

West Burton List of Actions

NCC and LCC to provide further information and evidence on the area forming the Order Limits in terms of its relative sensitivity and archaeological significance.

The Trent Valley flood plain has significant archaeology from the Palaeolithic period onward covering every period of human activity.

Farndon Fields is an extremely rare Late Upper Palaeolithic open flint-knapping site on the Trent flood plain which is of international significance and it shows activity by humans when they are just a few kilometres from the glacier ice of the last Ice Age. You will not find Late Upper Palaeolithic sites by geophysical survey and desk based assessment alone and there are undoubtedly more such sites to be found along the Trent Valley flood plain.

Recent evaluation work in the Trent Valley flood plain has identified previously unrecorded archaeology including Neolithic pits and flint tools and Bronze Age burnt mounds which again were not identified through desk based assessment or geophysical survey.

DN Riley's aerial photographic surveys in the 1970s identified a palimpsest of archaeological features of a range of dates either side of the Trent across the whole flood plain and into the terraces either side. The range of archaeology includes Iron Age square barrows not previously identified outside of Yorkshire, Roman villas and settlements, and Iron Age into Roman period brickwork-pattern field systems which survive above ground in nearby Sherwood Forest. When archaeological field evaluation is undertaken in this landscape far more archaeology has been found to be present.

Roman settlements have been found on Tiln Farm solar park which were not identified by geophysics but were identified through trial trenching. We're getting an increasing understanding of the hierarchy of Roman settlement through the Trent Valley through a range of techniques, from air photos and geophysics to trenching and fieldwalking.

The Order Limits sit within the Trent flood plain and is part of this complex and highly significant archaeological landscape. Archaeology is a finite resource and it is essential that currently surviving archaeology is identified and recorded in order to advance our understanding and provide public benefit.

LCC and NCC to provide specific comments in relation to:

a. If the Secretary of State were to agree that sufficient pre-consent archaeological evaluation has taken place, how their other concerns could be addressed through specific amendments to the Applicant's WSI.

b. With reference to the need for future monitoring of impacts on the underlying archaeological resource, for example in relation to the comment regarding ground compaction from concrete shoes, the LPAs are asked to clarify what specific provisions are being sought within the Applicants management plans.

a. There will need to be post-consent evaluation phases to cover the full Order Limits to inform appropriate levels of archaeological mitigation including preservation in situ, strip map and record and archaeological excavation proportional to the level of significance of the surviving archaeology as well as potential design changes to avoid preservation in situ areas and any nationally significant or equivalent sites.

b. Preservation in situ areas must include mitigation measures to ensure the preservation in situ areas are protected from development works which could damage or destroy the surviving archaeology. There will be significant ongoing constraints in the construction and decommissioning phases which will affect not only the number of solar panels but the development works themselves around the preservation in situ areas including plant activity and the placement of associated infrastructure such as compounds and access routes.

The full extent of the archaeological areas must be determined and each area must be fenced off and subject to a programme of monitoring throughout the construction, operation and the decommissioning phases, and there will be no ground disturbance whatsoever which may disturb or affect the archaeological remains, including plant movement or storage. The fencing will need to remain in place and be maintained throughout the lifetime of the scheme. They will need an Archaeological Clerk of Works to ensure that any preservation in situ areas are monitored appropriately to ensure compliance, and the management strategy for the preservation in situ areas will need to be included in all management plans to ensure the protection measures stay in place throughout the development.

Option C

In the light of the WSIs produced by the Applicant we were asked by the Examining Authority to propose a third option.

We recommend that the Applicant undertake the previously agreed 2% trenching with a 2% contingency across the remaining 79% of the Order Limits. The full final evaluation report will need to be produced in a timely fashion as the trenching results are required as baseline evidence to inform reasonable, proportionate and fit for purpose site-specific mitigation to be agreed across the Order Limits.