

Online Comment

Application H16-1096-23
Location Land between A16 and Rangell Gate Spalding
Proposal Proposed Anaerobic Digester Plant

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Date Submitted 23-01-24
For/Against Comments

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential associated with pre-historic and Roman settlement activity. Evidence for Roman occupation was found in 1951 during the excavation of the Coronation Channel approximately 300 metres northwest of the proposed site. It is possible that there are below-ground archaeological remains associated with this present in the site area.

The proposal to construct an anaerobic digester plant with its associated infrastructure will have a significant impact on any surviving archaeological remains present. This is particularly the case for areas where digestors, storage tanks and attenuation ponds will be placed, as they will be deeper excavation.

Recommendation:

Currently there is insufficient specific information on the archaeological potential for the site and the extent of impact to buried archaeological remains from the proposed development.

Given the known high archaeological potential, but as yet unknown character and extent, I recommend that the applicant submit the results of a trial trench evaluation which should aim to determine the presence, absence, significance, extent depth and character of any archaeological remains which could be impacted by the proposed development as noted above.

Trenching results are also essential for effective risk management and to inform programme scheduling and budget management. Failing to do so could lead to unnecessary destruction of heritage assets, potential programme delays and excessive cost increases that could otherwise be avoided.

It should also be noted that preferred mitigation strategies will include preservation in situ (avoidance of sensitive areas) where possible and open area excavation where not. It is important that the archaeological implications for this development have been fully considered as part of the application process and in the project feasibility assessment. In short, archaeology may be a significant element of this project and early understanding of the site resource and mitigation requirements will be essential.

This information should be provided with the application so that an informed planning recommendation can be made and to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraphs 200 and 211.

This will also help inform an appropriate mitigation strategy for the proposed impact if necessary and should permission be subsequently granted.