

**Subject:** Consultation Response 2021/93644 Low Farm, Wakefield Road, Flockton, Huddersfield, WF4 4BB  
**Date:** 09 November 2021 15:57:21

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**2021/93644 Erection and operation of grid-connected solar photovoltaic farm, with ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements Low Farm, Wakefield Road, Flockton, Huddersfield, WF4 4BB**

The applicant's agents have supplied a heritage statement which establishes the site is located in an area of archaeological potential. This document states that a geophysical survey is taking place within the application site to determine if any archaeological remains are present and, I presume, check the accuracy of plans showing open cast workings.

I have been waiting for this survey to be presented so I can make a recommendation. It has not. Therefore the I can only make the following general recommendation.

The WYAAS would recommend that should the application be successful then based on the geophysical survey further archaeological work may be necessary. This would be in locations where access tracks, rectifiers, grid connections etc. would be built. The necessary work might be either post determination archaeological evaluation (trenching) or an appropriate level of archaeological observation and recording (an archaeological watching brief).

Should significant remains be present then the applicant should consider the use of ground bearing supports for the PV panels rather than posts. This is to preserve archaeological remains in situ.

This work can be secured by the inclusion of the following conditions on any grant of planning consent awarded by Kirklees Council:

"No development to take place within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording. This recording must be carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological organisation or consultant, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."

Or, as an alternative to the above model condition which was first introduced in 1990, the following condition is suggested by Historic England in their Historic Environment Good Practice Advice, Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment, 2015 paragraph 37:

No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a written scheme of archaeological investigation (WSI) has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works
- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI

### **Detail of Archaeological Work**

Details of the necessary archaeological work, in the form of a specification, will be provided to the developer, on written request, by the WY Archaeology Advisory Service in our capacity as WMDC's advisors on archaeological matters. The WY Archaeology Advisory Service will also be responsible for monitoring the work of the archaeological contractor commissioned by the developer to undertake this work, on behalf of the Planning Authority. From the 1st of April 2011 in accordance with the agreement of the Council Committee that oversees our work the WY Archaeology Advisory Service will charge the developer for these and concomitant services. Please note that the production of a specification may take up to three working weeks from receipt of a written request. It is in the applicant's interest that they be made aware of this likely timescale.

The WY Archaeology Advisory Service can also provide a list of archaeological contractors who may be available to tender for the work. In order to aid the developer to meet the requirements of the above condition I would suggest that it might be helpful to add the following as a note to the planning permission:

"For further information please contact: David Hunter, West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service: 01135350300."

We would strongly suggest that the developer is advised that a reasonable period of time for the execution of the necessary archaeological work must be allowed for within the overall site timetable. Any commencement of work on site prior to the approval and implementation of an archaeological specification, and/or any failure to schedule work properly that results in inadequate archaeological recording, should be deemed by the Planning Department to be a breach of the planning condition.

Overall we would recommend the decision is deferred until the geophysical survey is presented and an informed determination can be made.

Best regards

David

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