

From:Honor Whitfield
Sent:17 Aug 2020 12:12:27 +0100
To:planning
Subject:FW: Planning Application 20/01242/FULM - Halloughton

Please can you idox as Archaeology Consultee comments on Additional Information received 12.08.2020

From: Matthew Adams <Matthew.Adams@lincolnshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 August 2020 18:55
To: Chris Morley <Chris.Morley@pegasusgroup.co.uk>
Cc: Honor Whitfield <Honor.Whitfield@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Planning Application 20/01242/FULM - Halloughton

Hi Chris

Thanks for coming back to me on this and addressing the issues raised with the LiDAR data.

The data was looked at for the group by Dr Chris Brooke at Nottingham University who specialises and lectures in ground-based and remote sensing in archaeology. I still share his concerns that the surveys have not adequately identified features pre-dating the post-medieval period and the interpretation you've kindly provided would seem to further this. He pointed out that absence of evidence should not be interpreted as evidence of absence, especially where non-intrusive survey is concerned.

It would be highly unusual for this large area of the Nottinghamshire countryside to be devoid of earlier archaeological remains and as such I think it is reasonable to question the results of the information provided to date and ask for them to be tested at this stage to establish their validity.

The BGS holds no data for the superficial geology on the site, rather than there being no superficial geology at all, and I remain concerned that the geophysics results are more in keeping with the presence of masking deposits obscuring earlier features rather than a lack of activity in the area.

Furthermore, the current guidance on geophysics as an evaluation tool (EAC Guidelines of the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology) is very clear on the limitations of magnetometer surveys and states that

'Where decisions have to be made in the absence of geophysical anomalies an additional evaluation procedure – for instance the use of a different geophysical technique, or trial trenching – should be considered'.

I also reject the 'minimal impact' argument on archaeological remains for solar farms. The impact of 106 hectares of piling foundations, cable runs and substations will be substantial during construction. I am also concerned that the impact during decommissioning in 30 years' time is likely to be greater. Archaeological mitigation of both phases is very difficult, especially as piling does not allow for monitoring as a form of mitigation to ensure the recording of any destruction of surviving archaeological remains. It is therefore vital to establish early on the presence or absence of archaeological remains.

As such, further investigation is still required in the interests of determining a full and accurate assessment of the presence, absence, significance, depth and character of any archaeology which could be impacted by the proposed development. Trenching will also help inform the appropriateness of the proposed array layout plan in relation to surviving archaeology and help inform an appropriate mitigation strategy that could be secured by condition later on if consent is granted.

Although the information you've provided so far is a very good start to this process, it has not yet established the information required so that an informed planning recommendation can be made.

I am more than happy to discuss this further over the phone if that would be helpful and look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Matt





Matt Adams

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