

Date: 13 March 2024
Our ref: 467965
Your ref: 24/00161/FUL



Rushcliffe Borough Council
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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Team

Planning consultation: Construction solar farm with battery energy storage system (BESS) with associated works and infrastructure.

Location: Land West of Bradmore Road and North Of Wysall Road, Land West Of Wysall, Wysall

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 22 February 2024 which was received by Natural England on 22 February January 2024

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE

NO OBJECTION

Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on designated sites and has no objection.

Natural England's further advice on other natural environment issues is set out below.

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

From the documents accompanying the consultation we consider this application falls outside the scope of the Development Management Procedure Order (as amended) consultation arrangements, as the proposed development would not appear to lead to the loss of over 20 ha 'best and most versatile' (BMV) agricultural land. The ALC survey provided indicates that the land is Grade 3b or 4.

For this reason, we do not propose to make any detailed comments in relation to agricultural land quality and soils, although sustainable soil management should aim to minimise risks to the ecosystem services which soils provide, through appropriate site design / masterplan / Green Infrastructure. Natural England would advise that any grant of planning permission

should be made subject to conditions to safeguard soil resources, including the provision of soil resource information in line with the Defra guidance [Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites](#).

Further guidance is available in The British Society of Soil Science [Guidance Note](#) <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13298-code-of-practice-090910.pdf> Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13298-code-of-practice-090910.pdf> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13298-code-of-practice-090910.pdf> which we recommend is followed in order to safeguard soil resources as part of the overall sustainability of the development.

If, however, you consider the proposal has significant implications for further loss of BMV agricultural land, we would be pleased to discuss the matter further.

Other advice

Biodiversity Net Gain

Natural England note the inclusion of a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment. This indicates that the development will give rise to gains of 80-65% Habitat units and 62.34% Hedgerow units.

Further general advice on the consideration of protected species and other natural environment issues is provided at Annex A (attached).

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter, please contact me at sandra.close@naturalengland.org.uk

Yours faithfully

SANDRA CLOSE
Planning and Environment Lead Adviser