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The British Archaeological Trust
www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk



BADLINGHAM LANE, THE ICKNIELD WAY AND THE SUNNICA SOLAR FARM

RESCUE has been approached by our members highlighting concern about threats to the integrity of a 700m length of ancient roadway in Suffolk that has been included in the plans for cable runs associated with the Sunnica Solar Farm. The route, which is potentially part of the Icknield Way, runs along Badlingham Lane, Suffolk. It is not part of the modern long distance path, that deviates from the historic route in places, and so the historic significance of this length has been overlooked.

The Icknield Way is one of Britain's oldest long distance routes crossing southern England from Wiltshire to Norfolk. It was in use by the later Iron Age. The length along Badlingham Lane can be identified as an ancient roadway through map regression and documentary evidence; the identification of significant landscape features running parallel to the lane reported during archaeological evaluation for the Solar Farm appears to confirm that this is a long-standing landscape feature.

The Sunnica plans will destroy the character of this lane and impact on public enjoyment and appreciation of this important feature of the historic landscape. In the first instance construction will close the lane to public access for 24 months whilst cable trenches are run along a 700m length of the track, thus damaging, if not destroying, its historic integrity and removing the ancient hedgerows. Once reopened, in place of the hedgerows will be deer fences which will change the character of this ancient lane for ever. Our members struggle to understand why an alternative option for the cable run, along the field edges cannot be implemented thus leaving Badlingham Lane largely intact. We all understand the need to

move to a zero carbon economy and the interest of RESCUE and our members is not to thwart the development but merely to request adequate consideration of the historic environment and to ensure it survives intact for future generations. The archaeology and integrity of this length of an ancient route is itself a non-renewable resource and should not be destroyed when practical alternatives exist.



Jo Caruth

Chair. Rescue, The British Archaeological Trust

RESCUE is an independent registered charity set up in 1971 by archaeologists working across the private, public and academic sectors, to campaign for better protection of our heritage. Our members represent individuals all over the country with an interest in archaeology and its vital role in their communities' cultural life and we endeavour to support their concerns.