Online Comment

Application	H13-0370-19
Location	Land south: Roman Road Moulton Chapel Spalding PE12 0XQ
Proposal	Details Relating to Archaeology (Conditions 5, 6 & 7 of H13-0844-17)

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For/Against	Comments

Unfortunately we cannot recommend the discharge of any of these conditions based on the information provided. The report submitted here is from a pre-determination archaeological evaluation carried out in order to support an outline application for planning permission, which was needed to provide the local planning authority with an assessment of the archaeological impacts of the proposal. This is required under NPPF section 16, paragraph 189.

It is therefore not the scheme of archaeological works that is required to record archaeological remains that were successfully identified during the archaeological evaluation, and which led to these three conditions being added to the grant of the outline permission. This is required under NPPF section 16, paragraph 199.

A misunderstanding seems to have arisen with the covering letter on the portal referring to a paragraph in the evaluation report out of context (9.1). This paragraph had presumably been accidentally left unaltered from a previous report (on a programme of monitoring and recording by condition), and clearly does not relate to the evaluation by trial excavation that is the subject of the report. Nor does this passage is isolation override the actual findings of the trial excavation that is thoroughly discussed in paragraphs 7.0-8.8, as well as in the summary at the start of the report.

The archaeological evaluation has successfully demonstrated that archaeological remains of Roman activity exist across the site, which whilst not being of such great significance to withhold the grant of permission, do need to be appropriately recorded before they are destroyed during development (NPPF section 16, paragraph 199). It was for this reason that conditions 5, 6 & 7 were added.

The developer's archaeological consultant will therefore need to prepare a scheme of works that outlines how any harm to the archaeology revealed during the evaluation report can be mitigated. We will be able to provide more detailed guidance on the suitability of such a scheme once the proposed design of the development is made available as this will allow an assessment of exactly what ground impacts may be involved.

It is likely that the work required will either be in the form of limited areas of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks, or areas of archaeological top soil strip, map and sample focusing on the areas of interest revealed during the evaluation where they are impacted by development.