

Online Comment

Application H02-0054-18
Location Land at 18 Low Road/Plank Drove Crowland PE6 0BX
Proposal Proposed residential development

Name Ian Marshman
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Date Submitted 25-01-18
For/Against Comments

A desk based assessment accompanies this application and highlight the archaeological potential of the Crowland area, but I cannot agree with all of its conclusions. These include that there are no known monuments or findspots within at least 100 m of the development, or that the risk of archaeological features being encountered is reduced because it lies beyond the medieval settlement core to the northeast and was probably under water until the 19th century.

The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record shows that a prehistoric barrow cemetery has been recorded immediately to the east, and includes part of the development site. A dagger has also been found from a probable barrow located in the neighbouring field to the south of the development and within the wider cemetery. A watching brief carried out 400 m to the south encountered prehistoric pits sealed beneath peat, indicating the high potential for surviving buried prehistoric remains within this area, despite its distance from Crowland's medieval settlement core to the north east.

Insufficient information is available at present with which to make reliable observation regarding the impact of this development upon any archaeological remains. I recommend that further information is required from the applicant in the form of an archaeological evaluation to be considered alongside the application. This evaluation should provide the local planning authority with sufficient information to enable it to make a reasoned decision on this planning application.

This evaluation should consist of geophysical survey followed by trial trenching. However, because of the geology of the fens and the nature of prehistoric material I would advise the applicant to consult a geophysicist with experience of the fenland environment in order to ascertain whether this would be successful. Trenching will be required on the site even if a geophysical survey is not viable, however if it were to be successful it would help to inform trench locations and the amount of trenching that is necessary.

"Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation." - National Planning Policy Framework Section 12, para 128.