

Dear Ms wells,

Planning Application APP/21/01169 Solar Array, Land at Palk Road, Havant

Thank you for your consultation. It is hard to judge the impact of the proposal on below ground archaeological remains based on the details submitted. It is my experience that such proposals involve some ground fixing of the arrays (although this is often widespread but minimal – perhaps described as a pin cushion' effect) access tracks, cable trenches and fence works. However it has also been my experience that ground reduction can also take place.

Para 2.4.3 of the Planning Statement indicates that the solar array will be on metal frameworks, but figure 4, which shows the section, does not give any indication of the below ground impact of those frameworks. The ecology report does refer to the impacts being judged against 'the non invasive installation techniques' and so I assume that the below ground impacts are indeed limited.

I would be grateful if the applicant could be requested to clarify the nature of the ground impacts associated with the installation of the array, access and cable runs. I do not anticipate an overriding archaeological issue arising and so if the applicant has not been able to supply such details prior to the determination of the planning application I would recommend that an precautionary archaeological condition is attached to any planning permission which might be issued. However such a condition might not prove to be merited in the light of details of ground impacts which I hope the applicant will be able to supply.

I look forward to commenting further in the light of any additional information that applicant is able to provide,

sincerely

David Hopkins
County Archaeologist

Hampshire County Council
Economy, Transport and Environment Department

Telephone 0370 779 8025

Due to COVID I am presently working from home but can be contacted by email and on the phone number above.