

Icknield Way route: U6006 Badlingham Lane

The four counties LIR refers to the Unclassified road 6006 Badlingham Lane, as a non-designated heritage asset, and this therefore ensures it a specific level of protection under the National Planning Policy Framework (2021), Planning Practice Guidance 2019 Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723.

I note in 10.180 there is reference to the proposed works as *“in their accumulation and longevity these effects are significant”* and section 10.203 is more emphatic *“The U6006 is an important landscape, recreation, and ecological feature and considered locally to be historically significant (possibly associated with the route of the Icknield Way); the current proposals to use this road as an access to some of the solar plant parcels, would have a devastating effect on the character of the route, its amenity value, and its value as a well-connected wildlife corridor. Impacts on the U6006 should be limited to a single crossing point for the cable route only. There should be no operational access across this landscape feature.”*

In page 35 the potential heritage significance is discussed and it states that *“Construction impacts should be limited along Badlingham Lane or ‘Street Way’”* also known as the Icknield Way.

I would draw the attention of the Inspector to relevant sections of the NPPF which should protect this route as a non-designated heritage asset:

Paragraph 195

Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, **to avoid or minimise** any conflict between the heritage asset’s conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

Paragraph 203

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

Paragraph 206

Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.

I am concerned that the level of impact the proposed development would have on this heritage assets is unnecessarily severe, and if required at all, it should be reduced to as minimal disturbance as possible.

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Interested Party