

# LINCOLN EASTERN BYPASS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS 2016-2018

- Probably the largest single archaeological project ever carried out in Lincolnshire
- A wide-range of major discoveries of national and international importance
- Evidence from every period, representing 12,000+ years of Witham Valley human history
- 200,000+ artefacts (including worked flints, pottery, metalwork, & animal bone)
- Extensive Mesolithic hunter-gatherer setting beside River Witham (over 50,000 flints)
- Nationally-important Neolithic/Bronze Age riverside ceremonial landscape, with 7 circular enclosures/barrow monuments, timber fence-lines/'holloways', 30+ human cremations, and rare 'plank burials'
- Complex sequence of peat infilled river channels of the Witham, containing ritually-deposited artefacts, preserved leather & wooden objects, possible trackway timbers & rich environmental evidence enabling the reconstruction of the past Witham landscape
- Neolithic & Bronze Age artefacts including 50,000 flints, several stone axes, a Bronze dagger, a rare and beautiful jet 'waisted' ear stud, jet and amber beads, a highly significant 'Copper Age' copper axe, an enigmatic 'unfired' pottery vessel and at least 10 complete human cremation pottery urns
- Nationally-rare Bronze Age oak log-boat
- Large Roman 'villa' complex, including foundations of several stone buildings, floor surfaces, possible shrines and temple, burials, corn driers, pottery kilns, 30 or more stone-lined wells, animal drove-ways & enclosures, painted wall plaster, central heating tiles, oyster or fish pond, possible grape vines and finds including coins, brooches, leather shoes, glass beads, bone pins & combs
- Extremely important Roman carved stone 'aedicule' (top of a shrine) with timber-building representation (perhaps unique in UK; likely internationally-important)
- Mid-Saxon Christian cemetery with 700 skeletons excavated & more skeletons preserved underground (one of largest in UK & might prove to be largest; nationally-significant with relevance internationally); possible church/chapel associated with the cemetery
- Mid-Saxon coffin timbers may represent rare 'plank burial' (possibly UK's earliest)
- Extensive Medieval monastic grange complex, including building foundations, carved architectural stonework, beer-making kilns, ovens, stone-lined wells, & base of a defensive stone watch tower
- Post-medieval farmstead including aisled stone buildings, stone-lined wells, trackways, yards, drains, millstones, pottery, coins and bone implements, like a carved 'apple corer'
- A finely carved 12<sup>th</sup> century stone 'grotesque' sculpture depicting a 'head in jaws'