

MEMO

**North
Lincolnshire
Council**

TO: DEAN WATSON, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
FROM: RICHARD GODDARD, HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OFFICER
REF: PA/SCR/2026/1
DATE: 04/03/2026

SUBJECT: EIA screening request for a proposed battery energy storage system (BESS)

SUMMARY OF ADVICE

- The proposals have the potential to impact designated archaeological and built heritage assets as well as non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest
- 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 proposal should include a Heritage Statement that identifies all heritage assets including their settings that may be affected and assesses their heritage significance and the impact of the proposals
- The Heritage Statement should comprise the results of **ALL** the following **PRE-APPLICATION** assessments:
 - Desk based research including consultation of the Historic Environment Record and other sources **AND**
 - Archaeological field evaluation comprising field surveys and excavation of archaeological trial trenches as necessary
 - Assessment of significance based on results of pre-application field evaluation
 - Impact of proposals
 - Mitigation proposals to avoid or minimise harm to any affected heritage assets
- This procedure is in accordance with paragraph 207 of the NPPF and local planning policies Core Strategy CS6 and saved Local Plan HE5,8 & 9
- A planning application without adequate information as specified below should **NOT** be validated
- The HER will advise the Planning Authority to defer determination of, or refuse, a planning permission where insufficient information has been submitted.

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 the opportunity to comment on this screening request.

HERITAGE INTEREST

The HER database has been checked and our records indicate that development on this site has potential for impacts on designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings. The HER welcomes the consideration already given to archaeology and the setting of designated heritage assets.

The HER would note additionally that the proposed development is approximately 2.5km from the Scheduled Monument of Thornton Abbey and various associated Listed Buildings (Grades I & II) within the scheduled site. Views towards the proposed site, and of proposed structures, may be anticipated from within the site, looking across flat landscape and from the upper storeys of the Abbey gatehouse and barbican walls. The scheduled area and Abbey ruins are extensive and the site may be visible from some viewpoints but not others. This will require further assessment.

The HER database has been checked and our records indicate that both the BESS and ecology site lie within areas where archaeological sites and finds of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date are recorded and yet unrecorded remains can be anticipated. Sites and finds are recorded elsewhere within the parish include a series of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement sites which span this portion of North Lincolnshire in proximity to the Humber Estuary.

Portions of the proposed BESS site have previously been the subject of archaeological investigation and have had areas of archaeological mitigation agreed as part of previous applications in the area. These agreed mitigation works would be an appropriate starting point for these areas of identified overlap. Portions of the proposed BESS site which have not been subject to the same level of pre-determination should be appropriately investigated through trenching to confirm the results of previous geophysical survey works on the site.

The proposed area of ecological enhancement has not previously been the subject of any systematic archaeological investigation. Beyond details provided for a proposed wildlife tower, it is presently unclear what ecological enhancement is proposed within the northern parcel and consequently potential impacts to any archaeological remains in that location. The HER would recommend that proportionate archaeological investigation is undertaken and would be in a position to advise on this once further details are submitted.

Any below-ground construction works in this area may encounter archaeological deposits associated with activity of this date.

The available information indicates the potential for the proposed development site to contain archaeology but is insufficient to assess the full significance of potential archaeological remains which may be high. The construction of the proposed BESS and implementation of on-site ecological enhancement may destroy or harm important archaeological remains.

SCREENING OPINION

Regarding Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, I do not consider that these proposals would trigger the criteria for EIA as the indirect effects on the designated heritage assets (scheduled monuments) in the vicinity are unlikely to be significant.

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 207 of the NPPF, Core Strategy CS6 and saved Local Plan policy HE9 Archaeological Evaluation.

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 207 of the NPPF, Core Strategy CS6 and saved Local Plan policies HE5, HE8 and 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.

Alison Williams
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