Online Comment

Application	H13-0752-18
Location	THE MILL HIGH STREET MOULTON PE12 6QB
Proposal	Proposed Artwork

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Date Submitted	14-09-18
For/Against	Comments

This office is supportive of the intention to erect this artwork at Moulton Windmill, but we have concerns around the location chosen. Moulton Windmill is a Grade I Listed building located within the Moulton Conservation Area, and is amongst the most important designated heritage assets in South Holland in light of its exceptional interest. It therefore requires particularly careful management in order to preserve its significance. The Local Planning Authority has legal obligation to give special regard to the desirability of preserving the building and its setting under the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

The most significant part of site is the tower mill itself, which dates from 1822 and is the tallest windmill in all England. The proposed artwork would be located very close to the tower mill and would be prominent in views of the mill from the entrance to the its granary, and would be so close to the structure that it would be difficult to view this part of the mill (including a low level window) without the artwork in front. It is acknowledged that this spot was chosen to reduce visibility of the artwork in the principal view of the mill, which is from High Street. We are also aware of the lack of flexibility in terms of where the artwork can be positioned because of constraints around preserving emergency vehicle access to the nearby care home, and accessible routes to the stair lift for disabled visitors to the mill. There remains a potential that the proposed development could harm the setting of this Grade I Listed building.

However, the National Planning Policy Framework (section 16, paragraph 200) states "Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas- and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably."

Therefore, it is recommended that because the proposed artwork would help to better reveal the significance of the mill, the local planning authority can look more favourably upon the artwork than if this were not the case. It is also possible to preserve the setting of the Grade I Listed building by granting permission for the artwork's placement here on a time limited basis only. This would ensure the placement of the artwork in this location remains temporary without establishing the principle of development here. The footings for the artworks will also need to be designed so as to be removable.