Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Wiltshire Unitary Authority

Your Ref PL/2023/10736

Our Ref CRTR-PLAN-2024-40764

Friday 26 January 2024

Dear Verity Giles-Franklin,

Proposal: Removal and replacement of the existing wingwalls and temporary erection of an overbridge structure at the canal bridge on Whaddon lane to enable the construction of Whaddon farm solar park

Location: Canal Bridge, Whaddon Lane, Hilperton, Trowbridge

Waterway: Kennet & Avon Canal

Thank you for your consultation.

We are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation. The Trust is a statutory consultee in the Development Management process.

The Whaddon Lane canal bridge is owned by the Canal & River Trust although we are not the applicants for this proposal. The applicants are in discussions with the Trust as landowner relating to the proposal to erect a temporary overbridge.

The Trust has reviewed the application in our role as statutory consultee but is **unable to make a substantive response** under the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) due to the **absence of the following information:**

Ecology

There is no indication in this submission that the bridge has been surveyed for protected species potential (i.e. bats and nesting birds). Previous submissions relating to the solar farm project did not include the bridge in the ecological surveys.

The bridge must be checked by the project ecologist before this proposal can be considered. The Trust have not undertaken surveys of the bridge and it is unknown whether the bridge presents potential or actual roosting or nesting habitat. You may wish to consult the Council's Ecologist on this application.

Pollution prevention

The Trust also request that the applicant provides a Construction Environmental Management Plan to ensure that the water environment is not polluted during the course of construction of the temporary bridge or its usage.

Canal & River Trust Planning Team
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Whilst this matter could be dealt with by condition the applicant may wish to provide this information as additional information prior to determination.

We will make a **substantive** response within 21 days from the date of receipt of this information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Hennell MRTPI
Area Planner

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https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/planning-and-design

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