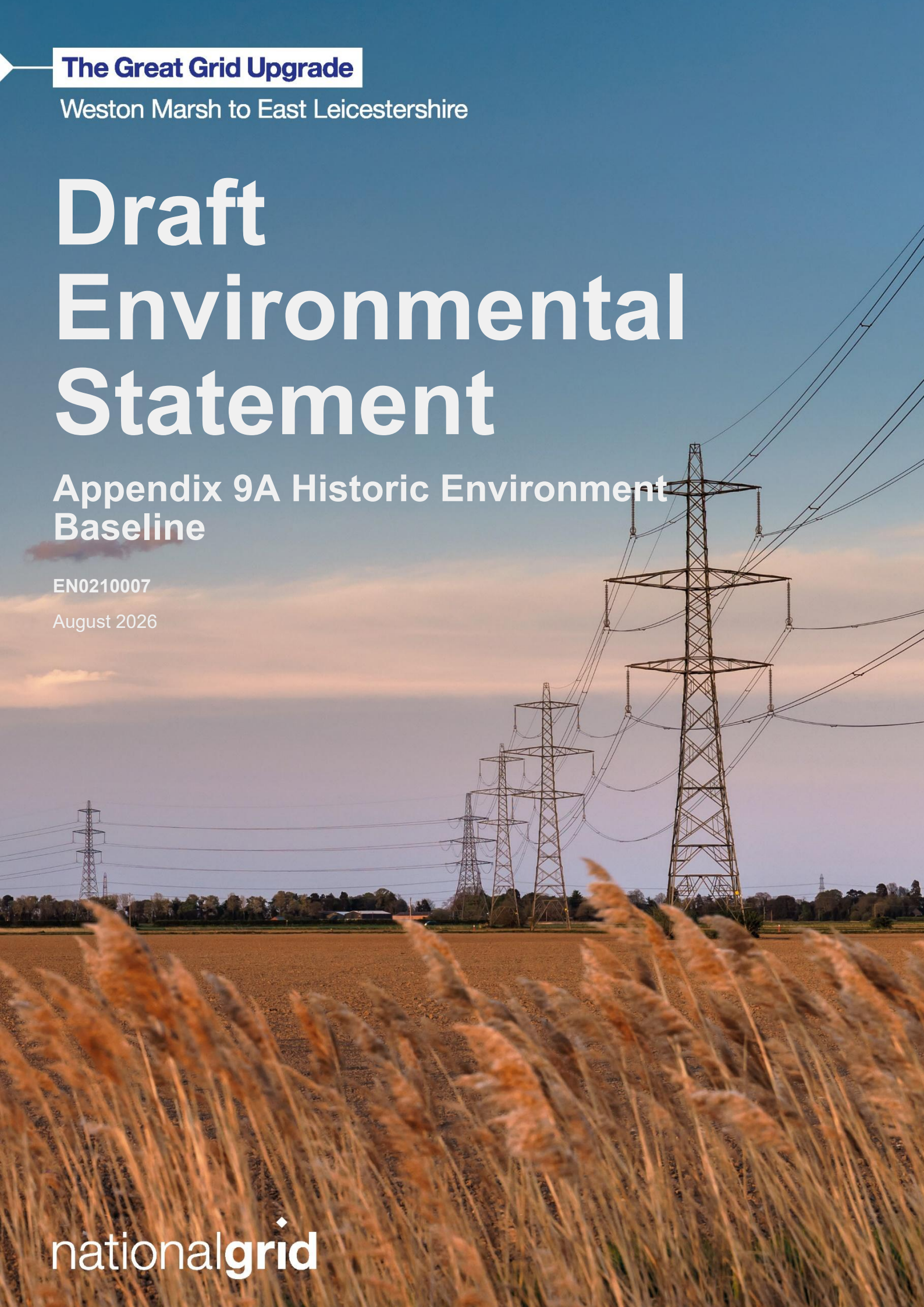




The Great Grid Upgrade

Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire

Draft Environmental Statement

Appendix 9A Historic Environment Baseline

EN0210007

August 2026

nationalgrid

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9A. Historic Environment Baseline Report

9A. Historic Environment Baseline Report

9A.1 Introduction

- 9A.1.1 This Historic Environment Baseline Report has been prepared to support the non-statutory Draft Environmental Statement (DES) (referred to in this document as “DES” and non-statutory DES”) for the Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire project (the Project) and should be read in conjunction with **Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage** of the DES.
- 9A.1.2 This report presents the baseline historic environment resource to inform which heritage assets may potentially be impacted upon by the Project.
- 9A.1.3 The baseline identifies, describes, and collates the baseline historic environment resource identified from desk-based sources, walkover and setting survey within the draft Order Limits and Study Area of the Project.
- 9A.1.4 The report provides an initial assessment of the heritage value of the designated and non-designated heritage assets identified, as well as of the historic landscape. Assessment of value includes any contribution made by the respective heritage asset’s setting.
- 9A.1.5 As part of the assessment process, this report details heritage assets across the Study Area, including those which may not be impacted by the Project. This could be through a lack of physical interaction and therefore no potential for physical effects, and/or due to the land within the draft Order Limits making no contribution to the setting of the heritage asset, and therefore no potential for changes to setting to affect the value of the asset. Where no impact from the Project has been identified through initial screening (see **Appendix 9C Heritage Impact Assessment Screening**), these have been excluded from further assessment in the DES.

Report Structure

- 9A.1.6 The structure of this document is outlined below:
- 1) Introduction including methodology
 - 2) Baseline by Section for Sections 1, 2 and 3, with a description of the following for each part of the Project:
 - a) Location
 - b) Topography
 - c) Geology
 - d) historic landscape characterisation
 - e) designated and non-designated heritage assets
 - f) chronological overview
 - g) archaeological potential

3) Higher level baseline summary for Sections 4 and 5, where there is currently limited potential impact from the Project anticipated

4) References

- 9A.1.7 This report should be read in conjunction with **Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteer** and **Figure 9.1 Designated Heritage Assets**, **Figure 9.2 Non-designated Heritage Assets**, and **Figure 9.3 1st edition Ordnance Survey Mapping**.
- 9A.1.8 Further baseline evidence will be produced for the Environmental Statement (ES), including Geophysical Survey, Trial Trenching and for effects which are not likely to be significant.
- 9A.1.9 Relevant legislation and policy for historic environment is included in **Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context** of the DES and supporting appendices **Appendix 2A Key Legislation**, **Appendix 2B National and Regional Planning Policy** and **Appendix 2C Local Policy**.

Aims

- 9A.1.10 The aims of this report are as follows:
- To establish the nature of the historic environment (both designated and non-designated assets) within the Project's draft Order Limits and Study Area.
 - To assess the potential for any previously unrecorded below ground archaeological remains to survive in the draft Order Limits, which could be impacted by the Project.
 - To inform the assessment of the need and scope for further surveys and investigations to support baseline understanding.
- 9A.1.11 A preliminary assessment of the value of heritage assets identified within the Study Area, including the contribution made by their setting, is included in **Appendix 9C Heritage Impact Assessment Screening** of the DES. This appendix also identifies assets which have been scoped out of further assessment.

Methodology

Study Area

- 9A.1.12 The Study Area used for the cultural heritage assessment is defined in Section 9.5 in **Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage**. A summary of the Study Area, and what is included at each range, is included in **Table 9A.1**.

Table 9A.1 Study Area

Range	Included
Draft Order Limits plus 1 km buffer	All heritage assets
Additional area from 1 km to 3 km from draft Order Limits	All designated heritage assets

Range	Included
Additional area from 3 km to 5 km from draft Order Limits	Only designated heritage assets of the highest value (scheduled monuments, grade I and II* listed buildings and registered parks and gardens, protected wreck, registered battlefields, and World Heritage Sites)

Sources of baseline data

9A.1.13 **Table 9A.2** details the baseline data which has informed this assessment or will be considered and added for the ES.

Table 9A.2 Baseline data

Type	Detail	Source
Datasets	Designated heritage assets (e.g. listed buildings and scheduled monuments)	National Heritage List for England (NHLE)
	Data on potential non-designated heritage assets, past archaeological investigations and Historic Landscape Characterisation mapping	Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire Historic Environment Records (HER)
	Conservation Areas and locally listed heritage assets	Local Authority datasets, Historic England and HERs
Publications	Historic Landscape Characterisation Assessment	Archaeological Data Service
	Archaeological Research Agendas and Resource Assessment	The Research Frameworks Network
	Local history publications	Local history collections in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire Archives
Cartographic	Further detail to be added for the ES	Lincolnshire and Leicestershire Archives
	Ordnance Survey surveyor drawings (early 19 th century)	British Library (accessed via Wikimedia Commons)
	Historic Ordnance Survey (county series) maps	Groundsure
Geological data	1:50,000 bedrock and superficial geology mapping and associated strata descriptions	BGS Onshore Viewer
Previous archaeological investigations	Grey literature reports from previous investigations	HER and Archaeological Data Service

Type	Detail	Source
Survey	Topography, historic landscape, earthwork features, surface evidence	Walkover survey
	Contribution of asset setting to their value	Setting assessment
	Buried archaeological remains, earthworks	Aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment (to be included with ES)
	Paleoenvironmental remains, preservation conditions, depth of strata	Geoarchaeological assessment (to be included with ES)
	Buried archaeological remains	Geophysical (to be included with ES) Trial trenching (to be included with ES)

9A.2 Baseline: Section 1 – South Holland District

Location

- 9A.2.1 Section 1 is the easternmost section of the Project and comprises 11 km of new 400 kV overhead line (overhead line) from the new Weston Marsh Substation B to South Forty Foot Drain, in South Holland.

Topography

- 9A.2.2 Section 1 is located within the Lincolnshire Fens and its topography is extremely low-lying at around 4-5 m AOD and almost entirely flat. A result of this topography is that there are wide views across the landscape, often reaching to the horizon. Where there are tall buildings such as churches, these are visible for long distances.
- 9A.2.3 Human interaction across the Fenlands has led to some changes to the topography; historically, the Fenlands would seasonally flood. Since the 17th century, however, systematic drainage of the area has occurred and, as a result, the underlying peat deposits have dried significantly causing widespread subsidence. Due to the shrinkage of the peat deposits, 'roddons' (alluvial palaeochannel deposits) are now raised above the land around them making them identifiable using LiDAR. The fen roads and flood banks also form high points in the landscape, often several metres above the surrounding fields.

Geology

- 9A.2.4 The geology of this section is mudstone overlain by tidal flat deposits. The mudstones are part of the Oxford Clay Formation which, along with the geologically grouped Kellaways Formation and Osgodby Formation, were laid down during the Jurassic period and are indicative shallow sea environments. The formation group crops out in a swathe from the Yorkshire coast down the east of England and through to southwest England (Ref 9A.1). As well as Mudstone, these formations can include

bituminous clays, siltstone, limestone nodule beds, as well as sandstone, although the Oxford Clay Formation does not contain any which are suitable for building purposes (Ref 9A.2). The mudstones, however, were excavated locally for brick production (Ref 9A.2).

- 9A.2.5 The superficial tidal flat deposits (clay and silt) in this section formed across the low-lying, flat areas of marshland and fen which characterised this area until they were drained in the post-medieval period (Ref 9A.3). These deposits often also include peats. Fenland environments support a wide range of natural resources and have been used by humans as places of hunting, gathering, and settlement from the prehistoric period onwards. While the fens in this area were artificially drained for agriculture, evidence of human activity survives well within the waterlogged belowground conditions. Archaeological remains, including organic materials and paleoenvironmental remains, have been found to survive in many places within this landscape.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 9A.2.6 This section is located within the Fens National Character Area (NCA), which is an expansive and low-lying wetland landscape, mostly now drained and turned over to intensive arable farming (Ref 9A.6).
- 9A.2.7 The eastern part of the site is in The Wash Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) (Ref 9A.13). The Wash is an expansive, estuarine environment, fed by several large rivers. The landscape is low-lying, being at or below sea level, and is likely to only have become 'dry' since the end of the Roman period when sea level receded and deliberate land reclamation efforts began. Much of the area is turned over to agriculture. While arable farming dominates, there is a culture of grazing with livestock kept largely on pasture but let onto arable fields after the harvest as part of the land management practices (Ref 9A.13).
- 9A.2.8 Many of the settlements in the Study Area at Section 1 have early medieval origins (Ref 9A.13). These villages are usually nucleated in form, although ribbon settlements, set alongside historic drove roads along which cattle were walked from drier winter grazing to lush pastoral grazing, are also present (Ref 9A.13). The intentional draining of large areas of The Wash and the neighbouring fenland to the west occurred during the 18th and 19th centuries. Today this is a landscape of large fields, often amalgamated from smaller earlier enclosures, with scattered farmsteads among the fields.
- 9A.2.9 The western stretch of Section 1 is located within the Lincolnshire fens HLCA. Similar to the Wash HLCA, this is a landscape which has been the focus of intensive agriculture over the last two hundred years. The HLCA is characterised by rectilinear fields with boundaries formed of drainage ditches (Ref 9A.13). Before the fens were drained, the landscape comprised a network of rivers, meres, and seasonally inundated land which supported earlier communities as a source of fowl, fish, seasonal grazing and, in some areas, salt production. Settlements are typically nucleated, although there are examples of linear settlements which were formed through the infilling of several dispersed smaller settlement types (for example neighbouring hamlets or close groups of farmsteads) over time.

Designated and non-designated heritage assets

Scheduled monuments

- 9A.2.10 There are no scheduled monuments within this Section of the draft Order Limits.
- 9A.2.11 Within 1 km of the draft Order Limits in this Section there are five scheduled monuments:
- Pinchbeck Engine, a 19th century steam pumping engine (NHLE: 1004966), part of a group with its grade II listed engine house (NHLE: 1146782). These are grouped and referred to as the **Pinchbeck Engine**.
 - Moated site of monastic grange with adjacent earthworks at Rigbolt House (NHLE: 1009979), which is also associated with the listed building (NHLE: 1064459). These two designated assets are described as the **Rigbolt House** group.
 - Moated site of Newhall Grange (NHLE: 1009981), a monastic grange farmstead which was used to provide food and other materials to a parent monastic house.
 - Churchyard Cross, St Mary's Churchyard (NHLE: 1013529), which includes the grade II listed cross itself (NHLE: 1064473) and is part of a group with the grade I listed medieval Church of St Mary (NHLE: 1064475) and several other listed buildings including gravestones, a chest tomb and a lychgate (NHLE: 1064474; 1147556; 1147551). These designated heritage assets are collectively described as the **Church of St Mary, Weston**.
 - Wykeham Chapel (NHLE: 1019096), a moated monastic grange and retreat house which is also associated with three listed buildings (NHLE: 1064471, 1064472, 1147513). These are grouped and referred to as the **Wykeham Chapel** group.
- 9A.2.12 Between 1 and 3 km of the draft Order Limits in this Section there are two further scheduled monuments:
- Elloe Stone (NHLE: 1005037), a decorated early medieval stone marker, which is also a Grade II listed building (NHLE: 1147728). The early medieval stone is set into an early 20th century base, which has an inscription commemorating the 1911 coronation of George V.
 - Medieval moated site and post-medieval gardens at Cressy Hall (NHLE: 1019525). Cressy Hall itself is part of a group with the scheduled monument and is designated as a Grade II* listed building (NHLE: 1064460). These are described as the **Cressy Hall moated site** group.
- 9A.2.13 There are two additional scheduled monuments within the 5 km Study Area of this Section:
- Settlement south of Bank House (NHLE: 1004975), a series of cropmarks identified from aerial photographs and associated with spreads of Roman domestic artefacts as well as briquetage, indicating possible salterns.
 - Kings Hall moated site, 480m east of Broadwater House Farm (NHLE: 1017217), a medieval fortified manor site.

Registered parks or gardens

- 9A.2.14 There are no registered parks or gardens within Section 1 of the draft Order Limits or the 1 km, 3 km, or 5 km Study Areas.

Listed buildings

- 9A.2.15 There are no listed buildings within this Section of the draft Order Limits.
- 9A.2.16 There are 91 listed buildings throughout the Study Areas of this Section. Of these, 10 are designated grade I and 24 are designated grade II* - most of which are churches or high-status residences. The remaining 57 listed buildings are designated grade II.
- 9A.2.17 Within 1 km of this Section of the draft Order Limits there are 19 listed buildings, including two grade I churches and one grade I listed chapel:
- Church of St Lawrence, Surfleet (NHLE: 1064403).
 - Church of St Mary, Weston (NHLE: 1064475), part of the **Church of St Mary, Weston** group.
 - The Wykeham Chapel of St Nicholas (NHLE: 1064471), part of the **Wykeham Chapel** group.
- 9A.2.18 The remaining 16 listed buildings are all designated grade II and comprise high-status houses, farmhouses, barns, an inn, a war memorial, a milestone, and several structures and buildings which are part of groups of assets. The grouped listed buildings are:
- Pinchbeck Engine draining pump (NHLE:1146782), part of the **Pinchbeck Engine** group
 - Rigbolt House (NHLE:1064459), part of the **Rigbolt House** group
 - Gate piers to Chapel Farmhouse (NHLE:1064472) and Chapel Farmhouse (NHLE: 1147513), part of the **Wykeham Chapel** group
 - Cross 9 metres south of south aisle (NHLE:1064473), Row of 7 Gravestones 1-6 metres to south of church (NHLE:1064474), Lychgate (NHLE:1147551), and Tomb Chest approximately 3 metres south of church, which are all part of the **Church of St Mary, Weston** group
- 9A.2.19 Between 1 and 3 km of this Section of the draft Order Limits there are 44 listed buildings, including one grade I church, a grade II* county house and a grade II* vicarage:
- Church of St Mary, Pinchbeck (NHLE:1064433).
 - Cressy Hall (NHLE: 1064460), part of the **Cressy Hall moated site** group.
 - Vicarage to Church of St Paul (NHLE: 1392209).
- 9A.2.20 The remaining 41 listed buildings within 3 km of this Section of the draft Order Limits are all designated grade II and mostly comprise post-medieval houses, along with ancillary buildings, public houses, war memorials, burial monuments and churchyard crosses, farm buildings, chapels and churches, mills, and functional structures including a telephone box and a hand pump.
- 9A.2.21 There are six grade I listed buildings between 3 km and 5 km from this Section of the draft Order Limits:

- Spalding War Memorial (NHLE: 1064002).
- Church of St Peter and St Paul (NHLE: 1064425).
- Church of St Paul including attached former Sunday Schoolroom (NHLE: 1306702).
- Church of St Mary (NHLE: 1359295), part of the **St Mary's Church, Whaplode** group.
- Ayscoughfee Hall (NHLE: 1359532).
- Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicholas (NHLE: 1359547).

9A.2.22 There are also 22 grade II* listed buildings within 3 km and 5 km of this Section of the draft Order Limits. These buildings comprise three churches, several high-status houses, several country houses and estate houses and their buildings – including lodges and gardens – a school, a hotel, and an office block.

Conservation areas

9A.2.23 There are no conservation areas within the draft Order Limits at Section 1.

9A.2.24 There is one conservation area within the 3 km; Pinchbeck Conservation Area (4682). Pinchbeck is included in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as 'Pincebec', possibly meaning 'Minnow Stream' in Old English. Through the medieval period, the land transitioned from being part of two manors, to lands held by Spalding Priory and Crowland Abbey, with another part within the Forest of Kesteven until the 13th century. The fenland to the west was shared common pasture. Salt was an important industry from at least the 13th century, and as land was drained, flax and wheat also became an important source of wealth, reflected in the granting of markets and fairs (Ref 9A.17).

9A.2.25 There are 13 listed buildings within the conservation area that are within the Study Area of this Section. This includes the grade I listed Church of St Mary, as well as the war memorial, vicarage, several agricultural buildings and residential buildings.

Non-designated heritage assets

9A.2.26 In total 162 non-designated heritage assets, including locally listed assets, potential non-designated heritage assets, and areas of ridge and furrow, have been identified. 14 of these are located entirely or partially within the draft Order Limits. It should be noted that this is an initial number, pending surveys and further research, which will inform the ES.

Chronological Overview

Prehistoric

9A.2.27 Prehistoric activity in the Fens is likely to be largely masked by thick deposits of alluvial and peat deposits. Whilst much of the northern areas of the fenlands were dominated by marshlands, areas of southern Lincolnshire underwent a period of marine transgressions and regressions which led to the deposition of thick silt deposits in this area of the Fens, known as the Upper Barroway Drove Beds (3000-2000 BP). This area of the Fens is known as the 'Silt Fens'. An example of deeply deposited early prehistoric remains has been recorded at Cowbit, located

approximately 7-8 km south of the draft Order Limits. Archaeological investigations at Cowbit identified Mesolithic working platforms buried approximately 10 m below ground level, indicating that early prehistoric remains likely survive across the Silt Fens but are largely hidden by thick silt deposits.

- 9A.2.28 The HER includes a late Neolithic to middle Bronze Age settlement site (MLI20198), which suggests a continuity in occupation or other settlement or activity within the area, a single Neolithic find spot of a polished stone axe (MLI22468), and three artefact scatters of Iron Age date (later prehistoric) (MLI120146, MLI120200, MLI120204) within the Study Area.
- 9A.2.29 The three Iron Age sites are associated with settlement evidence of Roman date, potentially suggesting continuity from Iron Age to Romano-British occupation. Although securely dated prehistoric evidence is very limited in the Study Area, there are a greater number of undated records. These are mostly cropmark or excavated evidence of ditches and pits forming parts of enclosures, field systems and settlements. While the majority will be of Roman or later date, some may reflect later prehistoric occupation and farming.

Roman

- 9A.2.30 The Roman settlement of the Silt Fens began in the first century CE, with many small farmsteads and small settlements linked by a series of droveways, which allowed quicker and easier access across the marshlands. These settlements are typically found on higher areas of ground, which would have remained as dry islands amongst the marshier surroundings.
- 9A.2.31 Within the draft Order Limits there are two known Roman sites, both interpreted as possible Romano-British settlements. The first is located north-east of Northgate and comprises five scatters of Roman pottery dating from the 1st to 4th centuries CE, including sherds of amphora which were used for transporting and storing food, wine and oil (MLI20145). At the western end of Section 1, there is a second site comprising enclosures, possible drove roads and potential settlement features. Pottery sherds found at the surface date to the Iron Age and Roman periods (MLI202018).
- 9A.2.32 Within the Study Area, there are a further 12 known sites interpreted as being of Roman date. This includes the scheduled monument Settlement South of Bank House (NHLE: 1004975), which is located approximately 3.9 km south-west of the draft Order Limits. Non-designated sites include scatters of Roman pottery, often mixed with animal bone, oyster and mussel shells, cropmarks of field boundaries, drove roads and drainage systems. At one site (MLI20205), artefacts found on the ground surface also included 'briquetage' and charcoal, which likely indicates Roman salt manufacture.
- 9A.2.33 Between the 3rd and 4th centuries, marine inundations occurred across the landscape close to Pinchbeck and Surfleet, which mean that much of the evidence of this period becoming deeply buried under alluvial deposits. Evidence of this at one of the two Roman sites known within the draft Order Limits (MLI20145), indicates the site largely became uninhabitable in the 4th century CE, having been occupied the previous three centuries.

Early medieval

- 9A.2.34 There is a range of documentary, place name and archaeological evidence for settlement and industry in Section 1 in the early medieval period. The Domesday Survey, undertaken in 1086, provides a record of the extent of settlement at the beginning of the medieval period, giving an indication of earlier settlement patterns. Domesday includes records for Spalding, Sufleet, Pinchbeck, Gosberton and Weston, which all had communities of people working on the land as well as in fishing and salt making (Ref 9A.20). The names of these settlements also indicate an early medieval origin. Weston is derived from the Old English 'west farm', while Sufleet means 'sour stream' and Spalding means 'people of Spalde'. Pinchbeck is more uncertain, either meaning 'minnow stream' or 'finch ridge' depending on whether it is derived from '*pinc bekk*' or '*pinca baec*' respectively (Ref 9A.21).
- 9A.2.35 In the Study Area there is one designated heritage asset (the dual designated Elloe Stone, NHLE: 1147728 and 1005037) and 13 potential non-designated heritage assets of early medieval date. There is also one undated record (MLI16098), ditches identified during archaeological monitoring, which may be early medieval in date based on proximity to nearby remains.
- 9A.2.36 The Elloe Stone (NHLE: 1147728 and 1005037), which is both a scheduled monument and a listed building, is a carved early medieval stone, that was mounted on a plinth in 1911. The inscription on the plinth states that the stone's purpose was to mark the Meeting of the Wapentake of Elloe Courts (Ref 9A.22). It likely stood on the boundary of the Elloe Wapentake, an early medieval administrative region.
- 9A.2.37 Two of the HER records are from within the draft Order Limits (MLI2093 and MLI20208). These are both located north-west of Northgate and are within an area of undated cropmarks (MLI20217), which include enclosure ditches and sinuous features which are likely watercourses. The two settlement sites have been identified from surface artefacts which include pottery sherds and animal bones, as well as slag, which indicates iron working, and quern stone.
- 9A.2.38 The other HER records include evidence from archaeological investigation. Trial trenching of a site in Surfleet (MLI27633) found pits associated with pottery sherds of both medieval and early medieval date, and a deposit of charred cereal grains. Another excavation in Gosberton found evidence of multi-stage occupation from the Middle Saxon period (MLI20123). This included a possible salt working stage and a rectangular building. Charred plant remains from this site provide valuable insights into the use of the surrounding landscape, with barley, wheat, rye, oats, peas, beans, flax and hemp, while animal bones include horse, pig, cattle, sheep, goats, cats, birds and fish. Seven further likely settlement sites are located throughout the Study Area, one of which, Romano-British Early Saxon Settlement (MLI20206), is of particular interest as it suggests continued use from the Roman period through to the early medieval period; which is unusual within the fens. Spreads of pottery have also been found in isolated areas around the Study Area.
- 9A.2.39 Combining the documentary and archaeological evidence creates a picture of a landscape with several small settlements, likely all on higher mounds of ground (either natural or artificially created) with a mixed economy of cereal growing, pasturing sheep, cows and goats, and making salt.

Medieval

- 9A.2.40 In the medieval period, archaeological and historical evidence indicates that there was continuity from the early medieval period in the patterns of settlement, agriculture and salt making. There are 41 identified heritage assets of medieval date in Section 1, including 18 designated assets, and 23 potential non-designated assets.
- 9A.2.41 There are six scheduled monuments, which comprise five moated manorial or monastic sites, and one churchyard cross. There are also 12 listed buildings, all but one of which are designated either grade I or II*, and the single grade II is a dual designation with one of the scheduled churchyard crosses. The majority of the listed buildings are churches which, by virtue of their spiritual significance to their communities and their typical construction in stone rather than more ephemeral materials, are often some of the only surviving medieval buildings. The others include a high-status hall and several urban buildings.
- 9A.2.42 Two non-designated sites are located within the draft Order Limits: a possible medieval drainage ditch or 'dike' (MLI20055), which was originally known as 'New Fendike' but is now known as Hammond Beck, and an extensive area of medieval salterns (MLI23633).
- 9A.2.43 Settlement evidence within the Study Area has been found through identification of pottery scatters, geophysical survey and archaeological investigation. In Pinchbeck, a large quantity of medieval pottery was found in pits and ditches, as well as preserved grains indicating the use of oats, barley, wheat and rye (MLI27119). Another excavation in Pinchbeck found four sunken featured buildings, dating to the 12th-13th centuries (MLI81912). A large spread of pottery found in 'Town Field', Surfleet, also indicates a likely concentration of occupation activity or a settlement (MLI22467 and MLI20139).
- 9A.2.44 There is extensive evidence of salt production in this area in the earlier centuries of the medieval period. Salterns, which survive in places as low earthwork mounds, are typically associated with concentrations of briquetage and other pottery and, where they have been excavated, include spreads of ashy material, peat charcoal and structures such as brine vats. In addition to the salterns within the draft Order Limits, spreads of saltmaking waste and pits containing similar material have been identified near Surfleet (MLI124942, MLI124944, MLI124945) and Pinchbeck (MLI89834), while another near West Marsh Road was identified from geological mapping (MLI89833).
- 9A.2.45 Throughout the medieval period, water management of the fens was undertaken within the tidal areas and earthwork banks were constructed to protect low lying grazing and arable land. One such earthwork, Medieval Seabank in Weston (MLI98445), runs eastward from the current course of the River Welland at the eastern edge of the Study Area.
- 9A.2.46 Much of the medieval economy was reliant on major monastic and religious centres, with two of the large and regionally important monasteries located at Ely and Peterborough, with a third important religious centre located at Lincoln. The monasteries held large tracts of land, which were farmed by a monastic communities known as Granges, distinct from the secular manorial system. The Wykeham Chapel scheduled monument (NHLE: 1019096) is a rare example of a moated monastic grange, retreat house and chapel of the Benedictine order. The monument comprises well surviving standing buildings, earthwork and buried archaeological remains. The standing remains of the chapel of St Nicholas are designated as a grade I listed

building (NHLE: 1064471). The adjoining graveyard lies at the centre of the moated grange and is part of the scheduling. The extant late 17th century Chapel Farmhouse is also a grade II listed building (NHLE: 1147513).

- 9A.2.47 Many of the moated manorial sites on the Silt Fens belonged to the Priory of Spalding, with several of the moated manor sites recorded close to the settlement of Pinchbeck.

Post-medieval

- 9A.2.48 The majority of designated and potential non-designated heritage assets known within Section 1 and the Study Area are of post-medieval date.
- 9A.2.49 There is one scheduled monument of post-medieval date within the Study Area – this is the Pinchbeck Pumping Engine (NHLE: 1004966), which is also a listed building (NHLE: 1146782). There are 74 listed buildings, including farmhouses, churches and chapels, agricultural buildings, houses, public houses and structures such as milestones and gravestones.
- 9A.2.50 There are no scheduled monuments or listed buildings within the draft Order Limits but there are six potential non-designated heritage assets; all of which are farmsteads.
- 9A.2.51 Large portions of the Fenlands were reclaimed in the 17th century, under the Fenlands drainage scheme which was established shortly after the accession of James I in 1603, the work continuing over the next 300 years. The drainage scheme comprised large-scale dewatering and drainage through the excavation of new drainage ditches, sluices, the importing of new soil material and water management through new earthwork banks (Ref 9A.23). The purpose of these schemes was to allow the rich and fertile soils of the catchment to be used year-round for intensive agriculture.
- 9A.2.52 Following the reclamation and drainage of the Fenlands, the smaller field systems were amalgamated, with some of the larger fields sub-divided following the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18th and 19th centuries.
- 9A.2.53 The settlement pattern established in earlier centuries continues through the post-medieval and modern periods, with many of them growing in this period. Several of the high-status ‘manor’ or ‘grange’ sites continue in use, with large farmsteads developing from or replacing the older structures at sites including Cressy Hall (NHLE: 1064460) and The Grange (NHLE: 1063959), both of which are grade II* listed buildings, and Brownlow House (NHLE: 1359315), a grade II listed building. The remaining buildings are either spread amongst the rural parts of the Study Area or concentrated into the villages. The HER includes the sites of multiple farmsteads shown on late 19th century mapping (see **Figure 9.3 1st edition Ordnance Survey Mapping**), although the traditional buildings rarely survive completely. Five of the seven farmsteads located within the Order Limits survive in an altered form (MLI22595, MLI22736, MLI22922, MLI122923, MLI122924, and MLI85278) while two MLI22698 and MLI22742) have been demolished.
- 9A.2.54 A smaller number of potential non-designated heritage sites within the Study Area have been identified from archaeological investigations such as fieldwalking or excavation. These include an artefact scatter identified through systemic field walking prior to the construction of the Spalding Energy Gas Pipeline (MLI85278). This included pottery and tile dating to the 18th and 19th centuries. Spreads such as this

likely reflect the use of domestic waste for ‘manuring’ the fields rather than in situ settlement evidence. Near Surfleet, beyond the Order Limits, bricks found in the ploughsoil, both fired and partially fired, indicate a likely brick making site (MLI22466). A post-medieval cess pit, ditches and a pit have been found during archaeological watching briefs (MLI87004, MLI89197, MLI90962).

Modern

- 9A.2.55 There are five heritage assets identified of modern (20th century) date, comprising four war memorials (the grade I listed Spalding War Memorial (NHLE: 1064002) and the grade II listed Pinchbeck (NHLE: 1064441), Surfleet (NHLE: 1482125), and Weston (NHLE: 1147551) memorials and the Church of St Gilbert and St Hugh (NHLE: 1146623), a grade II listed building. There are no potential non-designated heritage assets.

Undated

- 9A.2.56 There are 24 records within the HER of features of uncertain date. Two of these, both cropmarks identified from aerial photographs, are within the draft Order Limits. One group of cropmark enclosures is close to nearby Roman or early medieval sites and may be of the same date (MLI20217) while the other is interpreted as likely relating to watercourses or drains (MLI90803). Cropmarks or archaeologically observed ditches and pits form the majority of the undated sites within the Study Area, reflecting its agricultural history. There are also two probable droveways, possibly of Roman date (MLI20131 and MLI90803), and earthworks interpreted as a potential medieval moated site at Cheal (MLI23207). A possible salt working site has also been identified at Spalding Golf Course (MLI83167).

Archaeological Potential

- 9A.2.57 There is the potential for archaeological remains throughout the draft Order Limits of Section 1. Previously identified sites and features, as described above, include evidence dating back to the Iron Age, and records from further afield indicate that earlier prehistoric remains may also survive under thick layers of alluvium. The draft Order Limits avoids the modern settlements along the route. As the settlement pattern in the area has remained largely unchanged since the early medieval period, this means that settlement evidence from the last 1000 years is likely to be limited. However, there is clear evidence from artefact scatters of possible Roman or early medieval settlement, especially in the western part of Section 1. There is also likely to be remains of salt working, drainage and agriculture.
- 9A.2.58 Previously unidentified archaeological remains within the draft Order Limits could include archaeological remains and paleoenvironmental deposits, some of which may be waterlogged which would potentially have allowed the preservation of organic remains, particularly within peaty soils.
- 9A.2.59 Geophysical survey and trial trenching will be undertaken to further develop this assessment of archaeological potential and will be reported on in the ES.

9A.3 Baseline: Section 2 – South Kesteven District

Location

- 9A.3.1 Section 2 comprises new overhead line from the South Forty-Foot Drain to the new WMEL-A 400 kV Substation west of Corby Gen, then new overhead line onward to The Drift road south of Sewstern. The approximate length of Section 2 is 31 km.

Topography

- 9A.3.2 Section 2 crosses from the extremely low-lying Lincolnshire Fens in the east into the Kesteven Uplands, with ground levels ranging from 3 m AOD to 132 m AOD at its eastern and western ends.
- 9A.3.3 The easternmost part of Section 2 is almost completely flat, which means there is a marked change as the landscape transitions into the ‘fen margins’, which is characterised by east-facing slopes rising to the higher hills to the west. Through the Kesteven Uplands, which form the majority of Section 2, the ground level ranges through hills and river valleys, with ground levels changing from around 37 m AOD near Stainfield, to around 77 m AOD to the north of Corby Glen, 101 m AOD in the Witham valley east of Sewstern, and finally at 132 m AOD at the boundary with Section 3.

Geology

- 9A.3.4 The eastern stretch of Section 2 extends into the western edge of the fenland landscape of south Lincolnshire and, like Section 1, is underlain by Oxford Clay Formation (mudstone) bedrock and Tidal Flat Deposits (clay and silt) superficial geological deposits. Most of Section 2 crosses the limestone hills bordering Lincolnshire and Leicestershire.
- 9A.3.5 The bedrock shifts through the Northampton Sand Formation (ironstone and limestone) and the Upper and Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Members, collectively known as ‘Lincolnshire Limestone’, with mudstones at the western end.
- 9A.3.6 The ‘Lincolnshire Limestone’ has been quarried for use as building stone throughout Section 2 and beyond since the Roman period (Ref 9A.2). In the medieval period, it was primarily used in the construction of the numerous monastic sites and ecclesiastical buildings of the Lincolnshire fens and fen-edge. As well as its use as a building material, Northampton Sand also contains iron ore and was excavated for use in the production of iron. Limestone is also used in the construction of field boundaries and other walling.
- 9A.3.7 Reflective of the ridgeline and river valley topography of the Kesteven Uplands, most of the superficial geology of Section 2 comprises areas of Till (mid Pleistocene – diamicton) or Alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel). On the highest ridges, there are no recorded superficial deposits, which is reflected in shallower, free draining soils in contrast to the heavier, loamy clays found elsewhere in this section.
- 9A.3.8 Alluvial deposits are present along the watercourses and floodplains – East Glen River West Glen River, and River Witham – and the minor rivers and streams of their various tributaries. Human activity within valleys of this type is common, especially as these environments often provide food and a way to move through the landscape in earlier periods when there would have been dense forest. Because of the potential

for anaerobic (waterlogged) below ground conditions along the rivers, there can be higher levels of archaeological survival. There is also the potential for paleoenvironmental remains, although the relative speed of watercourses tends to wash seeds, pollen or other natural material away.

- 9A.3.9 Because of how they are formed, through the action of glacial meltwater which erodes and moves surface material, areas of Till deposit are not conducive to the survival or archaeological material.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 9A.3.10 The eastern part of Section 2 is within the Fens NCA but the majority of it is within the Kesteven Uplands NCA (Ref 9A.7). This is an area of higher limestone hills which rise above the low-lying fenland fields. Many of the villages are built in the local limestone, giving them a distinctive character, and there are a number of historic estates. This landscape has archaeological remains of all periods.
- 9A.3.11 The eastern end of Section 2, within the fens, has been intensively cultivated agricultural land since drainage between the 17th and 19th centuries. The landscape here is composed of large rectilinear fields with drainage ditches forming the boundaries (Ref 9A.13). Before the fens were drained, there would have been a network of rivers, meres, and seasonally inundated land which supported Prehistoric and Roman communities and scattered Early Medieval farming communities through the provision of fowl, fish, and grazing and, in some areas, salt production. As a result, there are few nucleated settlements with isolated farmsteads being more typical, with irregular linear settlements along historic routeways.
- 9A.3.12 Immediately west of the fens, the landscape rises sharply into the HLCA of the Fen Edge Settlements HLCA, and specifically the 'Southern Cliff'. The Southern Cliff is a north/south aligned limestone escarpment which, as a higher, drier landscape at the fen edge, is known to have been permanently occupied since at least the Iron Age, and certainly used at least seasonally by earlier (Ref 9A.13). The escarpment transitions into a rural landscape of mixed arable and pastoral farming, with field patterns laid out formally during the parliamentary enclosure of the 18th and 19th centuries. Settlements are nucleated and most are likely to have existed in some form from the end of the early medieval period and were documented in the Domesday survey (1086 CE). These settlements often retain their historic cores and have expanded little since the late post-medieval period.
- 9A.3.13 The central and western parts of Section 2 are within the rolling countryside of the 'Kesteven Parklands' HLCA. The parklands landscape is formed of numerous small rolling hills and sheltered river valleys; it is particularly notable for having a large number of historic parks and estates (Ref 9A.13). Within the Study Area, this most notably includes the grade I registered park and garden of Grimsthorpe Castle (NHLE: 1000978). Settlements within this part of Section 2 are small and nucleated in form, often with well-preserved historic cores. While much of the open rural countryside comprises regular parliamentary enclosure, fields around these older settlements area characteristically small with irregular boundaries accompanied by ridge and furrow remains. Enclosure of these open medieval field systems in the post-medieval period was accompanied by new isolated farmsteads, which are scattered throughout the draft Order Limits. In some instances, these farmsteads appear to be associated with the earlier abandoned settlements or manorial sites (such as deserted medieval villages and moated site earthworks) and there is the

possibility that what today appears as a lone farmstead is the remnant of an earlier settlement incorporated into the later enclosed landscape.

Designated and non-designated heritage assets

Scheduled monuments

9A.3.14 There are no scheduled monuments within this Section of the draft Order Limits. Within 1 km of the draft Order Limits in this Section there are nine:

- Remains of medieval gatehouse (NHLE: 1004928), which was likely an entrance to Corby Castle (NHLE: 1005001). Parts of the medieval building are incorporated into a post-medieval barn, which is also designated as a grade II listed building (NHLE: 1165913). Considered as part of a group with other castle-related features in Corby Glen, which will be referred to as '**Corby Castle**'.
- Settlement between Rippingdale Running Dike and Long Drove (NHLE: 1004976). Immediately north of Long Drove, but outside of the 1 km Study Area, is another scheduled monument (NHLE: 1004977). These are considered together as a group: '**Rippingdale Fen Roman Settlement**'.
- Settlement between Long Drove and Dowsby Drain (NHLE: 1004977). Part of a group with the '**Rippingdale Fen Roman Settlement**' group.
- Corby moated mound (NHLE: 1005001), earthwork remains of a moated motte and bailey castle. Considered as part of the '**Corby Castle**' group.
- Remains of Knights Templar preceptory, watermill and fishponds (NHLE: 1007688), a monastery of the military Templar order.
- Dunsby village cross (NHLE: 1009201), a medieval standing cross.
- Corby Glen market cross (NHLE: 1009204), which is also a grade II listed building (NHLE: 1062818), considered together as '**Corby Glen Cross**'.
- Churchyard cross, St Mary's churchyard (NHLE: 1009205), which is also a grade II listed building (NHLE: 1360317). The cross is considered as part of a group with the grade I listed church (NHLE: 1360327) and other designated and non-designated assets within the churchyard (Group: **St Mary's Church, N. Witham**).
- Churchyard cross, St Nicholas' churchyard (NHLE: 1009206), which is also grade II listed building (NHLE: 1062352) and is considered part of the **St Nicholas' Church, Gunby** with the grade II listed church (NHLE: 1147928).

9A.3.15 Between 1 and 3 km of the draft Order Limits in Section 2, there are six further scheduled monuments:

- Rippingdale village cross (NHLE: 1009200), also designated as a grade II listed building (NHLE: 1241286) and considered together as '**Rippingdale Cross**' group.
- Churchyard Cross, St Michael's churchyard (NHLE: 1009202), which is also designated grade II (NHLE: 1146650) and is considered as part of a group (**St Michael's Church, Edenham**) with the grade I listed St Michael's Church (NHLE: 1146587) and other designated and non-designated assets in the churchyard.

- Bassingthorpe Manor moated site (NHLE: 1016475), which is also designated grade I (The Manor House (NHLE: 1062860)) and is grouped with the grade I Church of St. Thomas A Becket as the **Bassingthorpe moated site and church** group.
- Swinstead village cross (NHLE: 1009203), which is also grade II listed (NHLE: 1147041), considered as a group (**Swinstead Cross**).
- The Hermitage moated site, 400m north east of Corby Pasture Farm (NHLE: 1016969), a medieval moated manorial site.
- Tower Hill motte castle, Stainby (NHLE: 1019527), earthwork remains of a medieval castle.

9A.3.16 There are six additional scheduled monuments within the 5 km Study Area in this Section:

- Aslackby Castle (NHLE: 1004952).
- Car Dyke, S of Dyke (NHLE: 1004959), a section of the still extant and in use Car Dyke drain along the fen edge, which was constructed by the Romans. An undesignated section of the drain is crossed by the Project (MLI60706).
- Bourne Castle (NHLE: 1005023), a Norman ringwork castle, later becoming a motte and bailey castle.
- Roman settlement by Fen Road, south of Poplar Farm (NHLE: 1010000).
- Castle Bytham Castle, associated town defences and ponds (NHLE: 1014681).
- Decoy pond 350m south of Aslackby Decoy Farm (NHLE: 1016472).

Registered parks and gardens

9A.3.17 There are no registered parks and gardens within this Section of the draft Order Limits.

9A.3.18 Within the 1 km Study Area of this Section of the draft Order Limits there is one, the grade I Grimsthorpe Castle (NHLE: 1000978). The parkland is approximately 1000 ha and has been developed since the early 16th century, with alterations designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (Ref 9A.24).

9A.3.19 The park includes, and forms the setting for, the grade I listed Grimsthorpe Castle (NHLE: 1062823), which originated in the 13th century, but was redeveloped into a country house after being granted to the tenth Baron Willoughby de Eresby by Henry VIII. The castle, and its surrounding gardens, designed landscapes and parkland was developed through the 16th-20th centuries, notably including a c1723 frontage by Sir John Vanbrugh, and parkland designs from Lancelot Brown and Stephen Switzer.

9A.3.20 The parkland includes numerous designated and non-designated heritage assets, which will be considered as the **Grimsthorpe Castle** group for this assessment.

9A.3.21 There is one registered park and garden within the 3 km Study Area of this Section of the draft Order Limits, the grade II Easton Park (NHLE: 1000976). The parkland, which is approximately 103 ha, is roughly triangular in shape and, while it principally comprises a 19th century landscaped parkland and gardens, has medieval origins as a manor house and village. The manor and village of Easton were sold to Sir Henry Cholmeley in 1592 and remained in the ownership of the Cholmeley family until the

20th century with successive generations making alterations to the park, its gardens, and its buildings throughout this time (Ref 9A.3).

- 9A.3.22 The parkland includes, and forms the immediate setting for, several formal gardens and pleasure grounds, a kitchen garden, and the surviving estate buildings of Easton Hall. Easton Hall itself, the principal building of the park, was demolished in the early 1950s, but the estate buildings, gardens, and other structural designed elements of the parkland (such as bridges, and entrances ways for example) all survive.
- 9A.3.23 The parkland includes several designated heritage assets which will be considered as the **Easton Park** group for this assessment.
- 9A.3.24 There is one registered park and garden within the 5 km Study Area of this Section of the draft Order Limits, the grade II* Stoke Rochford Hall (NHLE: 1000991). The parkland, which is approximately 186 ha, includes the mid-19th century formal gardens set beside the grade I Stoke Rochford Hall (NHLE: 1306963) – which is the principal building of the parkland – and an 18th century landscaped park with 17th century and medieval and Roman connections (Ref 9A.4).
- 9A.3.25 The form and arrangement of the park and gardens as it survives today traces its origin to c.1665 when the first of several iterations of Rochford Hall was built and the formal gardens, parterres, and terraces were laid out. The parkland was extended and landscaped during the late 18th century with the formal gardens surviving largely unchanged until the beginning of the 19th century when W.A. Nesfield was commissioned to redesign the pleasure grounds and to collaborate with William Burn – who was commissioned to build the new Stoke Rochford Hall (NHLE: 1306963) and its formal terraces gardens and approaches (Ref 9A.4).
- 9A.3.26 The parkland includes numerous designated heritage assets which will be considered as the **Stoke Rochford Hall** ground for this assessment.

Listed buildings

- 9A.3.27 There are two grade II listed buildings located within the draft Order Limits of this Section. The buildings are:
- Round House Farm (NHLE: 1065819).
 - Milestone near Norwood Farm (NHLE: 1147109).
- 9A.3.28 There are 353 listed buildings throughout all Study Areas of this Section 2. Of these, 36 are designated grade I and 17 are designated grade II* and comprise churches, manor houses, and high-status post-medieval halls and houses and their associated gardens and ancillary buildings. The remaining 300 listed buildings are all designated grade II.
- 9A.3.29 Within 1 km of the draft Order Limits in Section 2 there are 162 listed buildings. Of these, 10 are grade I, two are grade II*, and the remaining 150 are grade II.
- 9A.3.30 The grade I listed buildings are:
- Church of St John the Baptist, South Witham (NHLE: 1062325).
 - Summer House (NHLE: 1062789), an early 18th century house by Sir John Vanbrugh.
 - Willoughby Memorial Library and Art Gallery (NHLE: 1062848), a former school founded in 1669.

- Church of All Saints (NHLE: 1165123).
- Church of St John (NHLE: 1309158), which is considered as part of a group with the church and churchyard gatepiers (**St John's Church, Corby Glen** group)
- Church of St Thomas A Becket, Burton-le-Coggles (NHLE: 1317197).
- Church of St Mary, Swinstead (NHLE: 1360128).
- Church of St Andrew (NHLE: 1360134), part of the **Church of St Andrew, Haconby** group with a table top tomb in its churchyard.
- Church of St John the Baptist (NHLE: 1360309), considered part of a group with gatepiers and tombs in its churchyard (**Church of St John the Baptist, Colsterworth** group).
- Church of St Mary (NHLE: 1360327), considered as part of the **St Mary's Church, N Witham** group along with gravestones and a churchyard cross.

9A.3.31 The grade II* listed buildings are:

- Heggy's Cottage (NHLE: 1062712), a late 16th century cottage.
- Church of St Nicholas, Swayfield (NHLE: 1360127).

9A.3.32 The grade II listed buildings include post-medieval houses, farmhouses, agricultural buildings, public houses, as well as milestones, telephone boxes, non-conformist chapels, war memorials, and industrial buildings.

9A.3.33 Between 1 and 3 km of the draft Order Limits in Section 2 there are 164 listed buildings. Of these, 11 are grade I, seven are grade II*, and the remaining 148 are grade II.

9A.3.34 The grade I listed buildings are:

- Woolsthorpe Manor House (NHLE: 1062362), a 17th century farm house and birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton.
- Grimsthorpe Castle and north court (NHLE: 1062823), which is the primary building within the grade I registered park and garden of the same name, and the core of the buildings within the **Grimsthorpe Castle** group.
- Church of St Thomas A Becket (NHLE: 1062858), which is part of the **Bassingham moated site and church** group.
- The Manor House (NHLE: 1062860), which is part of the **Bassingham moated site and church** group.
- Church of St Mary Magdalene (NHLE: 1062863), part of the **St Mary Magdalen, Bitchfield** group with a grade II listed chest tomb in the churchyard (NHLE: 1062864).
- Church of St Michael and All Angels (NHLE: 1146587), part of the **St Michael's Church, Edenham** group with designated and non-designated heritage assets within its churchyard, including a medieval cross, gatepiers, chest tombs and the vicarage.
- Irnham Hall (NHLE: 1146898), which is considered as the **Irnham Hall** group with its grade II listed walled garden (NHLE: 1062811).
- Church of St Mary and All Saints (NHLE: 1166122).

- Church of St Andrew, Rippingdale (NHLE: 1260603).
- Church of St Andrew (NHLE: 1308771), which is considered as part of the **St Andrew's Church, Irnham** group with gateway and railings and a tomb in the churchyard.

9A.3.35 The grade II* listed buildings are:

- Castle Farm House (NHLE: 1062773), a farmhouse dating from around 1600 with 17th century alterations and later minor additions.
- Stoken Hall (NHLE: 1073203), a substantial county house reflecting multiple phases of development from the early 17th century through to the late 19th century.
- Gardener's Cottage (NHLE: 1166363), which is part of a group with other designated and non-designated assets in the grounds of Grimsthorpe Castle (**Grimsthorpe Castle** group).
- Church of St Nicholas, Thistleton (NHLE: 1177828).
- 4 garden ornaments on south terrace at Grimsthorpe Castle (NHLE: 1308944), which is part of a group with other designated and non-designated assets in the grounds of Grimsthorpe Castle (**Grimsthorpe Castle** group).
- 3 statues east of Grimsthorpe Castle (NHLE: 1360074), which is part of a group with other designated and non-designated assets in the grounds of Grimsthorpe Castle (**Grimsthorpe Castle** group).
- Chapel Cottage (NHLE: 1365619), which has medieval origin and is notable for its historic fabric and contribution to the character of the settlement of Colsterworth.

9A.3.36 The grade II listed buildings include post-medieval houses, farmhouses, agricultural buildings, public houses, as well as milestones, telephone boxes, non-conformist chapels, war memorials, and industrial buildings.

9A.3.37 Additionally, there are 15 grade I and eight grade II* listed buildings between 3 km and 5 km from Section 2 of the draft Order Limits. These include churches, two early medieval decorative cross-shafts, a priory, manor houses and other high-status houses and halls and their garden structures and parkland structures and associated ancillary buildings.

Conservation areas

9A.3.38 There are no conservation areas within the draft Order Limits at Section 2.

9A.3.39 There are eight conservation areas within the 1 km and 3 km Study Areas of the draft Order Limits in Section 2. The conservation areas protect the historic settlements of Irnham, Morton, Swinstead, South Witham, Burton-le-Coggles, Corby Glen, Dunsby, and Woolsthorpe by Colstleworth. Of the 332 listed buildings within the 1 km and 3 km Study Areas, 131 of these are located within one of these conservation areas.

9A.3.40 Morton Conservation Area is located approximately 1.5 km south of the draft Order Limits and is the southern of two conservation areas in the fen margins HLCA. There are 19 listed buildings within the conservation area, including the grade I listed Church of St John the Baptist, which is the focus of key views in the conservation area, as well as grade II listed houses, the wall and gate lodges to the Grange, the war memorial, stables, vicarage, K6 telephone box, two barns and a farmhouse. The village has its origins in the early medieval period with its name derived from the Old English 'mor'

and ‘tun’, meaning farmstead on the moor/marsh. It is formed by a ribbon of development along an east-west axis with buildings of limestone rubble and brick. Views beyond the conservation area are relatively limited by the building frontages, but there are glimpses of the wooded hills to the west, to the spire of the church in Haconby to the north-east, and across the countryside to the south-east (Ref 9A.25).

- 9A.3.41 Dunsby Conservation Area is also located in the fen margins and, at its closest point, is approximately 720m north of the draft Order Limits. There are 11 listed buildings within the conservation area, including the grade I Church of All Saints as well as grade II listed cottages, houses and farmhouses. The village has a rural character, with a mixture of cottages and farmhouses built in brick with fields immediately beyond. There are high hedges along the roads in the village, which limit views, but where there are breaks the largely flat landscape to the north and south allows long views, including towards the draft Order Limits.
- 9A.3.42 Irnham Conservation Area is located in the Kesteven Parklands HLCA and sits on the western slopes overlooking the East Glen River, with higher ground to the south and west. It is approximately 2 km north of the draft Order Limits. There are 22 listed buildings within the conservation area, including two designated grade I, which are Irnham Hall and the Church of St Andrews. The other listed buildings include houses and cottages, a public house, a former school, stables, and a post-office. The rising ground to the west and south limits the potential for views towards the Project, and views are further enclosed by hedges and woodland.
- 9A.3.43 Swinstead Conservation Area is located in the Kesteven Parklands HLCA, approximately 1.5 km south of the draft Order Limits. There are 24 listed buildings within it, including the grade I Church of St Mary and grade II listed houses, an old school, public houses, a K6 telephone box and a village standing cross.
- 9A.3.44 Corby Glen Conservation Area is, at its closest, approximately 235 m south of the draft Order Limits, and approximately 1.2 km east of the proposed WMEL-A location. There are 28 listed buildings within it, including the grade I listed Willoughby Memorial library and Art Gallery and grade I listed Church of St John, as well as the grade II listed post-office, public house, Roman Catholic Church, a pump, milestone, smithy, war memorials, houses and farmhouses. Today Corby Glen is a large village, but it was formerly a small market town, endowed with a fair and market in the 14th century. It was founded in the early medieval period by the Danes and was within the Danelaw. It was an important local centre, with the Wapentake of Beltisloe meeting in the Market square (Ref 9A.26). The majority of key views within the conservation area are focused inwards. However, there is a key view northward along High Street, towards the draft Order Limits (Ref 9A.27).
- 9A.3.45 Burton-le-Coggles Conservation Area is located approximately 340m north of the draft Order Limits and approximately 550 m north-east of the proposed WMEL-A location. There are six listed buildings within it, including the grade I listed Church of St Thomas a Becket and the grade II listed Old Rectory, along with three barns, a pigeoncote and stables at Manor Farm, and a K6 telephone box. It is located on the eastern edge of rising ground, so has longer views to the north and east than to the higher ground to the south and west.
- 9A.3.46 South Witham Conservation Area is located approximately 1.2 km south of the draft Order Limits. There are nine listed buildings within it, including the grade I listed Church of St John the Baptist, as well as a public house, houses and farmhouses and barns. It has an enclosed character due to its narrow roads and hedgerows and woodland limit views out over the surrounding countryside (Ref 9A.28).

- 9A.3.47 Woolsthorpe by Colstreworth Conservation Area is located approximately 1.2 km northwest of the draft Order Limits. There are 12 listed buildings within it, including the grade I Woolsthorpe Manor House and the grade II* Chapel Cottage. The remaining listed buildings are all grade II and comprise barns, cart sheds and stables as well as a lodge and house. The conservation area is focussed around Woolsthorpe Manor House and its associated ancillary buildings and grounds – which comprises the historic core of the conservation area. The conservation area is set within a wider rural landscape of open fields, woodlands, and river valley; all of which contribute to the tranquil rural feel of the conservation area and the rest of the village which is located to the north of the historic core.

Non-designated heritage assets

- 9A.3.48 In total 424 non-designated heritage assets, including locally listed assets, potential non-designated heritage assets, and areas of ridge and furrow, have been identified. 53 of these are located entirely or partially within the draft Order Limits. It should be noted that this is an initial number, pending surveys and further research, which will inform the ES.

Chronological Overview

Prehistoric

- 9A.3.49 The HER includes 54 records within the Section 2 Study Area relating to features of likely prehistoric date, including excavated remains and sites identified from findspots/artefact scatters and cropmarks.
- 9A.3.50 The earliest evidence comes from an excavation at Chapel Hill, approximately 600 m south of the draft Order Limits, where a possibly Mesolithic flint blade was found (MLI98533). In the Mesolithic period, the limestone hills may have been an important routeway for hunter gatherers, allowing passage through its valleys from north to south, while still giving access to the resources of the fenlands to the east.
- 9A.3.51 There is more evidence from the Neolithic, which is a period where people gradually cleared areas of woodland and developed a mixture of semi-sedentary agriculture with nomadic pastoralism. In the Kesteven uplands in the western part of Section 2, this may have started around 3000 BCE, but evidence from around Bourne suggests that the fen margins remained wooded until the Bronze Age (Ref 9A.29). Within the Study Area, there are 18 records relating to artefacts found of Neolithic date. These include polished stone axes, which may have had a functional use for woodland clearance but could also have been symbolic artefacts (MLI33713 and MLI34843) as well as leaf shaped arrowheads which likely indicate that people were hunting game (MLI86098 and MLI33707). The remaining artefacts are individual flint flakes or small tools, including a boring tool (MLI33147) and several scrapers, which would have been used for working animal hide (MLI33136, MLI33367, MLI33368, MLI33370, MLI33371, MLI83937).
- 9A.3.52 From the Bronze Age, there is more substantive evidence of settlement, ritual activity and burial. There are 10 records of Bronze Age date in the HER, including two within the draft Order Limits, both identified from aerial imagery. These two sites are a possible round barrow (MLI84042) and a ring ditch, which could be a further barrow or a possible roundhouse (MLI97701). Elsewhere in the Study Area, Bronze Age records include one findspot – of an early Bronze Age axe (MLI33695), and a series

of cropmarks and soil marks interpreted as a possible settlement site (MLI34387), ring ditches (MLI97699, MLI97700 and MLI97705), and a possible barrow (MLI88494).

- 9A.3.53 There are 18 records in the HER dating from the Iron Age, including four within the draft Order Limits. These are three likely salt working sites at Haconby (MLI34430, MLI34433, MLI34432), which were identified through a combination of aerial photography and fieldwalking, and field boundaries and a storage pit excavated as part of the construction of a gas pipeline near Stainfield (MLI34920). Within the Study Area, a concentration of likely Iron Age enclosures has been identified near Corby Glen (MLI26393, MLI98605), perhaps indicating a meeting place near the river crossing where livestock were held while being moved for seasonal pasture. Several further salt-working sites have been identified in the fen margins and edge of the fenland (MLI34389, MLI33112 and MLI33109), while possible settlement is indicated by artefact scatters (MLI26394) or Iron Age pottery found in later Roman sites (MLI34393, 34424, 34685) and an excavated roundhouse (MLI33890).
- 9A.3.54 In addition to these more securely dated records, there are five which are identified in the HER as just being of prehistoric or later prehistoric date. These include cropmark enclosures and linear boundaries (MLI84040, MLI84065, MLI86084, MLI88496) and a scatter of 13 flint flakes (MLI26395).

Roman

- 9A.3.55 There are 91 records of Roman date within the HER across the Section 2 Study Area, including 10 within the draft Order Limits.
- 9A.3.56 The Roman conquest and settlement of Britain occurred in the 1st century CE, with its initial years characterised by focused military advance along key routeways in combination with strategic allegiances with local tribal groups. A big part of the early military advance was to gain control over the Trent valley and the Humber, crossing through this part of the draft Order Limits. Section 2 is bisected by two major Roman routeways. The first is Ermine Street (MLI60638), now followed by the modern A1, which was one of the most important routeways in the country, linking London to the major military centres of Lincoln and York. There was also a road connecting Bourne and Ancaster, the conjectured line of which runs through the draft Order Limits to the west of Stainfield (MLI33097).
- 9A.3.57 Another major piece of Roman infrastructure found in Section 2 is the Car Dyke (MLI60706). This was an artificial channel, originally around 15 m wide and up to 4 m deep, which acted to drain the land on the margins of the fens. While sections of it are designated as scheduled monuments (see section 9A.3.16), the majority of it is undesignated and is mostly incorporated into the modern network of drainage channels.
- 9A.3.58 Along the fen margins, both within the draft Order Limits and the Study Area, there are several saltern sides, which have been identified through cropmarks or earthworks associated with artefact scatters including the distinctive briquetage of Roman salt manufacture (MLI34394-5, MLI34399). There is also evidence of Romano-British settlement near Haconby, where surface artefact collection has found scatters of fired clay, pottery, tile and animal bone (MLI34426-7).
- 9A.3.59 In the central part of Section 2, within the draft Order Limits, two Roman sites have been identified from artefacts at Corby Glen (MLI33716, MLI33710).

- 9A.3.60 Evidence similar to that found within the draft Order Limits has been identified across the Study Area, including artefact scatters, saltern sites and evidence of settlement. Additionally, surviving sections of Roman road have been recorded at Haconby (MLI33125) and Irnham Park (MLI33722), and there are extensive cropmarks of enclosures and trackways across the area.

Early medieval

- 9A.3.61 There are 23 records of early medieval date within the HER in Section 2, of which two are located within the draft Order Limits. The two records within the draft Order Limits are of ridge and furrow earthworks near Corby Glen (MLI27693-4), which are slight earthworks formed by early forms of ploughing. Ridge and furrow is typically attributed to the medieval period, and these are attributed to the early medieval/medieval periods in the HER, so these are likely the result of either later agriculture or originate in the very end of the early medieval period. They do, however, form part of a wider evidence base that the majority of the settlements in this area have their origins in the early medieval period.
- 9A.3.62 Place name evidence suggests that the present-day villages may have begun as farmsteads or small villages in the early medieval period (Ref 9A.21). Names with a 'ton' or 'ham' component, such as Burton-le-Coggles, Morton, or Irnham, retain an Old English element referring to a farmstead or village. There are also many names which include a 'by' component, which has an Old Norse origin, also meaning farmstead. Examples include ending are likely to be derived from the Old English 'tun', which is a fortified farmstead or settlement (e.g. Dunsby, Haconby, Corby). Further evidence of this comes from the Domesday Survey of 1086, which includes records for many of these settlements (Ref 9A.20).
- 9A.3.63 Other evidence of early medieval settlement come from the remains of a cross in the churchyard of St Mary's Church in North Witham (MLI30583), and early medieval pottery found in artefact scatters or during excavation. Near Haconby, there is a faint soil mark associated with one of these artefact scatters, which likely indicates a buried settlement site of this date (MLI34420).
- 9A.3.64 A possible early medieval cemetery was recorded in 174 when three male skeletons with long knives were found near Ermine Street at South Witham (MLI33616).

Medieval

- 9A.3.65 There are 150 designated and potential non-designated heritage assets within the Section 2 Study Area. The designated assets include castles, moated sites and religious sites and buildings.
- 9A.3.66 This area was clearly strategically important, with a number of Norman castles, now mostly surviving as earthwork 'mottes' or with later stone buildings replacing the earlier fortifications (NHLE: 1004952, 1014681, 1005023, 1005001). There are several key routeways, most notably the Great North Road (now the A1), running through it, and it also marks a transition in the landscape between the River Trent and the fens. It also became important for monastic houses, who established priories and hermitages in this area (NHLE: 1016969, 1016475). This includes a preceptory founded by the Knights Templar on a hill overlooking the Witham Valley near South Witham (NHLE: 1007658).
- 9A.3.67 There are 100 HER records of medieval date in Section 2. Of these, 14 are within the draft Order Limits. A deserted medieval village has been recorded at Elsthorpe to the

east of Corby Glen (MLI33654). This may be the village of Souththorpe, which is recorded in the Domesday Survey, but there is a second possible location for this included in the HER, although no earthworks or surface evidence has been found at that site (MLI33649).

- 9A.3.68 Near Edenham, a holloway, surviving as both cropmarks and earthworks have been recorded (MLI33654). Another earthwork site, a pillow mound (used for rabbit farming) is also located near Edenham within the draft Order Limits (MLI33647).
- 9A.3.69 Within the draft Order Limits are traces of ridge and furrow (MLI84064, MLI82395-6) and blocks of ancient woodland (MLI34350, MLI34353). Sherds of medieval pottery have also been found near Corby Glen (MLI33717)
- 9A.3.70 Within the Study Area the HER includes details of medieval woodland, including blocks designated as ancient woodland, which is recorded and assessed within **Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity**. Other woodland included in the HER has since been felled, such as Mill Wood near North Witham (MLI34302) and the dataset also has details such as the presence of earthwork wood banks and documentary references to the wood in historic texts (e.g. Twyford Forest, MLI34308).
- 9A.3.71 Another major component of the medieval landscape evidenced in the HER data is ridge and furrow. This is recorded across much of the Study Area and gives an indication of the extent of medieval farming, although later intensive agriculture will have removed examples of this in places. Associated with the ridge and furrow there is evidence of deserted medieval settlement (MLI88635 and MLI32932) as well as high status moated sites (MLI91716, MLI82376, MLI80057, MLI33893 and MLI25610). A medieval deer park has been recorded at Irnham (MLI34177) and possible fishponds at Corby Glen (MLI34197).
- 9A.3.72 There is also a possible medieval refuge site near Burton-le-Coggles. Recorded as a series of earthworks (MLI33875) their size, situation and surviving form is comparable to medieval refuges encountered elsewhere in the Lincolnshire which often date to no earlier than the 12th century.

Post-medieval

- 9A.3.73 There are 415 records of designated and potential non-designated heritage assets of post-medieval date in the Section 2 Study Area.
- 9A.3.74 There is one scheduled monument of post-medieval date, which is a decoy pond near Aslackby Decoy Farm (NHLE: 1016472). This was a pond surrounded by a series of curving channels, known as pipes, which was used to trap birds. These rarely survive, although they were popular in the 18th and 19th centuries, and this decoy was itself one of five (Ref 9A.30).
- 9A.3.75 The grade I and grade II* listed buildings in the Study Area are mostly high-status houses and associated features. This includes Woolsthorpe Manor House, the grade I listed birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton and the place where he formulated his theories on gravity and light (NHLE: 1062362). There are several other manor houses, several of which are of particular architectural interest, such as the Summer House which was designed by Sir John Vambrugh (NHLE: 1062789) and Aslackby Manor which is noted for its 'Fen Artisan Mannerism', which is an architectural tradition unique to this area (NHLE: 1062750).
- 9A.3.76 The HER has 111 records of post-medieval date, three of which are within the draft Order Limits. These are an extant 19th century farmstead (MLI16691), the site of a

park lodge associated with Birkholme House (MLI92382) and a concentration of slag and baked clay furnace linings indicating an ironworking site near Corby Glen (MLI33711).

- 9A.3.77 The HLCA that the central and western parts of Section 2 are within is known as the Kesteven Parklands, the name reflecting the large number of historic estates in the limestone hills. Within the Study Area, the most extensive and well-preserved of these are the landscape ground and deerpark around Grimsthorpe Castle (see Section 9A.3.13 and 9A.3.17 - 9A.3.20), but there are others which can be traced in historic maps and in traces left in the landscape. One of these is Haconby Hall Park (MLI98390), which was associated with the grade II listed Haconby Hall (NHLE: 1062713). An avenue of trees at the grade II listed Bulby Hall (NHLE: 1062802) is a fragment of a similarly lost area of parkland (MLI98393).
- 9A.3.78 Across the Section 2 Study Area there are a large number of post-medieval farmsteads, both extant and now demolished. These form part of the historic landscape of enclosed fields, created during the 18th and 19th centuries, and reflecting a shift from the farming of small strips of land in the medieval open field system, to the intensive cultivation of enclosed fields with tenant farmers living in isolated farmsteads spread across the landscape. Windmills near Morton and at Corby (MLI33155 and MLI81755) may have provided drainage or been focused on processing grain.

Modern

- 9A.3.79 There are 18 20th century designated and potentially non-designated heritage assets in Section 2.10 of these are grade II listed buildings and include war memorials and telephone boxes.
- 9A.3.80 There are eight records of 20th century date within the HER data for Section 2. Three of these are within the draft Order Limits, all of which date from the Second World War, and comprise a pillbox at North Witham (MLI34950), a probable searchlight battery sight identified from aerial photographs (MLI88633) and RAF North Witham, which was an airbase which operated between 1943-1952 (MLI82379).
- 9A.3.81 Beyond the draft Order Limits, but also associated with RAF North Witham, is the control tower (MLI25806). This was considered for listing in 2018 and although it did not meet the criteria for designation it will have historical and potentially architectural interest. Also within the Study Area is a pillbox near the railway line (MLI34951) and Wesleyan Chapel (MLI99281) in Corby Glen.
- 9A.3.82 Approximately 900 m south of the draft Order Limits at the proposed WMEL-A site is the recorded crash site of a Second World War Lancaster Bomber (MLI89212). A crash site such as this would be classed as Protected Military Remains and recorded locations may not reflect the full extent of debris. In this instance, the aircraft's engines were still running at the time it crashed, and there is no mention of any breakup in the air. This, along with description of an impact crater and documentation of the recovery of the crew's bodies and 21st century identification of aircraft parts at this location, makes it unlikely that there would be any fragmentary remains within the draft Order Limits.

Undated

- 9A.3.83 There are 34 records within the HER for Section 2 of features of uncertain date. Two of these are within the draft Order Limits, one a series of cropmark enclosures and linear features (MLI25382) and the other a linear depression found to be associated with a large spread of saltern related material (MLI33127). Across the Study Area, the records which have not been dated securely are mostly cropmarks and are likely to be prehistoric, Roman or early medieval field systems, settlement or even potentially burial evidence (MLI25136, MLI125445, MLI25626, MLI127692, MLI33104, MLI33178, MLI134734-5, MLI134741, MLI34749, MLI34788, MLI34795, MLI88495). Other undated records include the findspot and artefact scatters, including cinerary urns (MLI33099) and an iron axehead (MLI33655).

Archaeological Potential

- 9A.3.84 There is the potential for archaeological remains throughout the draft Order Limits of Section 2. There is evidence of settlement in the higher limestone hills and fen margins from the Neolithic period, and there could be earlier temporary occupation sites dating from the Mesolithic.
- 9A.3.85 The eastern part of Section 2 is in the low-lying drained fenlands which are also found in Section 1. The archaeological potential in this part of Section 2 is high, with multiple known sites in the vicinity including salterns of Roman through medieval date, and evidence of Roman settlement through combined cropmark and findspot evidence. In the fens, there are likely to be deep and potentially waterlogged soils, where there may be preservation of organic archaeological remains.
- 9A.3.86 The fen margins extend in a narrow north-south band along the eastern face of the limestone Kesteven uplands. This area has numerous settlements dating back to at least the medieval period and there are known archaeological sites including cropmarks of prehistoric field systems, ring ditches (which could indicate burial or settlement, and Roman settlement. The Roman car dyke is crossed by the draft Order Limits in this area, and there could be evidence of its construction, as well as prehistoric and Roman settlement in its vicinity. The village of Haconby, which has early medieval origins, is immediately south of the draft Order Limits and there is the potential for remains of this date around it.
- 9A.3.87 The remainder of Section 2 is within the Kesteven Parklands HLCA, which is an area of rolling hills and river valleys with large areas of woodland. In cultivated areas, there is evidence of settlement of all periods indicated through cropmarks and earthworks, and LiDAR evidence indicates there may be similar remains within woodlands that have developed in more recent centuries.
- 9A.3.88 Across the area within the draft Order Limits in Section 2 there is evidence of settlement, agriculture, industry and ritual activity from the prehistoric to the present. Geophysical survey and trial trenching will be undertaken to further develop this assessment of archaeological potential and will be reported on in the ES.

9A.4 Baseline: Section 3 – Melton Borough

Location

- 9A.4.1 Section 3 comprises approximately 20 km of new overhead line from The Drift road to the new WMEL-B 400 kV Substation, and reconductoring of approximately 14 km of the existing 400 kV ZA overhead line from WMEL-B to an area near the B6047 south of Twyford.

Topography

- 9A.4.2 Section 3 skirts the edge of the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds, following the higher ground from Sewstern to Ashfordby, where it crosses the Wreake valley before crossing into the higher ground on the southern side of the valley.
- 9A.4.3 At its eastern end, south of Sewstern, the ground level within the draft Order Limits is approximately 135 m AOD, rising to around 144 m AOD to cross a ridge before following the rolling hills to the north of Ashfordby, which is at approximately 125 m AOD. The proposed site for WMEL-B is at this elevation. From there, the existing overhead line crosses the River Wreake at approximately 66 m AOD before rising to approximately 120 m at Twyford, which is the boundary with Section 4.

Geology

- 9A.4.4 Section 3 is underlain by a variety of bedrock formations, the most extensive of which underly its central north/south route and the eastern stretch between Melton Mowbray and the western edge of the Limestone hills in Section 2. Bedrock formations found in these areas comprise:
- Charmouth Mudstone Formation (mudstone), north of Melton Mowbray;
 - Blue Lias Formation (Mudstone), from around Melton Mowbray south; and
 - Whitby Mudstone Formation (Mudstone), north of Melton Mowbray.
- 9A.4.5 Formations of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone underlay the landscape north of Melton Mowbray, some of which are used as building stone along the Lincolnshire/Leicestershire border and throughout the rest of Section 3. Known as Marlstone Rock, or sometimes simply 'Marlstone', Marlstone Rock is a common feature of rubblestone structures (Ref 9A.2). They are often used in their natural undressed form in rural buildings and garden walls, but dressed Marlstone is also found in higher status buildings such as churches and country houses. Iron ore is also present in both Charmouth and Whitby Mudstone Formations and would have been extracted for use in historic iron production.
- 9A.4.6 Stone of the Dyrham formations, found in the north and east parts of Section 3, was historically used as freestone, most likely because of its porous nature and ease of extraction. Known as 'Sandrock' it was used as dressings in buildings but tends not to survive and is often replaced or repaired with Lincolnshire Limestone (Ref 9A.10).
- 9A.4.7 The Blue Lias Formation is found along the north-south alignment of the draft Order Limits through Section 3 and 4 (Ref 9A.10). Historically, it was extensively worked in the manufacture of cement, but some extraction took place for use in domestic buildings with the stone often used as floor slabs and wall stones. Blue Lias is rarely used in the construction of a whole building but is widely used as a repair material.

- 9A.4.8 The superficial geology of Section 3 comprises various glacial till deposits, the most prevalent and extensive of which are Till (mid Pleistocene- diamicton) and Oadby Member (diamicton). Areas of Oadaby Member interact with areas of Oadby Member Lias-Rich (diamicton) deposits around Melton Mowbray and along the eastern edge of the north/south stretch of Section 3. Areas of Lias-Rich Oadby Member are often located on valley edges where the upper reaches of watercourses – usually streams underlain by Head (clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits) – move water down to the tributaries of the River Wreake. Because of how they are formed, through the action of glacial meltwater which eroded and moved surface material, these areas of glacial till and Head are not conducive to the survival or archaeological material.
- 9A.4.9 The lower reaches of the numerous tributary rivers which flow into the River Wreake and Gaddesby Brook (the main watercourses in Section 3), and their respective floodplains, are underlain by deposits of Alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel). Because riverine environments often provide food and a way to move through the landscape, human activity in these areas is common. This, combined with the anaerobic (waterlogged) below-ground conditions that can be present, means that both organic and inorganic archaeology can be well preserved in these areas. There is also potential for paleoenvironmental deposits, although the relative speed of watercourses tends to wash seeds, pollen or other natural material away.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 9A.4.10 The east-west section of Section 3, between Sewstern and WMEL-B, are located within the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds NCA (Ref 9A.8), crossing into the High Leicestershire NCA as it turns south (Ref 9A.9). Both have a long history of rural settlement, supported by a mixture of arable and pastoral farming. Traces of the changing settlement pattern can be seen in deserted medieval villages and well-preserved ridge and furrow.
- 9A.4.11 Section 3 comprises extensive areas of agricultural fields and farms, reflective of the dominance of agricultural land use and practices in the eastern and southern regions of Leicestershire (Ref 9A.14) since the late post-medieval period. Often built as a response to enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries (Ref 9A.15) the farmsteads are connected to the landscape through a shared purposed and functional need.
- 9A.4.12 The agricultural dominance brought about by enclosure during the 18th and early 19th centuries (Ref 9A.14), obscures the earlier medieval and post-medieval hunting landscapes of this part of Leicestershire, a form of land use and management which is today represented by dispersed scatters of small woodland parcels.
- 9A.4.13 Traces of medieval and early post-medieval farming can also be seen in along the course of the River Wreake and some of its larger tributaries. Here, the fertile floodplain was traditionally managed as meadow and water meadow and used for pasture. Although much reduced today, these meadow areas are still discernible and there is the potential for the earthwork remains of historic water meadows to survive (Ref 9A.15) in fields along the floodplain and based of river valleys.
- 9A.4.14 The settlements of Section 3 are almost exclusively small, nucleated villages. Many of the villages have a clearly discernible historic core where early (potentially medieval) street layouts and vernacular architectural styles survive. Around these settlements, the open arable fields of the local community were enclosed over time in a piecemeal manner between farmers or landholders as a way of consolidating their holdings (Ref 9A.15). This process pre-dates the formal enclosure which dominates the rural landscape of Section 3 and is recorded as occurring in Leicestershire as early as the late 16th century.

Designated and non-designated heritage Assets

Scheduled monuments

9A.4.15 There are no scheduled monuments within the draft Order Limits at Section 3.

9A.4.16 Within 1 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 3 there are six scheduled monuments:

- Kirby Bellars Priory (NHLE: 1009285), earthworks of an Augustinian priory with a moated enclosure and associated features, founded in 1359. Part of a group with the grade I listed Church of St Peter (NHLE: 1261717), and a churchyard cross (NHLE: 1075138, Group: **Kirby Bellars Priory**).
- Garden, moat and five fishponds at Kirby Bellars (NHLE: 1010304), a rare medieval moated site later adapted into a 17th-century formal garden, with ornamental fishponds and prospect mounds. Part of a group with an associated farmstead and pigeoncote (Group: **Kirby Bellars Garden**).
- Moated site at Ab Kettleby (NHLE: 1010705), a high-status medieval moated site and fishpond possibly linked to Launde Abbey.
- Moated grange at Spinney Farm (NHLE: 1014391), a rectangular medieval moated site with associated water management features, historically linked to Lewes Priory.
- Stump Cross, approximately 700m south of Main Street, Frisby on the Wreake (NHLE: 1014513), which is a medieval standing stone cross, likely dating from the mid-10th to mid-16th centuries, serving as a way marker or boundary. Also designated as a grade II listed building (NHLE: 1075135), referred to as the **Stump Cross** group.
- Village cross at the western end of Main Street, Frisby on the Wreake (NHLE: 1015209), a medieval stone cross, originally a market and preaching cross from the mid-14th century. Also, a grade II listed building (NHLE: 1307615), referred to as the **Frisby Cross** group.

9A.4.17 Within 3 km of this Section of the draft Order Limits there are eight scheduled monuments:

- Stapleford Deserted Medieval Village and ice house (NHLE: 1008553), extensive earthworks of a deserted medieval village and later ice house, with evidence of settlement patterns and farming. The remains are within the parkland of Stapleford Hall (NHLE: 1000966) and are part of a group of designated and non-designated heritage assets within Stapleford Park Conservation Area (Group: **Stapleford Park**).
- Preceptory at Old Dalby (NHLE: 1009174), the earthwork remains of a medieval monastic site associated with the Knights Templars and Hospitallers, including a square enclosure and stone building foundations.
- The Mount motte at Melton Mowbray (NHLE: 1010666), a well-preserved Norman motte castle, one of only six in Leicestershire, dating from the 11th to 13th centuries.
- Monastic grange and water control features immediately south of Thrussington Grange (NHLE: 1016316), the relatively undisturbed earthwork remains of a farm, paddocks and other agricultural features originally owned and run by the monastic community of Gilbertine priory at Sempringham in Lincolnshire.

- Churchyard cross in St Egelwin's churchyard, Scalford (NHLE: 1017492), a medieval churchyard cross, likely in its original position, serving as a religious and communal focal point. Also, a grade II listed building (NHLE: 1188640) and part of a group with other designated and non-designated heritage assets within the St Egelwin's churchyard (Group: **St Egelwin Church**).
- Churchyard cross in St Peter's churchyard, Wymondham (NHLE: 1017798), a medieval cross, now topped by a sundial, marking the graveyard and used for processions. Also, a grade II listed building (NHLE: 1061252) and part of a group with other designated and non-designated heritage assets within the **St Peter's Church, Wymondham** group.
- Cross 160m north east of St Mary Magdalen Church, Freeby (NHLE: 1017999), a post-medieval commemorative cross, thought to mark the rebuilding of Stapleford Hall in 1633 and possibly on the site of an earlier market cross.
- Medieval settlement remains immediately north east and 210m south east of White House Farm, Eye Kettleby (NHLE: 1018834), earthwork and buried remains of a medieval settlement, with house platforms, enclosures, and fishponds.

9A.4.18 Within 5 km, there are 14 further scheduled monuments:

- Saxon cemetery SW of Broughton Lodge (NHLE: 1003668), a cemetery containing Anglo-Saxon remains.
- Blesswell Grange (NHLE: 1008815), medieval monastic farm with earthworks of stone buildings, enclosures, and a large fishpond, typical of Cistercian granges.
- Medieval monastic grange with building platforms and dovecote at Saltby (NHLE: 1009165), earthwork remains of medieval building platforms, a dovecote and boundary ditches attributed in ownership and operation to two different religious houses (Croxtan Abbey in Leicestershire and Vaudey Abbey in Lincolnshire) by two different sources.
- Bescaby Shrunken Medieval Village (NHLE: 1010928), well-preserved earthworks of a shrunken medieval village, with house platforms, garden plots, and a moat.
- Croxtan Abbey and associated remains (NHLE: 1011244), Premonstratensian abbey with extensive earthworks, fishponds, and evidence of monastic and post-Dissolution history.
- Standing cross on Upper Broughton village green (NHLE: 1011846), medieval cross with a two-step base and moulded pedestal, reflecting religious and communal traditions in the village.
- St Mary and St Lazarus Hospital, moated site and two fishponds, Burton Lazars (NHLE: 1012242), a series of earthworks comprising the hospital complex (representing the foundations of an infirmary, chapel, and domestic ranges) and an elaborate system of ditches and ponds; some of which appear to have been used for treating the sick and infirm (Ref 9A.61).
- Burrough Iron Age hill fort (NHLE: 1012441), a large Iron Age hillfort with turf-covered stone ramparts, roundhouses, and evidence of long occupation.
- Moated site north-east of St Remigius' Church, Long Clawson (NHLE: 1012560), a well-preserved medieval moated site with a square moat and fishpond, linked to the Bozon family.

- Churchyard cross in All Saints' churchyard, Ragdale (NHLE: 1014510). 14th-century cross with a stepped base and ornamented crucifix. The cross is also a grade II* listed building (NHLE: 1075008) and is part of a group with other designated and non-designated heritage assets in the churchyard of **All Saints, Ragdale**.
- Anglo-Scandinavian cross, St Bartholomew's churchyard, Sproxton (NHLE: 1014512), an 11th-century stone cross with interlace and zoomorphic motifs, reflecting early medieval craftsmanship. Part of a group with **St Bartholomew's Church**.
- Churchyard cross in All Saints' churchyard, Hoby (NHLE: 1017496), a medieval cross, likely 14th or 15th century, marking a sacred space and likely used for religious observances. Part of a group with the grade I listed Church of All Saints, Hoby (Group: **All Saints, Hoby**).
- Moated site and fishpond at Wyfordby (NHLE: 1017619), medieval earthworks with a moated site and fishpond, believed to be the residence of the Chevercourt family.
- Wyfordby wayside cross (NHLE: 1471118), a 14th-century wayside cross, originally serving as a waymarker for medieval travellers.

Registered parks and gardens

- 9A.4.19 There are no registered parks and gardens within the draft Order Limits at Section 3.
- 9A.4.20 There is one registered park and garden within 3 km of the draft Order Limits: the grade II Stapleford Hall (NHLE: 1360859). The park includes 18th and 19th century features, including elements designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, and archaeological traces of earlier gardens. Its principal building is the grade I listed Stapleford Hall with adjoining service wings and orangery (NHLE: 1360859) and its grounds and ancillary buildings which include the grade II* Stable range at Stapleford Hall (NHLE: 1261728). The parkland comprises areas of pasture and woodland and is also the setting of Stapleford Deserted Medieval Village and icehouse (NHLE: 1008553), designated a scheduled monument. The registered park and garden will be assessed as the **Stapleford Park** group.

Listed buildings

- 9A.4.21 There are no listed buildings within the draft Order Limits at Section 3.
- 9A.4.22 There are 439 listed buildings throughout the Study Area at Section 3. Of these, 21 are designated grade I and 43 are designated grade II*. These buildings comprise churches, manor houses, halls and high-status houses and several of their ancillary buildings, former rectories and, a 17th century shop, a windmill, and bedehouses. The remaining 375 listed buildings are all designated grade II.
- 9A.4.23 Within 1 km of the draft Order limits there are 94 listed buildings, Of these seven are grade I, nine are grade II* and the remaining 78 are grade II.
- 9A.4.24 There are grade I listed buildings are:
- Church of St. Mary, Gaddesby (NHLE: 1061267).
 - Church of St. Andrew, Garthorpe (NHLE: 1061273).

- Church of St. Andrew, Twyford and Thorpe (NHLE: 1307264).
- Church of St. Mary, Garthorpe (NHLE: 1307476).
- Stapleford Hall with adjoining service wings and orangery (NHLE: 1360859).
- Church of All Saints, Asfordby (NHLE: 1360866).
- Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Frisby on the Wreake (NHLE: 1360878).

9A.4.25 The grade II* listed buildings are:

- Church of St. Peter, Saxelbye (NHLE: 1075032).
- Manor House, Ab Kettleby (NHLE: 107510).
- Church of St. Bartholomew, Asfordby (NHLE: 1075115).
- Church of St. Michael, Wartnaby (NHLE: 1075141).
- Church of St. Peter, Freeby (NHLE: 1176759).
- The Old Hall, Asfordby (NHLE: 1178375).
- Saxelby Manor House (NHLE: 1188434).
- The Old Rectory, Asfordby (NHLE: 1295102).
- Church of St. James the Greater, Ab Kettleby (NHLE: 1295154).

9A.4.26 The 78 grade II listed building comprise private houses, chest tombs and headstones, farmhouses, manor houses and former vicarages and rectories, war memorials, public houses, mileposts and mile stones, village and churchyard crosses, agricultural and industrial/commercial buildings, and a telephone box.

9A.4.27 Within 3 km of Section 3 of the draft Order Limits there are 328 listed buildings. Of these, 10 are grade I and 21 are grade II*.

9A.4.28 The grade I listed buildings are:

- Church of St. John the Baptist, Buckminster (NHLE: 1061281), parish church with 13th-century origins, with later 14th and 15th century additions and Victorian restorations. Part of a group with a 19th century mausoleum in its churchyard (Group: **St John the Baptist**).
- Church of St. Michael (NHLE: 1075128), a medieval church, mainly 13th-century. Also 1440920 – **St Michael's Edmondthorpe**.
- Church of St. Mary Magdalen (NHLE: 1176947), constructed in 1743 for the 4th Earl of Harborough.
- Church of St. Peter, Wymondham (NHLE: 1177844), parish church with 13th-century origins, showing developments through the 14th–16th centuries. Part of a group with other designated and non-designated heritage assets within its churchyard (Group: **St Peter's Church Wymondham**).
- Church of St Mary Magdalene, Waltham on the Wolds (NHLE: 1188847), Norman parish church, largely rebuilt in the 13th and 14th century. Part of a group of heritage assets within and around the churchyard (Group: **St Mary Magdalene, Waltham**).

- Parish Church of St Mary, Melton Mowbray (NHLE: 1235286), a richly decorated limestone church, dating from the 13th century. Part of a group with heritage assets within its churchyard, including tombs and lamp posts (Group: **St Mary's, Melton Mowbray**).
- Church of St Peter, Kirby Bellars (NHLE: 1261717), 13th century parish church. Part of the **Kirby Bellars Priory** group.
- Church of St Luke, Gaddesby (NHLE: 1307542), a 12th century parish church with later additions.
- Church of St Mary, Freeby (NHLE: 1360855), early 14th century parish church.

9A.4.29 The grade II* listed buildings are:

- Churchyard Cross (NHLE: 1075008), a medieval cross repaired and set upon on plinth in the 20th century.
- Church of St. Mary, Scalford (NHLE: 1075015), 12th and 13th century church, later repaired and restored. Part of a group with two chest tombs in its churchyard (Group: **St Mary's Scalford**).
- Church of St. Egelwin the Martyr (NHLE: 1075018), 13th and 15th-century church, with tower rebuilt in 1639 rebuilt tower with other structures within its churchyard. Part of the **St Egelwin Church** group.
- Church of St. John the Baptist, Broughton and Old Dalby (NHLE: 1187998), a 19th century church by Thomas Winter.
- Saxelby Manor House (NHLE: 1188434), early to mid-16th century manor house, later a farmhouse.
- Church of St John the Baptist, Grimston (NHLE: 1188442), parish church dating from the 13th and 15th centuries. Part of a group with a medieval cross, and a pair of headstones (Group: **St John the Baptist, Grimston**).
- Church of All Saints, Main Street, Hoby with Rotherby (NHLE: 1188547), medieval parish church with Norman or possibly Saxon origins.
- Church of All Saints, Hody with Rotherby (NHLE: 1188553), church dating from the 13th and 15th centuries. Part of the **All Saints, Ragdale** group.
- 5, King Street, Melton Mowbray (NHLE: 1235477), medieval house believed to have been built for John de Mowbray, who was the Lord of the Manor of Melton.
- Ye Old Pork Pie Shoppe, Melton Mowbray (NHLE: 1235657), small 17th century shop building.
- Stable range at Stapleford Hall (NHLE: 1261728), built during the 17th century and part of the **Stapleford Park** group.
- Gregory and Hugh Tomb (NHLE: 1265067), an 18th century monument in the churchyard of **St Mary's, Melton Mowbray**.
- Anne of Cleeves House (NHLE: 1265121), a 15th century timber framed building, originally a merchant's house later associated with Anne of Cleeves.
- Maison Dieu Bedehouses (NHLE: 1265186), late 15th century almshouses in Melton Mowbray.

- The Old Rectory, Ashfordby (NHLE: 1295102), 18th century brick building thought to have been built for Thomas Beaumont Burnaby, rector from 1777. Part of a group with its grade II listed garden boundary wall (NHLE: 1075110).
- Church of St. Leonard, Ab Kettleby (NHLE: 1295131), 13th-century church, repaired in the 17th and 19th centuries.
- Wymonham windmill (NHLE: 1307233), which dates from around 1813.
- Dysart mausoleum and railing, Buckminster (NHLE: 1360830), an early 19th century grave, part of the **St John the Baptist Church** group.
- Church of St Swithin, Great Dalby (NHLE: 1360835), a 13th century parish church with later restoration.
- Church of St Mary the Virgin, Thorpe Arnold (NHLE: 1360948), 13th century parish church. Part of a group with a cross and row of headstones (Group: St Mary the Virgin).
- Church of St Peter (NHLE: 1360956), a parish church with probable Norman origin that was largely rebuilt in the early 14th century.
- Church of St John the Baptist, South Croxton (NHLE: 1361188), a 14th century parish church, part of a group with the South Croxton war memorial within its churchyard. (Group: **St John the Baptist, South Croxton**).

9A.4.30 The remaining 297 grade II listed buildings within 3 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 3 include churches, bridges, houses, a windmill, wayside cross, milestones, telephone kiosks, farmhouses, pubs, agricultural buildings, a water pump, bandstand and war memorials.

9A.4.31 There 17 grade I and grade II* listed buildings between 3 km and 5 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 3. Of these, four are grade I and 13 are grade II*. They comprise churches, a rectory, a churchyard cross, and several high-status buildings.

Conservation areas

9A.4.32 There are no conservation areas within the draft Order Limits at Section 3.

9A.4.33 There are 25 conservation areas located between 1 km and 3 km of the draft Order Limits. Of these, eight are located within 1 km of the draft Order Limits and the remaining 17 are all located between 1 km and 3 km of the draft Order Limits. Of the 64 grade I and grade II* listed buildings within the Study Area, 39 are located within one of these conservation areas as are a large proportion of the grade II listed buildings.

9A.4.34 Ab Kettleby is a compact village three miles north of Melton Mowbray on the southern 'dip' slope of the Leics wolds, near the ancient Salt Way. Earliest spelling was 'Chetelbi', in Domesday Book. Meaning 'Ketil's village/homestead.' The 'Ab' component likely comes from Abba, who was presumably an early property owner. The village has a legible historic core, with stone cottages, church, 17th century manor house and farmhouses. There are extensive views south and westwards towards Leicester (Ref 9A.31).

9A.4.35 Asby Folville is one of three villages, along with Gaddesby and Barsby, included within the parish of Gaddesby. It is a small, loosely connected linear settlement within a valley alongside the Gaddesby Brook (Ref 9A.32). The name likely suggests that a Danish origin, later supplemented with a Norman family name. The focal point for views within and towards the village is St Mary's Church, and the mature woodland and trees around the village form a backdrop.

- 9A.4.36 Asfordby is a large village in the Wreake Valley which grew up in the last century through the adjacent steelworks. Originally the name was likely 'Ossberie', probably from Eyefordbye, a name which is derived from the River Eye near which it stands. (Ref 9A.33).
- 9A.4.37 Barsby, along with Asfordby, is part of the Gaddesby parish. It stands on a hilltop and has extensive views of the surrounding countryside. The name of the village is derived from the personal name 'Barni' or 'Barn', and means 'Barn's settlement' (Ref 9A.34).
- 9A.4.38 Buckminster developed as an 'estate village' for agricultural workers, belonging to the Earls of Dysart. Many of the properties are still owned by the estate and Buckminster Park forms a backdrop for views of the medieval Church of St John the Baptist. A key characteristic of the conservation area is the uniformity of the buildings, which almost all date from the Victorian period. The village has earlier origins, however, and was in existence at the time of the Domesday Survey when it was recorded as '*Buchminstre*', meaning 'monastery of Buc(c)a' (Ref 9A.35).
- 9A.4.39 Edmonthorpe is a stone-built linear settlement with likely early medieval origins indicated by the Old English components of its name, 'Edmaer's farm/settlement. The Church of St Michael and All Angels has an elevated position, with views of the countryside to the north. From the village as a whole, there are also views to the south into the open countryside (Ref 9A.36).
- 9A.4.40 Freeby is believed to have been established shortly before the Norman Conquest and became a manor by the 13th century. With the exception of the United Reform Church, which is individually important for its association with the hymn writer Dr Isaac Watts, are owned by the Freeby estate. There are views out over open countryside from the conservation area, with notable views looking east towards Waltham on the Wolds (Ref 9A.37).
- 9A.4.41 Frisby on the Wreake is located in the Wreake valley and its name has as an early medieval Danish origin meaning 'settlement/farm of the Frisians'. Domesday Book records that there was a mill in the village by the time of the survey. Views along the river valley are important, giving the village a rural character (Ref 9A.38).
- 9A.4.42 Gaddesby is another linear village in the countryside east of the Wreake valley to the west of Melton Mowbray. The '-by' component of the placename indicates a Danish origin to the settlement in the 9th or 10th centuries. Documents indicate that, by the 13th century, it had a flourishing economy built on the wool trade which was reflected in the King granting it a market and a fair. The village has views south across open countryside from Rearsby Lane (Ref 9A.39).
- 9A.4.43 Great Dalby, formerly known as Dalby Magna, is a hillside village in the countryside south of Melton Mowbray. Its name is derived from 'Dalbi' after Godfrey, Bishop of Lincoln. Views towards the village from Melton are noted in the conservation area appraisal, as well as views over the countryside, and over the village, from higher points within it (Ref 9A.40).
- 9A.4.44 Grimston is a small village in the Leicestershire Wolds, to the west of Melton Mowbray. Its name is derived from the personal name 'Grimr', with the 'tun' element meaning town/settlement (Ref 9A.41). While views within the conservation area are limited, the conservation area appraisal highlights views over the landscape towards Leicester south from Shoby Lane and notes that these should be protected.

- 9A.4.45 Hoby is a linear village on a ridge with views across the Wreake valley and its placename reflects that, meaning 'settlement on the hill' (Ref 9A.42).
- 9A.4.46 Holwell is a rural village in a secluded fold. Although there are few views out of the village, views to St Leonard's Church are important within the village, as well as to the neighbouring spire of Ab-Kettleby Church (Ref 9A.43).
- 9A.4.47 Melton Mowbray, located at a crossing of the River Wreake, has been a market town since at least the beginning of the medieval period, when it was included in Domesday Book as 'Medeltune', meaning either 'milltown' or 'middletown' from the Old English. The Mowbray suffix was added from the 12th century Lord of the Manor Roger de Moubray (Ref 9A.44). It flourished with the wealth of the wool trade in the medieval period, before developing further in the Industrial Revolution when it became known for producing pork pies, Stilton cheese, wool and shoes. The Church of St Mary is a focal point for views both near and distant.
- 9A.4.48 Old Dalby is a village which formed gradually from the merging of scattered farms. It has a Danish name derived from the words 'wolds' and 'dale', The church and the village green are the focal points of the village and there are views of the open countryside beyond, particularly from the churchyard (Ref 9A.45).
- 9A.4.49 Rotherby is within the Wreake valley to the west of Melton Mowbray (Ref 9A.46).
- 9A.4.50 Saxelbye is a rural agricultural village on the 'dip' slope of the Leicestershire Wolds. The name comes from the personal name *Saksulfr* with the suffix 'by' meaning farmstead. It is made up of small clusters of buildings on narrow country lanes, with the spire of St Peter's Church forming the focal point for views both within and from outside of the village. (Ref 9A.47).
- 9A.4.51 Scalford stands on a prominent slope north of Melton Mowbray. It has an Old English name meaning 'shallow ford'. The church forms the focal point for views (Ref 9A.48).
- 9A.4.52 South Croxton is a small rural village on the edge of the Leicestershire uplands. It has Saxon origins and was recorded in Domesday Book as '*Crochestone*'. Its topographic location on south facing slope of a valley means that it is screened from views from the north but is prominent in views from the south. The church is at the highest point in the village and is a focal point from several directions. The village has an agricultural setting, mostly in pastoral use (Ref 9A.49).
- 9A.4.53 Sproxton is an isolated village in the uplands of the Leicestershire Wolds to the north-east of Melton Mowbray, with many views towards it from the landscape beyond (Ref 9A.50).
- 9A.4.54 Stapleford Park Conservation Area has the same boundaries as the registered park and garden of the same name described above.
- 9A.4.55 Stonesby is a village in the wolds north-east of Melton Mowbray, described in the conservation area appraisal as having fine views to the south over the open fields beyond the village (Ref 9A.51).
- 9A.4.56 Waltham-on-the-Wolds is a limestone village on the A607 between Melton Mowbray and Grantham and is the second highest village in the county. The name may have derived from the personal name 'Walter' as Domesday Book records that the landowner granted it to a man of that name. However, the name could also come from 'weald' meaning woody, with 'Ham' meaning town in either instance. It was an important wool town in the medieval period. The conservation area appraisal notes that it has fine views over the surrounding countryside to the west of the A607 (Ref 9A.52).

- 9A.4.57 Wartnaby is located in the wolds north of Melton Mowbray and its name probably originates from the Old English '*Waercnodby*' and '*Warbuthby*' for 'Watch Tower', which reflects the views over the Trent Valley (Ref 9A.53).
- 9A.4.58 Wymondham is a relatively large village east of Melton Mowbray. It was included in Domesday Book and it is generally interpreted as having a name derived from 'Wygmond's Ham' (or Wygmund's homestead). The village is on the A1, which dates to at least the Roman period, and became an important stopping point for travellers and drovers through the centuries. It is notable as a manufacturing centre for Stilton cheese. There are extensive views over the surrounding countryside from the village (Ref 9A.54).

Non-designated heritage assets

- 9A.4.59 In total 580 non-designated heritage assets, including locally listed assets, potential non-designated heritage assets, and areas of ridge and furrow have been identified. 82 of these are located entirely or partially within the draft Order Limits. It should be noted that this is an initial number, pending surveys and further research, which will inform the ES.

Chronological Overview

Prehistoric

- 9A.4.60 The HER includes 77 records in Section 3 relating to features of likely prehistoric date, including excavated remains and sites identified from findspots/artefact scatters and cropmarks. Additionally, there is a scheduled Iron Age hillfort within the Study Area. Of these records, nine relate to sites within the draft Order Limits at Section 3.
- 9A.4.61 The earliest records within the Section 3 Study Area are of Mesolithic date. These include two possibly Mesolithic flints found during trial trenching (MLE24474) and two pebble hammers, again only possibly Mesolithic (MLE7066), both records from Asfordby in the Wreake valley. More substantive evidence also comes from Asfordby, where a rare flint knapping site was excavated in advance of development (MLE21134). At this site, undisturbed remains of a hearth, dating from around 8,220-7,530 calibrated BCE, was excavated. From around the hearth, nearly 7,000 pieces of worked flint were found, including tools (microliths, scrapers, burins, piercers, axes and bladelets) and the flakes and cores created during their production, indicating that people sat around the hearth producing flint tools at this site around 10,000 years ago. Further analysis of the flint tools also identified evidence of impacts on many of them, suggesting that they may have been used as projectiles for hunting. (Ref 9A.55). Combined with later Mesolithic flint artefacts found redeposited in later features on the same site and evidence from Eye Kettleby, also in the Wreake valley, the suggestion has been made that this was a 'persistent place', returned to by nomadic hunter gatherers over many generations as a base for hunting and making and repairing tools (Ref 9A.56).
- 9A.4.62 The Neolithic evidence from the Section 3 Study Area is mostly in the form of artefacts, either found as individual findspots or as spreads of worked flint. This includes a flint burin and possible hammerstone from near Melton Mowbray (MLE22252, MLE8263), a polished flint knife and axe from Kirby Bellars (MLE6381, MLE7335), 18 struck flint flakes from Welby (MLE26480), surface scatters of flint found in Ab Kettleby (MLE28427) and other worked flint found in excavations

(MLE22251, MLE8867). A significant occupation site dating to the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age was found in Asfordby (MLE21135), where a rectangular structure was identified alongside evidence for flint knapping, a cremation burial dated to 2,200-1,940 BCE. Environmental analysis showed that people were farming emmer wheat and barley in the vicinity of this site.

- 9A.4.63 There are 16 records of Bronze Age date within the Section 3 Study Area. Of these, four are located within the draft Order Limits, all within the north-south corridor as it passes through the Wreake Valley. These include a scatter of 74 worked flints found during fieldwalking to the west of Asfordby, including an unusual stone knife which was thought could be a grave good from a ploughed-out barrow (MLE21639). Two potential barrows were identified in the vicinity, initially through aerial photographs and then through geophysical survey and trial trenching which confirmed the presence of a ploughed-out barrow at one of the locations (MLE3329). Although no burial remains were found, artefacts which were likely grave goods were recovered, including a sherd of beaker pottery (2210-2030 BCE), 8 flint flakes and 2 scrapers associated with it. A second possible round barrow was identified through geophysical survey, also within the draft Order Limits, but trial trenching did not find any evidence of it (MLE21945). While this can indicate that the anomaly identified from the geophysics was not archaeological, it could also indicate the magnetic traces of an otherwise ploughed out feature, particularly in the context of the confirmed round barrow to the north. Further south, near Frisby on the Wreake, a series of artefacts were found through metal detecting, including copper alloy blades, a spearhead, an axe and two awls (MLE18731). This has been tentatively interpreted as evidence of a Bronze Age metal working site.
- 9A.4.64 Beyond the draft Order Limits at Section 3, Bronze Age evidence is weighted towards metal artefacts found through metal detecting, with a sword fragment from near Kirby Bellars (MLE17343), a bracelet fragment from Asfordby (MLE22997), a gold ring from Twyford (MLE24152), an awl from Asby Folville (MLE24449), and an arrowhead from near Garthorpe (MLE6383). At Stump Cross, metal detected finds of two spear fragments and part of a blade or axe suggest a possible inhumation burial/ceremony (MLE21396). A chisel (MLE24919) and a spearhead (MLE24915) have been found near and east of Saxelby, respectively.
- 9A.4.65 Bronze Age evidence also comes from cropmarks and excavations, although secure dating can be more challenging meaning that these are only described as possibly Bronze Age (MLE3801 and MLE18642). Other Bronze Age sites may be included as 'prehistoric' or undated. Although included in the gazetteer as Mesolithic (**Appendix 9B**), the excavation of the knapping site at Asfordby (MLE21134) also had interesting Bronze Age features including evidence of occupation and the largest assemblage of 'Beaker' pottery found in Leicestershire (up to 2011) (Ref 9A.56).
- 9A.4.66 Within the Section 3 Study Area there are 11 records which are dated just as 'prehistoric' or 'later prehistoric'. Only two of these interact with the draft Order Limits; a findspot of a quern (MLE7673) and the conjectured alignment and route of the Jurassic Way (MLE28118). The Jurassic Way (MLE28118) is a prehistoric routeway which can be traced in places between Somerset and Yorkshire. It becomes more clearly defined in the Iron Age but dates to the Early Bronze Age and possibly earlier. The corridor runs north-south along the eastern edge of Section 3, with the later Great North Road (A1) in Section 2 following running through part of the corridor. The remaining 'later prehistoric' are either findspots of flint tools and part of a saddle query (MLE9107, MLE16306, MLE7595, MLE8435, MLE7568, MLE18643) or cropmarks/geophysical anomalies indicating ditches, enclosures, or other features (MLE29656, MLE4210).

- 9A.4.67 The Iron Age evidence in Section 3 is more challenging to describe, as many of the 37 sites identified, whether through metal detecting, cropmarks, geophysics or archaeological excavation, also include evidence of Roman date. Most Roman rural sites described in the Leicestershire and Rutland resource assessment (Ref 9A.57) had Iron Age precursors, and Roman goods would have been used by the wealthiest and most connected groups in the region decades before the Roman conquest in 43 CE. As a result, the majority of the sites included in the HER as 'Iron Age' will be described within an expanded Roman section below.
- 9A.4.68 Burrough Hill Fort, which is a scheduled monument, is located to the south of Melton Mowbray in the high Leicestershire hills, approximately 2.3km east of the draft Order Limit (approximately 10km south of the proposed new overhead line). It is a 'univallate' fort, meaning that it has a single line of earthwork ramparts, and encloses an area of about 5 ha (NHLE: 1012441). As well as having a defensive function, there is evidence of round houses and granaries inside of it, and it was occupied from the Early Bronze Age to through the Roman period.
- 9A.4.69 While the hillfort was likely the major centre of political power in the region, there is evidence of agricultural settlement across the Section 3 Study Area. This includes ditches and enclosures, identified from cropmarks or geophysics (MLE17264, MLE29661, MLE3986, MLE3987, MLE18641, MLE22531) and a possible double ditched boundary feature, which may have been a territorial marker (MLE3985). Artefacts have also been found, including an axe head (MLE19777), sword fitting (MLE21397), pottery (MLE3733, MLE6502) and quern stones (MLE6587, MLE6606, MLE8305).

Roman

- 9A.4.70 There is evidence of Roman activity across the Section 3 Study Area, including 46 records classified of Roman date in the HER data in addition to others classified as Iron Age, but which represent a blending of Roman and Iron Age cultures around the time of the Roman Conquest.
- 9A.4.71 There are five records of Roman date within Section 3 of the draft Order Limits. This includes an Iron Age/Roman site south of Kirby Bellars (MLE8840), in the southern 'leg' of the Project south of WMEL-B. At this site an extensive spread of Roman pottery, coins, brooches and other artefacts have been found, indicating a likely settlement site, perhaps even a small town. The site is located along the line of a Roman road – Le Strete (MLE8839), and it is likely that the settlement formed in as ribbon development alongside this routeway.
- 9A.4.72 A second possible Roman site has been identified within Section 3 of the draft Order Limits to the east of Welby Lane just east of WMEL-B. This record derives from metal detected finds, including three early Roman brooches, one early Roman coin and two later Roman coins (MLE23644). Further investigation would be required to confirm the nature and survival of any associated buried remains.
- 9A.4.73 In addition to the evidence of settlement, there are three Roman roads which pass through Section 3 of the draft Order Limits, including The Drift (MLE5345), King Street (MLE3814) and Le Strete (MLE8839). A further possible road (MLE8910), and part of the Salt Way (MLE8764), are within the Study Area.
- 9A.4.74 Within the Section 3 Study Area, the majority of Iron Age/Roman and Roman sites have been identified through metal detecting, surface artefact collection of pottery, with a smaller number identified through the excavation of features including ditches

and pits. Overall, there is evidence of small-scale settlement, probably farmsteads set amongst a contemporary field system, across the Study Area. More substantial 'villas', high-status buildings typically with stone walls, tiled roofs, mosaic floors and 'hypocaust' heating systems have also been identified through the characteristic surface traces of specialised tile, mosaic tesserae and imported pottery (MLE3322, MLE9866, MLE4051, MLE3345, MLE3349)

Early medieval

- 9A.4.75 There are 31 records of early medieval date for the Section 3 Study Area within the HER. This includes five that are within Section 3 of the draft Order Limits. One of these, a scatter of metal detected finds, comes from the same area east of Welby Lane just east of WMEL-B where a possible Roman site has also been identified, possibly indicating a continuation of occupation through the Roman-early medieval transition (MLE22977, see also MLE23644). Another site within the draft Order Limits, near Kirby Bellars, also has continued early medieval evidence on a site of a likely Roman settlement (MLE8842, see also MLE8840). At this site a metal detected spearhead could indicate a burial, while there are also large quantities of early medieval pottery in discrete areas amongst the Roman artefact scatter. A possible cemetery site has been found just north of Melton Mowbray where human bones, spearheads, a ring, part of a buckle and a shield boss were encountered in the 19th century during gravel extraction (MLE4004). The area mapped for this is mostly to the south of the draft Order Limits but could continue through it. A brooch, found near Asfordby in the southern leg of the Project, could also be from a cemetery (MLE24942).
- 9A.4.76 There is a range of evidence of early medieval settlement across the Section 3 Study Area. This includes archaeological evidence, often at sites which either appear to have continued in occupation from the end of the Roman period or originated in the early medieval and continued into the medieval period. One of these, which is a scheduled monument, includes extensive earthwork and buried remains and is known to have originated before the Norman Conquest (NHLE: 1018834). A smaller, non-designated site, includes house platform and enclosure earthworks with pottery from between the late 9th to 11th century, near Coston (MLE3804).
- 9A.4.77 Documentary evidence, including Domesday Book, indicates that the deserted medieval village and grange at Ringlethorpe, Scalford (MLE4034) as well as the settlements of Frisby, Twyford, Asby Golville, Asfordby, and Saxby are early medieval in origin. Placenames also contribute to our understanding and add a political and cultural dimension which can be hard to distinguish in the archaeological record (Ref 9A.58). There are several placenames with an Old English name (i.e. one originating with the Saxon communities, possibly part of the Kingdom of Mercia), including Melton Mowbray (Melton meaning 'middle farm'), and Buckminster ('Bucca's monastery church'), but the majority have an Old Norse root, reflecting the later influence of Viking settlers and the political establishment of the 'Danelaw' across this area in the 9th century (Ref 9A.21 and Ref 9A.59). The Old Norse place names Saxby, Freeby, Ab Kettleby, Welby, Saxelbye, Asfordbt, Kirby Bellars and Frisby on the Wreake all share the 'by' element meaning farm or settlement, each combined with a personal name such as 'Asfrothr' or 'Saski' (Ref 9A.21).

Medieval

- 9A.4.78 There are 347 records of medieval date within the Study Area at Section 3 of the draft Order Limits. Of these, there are 24 scheduled monuments, 19 grade I, 25 grade II*, and 15 grade II listed buildings. The scheduled monuments and grade I listed buildings include churches, the site of a Norman motte castle, the ruins of an abbey, standing crosses in churchyards, villages and roadsides, and earthworks of moated manorial sites, priories, granges and deserted/shrunken villages. The grade II* listed buildings are mostly churches but also include a house later owned by Anne of Cleves (NHLE: 1265121) and a 14th century house built for John de Mowbray (NHLE: 1235477), a descendent of the family for whom Melton Mowbray is named. The grade II listed buildings, which are mostly standing cross shafts alongside more fragmentary medieval remains in other buildings.
- 9A.4.79 The remaining 246 records are all potential non-designated heritage assets, 175 of which are areas of confirmed or likely ridge and furrow remains. In total, 50 of the 246 records are located within the draft Order Limits. One of these is a historic routeway from Melton to Hose (MLE20860), which crosses the draft Order Limits from north-south and is mostly followed by the modern Scaford Road/Melton Road at this part of it. This was likely one of a number of routeways which would have connected the villages in the rolling wolds, and the country beyond them, to the river crossings and markets in the Wreake valley. Also within the draft Order Limits are a range of earthworks: there are two fishponds (MLE27131, MLE3344); areas of ridge and furrow at Buckminster, Garthorpe, and Coston (MLE28472, MLE28473, MLE28480, MLE28478); a scatter of pottery probably spread by historic agricultural practices (manuring) at Asfordby (MLE21640); a single findspot of a capital stone of possible Norman origin at Potter Hill Farm (MLE8172); and windmill mounds and house platforms at Saxelbye (MLE3830, MLE3833). The historic core of the village of Saxelbye, identified from documentary sources, is also partially within the draft Order Limits (MLE8858).
- 9A.4.80 The records of medieval date from across the Section 3 Study Area are mostly similar in nature. There are fishponds, earthwork village remains, and ridge and furrow found in many areas, as well as archaeological remains found during excavations, artefacts found during metal detecting and field walking, and timber framed buildings. The historic settlement cores of Sewstern, Garthorpe, Coston, Saxelbye, Ab Kettleby, and Wartnaby are all recorded as being of medieval date.

Post-medieval

- 9A.4.81 There are 475 records of post-medieval date within the Study Area at Section 3 of the draft Order Limits. Only one of these is a scheduled monument, which is a cross north-east of St Mary Magdalen Church in Freeby (NHLE: 1017999), which was put up to commemorate the rebuilding of Stapleford Hall in 1633. The church itself is post-medieval and is listed grade I (NHLE: 1176947). There are 18 grade II* listed buildings, which include churches and associated burial monuments and rectories, grand manor houses, bedehouses (also known as almshouses), Georgian houses and shops, farmhouses, stables and a windmill. The remaining designated heritage assets include the grade II registered park and garden of Stapleford Park, which is included as part of the **Stapleford Park** group, and 343 grade II listed buildings.

- 9A.4.82 The remaining 111 records are all potential non-designated heritage assets, 10 of which are within the draft Order Limits. These include the possible remains of a windmill near Frisby on the Wreake, which is shown on 19th century mapping (MLE3750), the Former Welby Lodge (MLE23964), short sections of railway lines (MLE16075, 16080, 16086), part of the Melton Mowbray Navigation (MLE16302), and stretches of three turnpike roads (MLE26056, 21272, 21276).
- 9A.4.83 Within the Section 3 Study Area, transport infrastructure from the later 18th and 19th centuries forms a large component of the post-medieval features. Some of these are still in active use as railways and roads, while others have been dismantled and only survive as earthworks or buried remains; such as the Newark and Market Harborough Railway (MLE16075). The concentration of transport infrastructure reflects the importance of this area as a routeway, with Melton Mowbray sitting at the intersection of transport corridors both north-south and east-west. The latter part of the post-medieval period also saw the growth of extractive industries (coal, gravel and ironstone), ironworks and their associated tramways and other infrastructure. The locations and surviving features of these are recorded in the HER (MLE16126, MLE16125, MLE17521, MLE18615, MLE22045, MLW22761).
- 9A.4.84 The area also remained agricultural in most places. Similarly to Section 2, post-medieval evidence of this kind includes drainage ditches and ridge and furrow (MLE28462), farmsteads (MLE17520, MLE26143, MLE25805, MLE25803, MLE25800, MLE23998, MLE 23997, MLE23996, MLE23991, MLE23990, MLE23985, MLE23966, MLE23965, MLE23964, MLE23963, MLE19921), watermills and windmills (MLE3335, MLE3462, MLE3463, MLE3750, MLE3811, MLE3812, MLE4175) and other related structures such as mushroom sheds (MLE22645). There are also spreads of pottery sherds in fields which are likely to represent manuring practices which used domestic waste.
- 9A.4.85 Other post-medieval sites include non-conformist chapels (MLE17296, MLE25557, MLE26143, MLE26214) and the site of the demolished grand houses, Asfordby Hall (MLE16192), Welby Old Hall (MLE8862), and Coston Hall (MLE3816).

Modern

- 9A.4.86 There are 46 records of modern date within the Study Area at Section 3 of the draft Order Limits. Of these, 17 are grade II listed buildings. The listed buildings include telephone kiosks, war memorials and a set of entrance gates. Of the remaining 29 records, all of which are potential non-designated heritage assets, two are located within the draft Order Limits: Scalford Airfield (MLE16181) and an ironstone quarry south of Sewstern (MLE27498).
- 9A.4.87 Across the Section 3 Study Area, the potential non-designated heritage assets include non-conformist chapels (MLE15261, MLE26142), unlisted buildings noted as being of potential interest or local importance (such as 15 Mill Lane, Ashforby (MLE29038) and The Old Bakehouse, Frisby-on-the-Wreake (MLE29872)), an avenue of elms (MLE23217), quarry and mine sites, and structures dating from the First World War, the Second World War, and the Cold War.
- 9A.4.88 The military features within the Section 3 Study Area are mostly from the Second World War and include pillboxes (MLE15988, MLE17788), a tank trap (MLE15983) and a gun emplacement (MLE24821). The sites of a Prisoner of War camp (MLE29145) and an army and Polish resettlement camp (MLE22034) are also recorded. Scalford Airfield (MLE16181), the northern part of which is within the draft Order Limits, actually dates to the First World War, when it was established as a

night landing ground in 1916. There were around 30 airbases established in the country during the First World War and, where there are surviving structures, these can be nationally important (Ref 9A.60). At Scalford, which was a grass-covered landing field associated with a squadron with a headquarters in Melton Mowbray, there do not appear to be surviving structures. There is also a Cold War monitoring post recorded within the Study Area (MLE16022).

Undated

- 9A.4.89 There are 22 records within the HER for the Study Area at Section 3 of the draft Order Limits which are of uncertain date, none of which are within the draft Order Limits. These features include cropmarks and the excavated remains of pits, ditches and earthworks, as well as findspots or artefact scatters of objects such as millstones (MLE8387) and spearheads (MLE8255).

Archaeological Potential

- 9A.4.90 With the exception of areas of historic gravel, coal or ironstone extraction, there is the potential for archaeological remains across the majority of land within Section 3 of the draft Order Limits, as there has been limited historical development in these areas.
- 9A.4.91 There is evidence of human activity within the Section 3 Study Area from the Mesolithic period onwards, particularly in the Wreake valley, where reconductoring of the existing powerline is proposed. Nationally rare evidence of a 'persistent place' has been found in Asfordby, where there is evidence of temporary, perhaps seasonal, occupation over many centuries in the Mesolithic. Environmental data shows us that the valley was being farmed for wheat and barley in the Neolithic, and settlement evidence continues from that time onwards.
- 9A.4.92 Elsewhere within the Section 3 Study Area, major routeways likely influenced settlement through history, with both east-west movement along the Wreake Valley and the Leicestershire uplands to the south, and north-south following the alignment of the prehistoric Jurassic Way and later Roman Great North Road (now the A1) associated with evidence of settlement and burial activity along them. This includes the evidence of a substantial Roman town at Kirby Bellars which appears to have had continued occupation into the early medieval period.
- 9A.4.93 Within Section 3 of the draft Order Limits there is evidence of a possible early medieval settlement to the north of Melton Mowbray, as well as earthwork remains of medieval fishponds, ridge and furrow earthworks at Buckminster and Garthorpe, and a deserted medieval village near Saxelbye. Post-medieval features within the draft Order Limits include the earthwork remains of dismantled railway lines and the site of a windmill. Part of the First World War Scalford Airfield is also within the draft Order Limits. This was a grass landing field and there are no surviving buildings associated with it, but archaeological remains could be of interest.

9A.5 Baseline: Section 4 – Harborough District

Location

- 9A.5.1 Section 4 comprises approximately 19 km of reconductoring of the existing 400 kV ZA overhead line from an area near the B6047 south of Twyford to the confluence of Langton Brook and the River Wellan south west of Welham.

Geology

- 9A.5.2 Section 4 is underlain by three main bedrock formations:
- Charmouth Mudstone Formation (mudstone);
 - Dyrham Formation (siltstone and mudstone, interbedded); and
 - Whitby Mudstone Formation (Mudstone).
- 9A.5.3 Like its uses throughout Section 3, Marlstone Rock (Charmouth and Whitby Formations) is used in both rural and higher status buildings within Section 4. Marlstone would also have been quarried to extract iron ore. The density of iron ore varies throughout the Marlstone Rock crops – which run north/south through Leicestershire and Section 4 – but is generally richer in the disparate areas of Marlstone Rock Marlstone Rock Formation (limestone, ferruginous) (Ref 9A.10) scattered within the Dyrham Formation (siltstone and mudstone, interbedded) which underlies the southern stretch of Section 4.
- 9A.5.4 Both the Sandrock stone of the Dyrham Formation and the iron-rich beds of Marlstone Rock, which sit above the building stone stratigraphically, were worked extensively throughout the 19th century (Ref 9A.10). These works resulted in the lowering of the surface level of the fields within which the extraction pits were sunk and, as such, removed any evidence of smaller, local stone quarries which may have been used to extract building stone.
- 9A.5.5 Where present, the superficial geology of Section 4 predominantly comprises glacial till deposits of Oadby Member (diamicton). In higher parts of the landscape, Oadby Member deposits are found alongside Glaciofluvial Deposits (mid Pleistocene, sand and gravel) and, at the heads of numerous streams which feed the tributary rivers and major rivers of Section 4, Colluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) deposits. Oadby Member, Glaciofluvial, and Colluvium deposits are created through the action of meltwater and hillwash are not conducive to the survival or archaeological material but, potentially at the lower reaches of river valley edges, could overlay alluvial deposits.
- 9A.5.6 Deposits of Alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) are found along the courses of the tributary and main rivers of Section 4, such as Eye Brook, and because of the anaerobic belowground conditions, there is the potential for organic and in-organic archaeology to survive. There is also a limited potential for paleoenvironmental deposits, however, the relative speed of watercourses tends to wash seeds, pollen or other natural material away.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 9A.5.7 Section 4 is mostly within the High Leicestershire NCA, an upland landscape with archaeological sites including Iron Age hillforts and many deserted medieval villages (Ref 9A.9). It has a long history of mostly pastoral farming interspersed with ancient woodland and large post-medieval estate landscapes
- 9A.5.8 Section 4 comprises extensive areas of agricultural fields and farms, reflective of the dominance of agricultural land use and practices in the eastern and southern regions of Leicestershire (Ref 9A.14) since the late Post Medieval period. Often built as a response to enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries (Ref 9A.15) the farm houses and associated buildings of Section 4 are connected to the landscape through a shared purposed and functional need. They are also likely to have a distinct vernacular form.

- 9A.5.9 The agricultural dominance brought about by enclosure during the 18th and early 19th centuries, (Ref 9A.14), obscured the earlier (Medieval and early Post Medieval) hunting landscapes of this part of Leicestershire, a form of use and management which is today hinted at by dispersed scatters of small, surviving woodland parcels.
- 9A.5.10 The settlements of Section 4 are almost exclusively small, nucleated villages which would, within the historic settlement hierarchy of Leicestershire, be subordinate to their nearest market town, Melton Mowbray, which would in turn be subordinate to Leicester (Ref 9A.14). Many of the villages of Section 4 include a clearly discernible historic core where early (potentially Medieval) street layouts and vernacular architectural styles survive. Here, the open arable fields of the local community were enclosed over time in a piecemeal manner between farmers or landholders as a way of consolidating their holdings (Ref 9A.15). This process pre-dates formal enclosure which dominates the rural landscape of Section 4 and is recorded as occurring in Leicestershire as early as the late 16th century.

Designated and non-designated heritage assets

Scheduled monuments

- 9A.5.11 There are no scheduled monuments within Section 4 of the draft Order Limits.
- 9A.5.12 Within 1 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 4 there are seven:
- Mound (NHLE: 1005071), 220yds (200m) NNW of church.
 - Cold Newton shrunken Medieval village and moated site (NHLE: 1009197).
 - Moated site at Tilton (NHLE: 1010704), formed of three visible arms with surviving building foundations at the centre. Possible carved wooden sluice block recovered from moat deposits.
 - Lowesby deserted Medieval village with three fishponds (NHLE: 1012438), the south western-most edge of the scheduled monument is located within the boundary of Lowesby Conservation Area (DLE613).
 - Churchyard cross, St Peter's churchyard (NHLE: 1014517).
 - Medieval village earthworks, fishponds and mill leat at Stonton Wyville (NHLE: 1017616).
 - Roman villa 200m south of Station Cottages (NHLE: 1018352).
- 9A.5.13 Between 1 and 3 km there are eight further scheduled monuments:
- St. Mary in Arden Church (NHLE: 1003607).
 - Defended enclosure on Robin-a-tiptoe Hill (NHLE: 1005045).
 - North Marefield deserted Medieval village and moated site (NHLE: 1010306).
 - Hallaton motte and bailey castle (NHLE: 1010306).
 - Baggrave Deserted Medieval Village (NHLE: 1012125).
 - Market cross on west side of Market Place (NHLE: 1014514). Also designated a Grade II listed building (NHLE: 1074889).
 - Churchyard cross in St. John the Baptist's churchyard (NHLE 1017493).

- Iron Age and Roman ritual site, settlement, enclosures and linear ditched features, 500m East of Swallow Hill Farm (NHLE: 1483470).

9A.5.14 Within 5 km, there are 16 additional scheduled monuments:

- Site of abbey church and claustral buildings (NHLE: 1005074).
- Bridge at Medbourne (NHLE: 1005080).
- Castle mound (NHLE: 1005493).
- Whatborough deserted Medieval village (NHLE: 1008555).
- Owston Augustinian Abbey with six fishponds, a gatehouse and boundary (NHLE: 1008556).
- Moated site and deserted Medieval village at Old Ingarsby (NHLE: 1009236).
- Sauvey Castle (NHLE: 1010303).
- Moated site at Ingarsby (NHLE: 1010839).
- Old Hall moated site (NHLE: 1012566).
- Medieval manorial earthworks and gardens 140m south of Manor House (NHLE 1017208).
- Churchyard cross in St. Michael's churchyard (NHLE 1017489).
- Butter Cross 150m east of the church (NHLE 1017498).
- Manorial site west of St. Gile's Church and Medieval settlement west of Manor Farm (NHLE 1018351).
- Medieval village remains immediately south of the church (NHLE 1018577).
- Frisby Medieval village remains (NHLE 1018579).
- Chapel immediately north west of Manor House (NHLE 1018837). Also designated a Grade II listed building NHLE 1188253.

Registered parks and gardens

9A.5.15 There are no registered parks and gardens within Section 4 of the draft Order Limits, however there is one grade II registered park and garden within 1km: Lowesby Hall (NHLE: 1000962).

9A.5.16 There are three further grade II registered parks and gardens between 1 and 3km of the draft Order Limits at Section 4:

- Baggrave Hall (NHLE: 1000482).
- Langton Hall (NHLE: 1000961).
- Quenby Hall (NHLE: 1000965).

Listed buildings

9A.5.17 There are 374 listed buildings throughout the Study Areas at Section 4 of the draft Order Limits. Of these, eight are grade I listed buildings, comprising six churches, a chapel, and a school, and 45 are designated grade II*, comprising churches, chapels, rectories, schools, and high-status post-medieval buildings. The remaining 321 are grade II listed buildings.

- 9A.5.18 There are no listed buildings within the draft Order Limits in Section 4.
- 9A.5.19 Within 1 km of the draft Order Limits in Section 4 there are 97 listed buildings. Of these, two are grade I, nine are grade II*, and the remaining 86 are grade II.
- 9A.5.20 The grade I listed buildings are:
- Church of St Peter, Tilton on the Hill (NHLE: 1074839).
 - Noseley Chapel, Noseley (NHLE: 1360652).
- 9A.5.21 The grade II* listed buildings are:
- Church of St Denis, Stonton Wyville (NHLE: 1061650).
 - Skeffington Hall, Skeffington (NHLE: 1074875).
 - Church of St Andrew, Welham (NHLE: 1104871).
 - Church of St John the Baptist, Goadby (NHLE: 1115490).
 - Lowesby Hall, Lowesby (NHLE: 1178050).
 - Church of All Saints, Lowesby (NHLE: 1295216).
 - Church of St Thomas A Becket, Tugby (NHLE: 1326673).
 - Noseley Hall, Noseley (NHLE: 1360651).
 - Church of St Thomas A Beckett, Skeffington (NHLE: 1306995).
- 9A.5.22 Between 1 and 3 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 4 there are 260 further listed buildings. Of these, four are grade I, 21 are grade II*, and the remaining 235 are grade II.
- 9A.5.23 Additionally, there are 17 grade I and grade II* listed buildings between 3 km and 5 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 4. Of these, two are grade I and the remaining 15 are grade II* and between them comprise churches, halls, chapels, and farmhouses

Conservation areas

- 9A.5.24 There are no conservation areas within the draft Order Limits at Section 4.
- 9A.5.25 There are 13 conservation areas within 1 km and 3 km of the draft Order Limits. Of these, four are within 1 km of the draft Order Limits and the remaining nine are within 3 km.
- 9A.5.26 Church Langton is located approximate 530m from draft Order Limits at its closest point. There are six grade II listed buildings and a further two grade II* listed buildings within it: the Church of St Peter (NHLE 1061497) and the 18th century Old Rectory (NHLE 1061500), said to be one of the finest houses in the Harborough district. The conservation area lies approximately 2.5km west outside draft Order Limits. Together with East Langton and Tur Langton, these Conservation Areas.
- 9A.5.27 Tur Langton includes within its boundary two scheduled monuments: the remains of a 13th century chapel (NHLE 1018837) and manorial earthworks (NHLE 1017208) associated with Manor Farm. Landmark structures include the early 17th-century Manor House and the mid-19th-century grade II* listed Church of St Andrew (NHLE 1061583), which is visually prominent within the area. Draft Order Limits may be visible in long views to the east.

- 9A.5.28 There are two grade II listed buildings in East Langton, an area which protects a group of 17th, 18th and 19th century brick dwellings set around an unusual oval village centre alongside wooded land characteristic of the rural area. Long views east may be glimpsed through hedgerows and established trees towards draft Order Limits at its highest point on the northern edge of the conservation area.
- 9A.5.29 Skeffington Conservation Area lies approximately 225 m to the west of the draft Order Limits. It is as a dispersed rural settlement of special architectural and historic interest, defined by its close relationship with the parkland of Skeffington Hall, a Grade II* listed building, and the associated church, stables and boundary features set within a mature, tree-dominated landscape. The varied historic building stock, traditional materials, and winding settlement form, contribute to its significance and together reinforce the secluded parkland character and long-standing relationship between buildings and landscape.
- 9A.5.30 Tilton on the Hill Conservation Area is an upland village distinguished by its topographical form, with the church and historic core prominently sited on high ground and the settlement descending southwards along the Main Street. Its significance is reinforced by important views from within the conservation area, notably along the Main Street and sunken lanes, towards the grade I Church of St Peter and churchyard, across Manor Farm parkland, and between historic buildings that together express the area's historic form, materials and rural character.
- 9A.5.31 The special interest of Tugby conservation Area is derived from its principal heritage assets, notably the prominently sited grade II* Norman church of St Thomas à Becket and groups of historic vernacular buildings along Main Street, Chapel Lane and Hallaton Road, which collectively illustrate the village's historic development. This interest is strongly shaped by the area's pronounced topography and a series of key views from within the conservation area, including views up to the hilltop church, along the steeply descending Main Street, and across lower ground where changes in level and enclosure reinforce the settlement's historic character.
- 9A.5.32 Great Bowden Conservation Area comprises the historic core of the original settlement from which Market Harborough developed, retaining a distinct non-urban character and clear physical separation afforded by the railway line which runs north-south at its mid-point, and which separates it from Market Harbough to its south. It includes the grade I listed Church of St Peter and St Paul. The area's special interest derives from its irregular village plan, extensive network of greens and open spaces, mature tree cover, and a diverse historic building stock ranging from modest cottages to substantial 17th to 19th century houses set in large gardens.
- 9A.5.33 Billesdon Conservation Area comprises several significant heritage assets, namely group comprising the grade II* Church of St John the Baptist, Manor House, grade II* Old School and associated historic buildings along with the Market Place, the medieval market cross. Together these illustrate Billesdon's historic role as a market settlement and form a cohesive and highly significant group. Its significance is reinforced by strong townscape qualities and views shaped by topography and street pattern, notably the contrast between narrow streets and the open Market Place, and views terminated by landmark buildings such as the church spire. Trees, green spaces, historic boundaries and traditional materials further enhance the sense of enclosure and visual coherence.

- 9A.5.34 Lowesby is a small, remote estate settlement closely associated with Lowesby Hall, a Grade II* listed building, and its designed landscape. Its significance derives from the historic relationship between the Hall, church, former school, estate cottages and gardens, the influence of topography and mature trees, and the survival of open spaces and key views that together express the character of an 18th-century estate village set within an agricultural landscape.
- 9A.5.35 Market Harborough comprises the historic core of the market town, set at the midpoint between Leicester and Northampton. The town developed from the late 12th century around a medieval market established at a crossing of the River Welland. Its historic evolution is legible in the infilled market place and street pattern, the survival of long burgage plots and yards, and a rich concentration of heritage assets including the grade I listed Church of St Dionysius and the former Grammar School, the Old Town Hall and extensive groups of listed Georgian and Regency buildings along the High Street. The area's special interest is strongly expressed through landmark buildings and views shaped by topography and townscape, most notably the soaring spire of St Dionysius Church, which dominates the skyline and is visible from within and beyond the town centre.
- 9A.5.36 There are three designated assets within the Rolleston Conservation Area: the grade II* listed Church of St John, the churchyard cross within the churchyard (grade II listed and a scheduled monument) and the grade II Gardener's Cottage. It is a secluded estate hamlet with a dispersed settlement pattern, historically associated with the Rolleston Estate and centred on the wooded parkland setting of Rolleston Hall.
- 9A.5.37 Slawston is a small linear village comprising the prominent grade II* listed church of All Saints and several other designated assets. Included within the boundary of the conservation area is land from which important views of the Church are afforded. Its significance derives from the varied historic building stock constructed in red brick and ironstone, surviving farmhouses and agricultural ranges, traditional boundary walls, mature trees and wide green verges, together with important views along the main village street and towards the church that reinforce its rural character and historic form.
- 9A.5.38 Grand Union Canal Conservation Area stretches for 48 km along the Canal from Welford to Aylestone in Leicester. It includes the canal and associated infrastructure built between 1793 and 1814. Its significance derives from the survival of the canal as a late-18th and early-19th-century transport corridor, including locks, bridges, wharves, lock-keepers' cottages, branches and feeders, which together illustrate the canal's historic function and engineering character within a varied rural and urban setting.

Non-designated heritage assets

- 9A.5.39 In total, 313 non-designated heritage assets, including locally listed assets, potential non-designated heritage assets, and areas of ridge and furrow have been identified. It should be noted that this is an initial number, pending further research, which will inform the ES.

9A.5.40 Of the identified 313 non-designated heritage assts, 27 are located within the draft Order Limits at Section 4:

- A Neolithic or Bronze Age flint scatter east of Stonton Wyville (MLE10271).
- Medieval grange or hospital site, Cold Newton (MLE396).
- Possible medieval fishpond, Cold Newton (MLE393).
- Medieval village earthworks south and west of the Church, Glooston (MLE1561).
- London & North Western Railway, Rugby & Stamford Railway (MLE10682, MNM135664).
- Great Northern Railway, Leicester to Marefield (MLE16088).
- Turnpike Road 'London to Manchester Road' (MLE20652, MNM102932).
- Turnpike Road, Leicester to Peterborough (MLE20655).
- Possible park pale, Old Park, Noseley (MLE2216).
- Roman road – Gartree Road (MLE2292).
- Medieval trackway running east from Skeffington (MLE2356).
- Medieval occupation earthworks west south-west of Welsh Myers Farm, Skeffington (MLE2357).
- Roman settlement west south west of Skeffington Gap Farm, Skeffington (MLE2360).
- Possible site of medieval grange, near Welsh Myers Farm, Skeffington (MLE2377).
- Square enclosure south-west of Manor House, Welham (MLE2601).
- Medieval field system north-east of Birch Tree Farm, Welham (MLE2606).
- Lowesby Station (MLE29357).
- Medieval coin from east of Lowesby Hall Farm (MLE6740).
- Prehistoric flint from north of Stonton Wyville (MLE8314).
- Possible Anglo-Saxon site, Glooston (MLE8372).
- Historic settlement core of Glooston (MLE8393).
- Prehistoric finds from Cranoe Field V, Cranoe (MLE8393).
- Roman pottery from Cranoe Field V, Cranoe (MLE8472).
- Roman coin from north of Marefield Lane, Lowesby (MLE8611).
- Possible Roman road, Harbourh.Melton Road (MLE8910).
- Roman site south of Langton Road, Cranoe (MLE9521).

9A.6 Baseline: Section 5 – Northamptonshire

Location

- 9A.6.1 Section 5 comprises reconductoring of approximately 34 km of the existing 400 kV ZA overhead line from the confluence of Langton Brook and the River Welland, south west of Welham to the existing Grendon 400 kV substation.

Geology

- 9A.6.2 The bedrock geology of Section 5 is varied, comprising multiple different formations from several geological groups. The most extensive of these are:
- Charmouth Mudstone Formation (mudstone)
 - Dyrham Formation (siltstone and mudstone, interbedded)
 - Whitby Mudstone Formation (Mudstone)
 - Northampton Sand Formation (ironstone, ooidal)
 - Grantham Formation (sandstone, siltstone and mudstone)
- 9A.6.3 There are also areas Wellingborough Limestone Member (limestone and mudstone, interbedded), Rutland Formation (mudstone), and Stamford Member (sandstone and siltstone, interbedded).
- 9A.6.4 Bedrocks of Marlstone Rock (comprising Carmouth and Whitby Mudstone formations), Wellingborough Limestone and Kingsthorpe White Sandstone (comprising Wellingborough Limestone Member and Rutland Formation), and the 11 known building-stone types of the Northampton Sand Formation are used as building stone in Section 5 and in the wider country of Northamptonshire (Ref 9A.12).
- 9A.6.5 Some of these building stone types were extracted and used for a relatively short period of time or for specific uses. For example, Kingsthorpe White Sandstone was worked in a single quarry to the north of Kingsthorpe from the end of the 18th century through to the early 19th century (Ref 9A.12) before it closed. During this time, it produced stone for a large number of prestigious buildings in Northampton. Often used alongside building stones of the Northampton Sand Formation, Wellingborough Limestone is used as a rubble stone laid in bands in the walls of churches and domestic residences in rural villages (Ref 9A.12).
- 9A.6.6 Where present within Section 5, superficial geology predominantly comprises areas of glacial till: Oadby Member (diamicton) and Till (mid Pleistocene, diamicton). Because these deposits are formed through the action of glacial meltwater, which erodes and moves surface material, these areas of superficial geology are not conducive to the survival or archaeological material. Unlike the other sections, particularly Sections 3, other detrital superficial deposits at the heads of streams and rivers are uncommon in the geological makeup of Section 5 and there is an increased potential that glacial till deposits overly earlier deposits of alluvium along the upper reaches of larger rivers and streams.
- 9A.6.7 The various tributary rivers, major rivers – such as River Welland, River Ise, and River Nene – and their floodplains are often a good source of food and can provide a way to move through the landscape. Therefore, human activity in these areas is common. Because of the waterlogged belowground conditions present along rivers

and their flood plains, organic and inorganic archaeology can survive. There is also a limited potential for paleoenvironmental deposits, however, the relative speed of watercourses tends to wash seeds, pollen or other natural material away.

- 9A.6.8 Areas of River Terrace Deposit (sand and gravel) and Ecton Member (sand and gravel) – another form of terrace deposit are found along the edges of parts of the floodplains of all three of the major rivers of Section 5. Although located alongside the general low-lying alluvial deposits for a river's floodplain, the surface of terrace deposits sits higher in the landscape than the surrounding floodplain. Areas of terrace deposits do not usually contain archaeology of a Prehistoric date but were often used as settlement sites from the Iron Age to Roman transition onward. There is, therefore, the potential for archaeology to survive in these areas in the form of settlement or occupation remains. Notable areas of terrace deposits within Section 5 are found in the southern reaches of Market Harborough, around the village of Great Oxendon, and on the northern and southern edge of the floodplain of the River Nene.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 9A.6.9 Section 5 is within the Northamptonshire Vales NCA, a more lowland landscape which includes the Welland and Nene valleys (Ref 9A.10). It is an area which has seen considerable historic settlement and its archaeology reflects this with evidence of Iron Age settlement and agriculture, Roman towns and villas and medieval castles.
- 9A.6.10 While the rural landscape of the county of Northamptonshire is was predominantly enclosed during the 18th and 19th centuries under the Enclosure Acts, large portions of the county were enclosed before this, particularly in the upland areas of the northern stretch of Section 5 (Ref 9A.16). These areas of pre-parliamentary enclosure trace their origin back to the 15th century and were often undertaken by individual farmers and landowners as a result of the re-organisation of holdings, the enclosing of formerly open homesteads (part of the Medieval open field system), and the introduction of sheep farming.
- 9A.6.11 Settlements within areas of pre-parliamentary enclosure principally comprise nucleated villages within potential Medieval origin. There is, however, a tendency for these long-established villages to shift away from a cluster of buildings around an early street layout, a 'historic core', to being set out in more regular rows. This is most likely a response to the topography, as villages are often located along the many tributary streams of the uplands, and the increased population of these settlements during the 19th century (Ref 9A.16). Examples of shrunken and deserted Medieval villages – that latter occurring as a result of early enclosure – are a characteristic of this landscape type.
- 9A.6.12 The expansive and dominant areas of enclosure mostly occupy and/or overlook major river valleys such as the Welland valley in the north of Section 5 and the Nene valley in the south. In addition to the laying of new fields enclosing the formally open Medieval landscape, some of the already enclosed fields of upland parishes, and those of earlier rounds of parliamentary enclosure, were altered. This most often occurred during the early 19th century and contributes to the difficult in sometimes identifying the extent of some pre-parliamentary fields by boundary shape alone. This is because in some places, hedges were removed to create larger fields and in others new 'regular' boundaries were added (Ref 9A.16). Numerous farmsteads were created alongside the enclosures of the 18th and 19th century and are likely to demonstrate a vernacular form of rural agricultural architecture.

- 9A.6.13 Settlement within areas of enclosure comprises a mixture of both nucleated and the later (19th century) rows previously discussed. Deserted Medieval villages are less common in areas of enclosure than pre-parliamentary enclosure and are more likely to have occurred as a result of economic failure rather than emparking or forced removal (Ref 9A.16).
- 9A.6.14 Toward the southern tip of Section 5, areas of parliamentary enclosure are severed by the course of the River Nene. Along this stretch of the Nene valley (which runs west/east through Section 5) land use shifted from agriculture to one of sand and gravel extraction on an industrial scale during the early and mid-20th century to fulfil the demands of the construction industry (Ref 9A.16). Historic extraction activities will have destroyed all earlier landscape elements – which was probably pastureland throughout the Medieval period although some areas are likely to have been parts of field systems. Where quarries were excavated before c.1970, all archaeological remains in these areas will have been destroyed. Investigations at Nene valley quarry sites from the c.1970s onward shows that human activity and settlement occurred along the Nene valley from the Prehistoric period onward – with a particular intensity during the Bronze Age. Today, the disused quarry pits are often naturalised, comprising sets of interconnected lakes surrounded by areas of rough ground giving way to arable fields.

Designated Heritage Assets

Scheduled Monuments

- 9A.6.15 There are no scheduled monuments within the draft Order Limits at Section 5.
- 9A.6.16 Within 1 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 5 there are four:
- Site of manor house (NHLE: 1003875).
 - Braybrooke Bridge (NHLE: 1003891).
 - Roman villa 200m W of Doddington Mill (NHLE: 1006637).
 - Braybrooke Castle - the remains of a Medieval moated manor and medieval settlement remains (NHLE: 1016318).
- 9A.6.17 Between 1 and 3 km, there are a further 10 scheduled monuments:
- Roman villa (NHLE: 1002902).
 - Medieval village of Faxton (NHLE: 1003899).
 - Manorial earthworks (NHLE: 1006615).
 - Earls Barton motte castle (NHLE: 1009510).
 - Place House moat and fishpond (NHLE:1009513).
 - Beacon Hill motte castle (NHLE: 1013142).
 - Bowl Barrow 530m north east of Roe's Farm (NHLE: 1014934).
 - Medieval Cross 170m south west of Hall Farm (NHLE: 1016320).
 - Abandoned areas of Walgrave Medieval village (NHLE: 1418583).
 - Abandoned Medieval village of Little Oxendon (NHLE: 1418685).

9A.6.18 Between 3 and 5 km, there are a further 11 scheduled monuments:

- Site revealed by aerial photography N of Easton Lodge (NHLE: 1003876).
- Roman town of Irchester and preceding Iron Age settlement; including remains of the Medieval hamlet of Chester on the Water (NHLE: 1003892).
- Tithe barn (NHLE: 1003895).
- Romano-British settlement and pottery kilns W of Ecton North Lodge (NHLE: 1006636).
- Walgrave moated site (NHLE: 1011036).
- Stoke Albany moated site and fishponds (NHLE: 1012162).
- Barton Seagrave moats, fishponds and shrunken medieval village remains (NHLE:1013320).
- Rushton Triangular Lodge: an Elizabethan warrener's lodge and rabbit warren (NHLE: 1013826).
- Kelmarsh medieval settlement (NHLE:1017188).
- Medieval settlement remains at East Farndon (NHLE: 1017190).
- Clipston medieval settlement (NHLE: 1418334).

Registered Parks and Gardens

9A.6.19 There are no registered parks and gardens within the draft Order Limits at Section 5. There are two registered parks and gardens within 1 km and 3 km of the draft Order Limits. The grade II* Harrington (NHLE: 1001034) is within 1 km, and the grade II* Great Harrowden Hall (NHLE: 1000392) is within 3 km of draft Order limits.

Listed buildings

9A.6.20 There is one listed building within draft Order Limits in Section 5: the grade II listed Doddington Barn (NHLE: 1293977).

9A.6.21 There are 559 listed buildings across all Study Areas at Section 5. Of these, 27 are designated grade I and 65 are designated grade II*. The remaining 467 are all designated grade II.

9A.6.22 Within 1 km of the draft Order Limits in Section 5 there are 135 listed buildings. Of these, three are grade I, 19 are grade II*, and the remaining 113 are grade II.

9A.6.23 The grade I listed buildings are:

- Church of St Andrews (NHLE: 1213539).
- Flats 1, 2, 3, Porch House, Bell Tower, Cloisters, South Wing, Pediment Corner House and Tower House at Dingley Hall (NHLE: 1294135).
- Church of All Saints (NHLE: 1294226).

9A.6.24 The grade II* listed buildings are:

- Church of St Mary (NHLE: 1040666).
- Orlingbury Hall and attached wall and outbuildings to north east (NHLE: 1040668).
- Church of St. Mary The Virgin (NHLE: 1040680).
- Grendon Hall (NHLE: 1040746).
- Church of St. Leonard (NHLE: 1040750).
- United Reformed Church (NHLE: 1191513).
- The Old Rectory (NHLE: 1191565).
- Wilby House (NHLE: 1192006).
- Church of St. Peter and Paul (NHLE: 1213602).
- Loddington Hall (NHLE: 1213737).
- The Orton Trust Workshop (NHLE: 1213823).
- Church of St. Mary (NHLE: 1286637).
- Church of St. Leonard (NHLE: 1288918).
- Church of St. Andrew (NHLE: 1289054).
- Cransley Hall (NHLE: 1289058).
- Church of All Saints (NHLE: 1289123).
- Manor Farmhouse (NHLE: 1293700).
- Gatepier approximately 45 metres north east of The Old Rectory (NHLE: 1371724).
- Church of All Saints (NHLE: 1372349).

9A.6.25 The 113 grade II listed building comprise farmhouses and other residential properties, garden structures and monuments, lodges, gatepiers, icehouses, boundary posts, pumps, public houses, barns, chest tombs and tombstones, telephone boxes, dovecotes, and war memorials.

9A.6.26 Between 1 and 3 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 5 there are 385 listed buildings, of which 11 are grade I and 21 are grade II*. The remaining 353 are all designated grade II.

9A.6.27 There are 38 Grade I and II* listed buildings between 3 km and 5 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 5. Of these, 13 of are grade I and 25 are grade II*. These assets comprise churches, almshouses, dovecots, a hotel, halls and other high-status residences and their gardens and garden structures, and a tithe barn.

Conservation Areas

- 9A.6.28 There are no conservation areas within the draft Order Limits at Section 5.
- 9A.6.29 There are 20 conservations areas between 1 km and 3 km of the draft Order Limits. Of these, 10 are within 1 km and 10 are within 3 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 5.
- 9A.6.30 Wellingborough Town Centre conservation area comprises a clearly legible medieval street pattern, strong sense of enclosure, and a rich mix of historic buildings and spaces focused on landmarks such as the grade I listed All Hallows Church, Market Place and Broad Green. Its character is reinforced by groups of listed buildings, including the grade I listed Tithe Barn (also a scheduled monument), numerous unlisted Buildings of Townscape Merit, and a diverse range of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian architecture, although some areas have been weakened by inappropriate modern development.
- 9A.6.31 Brampton Ash comprises the small rural village of Brampton Ash set within tranquil, undulating Northamptonshire countryside to the northwest of Kettering. Its character is defined by a compact settlement focused on Hermitage Road, with attractive stone buildings and boundary walls, and a conservation area boundary drawn to include the whole village, even where some later buildings detract from its overall character.
- 9A.6.32 Grendon village is sited on top of a hill and encompasses the grade II* St Mary's Church at its centre. As a result of its location, the 15th century church tower is widely visible in views outside the area and serves as a focal point within the surroundings.
- 9A.6.33 Braybrooke is a loosely structured village set in a shallow valley west of Desborough, defined by a broadly rectangular street pattern formed by converging minor roads and bisected by the River Jordan. Its special character derives as much from open spaces as from buildings, with the conservation area boundary deliberately including pasture and floodplain areas where historic flooding has limited development and helped preserve a strong sense of openness. Key focal points include the 13th-century grade II* listed Church of All Saints north of the river, enclosed pastures around Rectory Farm and the Old Rectory, and the visually important approach along Harborough Road with historic farm complexes dating from the 15th century. Elsewhere, Braybrooke Green and Griffin Road display a more enclosed character created by walling, cottages and mature vegetation.
- 9A.6.34 Castle Ashby conservation area protects the grade I Elizabethan E-plan Castle Ashby House, and associated landscape designed by Lancelot (Capability) Brown and the grade I listed St Mary Magdalene's Church. The village developed in close relationship with the estate, forming a 'closed' settlement of farmsteads and workers' cottages, almshouses and an inn. The conservation area also contains numerous Grade II structures, with the house and village separated by topography, service areas and mature tree cover.
- 9A.6.35 The character of Cransley Conservation Area is defined largely by domestic stone buildings with varied roofing materials. Landmark heritage assets such as the grade II* listed Cransley Hall and grade I listed St Andrew's Church, are surrounded by open green space which forms an important part of the village's setting.
- 9A.6.36 Earls Barton conservation area centres around a scheduled monument: "Earls Barton motte castle" which lies directly north of the grade I Church of All Saints, a Saxon church and tower which is visible across the conservation area and surrounds. The village lies on a steep valley side and therefore is afforded wide views from the south and southeast towards Grendon, Castle Ashby and Whiston.

- 9A.6.37 Great Doddington is characterised by a linear historic core along the contour of the valley side and comprises five farms, the grade II* listed Church of St Nicholas' and the grade I listed Old Vicarage.
- 9A.6.38 Harrington is a small conservation area, containing one grade I listed church which lies within the northern extended arm of the designation boundary and four further grade II listed buildings within the main body of the conservation area.
- 9A.6.39 Loddington conservation area lies 4 miles to the west of Kettering. The village is arranged along the spine of Main Street and comprises stone buildings typical of the Northamptonshire vernacular access. Its entrance from the south is marked by two significant landmark buildings- the grade II* Church of St Leonards to the east and Loddington Hall to the west.
- 9A.6.40 Centred around a central valley, Mears Ashby is characterised by the legacy of medieval open land and paddocks which now provide a green backdrop to the built environment. Many of the existing historic buildings date from the 17th and 18th centuries reflecting the economic stability in the area at the time.
- 9A.6.41 Pytchley Conservation Area retains a dense historic street pattern and includes the grade I Church of All Saints, parts of which date from the 12th century to the east of the area. There are also a number of grade II listed vernacular dwellings. Arterial routes into the village are well wooded, beyond which lie green fields.
- 9A.6.42 Rothwell Conservation Area encompasses the historic core of Rothwell, an historic market town 4 m north-west of Kettering. It contains a number of designated assets, most notably the 12th century grade I listed Church of the Holy Trinity, the grade I listed Rothwell Market House, a 16th century market hall and the grade II* listed 16th century almshouses of Jesus Hospital.
- 9A.6.43 The Thorpe Malsor Conservation Area encompasses a compact, largely linear village focused along Church Way, characterised by stone-built historic dwellings, landmark buildings such as the grade II* listed All Saints Church and grade II Thorpe Malsor Hall, and a strong relationship with surrounding parkland and tree belts. Its special character is reinforced by the consistent use of limestone and ironstone, the concentration of listed and contributory buildings, and the inclusion of important open spaces within the boundary that enhance the village's setting and approaches.
- 9A.6.44 The Weston-by-Welland Conservation Area, designated in 1984, covers the historic core of the village around Main Street and Welham Road, characterised by stone and slate houses, farm buildings and cottages, mature trees, stone walls, the village green and the grade II listed St Mary's Church overlooking the Welland Valley. The boundary includes buildings, open land, walls and hedgerows that contribute to the village's character, with later development considered to have largely preserved the appearance and setting of the older settlement.
- 9A.6.45 Desborough Conservation Area encompasses a small, central part of the town of Desborough and is defined by a cohesive industrial character, reflecting its origins as a planned suburb shaped by the boot and shoe industry, with a disused factory site and associated workers' housing. The tightly arranged terraces of late Victorian housing provide clear evidence of the rapid development of the industry and its lasting influence on the area's sense of place. There is one designated asset: the grade II listed King's Arms public house located at the area's south-western boundary.

- 9A.6.46 Orlingbury Conservation Area encompasses the village of Orlingbury, located approximately 4 km south of Kettering. Largely unaffected by the Industrial Revolution due to its limited connectivity to major towns and transport routes, the village's historic development is closely associated with subsistence-based cottage industries. Orlingbury has a distinctive nucleated settlement form centred on a village green, a layout that is unique within the Borough. The green lies at the junction of two by-roads linking the village with the Harrowdens, Broughton, Hannington and Isham, and forms the primary focus and organising element of the settlement. Although largely concealed from view within the village, the grade II* listed Orlingbury Hall is fundamental to its historic structure and development.
- 9A.6.47 Hardwick is a linear village that developed along a minor by-road linking Wellingborough with the A43. Its centre is defined by a crossroads located to the north of the Grade II* Church of St Leonard, which forms a key landmark within the settlement. Owing to the village's distinctive topography, Hardwick is not readily visible from the surrounding landscape, nor does it offer many outward views aside from a middle-distance view from the northern end of the village, looking approximately due north towards the church tower at Orlingbury.
- 9A.6.48 Broughton developed as a largely agricultural village, its growth constrained by the absence of a railway station and limited industrialisation. Its rural character remains evident today through working farms, converted farm buildings and extensive accessible green spaces. The village is also populated by later Victorian housing. From within the village, a series of views framed by vegetation towards open countryside is afforded. The grade II* Church of St Andrew dates from the 12th century and is visible in views from across the area.
- 9A.6.49 Wellingborough Town Centre derives its special interest from the legibility of its historic townscape, shaped by a medieval street pattern focused on All Hallows Church and the Market Place, and reinforced through a series of clearly defined views and nodal spaces that aid orientation and townscape coherence. Landmark buildings such as All Hallows Church, the Hind Hotel and Croyland Abbey act as key visual focal points within important nodes including Market Street, Broad Green and the Market Place, while streets curve and converge to reveal views in a gradual and sequential manner characteristic of medieval town form. The townscape reflects layered development from its early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) and medieval origins through Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian periods, expressed in groups of listed buildings, elegant Georgian town houses and numerous unlisted Buildings of Townscape Merit that collectively form a tight urban grain and strong sense of enclosure. Gateways such as Broad Green and the Swanspool area mark clear transitions into the town centre, while views along principal streets and glimpses between buildings contribute to a varied and engaging experience of the historic environment.
- 9A.6.50 Easton Maudit encompasses the village of Easton Maudit, a linear village running either side of singular street south from the grade I Church of St Peter and St Paul. the church which was rebuilt in the 14th century from likely Norman remains. The village is relatively densely developed either side of the street and but opens out towards the south where views over pastureland to the west are afforded. Further north views out of the conservation area are largely glimpsed between buildings.

Non-designated heritage assets

- 9A.6.51 In total, 1750 non-designated heritage assets, including locally listed assets, potential non-designated heritage assets, and areas of ridge and furrow have been identified. It should be noted that this is an initial number, pending further research, which will inform the ES.
- 9A.6.52 Of the 1750 identified non-designated heritage assets, 98 are located within the draft Order Limits at Section 5:
- Possible Manuring Scatter (MNN102876).
 - Possible Prehistoric Funerary Activity (MNN102877).
 - Unstratified Prehistoric Flints (MNN102878).
 - Unstratified, Undated Pottery, north of Glebe Farm (MNN102882).
 - Wellingborough to Northampton Turnpike (MNN102930).
 - Unstratified Mesolithic & Neolithic Flints (MNN109).
 - Prehistoric finds (MNN115041).
 - Undated pit, Earls Barton Quarry (MNN115042).
 - Possible prehistoric round barrow (MNN118565).
 - Undated Ditches (MNN118613).
 - Possible Enclosure, Undated (MNN118614-24).
 - Possible Prehistoric Hut Circle (MNN118625).
 - Undated trackway (MNN118813).
 - Undated enclosure (MNN118850).
 - Undated probable enclosure (MNN118851-82).
 - Probable undated pit (MNN118853-59).
 - Possible Medieval Ditch (MNN119208).
 - Undated Ditches (MNN121619, MNN121761).
 - Undated Pits (MNN121620).
 - Undated Enclosure (MNN121623, MNN121760).
 - Possible Prehistoric Ditch (MNN121636).
 - Prehistoric trackway (MNN121759).
 - Iron Age Enclosure (MNN121762).
 - Undated trackway (MNN121870, MNN122113).
 - Possible Bronze Age Barrow (MNN122170).
 - Mineral Railway Serving Desborough Quarries (MNN132229).
 - Open Fields Project: Areas of Survival of Ridge & Furrow (MNN133267-134040).
 - Northampton to Kettering Turnpike (MNN135330).

- Little Bowden to Rockingham Turnpike (MNN135331, MLE21278).
- Cransley And Loddington Mineral Railway (MNN136091).
- Probable Medieval/Post Medieval Ridge & Furrow (MNN137627).
- Undated Pit-Type Anomaly (MNN137644).
- Possible Site, Undated (MNN137645).
- Possible Prehistoric Burial Site (MNN138130).
- Hollow Way (RFP Survey) (MNN138732).
- Quarry Pits (RFP Survey) (MNN139940-139942).
- Unlocated Romano-British finds (MNN140243).
- Wilby Open Field System (MNN141237).
- Coventry to Peterborough Road Route (via Northampton) (MNN14165).
- The Jurassic Way (MNN160137).
- Old Orton pit (MNN160529).
- Bransons pit (MNN160530).
- London & North Western Railway (Northampton and Peterborough Branch Railway/Nene Valley Railway) (MNN16264).
- Plough headland (MNN166366).
- Glebe Barn, Mears Ashby Road (MNN170737).
- Midland Railway (Leicester - Kettering - Bedford - Hitchin) (MNN17077).
- Bronze Age ring ditch, Earls Barton Quarry (MNN171628).
- Possible late Iron Age/Roman or Anglo-Saxon field systems, north of Harborough Road (MNN171923).
- Unstratified Finds Indicating Possible Kiln, Undated (MNN23655).
- Flint scatter, north-west of Springhill (MNN23672).
- Chantry chapel, undated (MNN24170).
- Saxon and medieval finds, land south-west of Loatland Lodge Farm (MNN24838).
- Unstratified Mesolithic & Neolithic Finds (MNN25583).
- Unstratified Mesolithic & Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Finds (MNN25586).
- Iron Age/Roman settlement, Harrington Quarry (MNN25801).
- Romano-British finds (MNN27009).
- Wilby Hall Park (MNN3071).
- DNH Database: Brampton Ash/Site 3 – Roman settlement site (MNN31457).
- Undated burial, west of Pytchley Road (MNN31977).
- Probable Prehistoric settlement, east of Merrydale Farm (MNN35900).

- Long Pit Quarry (MNN36188).
- Ironstone Quarry at Cransley Lodge (MNN36189).
- Wantage/ Tanners pits (MNN36190).
- The River Nene (MNN4714).
- Barton Thorpe, Thorp Juxta Barton, deserted medieval settlement (MNN4874).
- The River Nene Navigation (Kings Lynn to Northampton) (MNN5176).
- Uncertain, Undated Activity (Probably Prehistoric) (MNN5429).
- Undated enclosure, north of Redhouse Road (MNN5560).
- Undated enclosures, north of Northampton Road (MNN5561).
- Site of possible Romano-British building, south of Redhouse Road (MNN5563).
- Probable Prehistoric/Romano-British Settlement, north-east of Merrydale Farm (MNN5600).
- Newbottle deserted medieval village (MNN5887).
- Mesolithic & Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Settlement (MNN6705).
- Uncertain, Undated Activity (Possibly Iron Age) (MNN6883).
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