

Online Comment

Application	H04-0849-22
Location	Land West of Cowbridge Road Bicker Fen Boston
Proposal	Proposed development of a photovoltaic solar array, grid connection, access improvement works & ancillary development on land at Bicker Fen, Boston and South Holland

Name	Ian Marshman - Historic Environment Officer
Address	Historic Environment Officer Lincolnshire County Council Lancaster House LN1 1XX

Date Submitted	24-02-23
For/Against	Comments

The written scheme of archaeological investigation (WSI) produced by Cotswold Archaeology dated January 2023 submitted here would meet the requirements of this office outlined in our previous consultation response (27/10/2022). This recommended that the developer be required to carry out a programme of trial trench evaluation to provide sufficient information regarding the potential impacts of the development on archaeological remains below ground.

Although we would always prefer that such evaluations were carried out prior to determination, we understand that this is not always feasible. As noted in our previous advice, we are particularly concerned about the remains of a possible Roman stone built villa building or bath house complex identified geophysical survey, which could be of regional or even national significance. We have, however, received reassurances that it would be possible for the plans to be amended post-determination in the event that significant archaeological remains are discovered during trial trenching, so that these can be preserved in situ.

If the local planning authority is minded to grant permission we would therefore recommend that the WSI submitted form part of the approved plans, with a pre-commencement condition added to require the submission of the final report of this trial trench evaluation to be submitted and approved in writing by the local planning authority prior to any development commencing on site. This is in order that the results of the evaluation can be used to agree a proportionate mitigation strategy, if necessary, prior to any impact on heritage assets of archaeological interest taking place. This mitigation strategy may consist of preservation by record, or amendments to the approved plans to enable remains to be preserved in situ, or a combination of the two.

This is in accordance with the requirements of the the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 194 and 205, and the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy 29, which requires developers to "take every reasonable step to protect and, where possible, enhance their [archaeological remains] significance" and that "mitigation strategies should ensure the preservation of archaeological remains in-situ. Where this is either not possible or not desirable, provision must be made for preservation by record".