

Online Comment

Application H16-0871-24
Location Land adj Pilgrim's Pride Limited Fulney Lane North Spalding PE12 6EP
Proposal Change of use of agricultural land and development for Solar array of up to 1.64 MWp and associated infrastructure including connection to Pilgrim's Pride Factory adjacent north

Name Historic Environment Officer
Address Lincolnshire County Council Lancaster House 36 Orchard Street LN1 1XX

Date Submitted 18-02-25
For/Against Comments

Thank you for consulting us on this application.

The submitted geophysics survey report has established the presence of archaeological features and also has noted the limitations of the survey and the possibility of undetected archaeological features present on site.

The presence, extent, depth, character and significance of archaeology cannot be determined until there is sufficient baseline evidence obtained through a geoarchaeological assessment combined with a reasonable and appropriate level of archaeological trial trenching.

In accordance with national policy, the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (Policy 29), and guidance. We therefore recommend that pre-determination archaeological trenching be carried out in order for an informed recommendation to be made. The applicant has not adequately described the significance of any below-ground heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed development, and it is not "sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance (the heritage assets)" (Paragraph 207 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)). This in turn does not allow the Local planning authority to "identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal." (Paragraph 208 NPPF). It should be noted that the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) states the following in footnote 94: "The results of pre-determination archaeological evaluation inform the design of the scheme and related archaeological planning conditions."

To conclude, we will not be able to provide an informed recommendation on the application until the applicant has adequately evaluated the site. This includes the need for an appropriate level of geoarchaeology assessment and archaeological trial trenching.

With respect to the geoarchaeology assessment and trench evaluation, please contact the Historic Places team at Lincolnshire County Council, Lancaster House, 36 Orchard Street, Lincoln, LN1 1YL, 07386 656079, email ruben.lopez@lincolnshire.gov.uk to discuss the requirements and request preparation of a brief for the works.