Online Comment

Application	H16-0772-22
Location	THE CHAIN BRIDGE FORGE HIGH STREET SPALDING PE11 1TX
Proposal	Proposed eco-friendly blacksmith's workshop to complement The Chain Bridge Forge Museum together with new workshop for a Jeweller/Silversmith and covered open deck area on riverbank for external blacksmiths tasks.

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Date Submitted	19-08-22
For/Against	Comments

The proposed development is located within the Spalding Conservation Area within the setting of Chain Bridge Forge, which constitutes a non-designated heritage asset in the definition of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The proposed new eco forge has been designed to reflect the local character and distinctiveness of riverside buildings within the Conservation Area, including the lost Birches Black Barn that stood in a similar location nearby until its demolition. The proposed new building therefore has potential to enhance and better reveal the significance of the Conservation Area (in accordance with NPPF section 16, paragraph 206).

The new building does have the potential to impact on any below ground remains that may survive here. The River Welland has been central to the growth of Spalding throughout its history, with wharfs, warehouses, ship yards, industrial buildings and merchants houses having focused along its length. This area of the town had already been developed by the early 18th century when the Grundy Map of Spalding was created, although no buildings are shown on the riverbank in the area of the forge. There is thus potential for as yet unrecorded medieval and post-medieval remains to be disturbed associated with the use of the river.

It is therefore recommended that the developer should be required to commission a Scheme of Archaeological Works (on the lines of 4.8.1 in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook). This should be secured by South Holland District Councils Standard Conditions AR01, 02 and 03. Initially, it is envisaged that this would involve the archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks.

"They [The local planning authority] should.... require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part), in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible" National Planning Policy Framework section 16, paragraph 205.