

A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme TR010060

6.5 First Iteration Environmental Management Plan

Appendix B: Archaeological Management Plan

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6.5 First Iteration Environmental Management Plan Appendix B: Archaeological Management Plan

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Appendix B Archaeological Management Plan

B.1 Background to the plan

- B.1.1 The proposed scheme comprises improvements to the A12 between junction 19 (Boreham interchange) and junction 25 (Marks Tey interchange), a distance of approximately 24km, or 15 miles. The proposed scheme involves widening the A12 to three lanes throughout (where it is not already three lanes) with a bypass between junctions 22 and 23 and a second bypass between junctions 24 and 25. It also includes safety improvements, including closing off existing private and local direct accesses onto the main carriageway, and providing alternative provision for walkers, cyclists and horse riders (WCH) to existing routes along the A12, which would be removed. A detailed description of the proposed scheme can be found in Chapter 2 of the Environmental Statement [TR010060/APP/6.1].
- B.1.2 This Archaeological Management Plan (AMP), in outline, summarises the measures that would be used by the Principal Contractor (PC) to implement archaeological mitigation. It also sets out appropriate methodologies for the recording and mitigation of any archaeological resources to be undertaken during construction of the proposed scheme.
- B.1.3 This management plan would be updated by the PC and included within the second iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP), as appropriate and necessary, prior to commencement of works in accordance with the relevant Requirements in Schedule 2 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [TR010060/APP/3.1] and the requirements of the first iteration EMP [TR010060/APP/6.5].
- B.1.4 Archaeological works to be undertaken as part of the proposed scheme would be governed by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), as detailed in the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy included within Appendix 7.10 of the Environmental Statement [TR010060/APP/6.3].
- B.1.5 The WSI would be written by a suitably qualified archaeologist and would set out the timing of archaeological works. The content of the WSI would be agreed with the Curators (archaeological planning advisors for Essex and Colchester and Historic England) prior to implementation.

B.2 Responsibilities

- B.2.1 In relation to the control and management of archaeological resources, the PC will establish the appropriate roles and responsibilities for site staff in accordance with the roles and responsibilities set out in Chapter 2 of the first iteration EMP.

B.3 Mitigation strategies

B.3.1 To assist with identifying sites for targeted excavations, sites have been divided into three categories:

- Sites with intrinsic value (i.e. those so important they need to be excavated fully and with increased sampling)
- Sampling (sites that only need further investigation into certain elements, such as structures or for environmental information)
- Sites which have the potential to be preserved *in situ*

B.3.2 A range of archaeological mitigation requirements are proposed, taking into account the form and significance of archaeological remains or other heritage assets that would be impacted by the proposed scheme. The principal techniques to be used are:

- Strip, map and excavate
- Strip, map and sample
- Investigation of Palaeolithic and Quaternary Deposits
- Preservation *in situ* where practicable

B.3.3 A number of sites have been identified that require archaeological mitigation as follows:

- Sites which have intrinsic value and would require detailed excavation
- Sites which require further investigation of Palaeolithic and Quaternary Deposits are to be determined
- Determining sites which can be preserved *in situ* will be dependent on the final scheme design

B.3.4 Details for each site requiring archaeological mitigation are summarised in Table 5.1 of the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Appendix 7.10 of the Environmental Statement [TR010060/APP/6.3]), and their locations and extents are shown on Figure 7.10 [TR010060/APP/6.2]. The methodology for archaeology excavation, further investigation and preservation of archaeological remains are identified within the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [TR010060/APP/6.3].

B.3.5 Additionally, sites identified as requiring no further work are detailed in the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [TR010060/APP/6.3].

B.3.6 Built heritage and historic landscape recording would be required as detailed in the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [TR010060/APP/6.3].

B.3.7 Work would also be required to implement good construction working principles and considerate working practices during the utility works within the Kelvedon Conservation Area (Asset 566) and works affecting the adjacent listed buildings in order to avoid, as far as practicable, the effects of noise, vibration, dust and construction traffic. No trees would be removed and historic street furniture would be protected during construction. The works would be undertaken with appropriate materials and quality hard surface finishes to match the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

B.3.8 The deeply buried Pleistocene and Palaeolithic deposits (2.65 million to 11,700 years ago) in Southern Essex are poorly understood. Their wider research value is widely recognised, as is their potential to contribute to both the archaeological and paleoenvironmental knowledge of this period on a regional and national level. The works required by the scheme, particularly in the Borrow Pit areas have the potential to impact these deposits, damaging or destroying them.

B.3.9 In order to avoid negative construction impacts a detailed knowledge of the extent of these deposits and their potential is required. This is to ensure that, where the main and offline works have the potential to impact these valuable deposits, the impact is well understood and an appropriate mitigation strategy can be put in place.

B.3.10 The most efficient method of undertaking this activity is to produce a deposit model, the deposit model can then be used to:

- Provide a 3D model of the below ground deposits.
- By conflating the 3D deposit model, the design for the improvements and the design isophacyte, the actual impact of the improvements can be determined and an appropriate, targeted, mitigation plan can be developed.

B.3.11 The deposit model will then be applied:

- To determine where deposits dating to the palaeolithic era and which have the potential to be of archaeological or geoarchaeological importance are located.
- In conjunction with the mainline and offline design of the Scheme, to determine areas where these valuable deposits may be subject to construction impact.
- To inform detailed design in order to remove areas of Palaeolithic significance, if and where possible.
- To design appropriate mitigations strategies where construction impact is impossible to avoid.

- B.3.12 Analysis of the deposit model is in process. When these outputs have been produced, the data-set will be shared with the Planning Archaeologists for Essex County Council, Colchester City Council and Historic England for their review and comment.
- B.3.13 Upon conclusion of this review, where possible, the potential for offline design modifications will be discussed with the relevant team, with particular focus on Borrow Pit areas which are considered to have significant potential.
- B.3.14 Subject to this review an appropriate mitigation strategy will be determined in areas where construction impact is unavoidable. This work will be captured in a themed Written Scheme of Investigation:
- HE551497-COS-EHR-3 S0-PD-LH-0003 Written Schemes of Investigation for Palaeolithic Mitigation
- B.3.15 Whilst the deposit model can provide an indicator of what may lie beneath the Scheme land take, it is acknowledged that this technique is not infallible. It is recognised that as part of any mitigation activities, further, targeted geoarchaeological investigations and monitoring of construction works may be required.