

**Zara Murfitt**

---

**From:** Penny Mills  
**Sent:** 29 January 2014 17:23  
**To:** PLServices  
**Subject:** FW: Screening Opinion Request 13/01160/SCREEN Land Parcel North Of New Gant Farm Little Fen Drove Reach

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gdaniec Kasia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 January 2014 16:09  
**To:** Penny Mills  
**Subject:** RE: Screening Opinion Request 13/01160/SCREEN Land Parcel North Of New Gant Farm Little Fen Drove Reach

Dear Penny,

Thank you for consulting us over this application.

Our records indicate that archaeological evidence principally relating to the prehistoric settlement of the area occurs in and around the three land parcels of this proposal. Surface finds scatters found during the fieldwalking stage of English Heritage's Fenland Survey in the 1980s brought large numbers of Mesolithic (c. 8000 BC) to Neolithic (c.3500BC) stone tools and tool production sites, that had been ploughed up as the fen soils that once sealed prehistoric dry land surfaces had desiccated and blown away through intensive land drainage (eg Cambs Historic Environment Record reference numbers MCB7773, 8005, 13579-80). Additionally, the fenland surface model on the County Council's GIS mapping system indicates the locations of infilled prehistoric rivers coursing through Little Fen and Swaffham Prior Fen, along with the limit of the buried skirtland, sealed by shallow peaty silty soils just beyond the Reach fen edge.

We do not object to the development from proceeding and do not see the need for a formal EIA on archaeological grounds. This is because no views or settings of designated archaeological sites will be affected by the proposed solar farm development, which can be mitigated by the alteration of the mounting scheme should sensitive archaeological remains be found to be present. Piles through waterlogged deposits will dry them out and destroy vulnerable remains, so the alternative mounting strategy, if needed, would see the mounting of PV panels on concrete shoes - a surface mounting, rather than an intrusive one. For clarity: surface mounting removes the need to excavate archaeological areas in advance of installation of the PV panels, and prior to the installation of associated cable trenches.

As we do not understand the nature of the fenland soils in this area, i.e. if some areas within the proposal plots retain waterlogged deposits, we recommend that a field evaluation is conducted in advance of the determination of any planning application. This will provide certainty over the mitigation requirements for the development.

A brief for the archaeological evaluation can be obtained from this office upon request.

Regards,

Kasia

Kasia Gdaniec  
Historic Environment Team

Growth & Economy  
Cambridgeshire County Council

Box CC1008,  
Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

Tel: [REDACTED]  
Web: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archaeology/>

Please see our website for a list of service charges.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 07 January 2014 15:43  
To: Gdaniec Kasia  
Subject: Screening Opinion Request 13/01160/SCREEN

Please see attached Document

ECDC Private and Confidential Notice The information contained in this e-mail is intended for the named recipients only. If you are not the intended recipient you may not copy, distribute or take any action or reliance on it. Opinions expressed are those of the individual and do not necessarily represent the opinions of East Cambridgeshire District Council. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the sender immediately by using the e-mail address or by telephoning (01353 665555 Ext.6497) Please note that this e-mail has been created in the knowledge that Internet e-mail is not a 100% secure communication medium. We advise that you understand and observe this lack of security when e-mailing us. Although we have taken steps to ensure that this e-mail and attachments are free from any virus, we advise that in keeping with good computing practice the recipient should ensure that they are actually virus-free.

The information in this email is confidential and may be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee. If you receive this email by mistake please notify the sender and delete it immediately. Opinions expressed are those of the individual and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Cambridgeshire County Council. All sent and received email from Cambridgeshire County Council is automatically scanned for the presence of computer viruses and security issues. Visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)<<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>>