Sent: 03 November 2023 14:29

Subject: 2023/62/91838/E - Consultation response

Our ref: 454598
Your ref: 2023/62/91838/E

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning consultation: Installation of renewable energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays together with substation, transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements
Location: New Hall Farm, New Hall Lane, Overton, WF4 4RP

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 13th October 2023.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Further information on when to consult Natural England on planning proposals is here- Planning and transport authorities: get environmental advice on planning - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Natural England is not able to provide specific advice on this application and therefore has no comment to make on its details. Although we have not been able to assess the potential impacts of this proposal on statutory nature conservation sites or protected landscapes, we offer the further advice and references to Standing Advice.

Natural England advises Local Planning Authorities to use the following tools to assess the impacts of the proposal on the natural environment:

Impact Risk Zones:
Natural England has provided Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) with Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) which can be used to determine whether the proposal impacts statutory nature conservation sites. Natural England recommends that the LPA uses these IRZs to assess potential impacts. If proposals do not trigger an Impact Risk Zone then Natural England will provide an auto-response email.

Standing Advice:
Natural England has published Standing Advice. Links to standing advice are in Annex A

If after using these tools, you consider there are significant risks to statutory nature conservation sites or protected landscapes, please set out the specific areas on which you require Natural England's advice.

Further information on LPA duties relating to protected sites and areas is here- Protected sites and areas: how to review planning applications - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Further guidance is also set out in Planning Practice Guidance on the natural environment Natural environment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and on Habitats Regulations Assessment Appropriate assessment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Non detailed advice from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment. It is for the local planning authority to determine whether or not the proposal is consistent with national and local environmental policies. Other bodies and individuals may provide information and advice on the environmental value of this site and the impacts of the proposal on the natural environment to assist the decision making process.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

Yours faithfully

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