

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

District: Cherwell

Application no: 22/03873/F

Proposal: Installation and operation of a renewable energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with a switchgear container, inverter/transformer units, Site access, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.

Location: Land North And Adjacent To Mill Lane, Stratton Audley

Response Date: 04/09/2023

This report sets out the officer views of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) on the above proposal. These are set out by individual service area/technical discipline and include details of any planning conditions or Informatives that should be attached in the event that permission is granted and any obligations to be secured by way of a S106 agreement. Where considered appropriate, an overarching strategic commentary is also included. If the local County Council member has provided comments on the application these are provided as a separate attachment.

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Transport Schedule

Recommendation:

No objection subject to:

- **An obligation to enter into a S278** agreement as detailed below.
- **Planning Conditions** as detailed below.

Comments:

This response must be read in conjunction with the previous Transport Schedule contained within the OCC response dated 27 February 2023.

Revisions to application documents seem principally to be to the Site Layout Plans. This will not affect highway network so I maintain the recommendation of no objection.

Since my last response, however, I have become aware that the formalised passing places on the road between the A4421 and the site were installed for EWR construction traffic, and that most are to be removed in the near future. I understand that the improved junctions at the A4421 and Mill Road are to remain, as will one passing bay close to the A4421. The estimated daily average of 11 two-way HGV movements (5.5 inbound and 5.5 outbound) is likely to result in very few instances of HGVs having to pass on this relatively short stretch of road, so the existence of passing places is not considered necessary. The level of generated traffic, over a relatively short six-month duration, cannot be demonstrated to have an unacceptable impact on highway safety, nor can the impacts on the road network be considered as severe.

S278 Highway Works:

Please see previous response

Planning Conditions:

Please see previous response

Officer's Name: Roger Plater

Officer's Title: Transport Planner

Date: 1 September 2023

Application no: 22/03873/F

Location: Land North And Adjacent To Mill Lane, Stratton Audley

Archaeology

Recommendation:

No objection subject to conditions.

Key issues:

Legal agreement required to secure:

Conditions:

We would, therefore, recommend that, should planning permission be granted, the applicant should be responsible for ensuring the implementation of archaeological investigation to be maintained during the period of construction. This can be ensured through the attachment of a suitable negative condition along the lines of:

- 1 Prior to any demolition and the commencement of the development a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the Local Planning Authority shall prepare an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating to the application site area, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF (2021).

2. Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 1, and prior to any demolition on the site and the commencement of the development (other than in accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation), a programme of archaeological mitigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two years of the completion of the archaeological fieldwork.

Reason – To safeguard the identification, recording, analysis and archiving of heritage assets before they are lost and to advance understanding of the heritage assets in their

wider context through publication and dissemination of the evidence in accordance with the NPPF (2021).

Informatives:

Detailed comments:

The proposal site lies in an area of archaeological interest, and the approved reports of a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation have been submitted with this application. The geophysical survey identified a number of weak anomalies which potentially represented ditched enclosures. The trenched evaluation targeted these anomalies, as well as 'blank' areas across the site. Within the trenches, ditches and pits containing later prehistoric, as well as possibly Neolithic pottery, were recorded in the southern part of the site. An undated cremation and a possible oven were also recorded, which along with the enclosures, may represent a dispersed or multi-focal later prehistoric site. A small group of Roman ditches were also recorded in the centre of the site.

These features will need to be fully investigated and recorded via archaeological mitigation, in line with the attached conditions.

Officer's Name: Victoria Green

Officer's Title: Planning Archaeologist

Date: 24th August 2023