



Historic England

Mr Gareth Elliott
Melton Borough Council
Burton Street
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 1GH

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6860

Our ref: P01490980

5 September 2022

Dear Mr Elliott

**T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 & Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
BELVOIR SOLAR FARM, FIELDS OS 6700 6722 AND 5200 , MUSTON LANE,
EASTHORPE, LEICESTERSHIRE
Application No. 22/00537/FUL**

Thank you for your letter of 17 August 2022 regarding further information on the above application for planning permission. On the basis of this information, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the application.

Historic England Advice

Historic England provided previous advice on this application in our letter dated 8th June 2022.

The amended plans comprise a Construction Traffic Management Plan Addendum and a revised Site Layout & Landscape Strategy. Comparing the Site Layout & Landscape Strategy to the previous iteration (Figure 1.4 - site layout and landscape masterplan - dated 01.04.22) we note that the size of the application site has been slightly reduced in the southeast. We could not identify any other changes.

We welcome a reduction in the scale of the solar proposals. This would alter some localised views (for example the number of panels visible in Heritage Viewpoints 7B and 9) however the overall change to the level of impact and harm (as previously assessed) would be minimal.

We would there maintain our previous comments. Whilst we are not objecting to this application, we do have concerns on heritage grounds due to the impact upon the settings of the designated heritage assets. We consider the impacts and effects to be higher than indicated in the EIA.

In determining this application, you should be confident that all options to reduce impact have been explored, and we would refer you back to the details highlighted our earlier advice. You should also be content with the level of information provided, as noted in that letter, and seek any necessary clarifications.



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If approving this application, your authority should be entirely satisfied that there is clear and convincing justification for the harm to the designated heritage assets, and that the harm is outweighed by the public benefits of the scheme. You should be certain that the benefits of the scheme could not be delivered in a less harmful way, such as a smaller scale of development or alternative layouts

Recommendation

Historic England has concerns with the application on heritage grounds. It is our view that the impacts of the proposals upon the settings of the designated heritage assets would result in harm to their significance. We consider the impacts to be higher than indicated in the EIA.

In determining this application, your authority should be satisfied that the application meets the requirements of Chapter 16 of the NPPF with regards to the information submitted, the level of harm and justifications provided, and the public benefits of the scheme (NPPF 194, 200, 202). You should be satisfied the benefits could not be delivered through less harmful scheme.

Your authority should take these representations into account and address the issues and safeguards as set out in our advice. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us

Yours sincerely

Nick Carter

Nick Carter

Inspector of Ancient Monuments

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