



**National  
Trust**

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4<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
Your ref: 24/00384/FUL

**FAO: Kirsty Harte**

Bassetlaw District Council  
Planning Services

(Issued by email: [planning@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bassetlaw.gov.uk))

Dear Kirsty

### **Consultation Response**

**Application ref: 24/00384/FUL | Installation and Operation of a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (Output upto 40 MW), With Associated Works, Equipment, Infrastructure and Landscaping**

We note the revised proposals and further evidence submitted by the applicant.

A representation by the National Trust was issued to Bassetlaw District Council on the 20 May 2024. This representation letter outlined our initial comments on the proposals.

For the avoidance of doubt, this response should also be read in conjunction with our previous representation. We consider that its assessment and supporting analysis of Clumber Park in relation to the proposals is still relevant to the decision-making process. We also draw attention again to our position on renewable energy production.

In relation to the applicant's amended Site Layout Plan, the National Trust recognise the setback of solar panels to the west of the site. The south of the site has also been modified to reduce solar panel massing and introduce further landscaping, including avenue style tree planting. This is intended to retain a degree of openness in relation to West Drayton Avenue, leading to Drayton Gate.

Furthermore, the applicant has submitted a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Addendum, specifically considering views from within the eastern area of Clumber Park and the Grade I Registered Park and Garden. This includes views from within, and around Hardwick Village.

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The LVIA does help to mitigate some concern about the risk to more immediate views within Clumber Park. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the LVIA work was carried out in June/July 2024 when relevant tree belts were at their height. There is a greater risk of visual permeability in winter months. As such filtered views, particularly from Normanton Gate and the footpath/bridleway running northwest to a high point, may still be available during the winter. Its also apparent that the applicant has not submitted a revised Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to support the amended proposals.

The reduced massing of solar panels at the western and southern boundaries of the site is welcomed alongside the enhanced landscaping. Nonetheless, the solar panel setbacks are still considered to be modest in context of the overall size and scale of the scheme. Whilst recognising current improvements to the proposal, wherever appropriate, the National Trust would welcome any additional potential to reduce solar panel massing in relation to the boundary of Clumber Park.

Acknowledging the revised proposals, whilst we do not object in principle, we have still have some concerns in relation to Clumber Park. In particular, the potential risk presented to the wider setting of the Registered Park and Garden and associated historic arrival and entrance points. Again, stressing the importance of experiential setting.

In all, the National Trust once again request that Bassetlaw District Council satisfy themselves that the above has been sufficiently considered and any public benefit of the proposals is adequately weighed against any potential harm to the setting of the nearby heritage assets including those related to Clumber Park. We refer to our previous representation for details of requested conditions, including matters relating to landscaping, if Bassetlaw District Council are minded to approve this application.

We trust that these comments will be considered moving forward. The National Trust will continue to monitor the progress of this application and contribute further if felt appropriate. We are also happy to continue to engage with relevant stakeholders.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Grayson MRTPI FHEA**



**Planning Adviser**

National Trust, Midlands and East of England

CC. Rob Holder, General Manager – Clumber Park and Nottinghamshire

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