

LCC 05(iii)

Scheme Name:

North Hykeham Relief Road

Promoting Authority:

Lincolnshire County Council

Orders:

The Lincolnshire County Council (A1461 North Hykeham Relief Road) Compulsory Purchase Order 2024; and The Lincolnshire County Council (A1461 North Hykeham Relief Road) (Classified Road) (Side Roads) Order 2024.

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NORTH HYKEHAM RELIEF ROAD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROOF OF EVIDENCE

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 My name is Jason Clarke. I am the Associate Director and Team Manager of the Historic Environment and Archaeology team for The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd. I have a degree in Archaeology and Master's degree in Heritage and Archaeology and have been a heritage professional for 25 years, having worked in commercial archaeology for 15 years and as a consultant for the last 10 years.
- 1.1.2 I am a full member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). I conduct my profession to the standards required by the Institute's Code of Conduct (CIfA, 2022).
- 1.1.3 TEP was appointed by Ramboll to produce the Cultural Heritage Environmental Statement Chapter for North Hykeham Relief Road. I managed and approved the production of the Cultural Heritage 2023 ES Chapter **[CD7.1]** and Desk-based Assessment which was undertaken by an appropriately qualified member of TEP's Heritage team under my supervision.
- 1.1.4 I managed the archaeological geophysical survey and archaeological trial trench evaluation work which were undertaken by suitably qualified archaeological sub-contractors.
- 1.1.5 I subsequently managed the production of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) **[CD8.92]** which were undertaken by an appropriately qualified member of TEP's Heritage team under my supervision.
- 1.1.6 My evidence relates to Cultural Heritage, which includes built heritage, buried archaeology and historic landscape character.
- 1.1.7 The evidence which I have prepared and provide for this public inquiry in this proof of evidence is true and has been prepared and is given in accordance with

guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and I confirm the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.

- 1.1.8 I was appointed Cultural Heritage Lead to the project in 2022 with responsibilities on all aspects of the Historic Environment, including input in the Scoping report, quality control of subsequent Cultural Heritage ES Chapter and Technical Appendix **[CD7.1]**, including stakeholder consultation. As well as the ES Chapter **[CD7.1]** I managed archaeological sub-contractors undertaking a geophysical survey and subsequent archaeological trial trench evaluation. Following the results of the archaeological evaluation, in consultation with the Historic Places Manager at Lincolnshire County Council, I designed a mitigation strategy for a programme of archaeological works. This strategy and methodology are outlined in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) **[CD8.92]**.
- 1.1.9 I also produced the baseline information for inclusion in the original Statement of Reasons **[CD1.3]** as well as the Statement of Case **[CD1.4]** produced by LCC. That information summarised the position and in reality nothing has changed since.
- 1.1.10 This evidence has been prepared in respect of the Cultural Heritage implications arising from the promotion of the North Hykeham Relief Road, by the promoting authority. It is not presented in respect of the grant of planning permission, as that is not the purpose of the Inquiry, but rather it draws together relevant information in respect of the two orders, namely the CPO **[CD1.1]** and the SRO **[CD1.2]**.

2 POLICY AND GUIDANCE

2.1 Legislation

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979 **[CD2.19]**
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 **[CD2.20]**
- The Hedgerow Regulations, 1997 **[CD2.21]**

2.2 National Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), December 2024

2.2.1 The NPPF that was current at the time that planning permission was issued in 2024 was the 2023 version. That version of the NPPF was replaced by the 2024 version in December 2024. The second planning permission was issued following that date. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) **[CD3.5]** has three overarching objectives to achieve its aim of sustainable development. This includes an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built, and historic environment (Chapter 2, paragraph 8).

2.2.2 Chapter 16 of the NPPF (2024) **[CD3.5]** then goes on to describe provisions specifically relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

2.2.3 Paragraph 207 advises local planning authorities to require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by their proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. It states that “the level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance”

2.2.4 Paragraph 214 of the NPPF **[CD3.5]** describes how applications that will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset

should be refused unless it can be demonstrated that the harm is necessary to achieve substantial public benefit. Paragraph 215 of the NPPF **[CD3.5]** directs that less than substantial harm should also be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.

2.2.5 In summary, the NPPF **[CD3.5]** contains policies relating to the principle of conserving the significance of heritage assets. Heritage significance (value or interest) can be harmed or lost as a result of development within the setting of a heritage asset, however not all parts of the setting of an asset will necessarily make a positive contribution to its significance.

2.2.6 Substantial harm is a high test and is unlikely to occur in many instances; while less than substantial harm includes a spectrum of effects from those that are approaching substantial harm to effects that are negligible at the lower end of that scale.

2.2.7 The NPPF glossary (Annex 2) **[CD3.5]** provides a description for the terms 'heritage asset', 'designated heritage asset', 'setting' and 'heritage significance'. These terms are used throughout this Proof of Evidence, and are defined by the NPPF glossary as follows:

2.2.8 Heritage asset: A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

2.2.9 Designated heritage asset: A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.

2.2.10 Setting of a heritage asset: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

2.2.11 Significance (for heritage policy): The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

Planning Practice Guidance on conserving and enhancing the historic environment, updated 2019 [CD9.31]

2.2.12 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), updated in 2019 **[CD6.31]**, which accompanies the NPPF is available online. Those elements of PPG addressing matters in the scope of this Proof of Evidence and relevant to the Scheme are briefly set out here.

2.2.13 PPG **[CD6.31]** emphasises the conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance and states that "Part of the public value of heritage assets is the contribution that they can make to understanding and interpreting our past. So, where the complete or partial loss of a heritage asset is justified (noting that the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted), the aim then is to:

- capture and record the evidence of the asset's significance which is to be lost;
- interpret its contribution to the understanding of our past; and

- make that publicly available.” (Ref Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 18a-002-20190723)

2.2.14PPG **[CD6.31]** advises on the key points to consider regarding the historic environment which include:

- An assessment of the nature, extent and importance of the significance of a heritage asset, and the contribution of its setting, should be undertaken in order to understand the potential impact and acceptability of development proposals (Ref Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 18a-007-20190723);
- Assessment as to whether a proposal causes substantial harm is based on the impact upon the significance of the heritage asset (Ref Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 18a-016-20190723);
- Early appraisals, a conservation plan or targeted specialist investigation can help to identify key heritage constraints and opportunities arising from the asset at an early stage (Ref Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 18a-008-20190723);
- Where an initial assessment indicates that the site on which development is proposed includes or has potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, applicants should be required to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation (Ref Paragraph: 041 Reference ID: 18a-041-20190723).

2.3 Local Planning Policy

2.3.1 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan **[CD4.1]** was adopted in April 2023 and spans the next 20 years. This Local Plan replaces all the existing or 'saved' policies in

the following Local Plan including City of Lincoln Local Plan, North Kesteven Local Plan, West Lindsey Local Plan.

- 2.3.2 Policy S57 LP25 **[CD4.13]**: The Historic Environment describes the council's expectations for new developments with regards to the historic environment. It states that "Unless it is explicitly demonstrated that the proposal meets the tests set out in the NPPF **[CD3.5]**, permission will only be granted for development affecting designated or non-designated heritage assets where the impact of the proposal(s) does not harm the significance of the asset and/or its setting."
- 2.3.3 In terms of archaeology, it states that "Development affecting archaeological remains, whether known or potential, designated or undesignated, should take every practical and reasonable step to protect and, where possible, enhance their significance."
- 2.3.4 Any mitigation strategies "should ensure the preservation of archaeological remains in-situ. Where this is either not possible or not desirable, provision must be made for preservation by record according to an agreed written scheme of investigation submitted by the developer and approved by the planning authority".
- 2.3.5 The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Development Plan (2020-2040) **[CD4.7]** is a statutory supplementary planning document (SPD) which supports the North Kesteven District Council's Local Plan **[CD4.1]** and is a material determination in the planning process. It states that "where a development proposal directly or indirectly affects a non-designated heritage asset, support for that proposal will depend on a balanced judgement of the scale of any harm or loss, and the significance of the asset".

2.3.6 The Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Development Plan **[CD4.7]** sets out a number of locally important structures. None of these assets will be directly physically or indirectly affected by the Scheme.

2.4 Historic England Guidance

Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning 3 (GPA3): The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic England, 2017, 2nd Edition [CD6.29]

2.4.1 This guidance document advises a staged approach to assessing effects on the setting of heritage assets. The key principles and method (including the '5 step' approach outlined below) were followed in completing the assessment within the 2023 ES **[CD7.1]** and technical appendix.

- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
- Step 2: Assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the
 - significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
- Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or
 - harmful, on that significance or ability to appreciate it;
- Step 4: Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm, and;
- Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

2.4.2 Historic England, at paragraph 9 (page 4) of the guidance note that "setting is not itself a heritage asset, nor a heritage designation ... Its importance lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset or to the ability to appreciate that significance".

Conservation Principles; Policy and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment, English Heritage (now Historic England) 2008 [CD6.27]

2.4.3 This document sets out English Heritage's (now Historic England) approach to making decisions about England's historic environment. The document identifies four groups of heritage values that can be attached to places to help define relevant significance.

- Evidential value: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- Historical value: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present – it tends to be illustrative or associative.
- Aesthetic value: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- Communal value: the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

2.4.4 Other Guidance

- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), Sustainability & Environment Appraisal documents LA101, LA106, LA116; **[CD6.1]**
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance documents; **[CD6.34]**
- IEMA, IHBC and CIfA (2021) Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK **[CD6.28]**

- Historic England (2008) Conservation Principles: Policy and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment; **[CD6.27]**
- Planning Practice Guidance on Conserving and enhancing the historic environment; **[CD6.31]**
- Historic Environment Good Practice in Planning Advice Notes 28 and 39 (Historic England, 2015 & 2017) **[CD6.30]**

3 METHOD

- 3.1.1 I have determined the overall significance of the effects on Cultural Heritage using the method described in the 2023 ES, Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage (Table 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3) **[CD7.1]**. This method is appropriate as indicated by the NPPF and Historic England guidance.
- 3.1.2 A staged assessment was undertaken to determine the likely significance of effects of the Scheme on the cultural heritage baseline. This baseline was established to determine the importance of the known assets that may be affected (for the cultural heritage assets, importance has the same meaning as “heritage significance”). For designated assets, the importance was attributed as ‘high’ or ‘very high’, as these assets meet the national criteria for designation under the relevant legislation. With regards to non-designated heritage assets, determining heritage significance is a professional judgment made with reference to Conservation Principles (English Heritage 2008) **[CD6.27]**.
- 3.1.3 Once the baseline was established, the extent of the impact of the Scheme (the “magnitude of impact”) on the heritage significance was assessed. By comparing the importance of the asset and the magnitude of change the overall significance of the effect has been determined.
- 3.1.4 Assessing the impact of the Scheme in relation to the Cultural Heritage baseline has been considered in relation to the criteria set out in Table 7.2 in the 2023 ES, Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage **[CD7.1]**. This includes “Step 3” of the assessment of effects on the setting of heritage assets (Historic England, GPA Note 3, 2nd Ed. 2017 **[CD6.29]**) to determine whether, and to what degree, the heritage

significance of an asset may be harmed or lost where the Scheme affects its setting, as well as the magnitude of any direct physical effects to the asset.

- 3.1.5 The assessment of magnitude of impact was undertaken with regard to harm to or loss of significance of cultural heritage assets, and whether development affects their setting. This is a professional judgement made with reference to Historic England, GPA Note 2, 2015 and Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 18a-018-20190723) **[CD6.33]**.
- 3.1.6 A professional judgement has been applied in determining the overall significance of effect within the broad categories identified in Table 7.2 of the 2023 ES, Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage **[CD7.1]**. The assessment considered the relative heritage significance of the asset, the contribution made by its setting to that significance, and the predicted magnitude of effect on that significance that would result from the proposed development. This determined the overall significance of effect.
- 3.1.7 A desk-based assessment was undertaken as part of the 2023 ES **[CD7.1]**. Data was gathered for all designated heritage assets within 2km of the Scheme boundary. This allowed for the identification of the heritage assets where the Scheme could affect the contribution of the heritage asset's setting to its significance. This study area is proportionate to the scale of the Scheme and was informed by a preliminary appraisal of baseline data and agreed through consultation with the Historic Places Manager, at Lincolnshire County Council. The Cathedral and City Centre Conservation Area was scoped into the assessment due to changes of views to and from the scheme to the Cathedral. This was agreed in

consultation with the Historic Places Manager, at Lincolnshire County Council and is the only heritage asset assessed beyond the agreed 2km buffer.

3.1.8 Data was also gathered for all non-designated heritage assets within the Scheme boundary and a 2km buffer from the Scheme boundary. The area of search was designed to be fully inclusive of the Scheme boundary to ensure that assets adjacent to the Scheme but with the potential to extend into it are captured in baseline data. The area of search also allows for assets with archaeological interest within or adjacent to the development site to be placed in context, and for the identification of trends that may help to predict archaeological potential within the Scheme.

3.1.9 The data was gathered from the following sources:

- The National Heritage List for current data on designated heritage assets **[CD6.35]**
- The Historic England Archive maintained by Historic England **[CD6.36]**
- The Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by Lincolnshire County Council **[CD6.37]**
- Ordnance survey (OS) historic mapping **[CD6.38]**
- Research frameworks
- Lincolnshire County Record Office/ Archives and Local Studies **[CD6.39]**
- Lincolnshire County Council Extensive Urban Surveys **[CD6.40]**
- Archaeological Data Service **[CD6.41]**
- Aerial photographs and satellite images **[CD6.42]**
- British Geological Survey mapping **[CD6.43]**

4 BASELINE

- 4.1.1 The Cultural Heritage Environmental Statement Chapter **[CD7.1]** is supported by a Technical Appendix (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30003) and two archaeological evaluation reports comprising a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. A preliminary description of the baseline environment, key heritage considerations and assessment of the potential impacts of the Scheme were outlined in a Scoping Report.
- 4.1.2 Consultation with the local authority archaeological advisors was carried out throughout the evaluation and assessment process and at key stages to confirm that the assessment methodologies and scope of evaluation were appropriate and in accordance with national and local policy and commensurate with the predicted impact of the proposed development. The principal consultees were the Historic Places Manager at Lincolnshire County Council, and Heritage Lincolnshire. The Conservation Officer at North Kesteven District Council was also consulted during the evaluation process.
- 4.1.3 In response to a representation made by the Conservation Officer at North Kesteven District Council regarding non-designated heritage assets a supplementary document to the Cultural Heritage Chapter was produced to assess the significance of these assets and the predicted impacts and significance of effect of the Scheme.
- North Hykeham Relief Road, Environmental Statement, Volume 2 Chapter 7, Cultural Heritage (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30002) **[CD7.1]**

- North Hykeham Relief Road, Environmental Statement, Volume 3 Appendix 7.1, Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30003) **[CD7.1]**
- North Hykeham Relief Road, North Hykeham, Trial Trenching Assessment Report (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30004) **[CD8.89]**
- Archaeological Geophysical Survey (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30000) **[CD8.90]**
- North Hykeham Relief Road, Written Scheme of Investigation, Archaeological Works (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30006) **[CD8.92]**

4.1.4 Baseline conditions are detailed in Section 7.4 of the ES, Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage **[CD7.1]**. A gazetteer of the known heritage assets within the baseline data is provided in the Technical Appendix (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30003) to the ES **[CD7.1]**.

4.1.5 There are 57 designated heritage assets within the 2km Study Area. None of these are located within the Scheme.

4.1.6 Within the 2km study area there is a single scheduled monument, Hall Close, a Medieval and post medieval hall complex located 2km to the southwest of the Scheme, which is of very high heritage significance. There are three Conservation Areas, Harmston and Waddington Conservation Areas which are of high significance. There are 53 listed buildings within the 2km Study Area; these include three Grade I and six Grade II* listed buildings of very high significance and 44 Grade II listed buildings which are of high significance. The Cathedral and City Centre Conservation Area, the only asset assessed outside of the study area is of high significance.

4.1.7 There are 374 non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area, most of which are no longer in-situ and therefore their importance has been assessed as negligible.

- **Prehistoric periods:** There are 61 assets from this period, four of low importance and 57 of negligible importance.
- **Roman period:** There are 80 assets from the Roman period, seven of medium (regional) significance, 10 of low (local) importance and 63 of negligible importance.
- **Early Medieval period:** There are seven assets from this period. One is of low (local) importance and six are of negligible importance.
- **Medieval period:** There are 51 assets from this period. Nine of them are of moderate, and 22 are of low importance. There are 18 assets of negligible importance.
- **Post Medieval period:** The majority of the non-designated heritage assets are attributed to this period, there are 133 non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area, 93 of low (local) and 42 of negligible importance.
- **Modern period:** There are 13 non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area, and two of moderate (regional) importance, 10 of low (local) importance, and one of negligible importance.
- **Undated/Unknown:** There 29 non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area, where the date is unknown, or they were subjected to any dating analysis. There are seven of low (local) importance and 22 of negligible importance.

4.1.8 In summary, the Scheme is located within a modern landscape which retains visible elements of the medieval to post medieval agricultural landscape which

supported Lincoln and the smaller hamlets and villages surrounding it. The landscape character developed from the enclosure of the open fields in the early 19th century and associated changes in agricultural practices.

- 4.1.9 There is evidence for earlier activity (predating the early medieval period) within the Study Area and the Scheme. These predominantly comprise non-designated heritage assets of low heritage significance dating to the Roman period and which relate to the agricultural nature of the landscape and associated settlement and industrial activity and land management.

4.2 Archaeological Surveys

- 4.2.1 Following consultation with the Historic Places Manager at Lincolnshire Council it was considered appropriate to further assess the archaeological potential of the route of the Scheme.
- 4.2.2 In accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation **[CD8.92]**, a programme of predetermination archaeological works comprising a geophysical survey and evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken along the route of the Scheme.
- 4.2.3 A programme of geophysical survey **[CD8.90]** (magnetometer and targeted resistivity) was undertaken of the Scheme and encompassing a broad survey area around it. This survey area was designed to identify possible archaeological remains that may be impacted by development, to provide a sufficiently broad survey area to provide context to any findings, as well to inform any potential route changes and the siting of compounds and any ancillary works.
- 4.2.4 Following the completion of the geophysical survey, a programme of trial trench evaluation **[CD8.89]** was carried out across the Scheme. The evaluation was

designed to investigate and characterise anomalies identified by the geophysical survey as well as to test 'negative' areas and to evaluate areas which had not been subject to geophysical survey. The sample density and positions of the trenches took into account topographic and known utilities constraints, and the Scheme design including road corridor and associated areas of likely impact such as haulage roads, SUDS ponds, compounds and probable spoil storage locations.

- 4.2.5 The works were undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation **[CD8.92]** and the evaluation strategy was discussed through consultation with and approved by the Lincolnshire Historic Places Manager.

4.3 Summary of the evaluation results

- 4.3.1 The earliest archaeological activity recorded by the evaluation works was dated to the late Neolithic period and comprises finds of flint tools and environmental indicators of prehistoric activity such as burnt hazel nutshells. This activity is focussed primarily in the area to the immediate east of the river Witham (Link 2E) and at the eastern end of the Scheme (Link 4).
- 4.3.2 Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from trench 54 in Link 2E which may indicate a prolonged phase of archaeological activity from the Neolithic into the Iron Age. A small amount of late Iron Age and Roman pottery was also recovered from a pit and ditch in Link 3A. A limited quantity of Iron Age pottery was recovered in trench 86 (Link 3F).
- 4.3.3 Most of the archaeological evidence has been dated to the Roman period and is concentrated on the topographic high ground to the east of the Lincoln Edge. To the west of Grantham Road (Links 3E 3F) the remains of a stone-built structure dating to the Roman period has been identified which has been interpreted as a

rural site which may be part of a wider high-status estate. The structure's rectilinear plan form and finds of ceramic roof tiles and hypocaust tiles are high-status indicators however the pottery assemblage is indicative of lower-status inhabitants and there may have been a transfer and reuse of material from another site.

- 4.3.4 To the east of Grantham Road (Link 4) the site of the Roman Ermine Street has been confirmed which includes road-side ditches. Archaeological remains in Link 4 have been dated to Roman period and are less densely concentrated than in 3E and 3F and may indicate road-side activity. The Roman archaeological remains appear to end at a boundary ditch which may have served to delineate the eastern edge of a Roman estate. The presence of a post-medieval parish boundary on the same alignment indicates that there was a continued use of established land divisions following the end of the Roman period.
- 4.3.5 Several linear features of indeterminate origins have been identified in the area to the west of the river Witham (Links 2C and 2B). The limited artifacts recovered from some of the features were of post-medieval or modern date and these features likely comprise historic field boundaries.

5 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

- 5.1.1 There are several designated and non-designated heritage assets within the surroundings of the Scheme which may experience direct or indirect effects arising from the construction and operation of the development.
- 5.1.2 Construction of the Scheme could result in direct impacts on archaeology where required below-ground works interact with known or potential archaeological remains. These effects are direct, adverse and permanent.
- 5.1.3 During operation, the Scheme has the potential to affect the settings of heritage assets. This is an indirect effect that would occur throughout the duration of the Scheme (long-term).

5.2 Key Heritage Constraints:

Designated Heritage Assets:

- Harmston Conservation Area
- Waddington Conservation Area
- Cathedral and City Centre Conservation Area
- Church of St Michael (grade II*)
- Church Farmhouse (grade II)
- Grange Farmhouse (grade II)
- Farm Buildings at Manor House (grade II)
- Gates and Walls at Manor House (grade II)
- Beacon Hill Cottage (grade II)
- Mere Hall Farmhouse (grade II)

Non-designated Heritage Assets:

- Grange Farm (Waddington Grange)
- 36, 44, 46 Station Road, Waddington
- Archaeology
- Important Hedgerows

5.2.1 A full and detailed assessment of the significance, setting and likely impact of the Scheme on these heritage assets is provided in the ES and supporting Technical Appendix **[CD7.1]**.

6 DIRECT IMPACTS

6.1 Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.1.1 There will be no direct impacts to any designated heritage assets as these are located outside of the areas of construction activity.

6.2 Archaeology

- 6.2.1 For known and as yet unknown below ground heritage assets, construction activity and any groundbreaking works associated with construction such as compounds, attenuation ponds, any activities likely to result in ground disturbance, have the potential to disturb or destroy buried archaeological remains.
- 6.2.2 Archaeological evaluation works provided evidence for a stone-built structure interpreted as the remains of a Roman villa with a hypocaust system and encompassed by a double-ditched enclosure. This was located at the top of the Lincoln Edge overlooking the flood-plain to the west. The line of a Roman road (Ermine Street) was confirmed a short distance to the east of the villa site. The remains of the villa site are assessed as being of high sensitivity. The evaluation work also confirmed the presence of features likely to date to the prehistoric (Iron Age) period located in the central area of the Scheme to the east of the River Witham and at the eastern end of the Scheme; these remains will be of moderate sensitivity.
- 6.2.3 Other potential assets are anticipated to be associated with agricultural and settlement activity from the early medieval, medieval to post medieval periods and will be of local importance and will therefore have at most low heritage sensitivity.

6.2.4 The magnitude of impact, at its greatest, will be moderate. The overall significance of effect of as yet unknown heritage assets with archaeological interest are encountered is predicted to be moderate adverse before mitigation and low adverse (permanent, long term) after mitigation, but the effect will be long term and permanent. This is not considered to be a significant effect in the context of the EIA Regulations (2020) **[CD6.44]**.

6.3 Further Mitigation

6.3.1 Following consultation with Historic Places Manager at Lincolnshire Council it was agreed that the anticipated direct impacts of the development on archaeological remains could be appropriately mitigated through a programme of archaeological works. These works include a Topographical Survey targeting upstanding Ridge and Furrow medieval cultivation earthworks located to the west of Wath Lane, South Hykeham. Five areas of archaeological strip, map and record excavation will be required, targeting archaeological remains recorded in the evaluation works. The works will be undertaken by an appropriately qualified archaeological contractor in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30006) **[CD8.92]**.

6.3.2 The Written Scheme of Investigation (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30006) **[CD8.92]** was submitted as part of the application and identifies discrete excavation areas targeting identified archaeological remains, with an appropriate level of contingency, as well as a detailed methodology for the works and subsequent reporting, publication and archiving, including a methodology for topographic recording of an area of medieval ridge and furrow at South Hykeham.

6.4 Historic Landscape Character

- 6.4.1 The current field pattern within the Study Area reflects that shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886 and indicates that the agricultural landscape within the Study Area has been relatively unmodified since the late 19th century. The historic landscape within the Study Area has seen some minor changes during the late 20th and 21st centuries with the construction of the Eastern Bypass to the east of the Scheme and construction of modern housing to the south of settlements such as Bracebridge Heath and North Hykeham.
- 6.4.2 Construction of the Scheme will result localised modification and loss of 19th century field systems, which form part of the local historic landscape character.
- 6.4.3 It has been assessed that the Scheme will have low magnitude impact on a historic landscape character of low sensitivity, resulting in an effect of negligible neutral significance.
- 6.4.4 Important Hedgerows
- 6.4.5 Twenty-nine hedgerows, located along the whole length of the Scheme have been assessed as being 'Important' in accordance with the criteria 5a of the Hedgerow Regulations Act (1997) **[CD2.21]** as they can be demonstrated to pre-date 1845. The hedgerows are likely to date from the mid to late post-medieval period and were created through the process of Parliamentary Enclosure.
- 6.4.6 Construction of the Scheme will result in localised removal of parts or full lengths of Important Hedgerows.
- 6.4.7 There would be an up to high magnitude impact, on remains of low sensitivity which will result in an effect of low adverse effect. This is not considered to be a significant effect in the context of the EIA Regulations (2020) **[CD6.44]**.

7 INDIRECT IMPACTS

- 7.1.1 The Scheme has the potential to affect the significance of designated heritage assets located beyond the Scheme's boundary through changes to their setting. Setting is the way in which an asset is understood and experienced and is not an asset in itself. Changes to setting could include the loss of surrounding rural and agricultural land, impacts from traffic flow and noise, and impacts from road infrastructure, including road lighting.
- 7.1.2 During the operational phase, the Scheme has the potential to affect the settings of heritage assets. This is an indirect effect that will occur throughout the duration of the Scheme (long-term).

7.2 Conservation Areas

- 7.2.1 There are three Conservation Areas which will be impacted by the Scheme:
- Harmston Conservation Area (CA1)
 - Waddington Conservation Area (CA2)
 - Cathedral and City Centre Conservation Area (CA3)
- 7.2.2 These are assessed as being of moderate heritage significance though within these areas there may be heritage assets of high and very high heritage significance.

Waddington Conservation Area

- 7.2.3 The Conservation Area boundary lies in relatively close proximity to parts of the Scheme. Parts of the surrounding rural landscape which includes the Scheme form part of the setting and are a positive contributor to the significance of the Conservation Area. An identified Key View (RV9 in the LVIA) looks over the rural

landscape and the Scheme from a vantage point at the southern edge of the Conservation Area.

7.2.4 The Scheme will therefore have an indirect effect on the Conservation Area during both construction and operational phases due to visual impact as well as noise dust and vibration.

7.2.5 Extensive mitigation planting between the scheme and receptor and noise barriers along the carriage way (embedded mitigation) is proposed which will help to integrate the Scheme into the wider landscape and conserve the rural context of the Conservation Area.

7.2.6 During the operational phase the Scheme there will be a moderate adverse (permanent, long term) significance of effect on Waddington Conservation Area (CA2).

Cathedral and City Centre Conservation Area

7.2.7 This area lies at least 3km north of the Scheme and is separated by the modern built environment, vegetation, roads and topography. The Conservation Area, which includes the historic cathedral, occupies a high topographical location and the cathedral forms a distinct landmark feature within a wide surrounding area, being visible from several areas of the Scheme. As such the Scheme is assessed to be within the setting of the Conservation Area. Several key views towards the cathedral were examined in the ES **[CD7.1]** at the request of the Historic Places Manager to assess the potential visual impact of the Scheme on these views.

7.2.8 During the construction phase there will be low adverse effect on the Conservation Area (temporary, short-term) arising from noise dust and vibration and visual impact.

7.2.9 During the operational phase there will be a low adverse (permanent, long-term) change arising primarily from the visual effect of introducing a road into the agricultural landscape. Due to the distance from the Scheme the effects of noise and vibration are not likely to effect the Conservation Area.

7.2.10 Embedded mitigation including planting will help to integrate the Scheme into the landscape.

Harmston Conservation Area

7.2.11 The Conservation Area lies 1.9km from the Scheme but includes a long-distance view from the Lincoln Edge which overlooks the Scheme. This view will be affected by the Scheme through visual disruption however the effect will be peripheral and long distance.

7.2.12 During the construction phase of the Scheme there will be low adverse (temporary, short term) effect on the Conservation Area due to visual disruption within an important view.

7.2.13 During the operational phase the visual impact of the Scheme will be mitigated through screening by planted hedges and trees resulting in a low magnitude of impact which will be a low adverse (permanent, medium term) significance of effect.

7.2.14 Residual effects have been identified in relation to these Conservation Areas relating to the long-term effect of changes to key views.

- Long-term effect of low adverse to Harmston Conservation Area (CA1) including key view from Blacksmith Lane.
- Long-term effect of moderate adverse to Waddington Conservation Area (CA2), including key view from Hill Top.

- Long-term effect of low adverse to views towards Lincoln Cathedral (CA3) from Blackmoor Road and Low Road

7.3 Listed Buildings

Church of St Michael (grade II*) and Church Farmhouse (grade II), South Hykeham

- 7.3.1 The Church is set within its own enclosed grounds and churchyard which create a sense of quiet seclusion and provides a positive contribution to the significance of the church. The churchyard is surrounded by dense tree planting which screens it from the surrounding area. The tower is visible from the wider area including parts of the Scheme and forms a landmark feature.
- 7.3.2 The distance from the Scheme, as well as existing natural screening, is likely to mitigate any impacts on views. Therefore, changes to the setting will be related to noise, additional street lighting and vibration and the effect will be present during both construction and operational phases.
- 7.3.3 During the construction phase there will be a low magnitude of impact to these assets which will result in a low adverse (temporary, short term) effect. This is not considered to be a significant effect in the context of the EIA Regulations (2020) **[CD6.44]**.
- 7.3.4 During the operational phase the Scheme will result in low magnitude of impact to these assets of high sensitivity which will be a low adverse (permanent, long term) effect. This is not considered to be a significant effect in the context of the EIA Regulations (2020) **[CD6.44]**.

7.3.5 The Scheme includes embedded mitigation measures including noise barriers, landscaping and noise-reducing surfaces which will mitigate the adverse effects of the operational phase.

Manor House and associated buildings, gates and walls (grade II)

7.3.6 During the construction of the Scheme there will be temporary changes and effects to the settings of the grade II Manor House and associated buildings (LB47, LB18 & LB20) due to construction-related noise, lighting and vibration generated by phases of construction work in the eastern area of the Scheme. The buildings are considerably screened from the road and public realm, so there will be no visual impact.

7.3.7 During the construction phase there will be a negligible magnitude of impact to these assets of high sensitivity which is a low adverse (temporary, short term) effect. This is not considered to be a significant effect in the context of the EIA Regulations (2020) **[CD6.44]**.

7.3.8 During the operational phase of the Scheme there will be almost no change to the setting of these heritage assets due to screening from the property boundary walls and intervening vegetation. It is likely however that there will be an increase of noise and lighting in the close proximity to this asset which will result in a low magnitude of impact and a negligible adverse (permanent, long term) significance of effect. This is not considered to be a significant effect in the context of the EIA Regulations (2020) **[CD6.44]**.

Grange Farmhouse

7.3.9 The heritage asset may experience a temporary change during construction, arising principally from noise but with no effect during the operational phase. The

potential effect, given the distance from the Scheme, intervening vegetation and built form will be at the lower end of the scale of harm.

Beacon Hill Cottage

7.3.10 There will be no effects to this heritage asset during construction or operational phases due to distance and existing screening.

Mere Hall

7.3.11 There will be no effects to this heritage asset during construction and operational phases due to distance and existing screening.

7.4 Non-designated Heritage Assets

Grange Farm (Waddington Grange)

7.4.1 This is a 19th century farmstead which was formerly grade II listed but was delisted in the 1980s. It is of low heritage significance. The somewhat rural setting which includes the Scheme makes a positive contribution to the significance of the farmhouse and barns as it allows an appreciation of the asset as a historic agricultural property.

7.4.2 The Scheme will erode the rural landscape character which will result in harm to the setting of Grange Farm and detract from its heritage significance.

7.4.3 During construction due to noise and vibration there will be low magnitude of impact to this asset of low sensitivity which result in negligible adverse (temporary, short term) effect.

7.4.4 During the operational phase there will be high magnitude of change due to its close proximity to the Scheme. However, due to its low heritage significance this would result in a negligible adverse (permanent, medium term) significance of

effect. This is not considered to be a significant effect in the context of the EIA Regulations (2020) **[CD6.44]**.

7.4.5 The predicted significance of effect takes account of the embedded mitigation provided by the Landscaping Strategy **[CD7.1]** which includes planting between the asset and the Scheme that will soften the views and lessen the effect.

36, 44, and 46 Station Road, Waddington

7.4.6 These early 20th century residential houses are assessed as non-designated heritage assets of low heritage significance. They have limited architectural value and their significance largely derives from their historic value highlighting the sparse settlement pattern from Waddington and Bracebridge Heath. The setting of the assets which includes agricultural fields to the west (including the Scheme) contributes to their significance, as it highlights the dispersed settlement pattern of Bracebridge Heath and Waddington.

7.4.7 The Scheme would result in full demolition of 46 Station Road which is of low (local) heritage significance. This would be a high magnitude of impact, which results in a moderate adverse (permanent, long term) significance of effect during the construction phase. There will be no further effects during the operational phase. This is considered to be a significant effect in the context of the EIA Regulations (2020) **[CD6.44]**.

7.4.8 During the operational phase there will be a change to the setting of the buildings as the Scheme will introduce new highway infrastructure as well as altering a historic routeway of Station Road further west. However, the original road would be retained for residents to access the realigned Station Road. There will be an increase of noise close to this asset which will result in a low magnitude of impact

and a low adverse (permanent, long term) significance of effect. This is not considered to be a significant effect in the context of the EIA Regulations (2020) **[CD6.44]**.

7.4.9 Mitigation measures include noise barriers which will reduce the sound of traffic that the assets will experience. The embedded mitigation provided by the Landscaping Strategy **[CD7.1]** includes planting between the assets and the Scheme that will soften the views and lessen the effect

7.4.10 The impact of the Scheme to 46 Station Road would be mitigated through preservation by record in the form of a programme of historic building recording to be secured as a condition of planning consent.

7.4.11 Other non-designated heritage assets of low heritage significance assessed at the request of the Conservation Officer at North Kesteven District Council include:

- Chestnut House, 31 Meadow Lane, South Hykeham
- The Hall, 10 Meadow Lane, South Hykeham
- Forge Cottage, 7 Meadow Lane, South Hykeham
- The Old Forge, 9 Meadow Lane, South Hykeham
- Village Farm, 15 Meadow Lane, South Hykeham
- Wellbeck Cottage, 19 Meadow Lane, South Hykeham
- Laxton Villa, 23 Meadow Lane, South Hykeham
- South Hykeham Grange
- 1 Long Lane, South Hykeham
- Manor House Farm, Hall Farm, The Hall, South Hykeham

7.4.12 There will be no direct effects to these heritage assets.

7.4.13 During construction phase there may be a low magnitude of impact arising from noise and vibration and limited intervisibility with the construction works which will result in a negligible adverse (temporary, short term) effect. This is not considered to be a significant effect in the context of the EIA Regulations (2020) **[CD6.44]**.

7.4.14 The assets may experience a permanent change to their setting due to noise produced by vehicles using the Scheme. The embedded landscape mitigation will negate visual change to their setting. Sections of the road will also be made from a noise-reducing surface, especially close to residential receptors at South Hykeham. Following mitigation there will be negligible magnitude of impact to these assets of low significance which may result in low adverse (permanent, long term) effect.

7.4.15 An updated traffic assessment has been undertaken; the results of that assessment do not represent a material change to the conclusions of the historic environment assessment and mitigation which have been presented as part of the planning application and Environmental Statement.

8 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY

- 8.1.1 Planning permission has been granted for the scheme, and the application was supported by a comprehensive and self-contained Environmental Statement. This included an extensive assessment as set out in the 2023 Environmental Statement (ES) chapter **[CD7.1]** and associated technical appendices. In undertaking the assessment, I have had full regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) **[CD3.5]**, as well as relevant policy and guidance cited in this document.
- 8.1.2 The assessment was informed by relevant guidance, including the Historic England documents 'The Setting of Heritage Assets' **[CD6.29]** and 'Conservation Principles' **[CD6.27]**. These guided the evaluation of the significance of heritage assets within the vicinity of the scheme and the predicted impacts on their setting and significance arising from the proposed development.
- 8.1.3 I have consulted with the Historic Places Manager at Lincoln County Council and Heritage Lincolnshire throughout the assessment process. The Conservation Officer at North Kesteven District Council was also consulted during the evaluation process.
- 8.1.4 I conclude the Scheme will not result in direct impacts to any designated heritage assets.
- 8.1.5 I further conclude that the scheme lies within the setting of three conservation areas and eight listed buildings. These assets have the potential to experience a degree of change to their setting and significance as a result of the scheme.
- 8.1.6 A thorough assessment, as presented in the 2023 ES chapter **[CD7.1]** and detailed in Chapters 6 and 7 of this document, concludes that any such change

would be minor or negligible. In NPPF terms, this equates to less than substantial harm.

8.1.7 With specific regard to the Waddington Conservation Area, the Cathedral and City Conservation Area, and the Grade II* listed Church of St Michael's, the change in their setting has the potential to influence their significance. To address this, extensive mitigation planting is proposed between the scheme and sensitive receptors, along with embedded mitigation in the form of noise barriers along the carriageway. These measures will help integrate the scheme into the wider landscape and conserve the rural context of the affected assets.

8.1.8 In consultation with the Historic Places Manager at Lincolnshire County Council, it was agreed that a programme of pre-determination archaeological evaluation works would be undertaken. This was delivered by appropriately qualified archaeological contractors under my direction and the supervision of my team.

8.1.9 In accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) **[CD8.92]**, a programme of geophysical survey—comprising magnetometer and targeted resistivity methods—was undertaken along the scheme and within the agreed buffer zone. The survey recorded several geophysical anomalies considered to be of probable archaeological origin.

8.1.10 Following the publication of the geophysical survey grey literature report, and in consultation with the Historic Places Manager at Lincolnshire County Council, a programme of further investigation was undertaken. This comprised a trial trench evaluation in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) **[CD8.92]**. Trench locations were selected to investigate and characterise anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, as well as to test areas that had

not yielded responses ('negative' areas). Trench positioning also considered topographic and known utility constraints, alongside design elements of the scheme such as the road corridor, likely zones of impact (e.g. haulage routes, SUDS ponds, compounds), and potential spoil storage areas.

8.1.11 The trial trenching works were monitored by the Historic Places Manager at Lincolnshire County Council and were deemed appropriate and compliant with the WSI **[CD8.92]**.

8.1.12 Following the publication of the archaeological evaluation report, in which some of the archaeological remains were assessed as being of moderate heritage significance, discussions were held with the Historic Places Manager to agree an appropriate mitigation strategy proportionate to the results of the evaluation.

8.1.13 A mitigation strategy has been agreed, comprising five targeted areas of archaeological excavation and a topographical survey of a defined area of earthworks. The methodology for these works—including reporting, publication, and archiving—is set out in the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) **[CD8.92]**. These works are secured by condition of planning consent.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

9.1 Legislation

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979 **[CD2.19]**
- National Planning Policy Framework, 2024, amended 2025 **[CD3.5]**
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 **[CD2.20]**
- The Hedgerow Regulations, 1997 **[CD2.21]**

9.2 Best Practice and Guidance

- Historic England (2008) Conservation Principles; Policy and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment, Swindon: Historic England **[CD6.27]**
- Planning Practice Guidance: Historic Environment, July 2019:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment> **[CD3.12]**

9.3 Other Sources

- Arkley, F, Manktelow, C. 2023. Archaeological Geophysical Survey of the Route of the Proposed North Hykeham Relief Road Lincolnshire, October-December 2022, Museum of London Archaeology (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30000) **[CD8.90]**
- Moon, K. 2023. North Hykeham Relief Road, North Hykeham Lincolnshire Trial Trenching Assessment Report. WYAS Archaeological Services (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30004) **[CD8.89]**
- TEP 2023, North Hykeham Relief Road, Environmental Statement, Volume 2 Chapter 7, Cultural Heritage (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30002) **[CD7.1]**

- TEP 2023, North Hykeham Relief Road, Environmental Statement, Volume 3
Appendix 7.1, Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30003) **[CD7.1]**
- TEP 2024, North Hykeham Relief Road, Written Scheme of Investigation,
Archaeological Works (NHRR-TEP-HER-HYKE-RP-LH-30006) **[CD8.92]**