



ENGLISH HERITAGE
NORTH WEST

Dorothy Bradwell
Planning Services
Sefton Council
Magdalen House
Trinity Road Bootle
L20 3NJ

Our Ref: 1324
Your Ref:
Date: 15th April 2014

Dear Dorothy,

Sefton Local Plan: Potential area of search for a wind farm allocation (CC3) – Land to the North of Ince Blundell

Whilst English Heritage broadly supports measures to exploit renewable energy sources, we also recognise that some renewable energy technologies have the potential to cause serious damage to irreplaceable historic sites and we are aware that wind turbine developments can be challenging to the historic environment.

In this case, development of a windfarm would have the potential to impact on the significance including the settings of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden Ince Blundell Park and the highly graded designated heritage assets within it, such as the Hall itself (Grade II*) and associated structures such as the Pantheon (also Grade II*). The Park was specifically designed to provide appropriate settings for the Hall and for the owner's collection of classical sculptures. Although the Park is partially screened to the north by the enclosing wall and by tree planting, very great care would be needed in the siting of turbines to avoid harmful impact on views towards the Hall and Pantheon from the south (i.e. from within the Park). There would almost inevitably be impacts also on the settings of the Carr Houses and Ince Blundell Park Conservation Areas.

In the area of search itself, there is the potential to impact upon nationally important but undesignated archaeological remains - the low-lying coastal areas of Sefton have extensive buried peat deposits (identified in the NW Wetlands Survey's volume on the wetlands of Merseyside) which have the potential to preserve artefacts of wood and other organic materials, as well as palaeoenvironmental deposits. The foundations for larger wind turbines can be metres in depth, so there would be a need to investigate the archaeological potential of the site, by way of archaeological field evaluation, before any decisions were taken on the appropriateness of using it for a wind farm.

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available



For these reasons, we strongly recommend that a comprehensive heritage impact assessment is undertaken of the proposed site to determine the appropriateness of the site allocation and the impact on the historic environment prior to it being put forward in the Local Plan; English Heritage would welcome the opportunity to comment on this report. Without this, English Heritage would object to this area being put forward as a wind farm allocation.

We look forward to receiving more information and a copy of the heritage impact assessment in due course, should a decision be made on the site potentially being allocated as an area of search for a wind farm.

Should you require any further information, please let me know.

Yours faithfully,



Emily Hrycan
Historic Environment Planning Adviser (North West)