

Online Comment

Application H17-0652-15
Location Off Sunnydale Close Surfleet Spalding PE11 4BS
Proposal Residential development for 26 No. dwellings including roads, footpaths and open spaces

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Address Historic Environment Officer Lincolnshire County Council Witham Park House LN5 7JN

Date Submitted 06-08-15
For/Against Comments

Although this particular site falls outside the boundaries of which we would call the historic/medieval settlement there is more to consider than just the settlement core of Surfleet. The fens contains large areas of buried Iron Age and Roman archaeology some of which has been identified from aerial photographs and the large Fenland Surveys that were undertaken in the 1980's. Unfortunately neither of these provides full coverage of the entire fenland and in particular aerial photography is unreliable when trying to prove absence of archaeology, as crop coverage, weather condition and other variables can greatly affect the results. Additionally as vast swathes of the fens are primarily used for agriculture there has been little information provided through previous development.

Give this and the potential for archaeology in this part of the fens I recommend that further information is provided to support the application.

Insufficient information is available at present with which to make any 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 first consist of geophysical survey, if ground conditions are appropriate, and then trial excavation.

"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.

Please ask the developer to contact this office and we will prepare a brief for the works.