



The Essex Society for Archaeology & History

FORMERLY THE ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1852

23rd November 2020

Mr. C. Paggi
Planning Development Manager
Braintree District Council
Causeway House
Braintree
Essex CM7 9HB

Dear Mr. Paggi,

Re: Proposed Solar Farm at Pentlow – Appln. No. 20/01107/FUL

I write as the Immediate Past President of The Essex Society for Archaeology and History ('E.S.A.H.'), which was founded in 1852 as the Essex Archaeological Society. It is the oldest, largest and major society in Essex for those interested in the county's heritage and past. The Society is concerned with the whole of the historic county of Essex including Pentlow, Foxearth and other villages as far as the Suffolk border.

Essex has a rich and varied historic environment, and that is especially true of villages in the Braintree District, which have a wealth of archaeological remains, ancient woods and a distinctive historic landscape and settlement pattern, including many historic villages. This complex historic environment is a finite non-renewable resource. Accordingly sustainable development requires clear advice derived from specialist expertise to assess impacts of planning applications and ensure appropriate mitigation of any adverse effects. The planning process is central to the effective management and conservation of this historic environment.

In connection with the above application, the appropriate specialist archaeological advice is from Essex County Council ('E.C.C.') Place Services. Officers of ESAH have carefully considered the letter from E.C.C. Place Services dated 13th November 2020 and the specialist archaeological advice, which it contains. This is in accordance with the knowledge of our members who are familiar with the Pentlow area. Whilst our members support renewable energy, the offshore alternative is preferred, not only to save good agricultural land and areas of outstanding beauty, but also sites of potential archaeological and historic importance. The locus in quo is a place of high historical and archaeological sensitivity on the Essex side of the Stour Valley. Whilst it is acknowledged that there are policies and procedures, which can minimise the threat to buried heritage, caused by development, nevertheless our members feel that the proposed scheme carries a real threat to buried archaeological heritage.

PATRON: THE LORD PETRE, K.C.V.O., J.P., M.A.

Past President: Adrian Corder-Birch D.L. · Rustlings · Howe Drive · Halstead · Essex CO9 2QL · adrian@corder-birch.co.uk

Your Planning Committee is urged to refuse planning permission, but, if, which it is hoped will not be the case, permission is granted then E.S.A.H. would ask that it is subject to the three recommendations made by E.C.C. Place Services in its aforesaid letter. In short, a full archaeological survey must be carried out, before any development commences.

Finally, it is unusual for E.S.A.H. to make representations upon planning applications, but this is a rare exception. This letter illustrates the archaeological importance attached to the locus in quo and preserving it intact for future generations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrian Corder-Birch". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Adrian Corder-Birch
Immediate Past President