

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills  
Executive Director for Environment & Economy**

Report to:	<b>Environmental Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>03 March 2017</b>
Subject:	<b>Lincoln Eastern Bypass Archaeology Update</b>

**Summary:**

This report informs the Committee that Beryl Lott, Places Manager will provide a presentation on the current situation with regards to the archaeological findings on the first part of the Lincoln Eastern Bypass (LEB).

**Actions Required:**

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the presentation.

## **1. Background**

There is a statutory responsibility to protect all types of heritage including archaeological remains. The planning consent for the Lincoln Eastern Bypass required substantial archaeological work to be undertaken before any road construction works started.

As part of the original planning application, archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 2002 and 2008 to assess the impact of construction on underlying archaeological remains. This work resulted in identifying a number of areas along the route which had a high potential for significant archaeological remains. As the construction of the road will destroy any archaeological remains it is a condition of the Planning Consent that these remains are professionally excavated and recorded.

Archaeological contractors were appointed in October 2016 concentrating on the land required by Network Rail, who needed part of the land before the end of November 2016. This area of land north and south of the railway line and across the valley of the River Witham had been identified as one of the most potentially significant archaeological areas along the route. It was known that the valley of the River Witham had been an important focus of activity throughout the prehistoric period and that a medieval monastic grange was located somewhere in the vicinity of the railway west of Washingborough. The evaluation work undertaken by 2008 had also shown that there was a potential for Roman remains.

The work undertaken so far on site has shown that there are incredible remains on site. There are extensive remains associated with a 17<sup>th</sup> century farmstead, the medieval monastic grange, a previously unknown medieval stone tower, a Saxon cemetery and extensive Roman remains which are not yet fully understood. In addition to these, extensive prehistoric finds from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods have been identified.

Although the site is still far from being fully investigated it is obvious that this site is the largest Mesolithic site so far identified in the county and one of the largest known sites in the country. It is of national significance as well as revealing a lot about the local heritage of Lincoln which was previously unknown.

## **2. Conclusion**

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the presentation.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

N/A

### **b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

## **4. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Beryl Lott, Places Manager, who can be contacted on (01522) 554838 or [beryl.lott@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:beryl.lott@lincolnshire.gov.uk).