



Historic England

**RESPONSES TO EXAMINING AUTHORITY'S
QUESTIONS 28/05/2024
ON BEHALF OF THE
HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND
(HISTORIC ENGLAND)
("HBMCE")**

Application by

**Boom Power for an Order granting Development Consent for the
Construction of a Solar Farm**

PINS Reference No: EN0101143

HBMCE Reference No: 20045724

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. ROLE OF THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

1.2. The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMCE) is generally known as Historic England. HBMCE was established with effect from 1 April 1984 under Section 32 of the National Heritage Act 1983. The general duties of HBMCE under Section 33 are as follows:

“...so far as is practicable:

- (a) to secure the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings situated in England;
- (b) to promote the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of conservation areas situated in England; and
- (c) to promote the public’s enjoyment of, and advance their knowledge of, ancient monuments and historic buildings situated in England and their preservation”.

We also have a role in relation to maritime archaeology under the National Heritage Act 2002 and advise Government in relation to World Heritage Sites and compliance with the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and National Heritage.

2.0 HBMCE’s RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS

2.1 Question Q7.0.3

Title: ES7.4.13 and ES Appendix 7-2 Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment [APP-080].

Please comment on the scope of this Assessment, the evaluation of heritage assets and their settings and the assessment of archaeological potential and potential research themes. It would be helpful if your response had regard to the Applicant’s response to Q7.0.2.

HBMCE Response

All of the subject areas contained within Q7.0.3 remain under active discussion with the applicant. However, to take each of these subject areas in turn:

2.2 Scope of the Assessment

HBMCE Response

HBMCE considers that the scope of the assessment as presented in **APP-080** broadly identifies the cultural heritage matters on which the Examination should focus. HBMCE and AECOM (the archaeological consultant to the applicant) met via MS Teams on 4th June 2024 to discuss the content of the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) during which meeting HE and AECOM discussed and agreed an addition to the scope of the assessment, being an assessment of the landscape scale change generated by the increasing numbers of solar farms (both consented and under-discussion) in the southern part of North Yorkshire, the southern portion of the East Riding of Yorkshire and the western portion of West Yorkshire. This additional assessment material is now in preparation and will be issued in draft to HE for comment.

2.3 The evaluation of heritage assets and their settings

HBMCE Response

HBMCE considers that the scope of the evaluation of heritage assets and their settings as presented in **APP-080** broadly identifies the cultural heritage matters on which the Examination should focus. A revised Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) was updated by AECOM and circulated to all stakeholders on 6th June, 2024. HBMCE are considering this further and will provide an update following receipt of the additional information requested to be included within the scope of the assessment.

2.4 The assessment of archaeological potential

HBMCE Response

Historic England disagreed with the statement of archaeological potential as presented in **APP-080**. However, in an email exchange between HBMCE and

AECOM following our MS Teams meeting of 4th June, it was clear that there had been an updating error in the compilation of the Executive Summary in **APP-080** (sections ES1 to ES14), which gave an incorrect assessment of potential, and was inconsistent with the assessment in the baseline section (**APP-080**, section 4.8). This error has now been brought to the attention of the applicant and has been superseded by the assessment of potential presented in the OWSI. HBMCE have reviewed the OWSI and are considering this further and will provide an update following receipt of the additional information requested to be included within the scope of the assessment.

2.5 Potential research themes

HBMCE Response

HE originally commented that the suggested Research Themes presented in **APP-080** were outline only and had been inserted as a 'placeholder' until more nuanced research questions could be defined. AECOM have now re-submitted their revised OWSI and included a detailed section entitled 'Research Questions by Period'. Historic England have reviewed the OWSI document and are considering this further and will provide an update following receipt of the additional information requested to be included within the scope of the assessment.