Online Comment

Application	H20-0632-22
Location	87 Chapel Gate Sutton St James Spalding PE12 0EF
Proposal	Residential Development including the demolition of 87 Chapel Gate

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Date Submitted	09-08-22
For/Against	Comments

This site is in an area of the fens that was widely settled during the later prehistoric and Roman periods. Cropmarks indicate the presence of prehistoric or Roman settlement both north and south of the present village, and it is therefore likely that archaeology of a similar nature could exist in this area, for which no site-specific evidence is presently available. The site also lies close to the historic core of Sutton St James, which developed during the medieval period in a linear form either side of Church Gate, between the parish church and the village cross.

Insufficient information is available at present with which to make a 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 initially consist of geophysical survey, and if necessary, this will inform a strategy of trial trenching.

"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 16, paragraph 194.

This office advises the applicant to consult a geophysics specialist with demonstrable experience of successful surveying in the fenland environment, since this technique requires expertise and knowledge of local geological conditions in order to be of sufficient quality to inform the decisions required as part of the planning process.