

# MEMO

**North  
Lincolnshire  
Council**

**TO:** ANDREW LAW, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT  
**FROM:** ALISON WILLIAMS, HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OFFICER  
**REF:** PA/SCR/2024/7  
**DATE:** 08/08/2024

**SUBJECT:** EIA screening opinion for the installation of rubber tyre gantry (RTG) cranes, Humber Sea Terminal, North Killingholme

**PARISH:** NORTH KILLINGHOLME

## SUMMARY OF ADVICE

- The proposed development has potential for indirect effects on several designated heritage assets and their settings in the surrounding area
- Groundworks and piling have the potential for direct impacts on geo/archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains
- The proposals are unlikely to trigger the Schedule 2 criteria for EIA in relation to Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Irrespective of whether an EIA is required, any planning application for this project should include a Heritage Statement that identifies all heritage assets and their settings that may be affected and assesses their heritage significance and the impact of the proposals
- The Heritage Statement should comprise **ALL** the following **PRE-APPLICATION** assessments:
  - Desk based research including consultation of the Historic Environment Record and other sources AND
  - **RESULTS** of pre-application geo/archaeological field evaluation
  - Assessment of significance including any contribution of heritage settings
  - Impact of proposals (on significance)
  - Mitigation measures to avoid or minimise harm to any affected heritage assets
- A planning application without adequate information as specified below should not be validated.

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER) FUNCTION:** To hold, maintain, interpret and manage heritage information, enhancing the understanding of the area's historical development as a distinctive and attractive place. HER information provides source material for interpretation by heritage professionals and for use by community groups and individuals. The HER database is updated as new information about the historic environment is discovered.

The HER also provides advice on development proposals that affect, or may affect, the sites and settings of all heritage assets i.e. designated and non-designated historic buildings, archaeological sites and monuments, and historic places, areas and landscapes. This advice is provided against saved local plan policies and national historic environment policies. See <https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/historic-environment-and-conservation/>

#### **DETAILED ADVICE:**

Thank you for consulting the HER on this screening request for the installation of RTG cranes.

The development has the potential for indirect and direct impacts on heritage assets and their settings, including designated and non-designated heritage assets.

There are a number of designated heritage assets (scheduled monuments and a listed building) within 3km of the proposals and non-designated archaeological sites of Iron Age and Roman date abound in this area.

The operation of up to six separate 22m high RTG cranes has the potential to affect how the heritage significance of the designated assets and how their settings are experienced and will require detailed assessment.

The proposed development site currently comprises hardstanding for port-related purposes. The construction of this previous development may have disturbed or destroyed any near-surface archaeology, including that related to the WWI seaplane base that was located here on the Humber. However, more deeply buried geo/archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence of earlier periods may survive within the deposits that are present close to the Humber.

The proposed development will entail groundworks for the construction of four concrete beams each 450m long by 3m wide that may require piling for underpinning. The groundworks have the potential to impact on any surviving archaeology and deposits that underlie the site, including direct impacts and through changes to preservation conditions of within the deposits.

These proposals are unlikely to trigger the Schedule 2 criteria for EIA in relation to Cultural Heritage and Archaeology.

Irrespective of whether EIA needs to be carried out under the Regulations, and where a planning application is to be made for this proposal, a detailed heritage assessment that includes the **results** of pre-application archaeological field evaluation will be required to inform the planning application in view of the archaeological potential of the site; this is in accordance with paragraph 200 of the NPPF, Core Strategy CS6 and saved Local Plan policy HE9.

#### **HERITAGE POLICY**

In view of the potential heritage assets that may be affected including those of archaeological interest, the following national and local planning policy will apply:

**Section 16 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment** of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021) and the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG, 2024)

**CS6 Historic Environment** of the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy (2011)

**HE8 – Ancient Monuments**

**HE9 – Archaeological Evaluation** of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2003, saved policies)

The NPPF provides guidance to local authorities for conserving heritage assets and their settings, which includes historic areas and landscapes (Annex 2: Glossary; Heritage asset). Paragraph 8 refers to the role of the planning system to contribute to protecting and enhancing the historic environment under the three overarching objectives for achieving sustainable development. Paragraph 195 describes heritage assets as '**an irreplaceable resource**' to be '**conserved in a manner appropriate to their**

**significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations’.**

Paragraphs 200 and 201 require an applicant and local planning authorities to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset). This assessment should be taken into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, and used to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset’s conservation and any aspect of the proposal (NPPF, 201). Consultation of the HER is a requirement of this assessment process.

Paragraph 200 states that **‘Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets of archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.’**

This information allows the planning authority to make an informed and reasonable decision in line with the sustainable development principles of the NPPF, as well as local planning policies including policy CS6 of the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy and saved local plan policies HE8 Ancient Monuments and HE9 Archaeological Evaluation.

Core Strategy policy CS6 Historic Environment states that **‘The council will seek to protect, conserve and enhance North Lincolnshire’s historic environment as well as the character and setting of area of acknowledged importance including historic buildings, conservation areas, listed buildings (both statutory and locally listed), registered parks and gardens, scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological remains.....’.** And **‘Development proposals should provide archaeological assessments where appropriate’.**

Where Scheduled Monuments, or sites of equivalent significance, are affected directly or indirectly, Saved Local Plan policy HE8 Ancient Monuments directs **‘Development proposals which would result in an adverse effect on Scheduled [Ancient] Monuments and other nationally important monuments, or their settings, will not be permitted.’**

Local plan policy HE9 Archaeological Evaluation, states **‘Where development proposals affect sites of known or suspected archaeological importance, an archaeological assessment to be submitted prior to the determination of a planning application will be required. Planning permission will not be granted without adequate assessment of the nature, extent and significance of the remains present and the degree to which the proposed development is likely to affect them.**

**Sites of known archaeological importance will be protected. When development affecting such sites is acceptable in principle, mitigation of damage must be ensured and the preservation of the remains in situ is a preferred solution. When in situ preservation is not justified, the developer will be required to make adequate provision for excavation and recording before and during development.’**

## **INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS - FURTHER ASSESSMENT**

In accordance with these policies and the potential for impacts on designated heritage assets and their settings and unknown non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, the significance of which is currently unknown but which may be high, a heritage assessment is required for submission with the proposed planning application and should comprise **ALL** of the following stages

### **1. Desk Based Research and Consultation of the HER**

- Collation and synthesis of existing historic environment data sources relating to all heritage assets that the proposed development may affect directly or indirectly. The spatial scope should be a minimum 3km from the site boundary for designated heritage assets, and 1km for non-designated heritage assets.
- The range of sources to be consulted will be agreed with the HER’s planning archaeologist prior to commencement of data gathering and should include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following: local and national historic environment databases; Portable Antiquities Scheme database; local archives; historic maps and plans; aerial photographic collections including Historic England Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer and LIDAR data; BGS and other geo-technical and geo-archaeological data, and other published and unpublished documents.

- Geo-archaeological assessment of existing data to produce a deposit model of the sub-surface stratigraphy and the preservation potential of the deposits within the development site, including the identification of data gaps that may affect the reliability of the assessment.
- Site visit to identify the presence of, or potential for, any above or below ground heritage assets (archaeological remains or historic landscape features) within the development area, and any constraints on geo/archaeological fieldwork.

## 2. Pre-Application Field Evaluation

- Geo-archaeological investigation to further inform the deposit model and assessment that may include but not necessarily be limited to monitoring and recording during any non-archaeological geo-technical investigations for the proposed development, and /or purposive geo-archaeological boreholes. The investigation shall identify and produce an updated deposit model of the underlying deposits and assessment of the potential for archaeological and palaeoenvironmental preservation and significance, including where appropriate retrieving samples of suitable deposits for scientific dating to establish a chronological framework of the stratigraphy within the site, and for assessment of palaeoenvironmental potential. The strategy for geoarchaeological investigation should be discussed with an experienced geo-archaeologist and palaeoenvironmental specialist.
- The results of preceding stages of research and survey will inform any appropriate strategy, including geoarchaeological input, for the excavation of sample trial trenches to determine the nature, extent, state of preservation and importance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area

## 3. Assessment of Significance

- Assessment of the significance of those heritage assets likely to be directly and indirectly impacted by the development; the assessment of the significance of heritage assets will be based on the combined results of all the preceding stages of desk and site based evaluation, and be based on the heritage values set out in *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment*, Historic England, 2008 <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/>.
- The methodology of assessing the contribution of setting to significance should be undertaken as set out in Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice Note 3 ('The Setting of Heritage Assets' 2nd Edition, 2017) <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>.

## 4. Assessment of Impact

- Assessment of impact of the proposed development on the significance of the heritage assets and their settings based on the findings of the preceding stages with reference to details (known or indicative) of the proposed construction ground works such as site preparation works, foundation requirements including piling, flood and drainage strategies, and landscaping proposals, and including justification of impacts explaining why the works would be necessary or desirable, including any benefits which justify any resulting harm. In the case of substantial harm or loss of significance, the relevant tests in the NPPF should be applied.
- The use of photographic visualisations of the proposed development such as wirelines or height markers would be of particular use to demonstrate indirect effects of the proposals on the heritage assets and the contribution of their settings to the heritage significance, including evidence of no effects on significance. Views should be taken from appropriate locations from, to and across heritage assets and the proposed site. Viewpoints and photographic methodology should be agreed with the HER and planning case officer
- Impacts other than visual, such as noise, dust and odour, and the ability to experience significance should also be considered.
- Consideration must also be given for future accessibility to conduct archaeological investigations to ensure the archaeological interest is maintained and available for future generations to investigate.

## 5. Mitigation

- Options should be explored to:

- Conserve and enhance settings and significance of all heritage assets
- Mitigate any harm to heritage assets including archaeological remains
- Measures for public participation and to extend understanding of the archaeology

The scope and specification of the work for each stage of the research and pre-application field evaluation set out above should be discussed and agreed with the HER prior to commencement. The assessment should be carried out by a suitably experienced heritage specialist such as a Registered Organisation accredited by the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (see <http://www.archaeologists.net/>) or an organisation that can demonstrate that they have equivalent experience, capability and quality management systems in place. Appropriate geo-archaeological expertise must be available for each stage of the assessment. All fieldwork should be undertaken in accordance with CIFA's published Standards and Guidance for evaluation, and Historic England professional guidelines (<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications>).

On completion of all stages of the geo-archaeological field evaluation and heritage assessment set out above, a Heritage Statement should be prepared. The Heritage Statement should consider what the impact of the development on the significance of the heritage assets will be together with a statement of justification of why the works would be desirable or necessary, including any benefits which justify any resulting harm. In the case of substantial harm or loss of significance, the tests in the NPPF should be applied.

If the assessment demonstrates that the significance of heritage assets will be adversely affected by the proposals, then appropriate mitigation measures should be drawn up to conserve them. This may include avoiding or minimizing effects to areas of significance, if necessary by modifying the layout and/or design of the proposals ie. In situ preservation.

Alternatively, where loss of heritage assets because of development is considered justified, provision should be made to record the evidence before it is lost either in advance of, or during, development.

Mitigation measures should be detailed in the application including any heritage enhancements, protections, and a programme of further archaeological recording as may be necessary. Where further archaeological recording is proposed, provision should be made for the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (specification) to be prepared by the archaeological contractor appointed to carry out the recording work. Where planning permission may subsequently be granted, the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures can be secured by condition, including the submission and approval of a WSI.

Clearly, it is beneficial to all parties if the heritage assessment is undertaken at the earliest opportunity and can inform the development of the proposed application. I would be grateful therefore if you would pass this advice to the applicant or their agent. I can provide further advice on the scope and results of the heritage assessment.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Any planning application submitted for this site would need to be accompanied by a Heritage Statement as set out above in accordance with paragraph 200 of the NPPF, Core Strategy CS6 and saved Local Plan policy HE9.

An application without such a heritage statement should not be validated. Where a heritage statement is incomplete or inadequate, the HER will advise the local planning authority to defer determination of, or refuse permission for, a planning application until sufficient information is available to allow an informed decision.

I would be grateful therefore if you would pass this advice to the applicant to ensure they are aware of the requirements to provide the results of archaeological evaluation and assessment, as above, with their planning application and avoid any unnecessary delays to either applying or with the subsequent determination.

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