Online Comment

Application	H22-0466-26
Location	Land in the Vicinity of Spalding Tee-Point Surfleet Seas End and Moulton Seas End
Proposal	Construction of the new Air Insulated Substation (AIS) - 400kV Weston Marsh Substation A, associated landscaping and environmental mitigation works, drainage, highways and other associated works.

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Date Submitted	08-06-26
For/Against	Comments

The submitted Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment provides information partially in accordance with paragraph 207 of the NPPF. However, the submitted information remains insufficient to understand the significance of any buried archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed development, or the potential impact of the proposal upon that significance.
The proposal red boundary including the substation works, are located in an area of Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Modern archaeological potential as acknowledged in the HEDBA. Any groundworks associated with the development (including but not limited to deep piling foundations) are therefore likely to result in the harm or loss of surviving archaeological remains if present. Also, the HEDBA acknowledges the limitations of the Geophysical Survey.
The proposed development comprises "Construction of the new Air Insulated Substation (AIS) - 400kV Weston Marsh Substation A, associated landscaping and environmental mitigation works, drainage, highways and other associated works."
Recommendation: Currently there is insufficient specific information on the archaeological significance for the site and the extent of impact to buried archaeological remains from the proposed development. Therefore, I recommend the applicant to provide the results of a Heritage Impact Assessment informed by appropriate archaeological field evaluation of the proposed permanent substation including any connections. This is in line with the guidance set out in the NPPF 2024 (paragraphs 207 & 218) and the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (Policy 29). The applicant has not adequately described the significance of any underground heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed development, and it is not "sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance ('the heritage assets')" (Paragraph 207 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)). This in turn does not allow the Local planning authority to "identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal." (Paragraph 208 NPPF).
Given the identified archaeological potential, I recommend that this application be accompanied by a Heritage Impact Assessment informed by an additional Geophysics Survey, specific Geoarchaeological Assessment and full standard Trial Trench Archaeological Evaluation in order to properly assess the site's significance, inform appropriate archaeological planning advice, and design a suitable mitigation strategy should consent be granted.
Please contact the Historic Places team at Lincolnshire County Council, Lancaster House, 36 Orchard Street, Lincoln, LN1 1YL, 07386 656079, email ruben.lopez@lincolnshire.gov.uk to discuss the requirements and request preparation of a brief for the works.