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UK Onshore Scheme

Environmental Statement

Volume 4 Document ES-4-C.07

Appendix 23

Archaeology & Cultural Heritage (Proposed
Converter Station)

VKL-08-39-G500-009

August 2017



Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

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Appendix 23.1 Desk Based Assessment

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Desk Based Assessment

Volume 4 Document ES-4-C.07

Appendix 23.1

**Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Desk Based
Assessment (Proposed Converter Station)**

VKL-08-39-G500-009

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Glossary & Abbreviations

| Glossary of Terms | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Beehive quern stone | A beehive quern stone is where the upper stone is hemispherical or bun shaped with a central conical hopper that holds the grain which falls on to the grinding surface. This is held into position with a pivot that fits into a central hole in the bottom. The upper stone also has a deep horizontal socket in its steep side in which a wooden peg is placed and used as a handle to rotate or oscillate the upper stone. This is the earliest type of rotary quern in Britain. Rotary querns are where the grinding action is circular. |
| Colonia | A Roman Empire outpost established in conquered territory to secure it. Eventually the term came to denote the highest status of Roman city. |
| Conservation Area Appraisals | Conservation Area Appraisals help to inform the local population about the special interest of the area and helps to retain and maintain the areas character. The appraisal can also identify areas which have sensitivity with regards to heritage and inform local planning decisions. |
| Corieltavi | A tribe of people who inhabited the east midlands prior to the Roman invasion with their capital at Leicester. There were subsequently referred to as the <i>Coritani</i> and <i>Coritavi</i> . |
| Cropmarks | Cropmarks are formed when the underlying moisture level varies which effects the growth of agricultural produce. This can be from an increase in moisture levels, from a negative feature such as a ditch or pit which produces a richer crop, or a reduced moisture level, from a positive feature such as a wall which results in a poorer yield. The best response for cropmarks is between June and July each year. This is however subject to many factors and the absence of cropmarks may not indicate the absence of archaeological features (Ref.1). |
| Datum | Datum is an Ordnance Survey term for sea level. |

| Glossary of Terms | |
|--------------------|--|
| Domesday Book | The Domesday Book is a manuscript record of the 'Great Survey' which was conducted in most of England and Wales and commissioned by William the Conqueror. The first draft was completed in August 1086 and written in Medieval Latin. Its original purpose was to establish what taxes had been owed during the reign of King Edward the Confessor, this helped William to reassert the right of the Crown and assess where the power lay in the land. The book contains the records of 13,418 settlements. |
| Geophysical survey | Technology such as fluxgate gradiometer (for magnetometry) and resistance meter (for resistivity) are scanned over the ground surface and pick up interferences in either the earth's magnetic field (magnetometry) or the effect demonstrated on the passing of energy into the ground (resistivity). The interference or anomalies can be manmade or natural in origin. Their interpretation can give indications into the archaeological potential for a site. If the ground is not susceptible to these anomalies i.e. the machine cannot detect the difference between archaeological features and back ground geology, the results may indicate no archaeology present when in fact there are archaeological features but they just cannot be distinguished from the background geology. |
| Iceni | Iceni or Eцени were a British tribe in east England during the Iron Age and Roman period. They were a significant power during Claudius reign (10BC – 54AD) but this had waned by AD60. After the death of the tribal king Prasutagus his wife Boudica (or Boudicca) lead an ill-fated revolt against the Roman rule in Britain. |
| LiDAR | LiDAR (light detection and ranging), also known as Airborne Laser Altimetry, is used to produce accurate horizontal and vertical evaluation measurements. This data has considerable potential for archaeological investigation such as mapping sites with raised earthworks and understanding the site within the wider area (Ref. 2). |
| Magnetometry | This geophysical survey technique relies on the variations in the soil magnetic susceptibility which often results from past human activities. |
| Oppidum | Large fortified Iron Age settlement. |

| Glossary of Terms | |
|-------------------|--|
| Plough team | Recorded in the Domesday Book is the number of plough teams, each team consisted of eight oxen. One way of assessing the value (and tax) of an estate was the number of plough teams that were required to cultivate the land, for example 2.5 plough teams means that there was enough land that required two and a half oxen teams to work. |
| Resistivity | This geophysical survey relies on variations in the electrical conductivity of the soil and subsoil which in general is related to soil moisture levels. Slower than magnetometry this technique is best suited to locating positive features such as buried walls that give rise to high resistance analogies. |
| Roddon | <p>A roddon or rodham is a raised bank formed from the silt deposits on the bed of a dry river course. The name roddon is used mainly in the fen district (Ref. 3). Differential compaction and shrinkage of the land due to drainage has resulted in these roddons standing on slightly higher ground than the surrounding areas. This is especially true in areas of former peatland (Ref. 1).</p> <p>Malone (Ref. 1) has identified that these roddon, specifically those of the salt marsh creeks, were formed by the build-up of marine silt sediment. Malone admits that recent studies have indicated that this silt deposition was rapid, possibly relating to extreme flooding events. These depositions are usually uniform with course grained sediment with little or no clay settling until the last stage of infilling (Ref. 4). The fresh water channels differ from the salt water by their gradual build-up of silt sediment. These fresh water ravines can be influence by marine water especially if their gradients are shallow (Ref. 1).</p> <p>Once formed these roddon are higher, dryer and firmer than the surrounding land which proved to be an attractive quality in the location of the historical settlements in the Fenland (Ref. 1).</p> |
| Quern stone | Quern stones are stone tools used for hand grinding a wide variety of materials i.e. wheat or cereals. They are used in pairs; the lower stationary stone is called the quern while the upper stone can be called the handstone, rubber or mouler. |
| Salterns | Are mounds of clay or silt left over from the salt making process. They are quite noticeable in the Fenland landscape but most have been ploughed flat. |
| Sondage | A deep archaeological trench, usually dug to a great depth to establish stratigraphic layers. |

Glossary of Terms

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| | |
| Trial trenching | Trial trenching, or evaluation, is an archaeological investigation technique used to evaluate the archaeological potential of a site. The trenches vary in length and depth but they are often placed over cropmarks or geophysical anomalies. The trenches are to test the amount, date, and complexity of the archaeological features in an area. The trial trench results can inform as to whether further archaeological investigation is needed. |

List of Abbreviation

| | |
|-------|---|
| | |
| AC | Alternating Current |
| AD | Anno Domini is medieval Latin for 'in the year of the Lord', AD is referred to the time after the birth of Christ |
| AOD | Above Ordnance Datum |
| ASA | Archaeologically Sensitive Areas |
| BC | Before Christ refers to the time before the birth of Christ |
| BGS | British Geological Survey |
| BSIDB | Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board |
| c. | Circa |
| CA | Conservation Areas |
| CBM | Ceramic Building Material |
| Cifa | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists |
| DMRB | Design Manual for Roads and Bridges |
| DBA | Desk Based Assessment |
| DC | Direct Current |
| ES | Environmental Statement |
| ft | Foot |
| GPA | Good Practice Advice |
| ha | Hectare |
| HE | Historic England |
| HER | Historic Environment Record |
| HVDC | High Voltage Direct Current |
| Km | Kilometre |

List of Abbreviation

| | |
|------|------------------------------------|
| | |
| kV | Kilovolt |
| LB | Listed Building |
| LCC | Lincolnshire County Council |
| LHI | Landscapes of Historic Interest |
| LLB | Locally Listed Building |
| MW | Megawatt |
| m | Meter |
| NHLE | National Heritage List for England |
| NCA | National Character Area |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| RPG | Registered Parks and Gardens |
| SM | Scheduled Monument |

1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) has been prepared by Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd. The assessment forms part of the Scheme and assesses a proposed converter station site and the proposed Alternating Current (AC) cable route, including the sites of temporary construction compounds. The route of a permanent access road to the proposed converter station site also forms part of this assessment.

1.2 Project Background and Purpose of this Document

1.2.1 Viking Link is a proposed 1400 megawatt (MW) High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electricity link between the Danish and British transmission systems. It will allow electricity to be exchanged between Great Britain and Denmark. The project comprises approximately 760 kilometre (km) of Direct Current (DC) onshore and offshore electricity transmission cables between new converter stations at each end of the project. These are in turn connected to the high voltage electricity transmission networks at existing substations at Revsing, South Jutland in Denmark and Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire in Great Britain.

1.2.2 This document focuses on the development of the proposed converter station site, which covers an area of 30 hectares (ha) off North Ing Drove, South Holland, Lincs. (**Figure 1**).

1.2.3 A permanent access road forms part of the proposed converter station site. This takes a south and eastern direction and joins the A52 to the north-west of Donington. The proposed AC cable route connects the proposed converter station with the British electricity transmission system at the existing Bicker Fen 400 kilovolt (kV) substation.

1.2.4 The site of the proposed converter station (**Figure 1**) combines a range of development features within the proposed converter station site. These include:

- The proposed converter station zone: a 5 ha area 'footprint' of the 'base scheme design';
- Two cable entry routes; a 'proposed DC cable route' and a 'proposed AC cable route'. The proposed DC cable route is located to the west of the proposed converter station zone and the proposed AC cable route is located to the north/north-west of the proposed converter station zone;
- A car park with a permanent access road located in the south-east of the proposed converter station site;
- An attenuation pond located in the south-west at the proposed converter station site; and
- A temporary construction compound in the east at the proposed converter station zone.

1.2.5 The DBA draws together aspects of the historic environment that may be affected by the proposed converter station site, centred at TF187 373. The report assesses the known and potential for the area to contain cultural heritage assets and archaeological remains.

- 1.2.6 The assessment will discuss heritage assets identified within two Zones of Influence. (See **Figure 1**). The assets have been compiled from various sources and represent the extent of available data collated and described ahead of any action directly undertaken on the proposed converter station site, proposed AC cable route, and the permanent access road.
- 1.2.7 Other issues related to the overall assessment of the likely effects of the proposed converter station site, the AC route, and permanent access road on the historic environment are presented in Chapter 25 of the Environmental Statement (ES).

1.3 Methodology

- 1.3.1 The information presented within this DBA builds on the data received from the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Historic Environment Record (HER), details of Conservation Areas (Ref. 5), Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (or similar), and 'locally-listed' buildings, as obtained from South Holland District Council and Boston Borough Council. Further information regarding the historic landscape of the fens, and regarding specific archaeological periods and sites within the Zone of Influence was acquired from relevant specialist publications, detailed in Section 1.4.
- 1.3.2 All designated and non-designated heritage assets are detailed in a gazetteer (Appendix 1). Their locations are indicated on **Figure 2** for designated assets and **Figure 3** for non-designated assets.
- 1.3.3 The following actions have been undertaken, to establish a baseline reflective of known archaeological conditions:
- Collation and mapping of data obtained from the LCC HER for the two Zones of Influence.
 - Collation and mapping of data obtained from Historic England's (HE) National Heritage List for England (NHLE) for designated heritage assets such as Scheduled Monuments (SMs), Listed Buildings (LBs), Registered Parks and Gardens (RPG) and Landscapes of Historic Interest (LHI).
 - Collation and mapping of data obtained from South Holland District Council and Boston Borough Councils for Conservation Areas (CAs), Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (ASAs) and Locally Listed Buildings (LLBs).
 - Examination of historic maps including the Ordnance Survey (OS) 25" 1st edition and the relevant Tithe Maps through online resources and those found at Lincolnshire County Council Archive; outlined in the sources located in 1.4.
 - Field reconnaissance, in the form of a site walkover survey, to identify other features of cultural heritage interest that may not have been identified through the acquired data as described above, also to review the current state of features that had been identified through the process of data mapping, such as historic buildings.
 - Preliminary background research (geology and historic environment) from internet resources.

- Compilation of Gazetteers identifying the heritage assets identified through the above process (Appendix 1 and 2).
- Discussions with Historic England, and LCC regarding key cultural heritage issues.

1.3.4 The report structure is outlined at section 1.7.

Zones of Influence

1.3.5 Two Zones of Influence were established to assess the impact on heritage assets which include below ground archaeological features, above ground earthworks, Listed Buildings, or Scheduled Monuments (**Figure 1**).

1.3.6 Of the two Zones of Influence, the first, for designated assets, comprised a 3 km zone surrounding and encompassing the three areas from the proposed converter station site. This Zone of Influence is designed to capture both heritage assets that could provide information on the potential of the area and to encompass a sufficient area that enables the assessment of assets and their settings that might be impacted by the proposals.

1.3.7 The second Zone of Influence extended 1 km from the planning application boundary of the converter station site was for the non-designated assets. This included a 250 m buffer covering the areas of the proposed AC cable route and the permanent access road which extended beyond the initial 1 km Zone of Influence. These linear zones were combined into the wider 1 km Zone of Influence to avoid duplication of assets. This zone was primarily designed to identify known assets close to or within the base scheme design and to assess the potential of the area to contain previously unrecorded archaeological heritage assets. The locations of all designated and non-designated heritage assets are indicated on **Figures 2 and 3**, while **Figure 1** details the Zones of Influence around the site boundary.

1.3.8 The proposed converter station zone itself comprises structural elements which will be located within a proposed security fence. The proposed structure is a building approximately 24 m high. The AC cable route will be an underground utility and the permanent access road will be constructed slightly elevated from the neighbouring land at 2.7 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

1.4 Sources

Cartographic sources

1.4.1 The following cartographic sources have been consulted during the production of this report. They are presented in Appendix 3 of this document.

- 1783 Edward Hare's Map of Donnington plan and surveys of the lowlands between Bourn and Boston
- 1839 Plan of the parish of Bicker
- 1880 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale map
- 1888 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale map

- 1906 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale map
- 1938-1946 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale map
- 1950 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 scale map
- 1956 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 scale map
- 1976 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 scale map
- 1985 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 scale map
- 2000 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 scale map
- 2016 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 scale map

Documentary sources

- 1.4.2 Several documentary sources have been consulted to inform the baseline assessment. These are listed in the References section at the end of this report. In addition, the LCC HER was consulted for information on known heritage assets within the Zone of Influence.

Online sources

- 1.4.3 The following online sources have been consulted during the production of this report. All sources were consulted in May 2017.
- British Geological Survey (BGS) Geology of Britain Viewer, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, British Geological Survey
 - National Heritage List for England, <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>, Historic England

1.5 Assessment Criteria

- 1.5.1 The assessment of cultural heritage assets looks to identify how particular parts of a place and different periods in its evolution contribute to, or detract from, identified heritage values associated with the site. This approach considers the present character of the proposed converter station site, proposed AC cable route, and permanent access road based on the chronological sequence of events that produced it, and allows management strategies to be developed that sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets.
- 1.5.2 Significance (for heritage policy) is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Annex 2 as:
- '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.'*
- 1.5.3 Current national guidance for the assessment of the significance of heritage assets is provided by Historic England in the document *Conservation Principles, Policies, and Guidance for the*

Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (Ref.6) in which significance is weighed by consideration of the potential for the asset to demonstrate the following value criteria:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Evidential value | Deriving from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. |
| Historical value | Deriving from 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 | Deriving from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. |
| Communal value | Deriving from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values are closely bound up with historical (particularly associative) and aesthetic values, but tend to have additional and specific aspects. |

1.5.4 The assessment of impacts and effects on cultural heritage assets and their significance has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology described in the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* (DMRB) Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2 Cultural Heritage (HA208/07, Ref. 7). The DMRB provides guidance on the assessment and management of environmental effects, including the determination of the magnitude of impacts and the significance of effects. Within the manual, the cultural heritage resource is split into Archaeological Remains, Historic Buildings and Historic Landscape guidance relating to the assessment of the value of the resource, impact types and impact magnitude for each sub-topic section. An overall significance of effect on each identified receptor is then reached by combining value and impact magnitude.

1.6 Asset Value

1.6.1 To understand the level of any effect that a scheme may have on a heritage asset an understanding of the significance of that asset needs to be achieved. The following tables demonstrate how the assessment of the value of heritage assets that are relevant to the current situation within the Zones of Influence has been undertaken.

Table 1 Criteria for Establishing Value of Archaeological Assets

| | |
|------------|--|
| | |
| Very High | World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites). Assets of acknowledged international significance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives. |
| High | Scheduled Monuments (including proposed sites). Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and significance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives. |
| Medium | Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives. |
| Low | Designated and undesignated assets of local significance. Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives. |
| Negligible | Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest. |
| Unknown | The significance of the resource has not been ascertained. |

Table 2 Criteria for Establishing Value of Historic Buildings

| | |
|-----------|---|
| | |
| Very High | Structures inscribed as of universal significance as World Heritage Sites. Other buildings of recognised international significance. |
| High | Scheduled Monuments with standing remains. Grade I and II* Listed Buildings. Other listed buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations not adequately reflected in the listing grade. Conservation Areas containing very important buildings. Undesignated structures of clear national significance. |
| Medium | Grade II Listed Buildings. Historic (unlisted) buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations. Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character. Historic Townscape or built-up areas with historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures). |

Table 2 Criteria for Establishing Value of Historic Buildings

| | |
|------------|---|
| | |
| Low | 'Locally Listed' buildings. Historic (unlisted) buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association. Historic Townscape or built-up areas of limited historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures). |
| Negligible | Buildings of no architectural or historic note; buildings of an intrusive character. |
| Unknown | Buildings with some hidden (i.e. inaccessible) potential for historic significance. |

Table 3 Criteria for Establishing Value of Historic Landscape Character Units

| | |
|------------|--|
| | |
| Very High | World Heritage Sites inscribed for their historic landscape qualities. Historic landscapes of international value, whether designated or not. Extremely well preserved historic landscapes with exceptional coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s). |
| High | Designated historic landscapes of outstanding interest. Undesignated landscapes of outstanding interest. Undesignated landscapes of high quality and significance, and of demonstrable national value. Well preserved historic landscapes, exhibiting considerable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s). |
| Medium | Designated special historic landscapes. Undesignated historic landscapes that would justify special historic landscape designation, landscapes of regional value. Averagely well-preserved historic landscapes with reasonable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s). |
| Low | Robust undesignated historic landscapes. Historic landscapes with importance to local interest groups. Historic landscapes whose value is limited by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. |
| Negligible | Landscapes with little or no significant historical interest. |

1.7 Report Structure

1.7.1 The remainder of this DBA chapter is structured as follows:

- Section 2. Legislation and Policy Context. An overview of the necessary legislation protecting heritage and archaeological assets from loss due to development.
- Section 3. Background. A general setting is provided for the British Isle's geological and topographical formations as well as an archaeological overview.
- Section 4. Baseline Conditions. Reports the results of desktop and field studies undertaken to establish existing conditions.
- Section 5. Previous Archaeological Investigations. An over view of previous archaeological work that may help inform the current assessment and knowledge of local archaeology.
- Section 6. Summary of Assessment. Provides a summary of the key findings of the impact assessment.

2 Legislation and Policy Context

2.1 Legislation

- 2.1.1 The relevant parliamentary act which provides the legislative framework for development is the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 provides the framework for legal protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and designated archaeological remains respectively.
- 2.1.2 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 applies special protection to buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.
- 2.1.3 Section 66 (1) of the act states that *"in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses"*.
- 2.1.4 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 gives statutory protection to any structure, building, or work which is of particular historic or archaeological interest and regulates any activities which may affect such areas. Under the Act any work that is carried out on a Scheduled Monument must first obtain Scheduled Monument consent.

2.2 Relevant National Policy

- 2.2.1 The relevant national policy applicable to this DBA is section 12, Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment of the NPPF. This section provides guidance for the conservation and investigation of heritage assets and requires local authorities to take the following into account: -
- *The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
 - *The wider social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring; and*
 - *The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.*
- 2.2.2 Scheduled Monuments and their setting are a material consideration in the NPPF.
- 2.2.3 The NPPF details the policy further with relevant paragraphs 131- 135 presented here.
131. *In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:*
- *the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation*

- *the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality*
- *the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness*

132. *When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.*

133. *Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:*

- *the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site*
- *no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation*
- *conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible*
- *the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use*

134. *Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.*

135. *The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.*

2.3 Relevant Local Policy

2.3.1 In addition, policy set out in the Boston Borough Interim Local Plan 2006 (Ref. 9) and the South Holland Local Plan 2006 (Ref. 10) is relevant to this assessment.

2.3.2 The statutory development plan for BBC currently comprises the 'saved' parts of the Boston Borough Local Plan (BBLP) and the Boston Borough Interim Plan (Non-Statutory Development Control Policy) 2006 (Ref: 25-11). The BBLP was originally adopted in 1999, with the policies then being reviewed in 2007 and either 'saved' where relevant or deleted where not. In the

circumstances where the policies within the Local Plan are not consistent with the NPPF then that they should be afforded reduced weight or no weight.

- 2.3.3 The 2006 Boston Borough Interim Plan was produced as a replacement for the BBLP but had to be withdrawn from the statutory adoption process in February 2006. Boston Borough Council subsequently adopted a revised version of the Interim Plan for development control purposes. However, due to significant objection received during the production of the plan, the policies contained within the Interim Plan are judged not to carry weight and therefore will not be considered within this Planning Statement.
- 2.3.4 BBC, SHDC, and LCC are in the process of preparing a new local plan, the South-East Lincolnshire Local Plan (SELLP), which will guide development in the area until 2036 and act as a replacement for the BBLP. The Plan is currently (May 2017) at draft stage and therefore is considered a material consideration in the determination of the planning applications. It is anticipated that the plan will be adopted in Spring 2018.
- 2.3.5 The policies from both the BBLP (2007 saved policies) and the SELLP which are of relevance to the NGVL scheme have been summarised and are outlined in the following sections.

Boston Borough Local Plan, Adopted 1999 (Saved Policies, 2007)

- 2.3.6 Policy CO1 (Development in the Countryside) states that development will not be permitted in the countryside unless other local plan policies support it. The policy goes on to state that the plan makes allowance for development which benefits economic activity, or which meets social needs, while maintaining or enhancing the environment.

South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 (Publication Version, March 2017)

- 2.3.7 Policy 3 (Development Management) is a strategic policy relating to new development advising that proposals requiring planning permission for development will be permitted provided that sustainable development considerations are met, specifically in relation to:
1. *“size, scale, layout, density and impact on the amenity, trees, character and appearance of the area and the relationship to existing development and land uses;*
 2. *quality of design and orientation;*
 3. *maximising the use of sustainable materials and resources;*
 4. *access and vehicle generation levels;*
 5. *the capacity of existing community services and infrastructure;*
 6. *impact upon neighbouring land uses by reason of noise, odour, disturbance or visual intrusion;*
 7. *sustainable drainage and flood risk; and*
 8. *impact or enhancement for areas of natural habitats and historical buildings and heritage assets.”*

- 2.3.8 Policy 25 (The Historic Environment) seeks to respect the historical legacy, varied character, and appearance of South East Lincolnshire's historic environment. Development proposals will conserve and enhance the character and appearance of designated and non-designated heritage assets, such as important archaeology, historic buildings, conservation areas, monuments, street patterns, streetscapes, landscapes, parks, river frontages, structures, and their settings through high-quality sensitive design.
- 2.3.9 Policy 26 (Pollution) advises that proposals will not be permitted where, individually, or cumulatively, there are adverse impacts on light, noise, odour, fumes, vibration, and waste materials and therefore have adverse impacts upon:
1. *“health and safety of the public;*
 2. *the amenities of the area; and*
 3. *the natural, historic, and built environment;*
- by way of:*
1. *air quality, including odour;*
 2. *background noise and light levels;*
 3. *land quality and condition; and*
 4. *surface and groundwater quality.”*
- 2.3.10 Furthermore, policy 26 states that an Air Quality Assessment should accompany Major planning applications to demonstrate significance of the proposed development's effect on air quality and suitable mitigation measures, if required. Exceptions will be made where it can be clearly demonstrated that the wider social and economic benefits of the development outweigh the adverse environmental impact.
- 2.3.11 The policy also explains that development proposals on contaminated land, or where there is reason to suspect contamination, must include an assessment of the extent of contamination and any possible risks. Proposals will not be considered favourably unless the land is, or can be made, suitable for the proposed use.
- 2.3.12 The statutory development plan for SHDC currently comprises the 'saved' parts of the South Holland Local Plan (SHLP) (Ref 25.12). The SHLP was originally adopted in 2006, and the policies were then reviewed in 2009 and either 'saved' where relevant or deleted where not. If the policies within the Local Plan are not consistent with the NPPF then policy dictates that they should either be given reduced or no weight.
- 2.3.13 BBC, SHDC, and LCC are in the process of preparing a new local plan, the SELLP, which will guide development in the area until 2036 and act as a replacement for the SHLP. The Plan is currently (May 2017) at draft stage and therefore is considered a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. It is expected the plan will be adopted in Spring 2018.

- 2.3.14 The policies from the SHLP which are of relevance to the NGVL scheme have been summarised and are outlined in the following sections. The relevant policies from the SELLP can be found in section 4.5 and are therefore not repeated here.

South Holland Local Plan 2006 (Saved Policies, 2009)

- 2.3.15 Policy SG14 (Design and Layout of New Development) states that new development should be designed to ensure that it makes a positive contribution to the architectural and visual quality of its surroundings. It should normally respect the vernacular architecture of the area in which it is located although high quality contemporary design will be supported in appropriate contexts. In assessing the design and layout of new development the following matters will be taken into consideration:
1. *“local distinctiveness;*
 2. *the choice of materials;*
 3. *the historic pattern of development in the locality;*
 4. *the relationship of the development to the character, form and scale of existing buildings nearby;*
 5. *the scale, form, and height of the proposed development;*
 6. *architectural detailing;*
 7. *the effect of the development on the amenity of nearby residents in terms of noise, smell, general disturbance, overlooking and loss of light;*
 8. *planting and measures to promote biodiversity;*
 9. *the layout of vehicular access, parking and manoeuvring facilities and the provision of facilities for cyclists and pedestrians;*
 10. *the needs of disabled persons;*
 11. *the use of sustainable materials and methods of construction;*
 12. *measures to reduce the potential for crime and disorder.”*
- 2.3.16 Development that would have an adverse effect on the character and appearance of the locality, or which would prejudice the comprehensive development or redevelopment of an area, will not be permitted.

2.4 Guidance

- 2.4.1 Additional guidance documents relevant to this assessment include the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (Ref. 11)

- 2.4.2 The NPPF details the policy further with relevant paragraphs 131- 135 presented here. Further guidance on all aspects of the NPPF is provided on the Planning Practice Guidance website (Ref. 12), this includes a section entitled *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment*.
- 2.4.3 Historic England (Ref. 8) has also published three Good Practice Advice (GPA) notes of which *GPA 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* is relevant to this study. This document sets out guidance on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes.
- 2.4.4 The GPA 3 recommends the following broad approach to assessment, undertaken as a series of steps that apply proportionately to complex or more straightforward cases:
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| Step 1 | Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected. |
| Step 2 | Assess whether, how and to what degree these settings contribute to the significance of the heritage asset(s). |
| Step 3 | Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance. |
| Step 4 | Explore the way to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm. |
| Step 5 | Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes. |