

Online Comment

Application H09-0699-23
Location Caudwell Farm Holbeach St Matthews Spalding PE12 8ES
Proposal Erection of a 49.9MW Ground Mounted Solar Array with Associated Underground Cable Route, Substation with POC Mast, Battery Storage and Ancillary Equipment & Structures

Name Jim Bonnor
Address Historic Places Team Lincolnshire County Council

Date Submitted 11-09-23
For/Against Comments

This office was consulted at the scoping stage of the project and our response was that while no archaeological impact was envisaged,

'The farm buildings, Hartley House itself and the small area of parkland can be considered as non-designated heritage assets. The house and parkland in particular are of historic and architectural interest and certainly of at least local significance, and the surviving farm buildings contribute to this. In accordance with NPPF 189 and SE Lincs Local Plan Policy 29(f), we would recommend that any future application be required to describe the significance of these non-designated heritage assets, assess the impact of the proposal on their setting, and if necessary suggest ways to mitigate any impacts.'

I welcome the inclusion of a heritage impact assessment with the application and that it aims to address these issues. I imagine I would be in agreement with the findings of the assessment though I am unable to reach this conclusion due to the notable absence from the report of any clear photographs of the non-designated assets themselves, or their immediate setting and significant views as referred to in the text. Without these it is not possible to verify the information provided in the assessment. It would also be helpful if the surviving historic buildings could be clearly indicated on a plan.

I recommend that an update to the assessment is required which addresses these issues, in order that an informed decision on the effects on the heritage assets can be made ahead of determination of the application.