
From: public.access@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
Sent: 17 July 2024 16:02
To: Planning Application Comments
Subject: Consultee Comments for Planning Application 24/00632/FUL

Consultee comments

Dear Sir/Madam,

A consultee has commented on a Planning Application. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 17/07/2024 4:01 PM from Mr William Kelly (william.kelly@leics.gov.uk) on behalf of LCC Archaeology - Historical And Natural Environment Team.

Application Summary

Reference:	24/00632/FUL
Address:	Highway Verge Hinckley Road / Desford Road Enderby LE19 4AD
Proposal:	Installation of an underground grid connection cable within the highway verge to connect Enderby Substation (Cross-boundary with Blaby District Council)
Case Officer:	Laura Ashton

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Comments Details

Dear Laura,

24/00632/FUL | Installation of an underground grid connection cable within the highway verge to connect Enderby Substation (Cross-boundary with Blaby District Council) | Highway Verge Hinckley Road / Desford Road Enderby

Archaeological considerations

Following appraisal of the above development scheme, we recommend that you advise the applicant of the following archaeological requirements, for an archaeological desk-based Assessment (DBA).

Comments:

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the application area contains an uncertain archaeological potential. There are however a number of areas along the proposed cable route that indicate a raised potential for significant buried remains. An Iron Age site and two Roman sites have been identified in the vicinity of Billsdon's Hollow (HER Ref.: MLE17230; MLE5979; MLE8347). A field system of unknown date and a Roman statuette are also recorded north of Narborough Wood Cottage (MLE225; MLE9776). Given the uncertainty regarding the section of the Roman Mancetter road currently postulated to run north of the application area (MLE3019), it is possible that the road could instead be present within the application area, potentially intersecting the A47 within the Desford Cross Roads area.

The proposed cable trench has the potential to expose, damage or destroy hitherto unknown archaeological remains. In addition to the impact proposed through the cable trench itself, the assessment should also consider additional development impacts that can be expected. This would include areas of material storage, works compound site, easement requirements and drilling rig/exit point where required, we note that at present the exact location of the cable route has not been confirmed (Planning Statement 3.3.3). We would also welcome confirmation that the proposed temporary access track will only be required across the ~300m of agricultural land outlined on the plan, as this will also introduce an impact on any buried remains present. We note that the proposed route could pass through sections of hedgerows (3.3.3) which would indicate further potential impacts on rural agricultural land.

Whilst we anticipate that our further recommendation is likely to be for a conditioned programme of archaeological works to mitigate the impact of the scheme on the buried remains, at present we do not have sufficient information to adequately assess the impact of the proposals on the archaeological resource. The DBAs referred to in the Planning Statement (9.4.1) consider the archaeological implications of the associated solar schemes, however these do not discuss the specific issues relating to the current proposals. Without the further information a DBA would provide we are unsure how the Planning Statement has reached the assessment that the application does not propose any further impacts on archaeological buried remains (9.4.3). We would therefore recommend that the Applicant be required to submit a DBA to clarify historic disturbance within the application area, the archaeological potential along the length of the cable route/areas of associated impacts and detail more fully the ground disturbance proposed as part of this development.

The preservation of archaeological remains is, of course, a “material consideration” in the determination of planning applications. The proposals include operations that may destroy any buried archaeological remains that are present, but the archaeological implications cannot be adequately assessed on the basis of the currently available information. Since it is possible that archaeological remains may be adversely affected by this proposal, we recommend that the planning authority defer determination of the application and request that the applicant complete an Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposals.

This will require provision by the applicant for:

- An Archaeological desk-based Assessment

This information should be submitted to the planning authority before any decision on the planning application is taken, so that an informed decision can be made, and the application refused or modified in the light of the results as appropriate. Without the information that such an Assessment would provide, it would be difficult in our view for the planning authority to assess the archaeological impact of the proposals.

Should the applicant be unwilling to supply this information as part of the application, it may be appropriate to consider directing the applicant to supply the information under Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988, or to refuse the application. These recommendations conform to the advice provided in DCLG National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16, paras. 194 & 195).

Should you be minded to refuse this application on other grounds, the lack of archaeological information should be an additional reason for refusal, to ensure the archaeological potential is given future consideration.

The Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council, as advisors to the planning authority, will provide a formal Brief for the work and

approve a Specification for the Assessment at the request of the applicant. This will ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority, in a cost-effective manner and with minimum disturbance to the archaeological resource. The Specification should comply with relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists "Standards" and "Code of Practice", and should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable.

Information on suitable archaeological organisations to carry out this work can be obtained from HNET. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

William

Kind regards