

This matter is being dealt with by:

Nina Wilson

Reference: EN010133

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Sent via email to:

cottamsolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

6th August 2024

Dear Mr Wheadon

**Ref: Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010
Application by Cottam Solar Project Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting
Development Consent for the proposed Cottam Solar Project (“the Proposed Development”)
- REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Thank you for your email dated 19th July 2024 requesting further information relating to the above project.

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) have the following response for point 17 (Requirement 12 (Archaeology)).

The proposed changes to the requirement wording provide a somewhat confusing take on the process that will need to be followed if the DCO is issued.

In the first instance, the applicant will need to produce an Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) which will describe the overall approach to the archaeological work for the whole site/project and give details of where and what is going to happen in each area and at what stage. This will then need to be supplemented by far more detailed methodologies or Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) for each element/phase that the applicant’s archaeological contractor will need to produce in advance of them doing the work.

The proposed requirement wording also reference a WPWSI which means ‘Without Prejudice Written Scheme of Investigation’. NCC recommend that ‘Without Prejudice’ be removed. It was used originally as a mechanism to try to resolve outstanding points of disagreement during the NSIP assessment and examination process and suggests there is no commitment to undertake the requirements as agreed and is therefore inappropriate in terms of requirement/condition wording.

NCC recommend that the requirement wording is amended to:

“(1) No development may commence until an Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant Planning Authorities;

(2) No phase of the authorised development may commence, and no part of the permitted preliminary works for that phase may start, until a supporting Written Scheme of Investigation for that phase (which must accord with the revised final Archaeological Mitigation Strategy) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the relevant Planning Authorities;

(3) The approved scheme must identify—

(a) areas where archaeological work is required; and

(b) the measures to be taken to protect, record or preserve any significant archaeological remains that may be found (i.e. preservation in situ, preservation by record or mix of these elements);

(4) Pre-construction archaeological investigations and pre-commencement material operations which involve intrusive ground works may take place only in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation and any archaeological works must be carried out by a suitably qualified and competent person or body previously notified to the relevant Planning Authority.”

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) have the following response for point 19 and 20 (Discharge of Requirements)

NCC would align with the approach suggested by West Lindsey District Council [REP6-011] that 16 weeks would be an appropriate time frame considering the number of applications for NSIP developments coming forward in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire and the additional pressure this would create.

Conclusion

It should be noted that all comments contained above could be subject to change, as a result of any ongoing negotiations between the County Council, the Local Planning Authority and the applicants. These comments are based on the information supplied and are without prejudice to any comments the County Council may make on any future planning applications submitted for this site.

Yours faithfully

Nina Wilson
Principal Planning Officer
Nottinghamshire County Council

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