

Mr J James,
Senior Conservation / Planning Officer,
Economic Development and Planning,
Wiltshire Council, County Hall,
Bythesea Road, Trowbridge,
Wiltshire, BA14 8JN

1 December 2025

Dear Jonathan,

**LAYING OF AN UNDERGROUND CABLE LINKING FOREST GATE SOLAR FARM TO CHIPPENHAM
SUBSTATION AT LAND NORTH OF FOREST GATE SOLAR FARM, LONDON ROAD, PEWSHAM, WILTS**

**APPLICATION UNDER THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 FOR APPROVAL OF DETAILS
RESERVED BY CONDITIONS 5(B) AND 8 ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION PL/2024/05649 IN
RESPECT OF WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING AND A DETAILED METHOD STATEMENT**

I hereby submit the above planning application, which comprises the following documentation:

- Completed Application Form;
- Planning Application Fee of £298.00;
- This Letter;
- Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording;
- Directional Drilling Techniques River Avon Method Statement; and,
- Location Plan.

Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 5 and 8

Condition 5 attached to planning permission PL/2024/05649 states:

“No development shall commence within the area indicated by application PL/2024/05649 until:

- a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.”

Condition 8 states:

“No development shall take place until a detailed method statement based on the Eden Renewables Ltd Scope of Works for Horizontally Directionally Drilling Under the River Avon has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Thereafter the development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme and any subsequent amendments shall be agreed in writing with the local planning authority. The scheme shall include details of the following:

- the timing of the works*
- the drilling of the exploratory bores to confirm the thickness of the superficial sediments either side of the river on the pipeline route and the depth to groundwater*
- the depth of the directional drill relative to the strata and water levels*
- measures to be used during the directional drilling in order to minimise environmental impacts of the works (considering both potential disturbance of the substrata and pollution of the watercourse)*
- construction methods*
- storage location and control of any fuels/oil/chemicals and fluids used during the construction*
- pollution protection methods*
- the control and removal of spoil and waste*
- silt management, including wheel wash facilities*
- the use and routing of heavy plant, machinery and vehicles*

REASON: To prevent pollution of the water environment. The Southwest river basin management plan also requires the restoration and enhancement of water bodies to prevent deterioration and promote recovery of water bodies.”

Assessment

Condition 5 was partially discharged by Wiltshire Council (WC) on 21 October 2025 under planning application number PL/2025/07192. Two documents were submitted and approved by WC, namely: an archaeological magnetometer survey (geophysical survey); and, an email from the Assistant County Archaeologist, Timothy Havard, which confirmed he was satisfied that re-routing the cable within the vicinity of Area B (features 4-5), and making this section of the works subject to a watching brief, would represent suitable mitigation.

The Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording has subsequently been prepared and it applies only to the excavation of the cable trench in the areas of "Features 4 and 5", identified within "Area B" of the preceding geophysical survey. The document was approved by Timothy Havard on 27 November 2025.

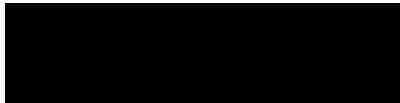
The submitted Method Statement includes all of the relevant information listed by condition 8 accordingly, it can be concluded that the works will avoid pollution of the water environment.

Conclusion

Given the submitted details satisfy Core Policies 58 and 68 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy, it is respectfully suggested that the submitted documentation is approved and conditions 5 and 8 attached to planning permission PL/2024/05649 are discharged.

In the meantime, I trust the application will be validated at your earliest convenience however, please contact me should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



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