Online Comment

Application	H18-1077-24
Location	Sutton Bridge Solar Farm Land to the South of Centenary Way Sutton Bridge PE12 9TF
Proposal	Construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure

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Name	Ruben Lopez Catalan
Address	Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL LN1 1YL
Date Submitted	28-01-25
For/Against	Comments

The HEDBA Document Ref.: 288570.03 establishes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential due in part to roddon crests present on site (5.6.4). This is confirmed by LIDAR and aerial picture. The HEDBA also confirms the potential presence of Heritage Assets non recorded within the HER (4.7.2). Roddon crests in the wider Fen landscape are known to contain areas of archaeological remains, due to these hard, sand and clay filled channels representing areas of 'high' or more solid ground within the wider fen landscape. However, the assessment overstates the knowledge we have of the significance of any unknown and undetected non designated heritage assets which would be impacted by the proposed development. The Fens has large areas of buried Iron Age and Roman archaeology, and because little in the way of development has gone on here, we are often faced with little or no direct evidence of potential remains. The HEDBA confirms the likely survival of buried archaeology and negative impact of the proposal: (5.8.2. and 7.2.4)

The proposed development comprises 'Construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure". The proposed development groundworks and any temporary works associated with the development (including landscaping, drainage connections and BNG planting) will have a significant impact on any surviving archaeological remains, resulting in total or partial loss, if present.

As mentioned above, there is potential for development on this site to have an impact on buried remains that should be recorded prior to their destruction - NPPF (paragraph 218). There is archaeological potential, and we do not possess evidence that the adjacent limited construction activity entirely disturbed/truncated possible present heritage assets. In terms of impact the Sutton Bridge Solar farm differs significantly to the BESS proposal.

I recommend that if permission is granted, there be an archaeological condition for a mitigation strategy to effectively deal with this site. This will comprise a phased approach of archaeological investigation and mitigation work. This will initially comprise but may not be limited to a geoarchaeology assessment and geophysical survey followed by a trial trench evaluation of the site which should aim to determine the presence, absence, significance, depth and character of any archaeological remains which could be impacted by the proposed development as noted above and to inform a programme of further archaeological mitigation work which may be required if archaeological remains are identified in the evaluation.

This will enable any remaining archaeology which currently survives on this site to be properly assessed and recorded prior to their alteration or destruction.

This should be secured by South Holland District Council's standard conditions AR01, 02 and 03 and is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 207 and 218 and the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (Policy 29).

With respect to the attached archaeological conditions, 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.

It is recommended the resulting mitigation strategy and Written Schemes of Investigation are approved by the LCC Historic Environment Officer prior to formal submission to the Local Planning Authority. Ten days' notice is required before commencement of any archaeological works.