

Appendix 2 – Overview of planning issues

The Council has continued to carry out additional surveys as requested by English Heritage and collect information which will form part of the additional package of information to be submitted as an addendum to the LPA for consideration. This includes:

Archaeological Geophysical Survey

Report Conclusion:

- No indisputable archaeological remains have been detected, although there are a few anomalies of possible archaeological significance which perhaps merit further investigation.

Archaeological Test Pitting

Report Conclusion:

- Due to the lack of any archaeological features encountered during the excavations, it is considered that any future development is unlikely to impact on any significant archaeological remains.

Archaeological Augur Survey

Report Conclusion:

- No further work is recommended on the core samples retrieved.
- No archaeological remains were recorded during the test pitting
- If any further archaeological work on the site is planned this should be supplemented by geoarchaeological work. That is, consultation with a geoarchaeologist.

English Heritage Consultation meeting (extract from 04/02/2014, minutes)

The results of the above reports were provided for consultation with English Heritage and discussed at a meeting with AECOM acting on behalf of the Council.

Conclusions:

- No further excavation is required at this stage on either site;
- AECOM will discuss with the Council the possibility of carrying out an hydrological impact assessment of the pins foundations on the clay substrate and submission of hydrology baseline;
- AECOM will discuss with the Council completion of the photomontages for the America Farm setting assessment – this is to be sent to English Heritage for consideration before formal submission of the amendments to both schemes;
- No further excavation was required at this stage on either America Farm or Farms of Newborough.

Consultation with English Heritage – America Farm (extract from email from Debbie Priddy, 25/07/2014)

Setting (Photomontages provided)

- *“Our conclusion is that there will be some harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset, given that the proposed development will result in the site being experienced in an increasingly industrialised landscape*

resulting from the increasing number of energy-generation developments. The local planning authority will wish to weigh this harm against any public benefits of the proposed development.”

Hydrological Monitoring and Modelling

- *“As per my last e-mail, we believe that the proposed hydrological monitoring and modelling should be put in hand in order that there is absolute clarity about the current water levels , and also the extent of hydraulic connectivity between the peat and the gravels below, so that the potential dewatering impacts of the proposed development are clearly understood.”*

Hydro-geological Assessment (as requested by Debbie Priddy, correspondence above)

Conclusion:

- It is concluded that the installation of the foundations for the solar panels will have no substantial impact on the groundwater conditions in the Nordelph Peat and hence will not adversely affect the moisture content of the peat;
- In the absence of any significant effect on the moisture content of the peat, it is concluded that the waterlogged nature of the peat will continue and that the potential for preservation of archaeological remains will remain.

Hydrological monitoring on site is continuing to determine the natural fluctuations in the groundwater levels during dry periods.

Clarification of the following points has been sought before formal amendments can be submitted to the LPA:

- Agreed that no further excavation is required at this stage on the Site.

Work ongoing and to be done:

- Further consultation with English Heritage regarding Hydrological and ground investigation surveys;
- Ecological/Ornithological Surveys are continuing to ensure retain best data for site;
- Good practice requires that these surveys are to be updated every two years;
- Consultation with Natural England and RSPB regarding birds utilising the site; and
- Continuation of groundwater monitoring.