

From: [Hunter, David](#)

Subject: Consultation Response 2021/93644 Low Farm, Wakefield Road, Flockton, Huddersfield, WF4 4BB
Date: 23 June 2022 16:51:56

Many thanks for your email of 14/6/22

2021/93644 Low Farm, Wakefield Road, Flockton, Huddersfield, WF4 4BB Erection and operation of grid-connected solar photovoltaic farm to supply up to 49.9MW, with ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements Low Farm, Wakefield Road, Flockton, Huddersfield, WF4 4BB

I have examined the geophysics reported presented to the council. This document is very useful and identifies clearly two areas with archaeological value.

To the north-east of the site the known cropmark MWY614 is shown in spectacular detail as a concentric ditched circular enclosure with internal divisions (anomaly 2Ea-Ed). Some of the large pits visible on the geophysical survey appear to be gate posts or a gate structure. Two long "antennae" like ditches extend to the south-west of the enclosure. These may be to create an entrance, to frame a view of a distant landmark, for defence or have an agricultural function.

Whilst this is likely this enclosure is Iron Age or Romano-British in origin there is the possibility that more than one phase of activity is represented here.

A less spectacular anomaly at 2Da is suggested to be a building and may relate to post medieval use of the site.

The footings of the PV panels, cabling and trackways may cause damage to these features and other remains in their wider setting.

Proposed Course of Action

The WYAAS recommend that areas 2D and 2E are subject to archaeological evaluation to determine the impact that the solar farm will have on the buried archaeological remains identified. This information can then be used to design footings, cabling routes and trackways in these parts of the site.

The WYAAS recommend that this evaluation, comprising a number of archaeological trial trenches, is carried out prior to determining the application. Following this:

- 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.
- Further archaeological works including excavation and/or an archaeological watching brief may be necessary during the construction of the solar farm. An appropriate level of public participation in this work should also be secured.
- Depending on the results of any excavation information on the site's archaeological

significance should be included on site information boards.

This work can be secured by the inclusion of a condition on any grant of planning consent awarded by Kirklees Council. The following wording may be used to achieve this:

"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*

Alternatively archaeologically sensitive areas could be excluded from the development.

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 Kirklees' 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.

Best regards

David

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