

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Great North Road Solar](#)
Subject: Deadline 1 - Historic England Interested Party Reference number: FAC6230D0
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Your ref: EN010162

Interested Party Reference number: [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for consulting Historic England on this application.

Historic England

The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMC) is better known as Historic England, and we are the Government's adviser on all aspects of the historic environment in England, including historic buildings and areas, archaeology and historic landscapes. We have a duty to promote conservation, public understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment. We are an executive Non-Departmental public body and we answer to Parliament through the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Proposal

Great North Road Solar Park is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage and supporting grid connection infrastructure to the northwest of Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire.

In our prior consultations we highlighted concerns regarding the setting of built heritage assets, the draft DCO as well as archaeological matters. Our concerns are summarised below, and we welcome further questions at EXQ1.

In our response to the consultation regarding the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report we raised some concerns regarding the potential impact through change in setting to designated heritage assets. The conservation areas of Caunton, Maplebeck and Kelham are identified as at least partly within the solar park site. A further 17 Conservation Areas along with 222 listed buildings (of which 19 are listed at Grade I), 27 Scheduled Monuments and one Registered Park and Garden are identified within 2 km of the solar park site. Given the range of designated assets that have the potential to be impacted by change in setting, we highlighted that these must be given assessment and consideration proportionate to their significance.

We raised that it is essential the results of intrusive and non-intrusive evaluation feeds into the design; it is imperative that if this is to be successful, there must be flexibility in the design process to react to and reflect the nature of the archaeology present. We raised that the approach to exclude substantial archaeological remains is noted and welcomed, however, we would draw attention to the risk associated with non-construction related activities, such as those associated with Biodiversity net Gain (planting, ecological ponds, scrapes, seeding etc). While excluding built form from areas of sensitive archaeology is appropriate, the alternatives must be adequately measured for risk of harm to archaeological deposits also. We raised concerns regarding the completeness of the pre-DCO submission archaeological investigation. While this seemingly is intended to be supplemented post DCO, we would draw attention to whether the completeness of the survey is sufficient to assess the archaeological potential at this time.

We note the applicant has recently engaged with ourselves in regard to a draft statement of common ground, and welcome and encourage further engagement, and as noted above, welcome further detailed questions from the Examining Authority in due course.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Inspector of Ancient Monuments

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