

Matthew Adams - Archaeologist
LCC - Archaeology

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Date: 18 December 2020

Re: Amended Planning Application Consultation – Application reference 20/01242/FULM

Consultation Date: 18 December 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

With reference to our previous consultation regarding the above application, we have received amended information as described below. Please indicate whether you support or object to the proposal. Your comments need to be with us by **13 August 2020**.

Amended documents and plans rec'd 18.12.20

Application details, including plans, site extents (using the '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 online using the above website or sent by email to planning@nsdc.info.

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 (publicly 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:

Thank you for consulting me on these amendments.

A very limited archaeological evaluation has taken place prior to determination and the report for this has been submitted with the amendments.

My initial advice to the applicant's archaeological consultant was that they should evaluate the whole site in one go prior to determination, however given the initial survey results, size of the site and relative costs involved it was agreed at the applicant's request that limited trenching prior to determination would be followed by a programme of more intensive evaluation post determination if consent is granted. This has also been communicated to the archaeological consultant on site and I am therefore surprised that the applicant has stated that no further archaeological work is required.

The results of the initial evaluation broadly correspond with the geophysical survey, however features have been identified that were not recorded in the survey and pottery dating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods were recovered.

One of the main concepts in archaeology is that 'absence of evidence is not evidence of absence' especially when the evaluation sample is such a small percentage of the site, and further evaluation and potential mitigation is still required for the rest of the site.

While I strongly advised that this should have been done prior to determination, not only to protect the archaeological resource, but to allow the applicant to assess the viability of the site based on any future mitigation required, however I am happy to recommend that the remaining work be undertaken as a condition of consent if granted. I believe that this is more than reasonable under the circumstances and has already brought a high degree of compromise in respect of accommodating the applicant's wishes in respect of initial outlay for archaeological investigation.

I would expect at least a total of 3% of the whole redline boundary to be evaluated, minus the trenches already excavated. This is industry standard and a common approach for sites of this size.

Recommendation

If permission is granted I recommend there be an archaeological condition for a mitigation strategy to effectively deal with the rest of this site. This will include, but may not be limited to, a **trial trench evaluation** of the site which should aim to determine the presence, absence, significance, depth and character of any archaeological remains which could be impacted by the proposed development as noted above. **Further archaeological mitigation work may be required if archaeological remains are identified in the evaluation.**

This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 189 and 199.

This should be secured by appropriate condition to enable any remaining archaeology which currently survives on this site to be properly assessed and characterised and to allow for an informed archaeological mitigation strategy to be implemented.

The following condition wording is based on current guidance from the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Lincolnshire Handbook (2019):

Part 1

No development shall take place until an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This scheme shall include the following:

- 1. An assessment of significance and proposed mitigation strategy (i.e. preservation by record, preservation in situ or a mix of these elements).*
- 2. A methodology and timetable of site investigation and recording;*
- 3. Provision for site analysis;*
- 4. Provision for publication and dissemination of analysis and records;*
- 5. Provision for archive deposition; and*
- 6. Nomination of a competent person/organisation to undertake the work*

The scheme of archaeological investigation must only be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure the preparation and implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Part 2

The archaeological site work must be undertaken only in full accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The applicant shall notify the Local Planning Authority of the intention to commence at least fourteen days before the start of archaeological work in order to facilitate adequate monitoring arrangements. No variation to the methods and procedures set out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation shall take place without the prior consent of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory arrangements are made for the recording of possible archaeological remains in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Part 3

A report of the archaeologist's findings shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Historic Environment Record Officer at Nottinghamshire County Council within 3 months of the archaeological works hereby approved being commenced, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The post-investigation assessment must be completed in accordance with the programme set out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation and shall include provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and deposition of the archive being secured.

Reason: In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

With respect to the attached archaeological conditions, please contact the Historic Places team at Lincolnshire County Council, Lancaster House, 36 Orchard Street, Lincoln, LN1 1XX, 07880420410, email Matthew.Adams@lincolnshire.gov.uk to discuss the requirements and request preparation of a brief for the works.

It is recommended the resulting written schemes of investigation are approved by the LCC Historic Environment Officer prior to formal submission to the Local Planning Authority. Ten days' notice is required before commencement of any archaeological works.

Name: Matthew Adams

Date: 31/12/2020

Designation: Historic Environment Officer

Reply to: Planning Development Business Unit, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY,