DBA, I would suggest that the limited level of archaeological information held in the HER for the area more likely reflects a lack of archaeological fieldwork in the past, rather than a lack of past activity.

Although geophysical survey (magnetometry) is a useful evaluation tool, it does have limitations primarily relating to the depth to which the sensors can penetrate the ground and its reliance on the magnetic variation between the fills within features and natural geology, which tends to be low for many prehistoric sites. This can give misleading results and consequently the current guidance on archaeological evaluation is that geophysical survey should be used in conjunction with targeted trial trench evaluation in order to confirm the survey results and determine the presence, absence, significance, depth and character of any archaeology.

Finally, the site is of considerable size and located in an area favourable to past human settlement activity. While I accept that more recently it has been used for agricultural purposes, it would be contrary to the usual trends in the local area and regionally if more significant archaeology was not present somewhere within a site of this size. I therefore have concerns that the geophysical survey has not been as successful as indicated and the DBA has not been able to consider the full potential of the site.

Recommendation:

Given the above, there is insufficient site specific information at present with which to make any reliable observation regarding the impact of this development upon any archaeological remains. I recommend that further information is required from the applicant in the form of an archaeological evaluation to be considered alongside the application. This evaluation should provide the local planning authority with sufficient information to enable it to make a reasoned decision on this planning application. This evaluation should consist of trial excavation.

'Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.' Policy 199 National Planning Policy Framework (2019)'.
(Note: 'publically' is misspelled as 'publically' in the original text)

Please ask the developer to contact this office to discuss the evaluation requirements.

Name: Matthew Adams Date: 05/08/2020

Designation: Historic Environment Officer