

Green Hill Solar Farm

EN010170

Consultation Report Appendix: Non-statutory Consultation Materials (Part 1 of 2)

Prepared by: Copper Consultancy

Date: May 2025

Document Reference: APP/GH5.3

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)



Contents

Table of Contents

• Appendix 3.1 - Stakeholder invitation to introductory meetings.....	1
• Appendix 3.2 - List of stakeholders.....	3
• Appendix 3.3 - S44 letters issued in Jan 2024.....	6
• Appendix 3.4 - Early engagement workshop (PowerPoint).....	7
• Appendix 3.6 - Access and Location Plan (March 2024).....	60
• Appendix 3.7 - Environmental Constraints Plan - Northern Sites (March 2024).....	61
• Appendix 3.8 - Environmental Constraints Plan - Southern Sites (March 2024).....	62
• Appendix 3.9 - Site Plan A Environmental Masterplan (1 of 9) (March 2024).....	63
• Appendix 3.10 - Site Plan B Environmental Masterplan (2 of 9) (March 2024).....	64
• Appendix 3.11 - Site Plan C & D Environmental Masterplan (3 of 9) (March 2024).....	65
• Appendix 3.12 - Site Plan E (1) Environmental Masterplan (4 of 9) (March 2024).....	66
• Appendix 3.13 - Site Plan E (2) Environmental Masterplan (5 of 9) (March 2024).....	67
• Appendix 3.14 - Site Plan BESS Site Environmental Masterplan (6 of 9) (March 2024).....	68
• Appendix 3.15 - Site Plan F (1) Environmental Masterplan (7 of 9) (March 2024).....	69
• Appendix 3.16 - Site Plan F (2) Environmental Masterplan (8 of 9) (March 2024).....	70
• Appendix 3.17 - Site Plan F (3) Environmental Masterplan (9 of 9) (March 2024).....	71
• Appendix 3.18 - Full Site - Environmental Constraints Plan (March 2024).....	72
• Appendix 3.19 - Environmental Masterplan Location (March 2024)	73
• Appendix 3.20 - Site G - Co:design (May 2024).....	74
• Appendix 3.21 - Site G - Environmental Masterplan (May 2024).....	124
• Appendix 3.22 - Site G - Location Plan (May 2024).....	125
• Appendix 3.23 - Access and Location Plan (May 2024).....	126
• Appendix 3.24 - Site G - Environmental Constraints Plan North including Site G (May 2024).....	127
• Appendix 3.25 - Site G - Environmental Constraints Plan South including Site G (May 2024).....	129
• Appendix 3.26 - Newsletter – June 2024.....	129
• Appendix 3.27 - Non Stat Primary Consultation Zone.....	133



Island Green Power - Green Hill Solar Farm - Launch of public consultation 7 November - 19 December 2024

1 November 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing to you regarding our proposals for Green Hill Solar Farm, a solar farm with battery energy storage located on land west and south of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire and north of Milton Keynes. On 7 November, we will launch a public consultation on our [REDACTED] This will run for six weeks until 19 December 2024.

[REDACTED] Farm

[REDACTED] proposed on land that is in the administrative boundaries of North Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes local planning authorities. In [REDACTED] approximately 1,200 hectares across 9 separate sites, referred to as Green Hill A-G and Green Hill BESS (Battery Storage Energy System). The BESS element of the scheme is proposed to be in two parts - located on land adjoining Grendon Substation to the west and south-east, parallel to Station Road, Grendon. A second location for energy storage is also being considered at Green Hill C.

Green Hill Solar Farm would provide a maximum power output of 500 megawatts (MW) and become a substantial source of clean, reliable and renewable electricity for the country. The site would both generate energy and include energy storage so any surplus generated could be deployed to the national grid as and when needed. This has the benefit of managing energy supply and reducing risk of power failures.

Consultation

We are committed to working with local communities to develop our proposals for Green Hill Solar Farm. In March and May 2024, we held a series of workshops with local councillors and community organisations to better understand the local context, key constraints, and what is important to the local community.

A report summarising the feedback received was published in September 2024. The report provides a summary of the workshops, including the information presented and discussed. It outlines the key themes from the comments received and explains how this feedback was incorporated into the design process for Green Hill Solar Farm. This report was shared with key stakeholders and community groups, and is available on our website.

We are now holding a statutory consultation on our more detailed proposals, which will run for six weeks, from **Thursday 7 November until 23:59 on Thursday 19 December 2024**. During this time, we are inviting feedback on our updated proposals, including our preliminary environmental information and proposals for measures that will minimise the impact of the project.

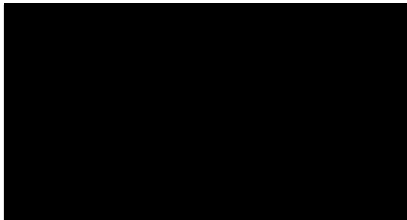


Invitation to a briefing

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and present our proposals for the Project, feedback to date and next steps in our application process. Please let us know if this would be of interest, including if you have any preferred dates, times and format of the meeting (i.e. face to face or via Microsoft Teams).

In the meantime, if you have any questions please email us at info@greenhillsolar.co.uk or call our community relations freephone at 0800 0129 882.

Kind regards,



Project Development Manager – Island Green Power



North Northampton Council

- Leader of the Council
- Vice-Chair
- Executive Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Assets
- Executive Portfolio Holder for Growth & Regeneration
- Executive Portfolio Holder for Climate & Green Environment
- Ward councillors from
 - Earls Barton
 - Brickhill and Queensway
 - Hatton Park
 - Croyland and Swanspool
 - Irchester
 - Burton and Broughton
 - Finedon
 - Rothwell and Mawsley

West Northamptonshire Council

- Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader of the Council
- Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure
- Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste
- Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, built Environment and Rural Affairs
- Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth
- Ward councillors from
 - Moulton
 - Long Buckby
 - Hackleton and Grange Park
 - Riverside Park
 - Billing and Rectory Farm
 - Talavera
 - Boothville and Parklands
 - Kingsthorpe South
 - Kingsthorpe North
 - Dallington Spencer
 - Duston West and St Crispin
 - Bugbrooke
 - Brixworth

Milton Keynes City Council

- Leader of the Council (includes Planning)
- Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Labour and Cooperative Party)
- Cabinet member for Economy, Sustainability and Innovation (includes Climate Change)
- Cabinet Member for Public Realm (includes Highways)
- Ward councillors from:
 - Olney
 - Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope
 - Newport Pagnell South



- Broughton
- Stantonbury

Bedford Borough Council

- Ward councillors from:
 - Harrold
 - Sharnbrook
 - Bromham

Parish Councils

- Bozeat Parish Council
- Brixworth Parish Council
- Broughton Parish Council
- Castle Ashby Parish Council
- Cogenhoe and Whiston
- Earls Barton Parish Council
- Easton Maudit Parish Council
- Eton Parish Council
- Great Cransley Parish Council
- Great Doddington Parish Council
- Grendon Parish Council
- Hannington Parish Council
- Hardwick Parish Council
- Holcot Parish Council
- Loughton and Hanging Houghton Parish Council
- Little Harrowden Parish Council
- Loddington Parish Council
- Mawsley Parish Council
- Mears Ashby Parish Council
- Moulton Parish Council
- Northampton Town Council
- Old Parish Council
- Orlingbury Parish Council
- Overstone Parish Council
- Pytchley Parish Council
- Scadwell Parish Council
- Strixton Parish Council
- Sywell Parish Council
- Walgrave Parish Council
- Wellingborough Town Council
- Wilby Parish Council
- Wollaston Parish Council
- Yardley Hastings Parish Council

Technical stakeholders

- British International Freight Association
- English Heritage
- Historic England



- Logistics UK
- Natural England
- North Northampton Council Planning Officers
- West Northampton Council Planning Officers
- Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants

Community Groups

- Age UK Northamptonshire
- Animals – Wellingborough Eco Group
- Brixworth Community Church
- Brixworth Community Larder
- Brixworth History Society
- Brixworth Wombles
- Clean Walgrave
- Climate Action – West Northamptonshire
- Eastern District North Social Club
- Friends of Northants Green Activism
- Great Doddington Working Men's Club
- Hardy Plant Society Northamptonshire Group
- Helping Hands – Wellingborough
- Holcot and Walgrave Scouts
- Lakeside Club
- Mears Ashby Cricket Club
- Mind Northamptonshire
- Moulton Club
- Nene Valley Bat Group
- Northampton Young Farmers Club
- Northamptonshire ACRE
- Rectory Farm Residents' Association
- St James Working Mens Club
- Staunch
- Walgrave Neighbourhood Watch
- Walgrave Women's Institute
- Wellingborough Black Consortium
- Wellingborough Climate Action Project
- Wellingborough LGBT Group
- Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants
- Young Peoples Trust for the Environment



3.3_ S44 letters issued in Jan 2024

25th January 2024

Ref: Green Hill PIL(s) ID: 4
Land Registry Title Numbers: HN14667, NN337200
Location: Land near Grendon

Dear

By way of introduction, I am a Land Agent at Bruton Knowles, acting on behalf of Island Green Power in regard to their Green Hill Solar Farm project. Green Hill would be a significant renewable energy project for the UK, but the proposals are at an early stage.

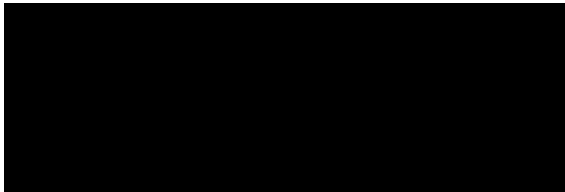
At this initial stage in the process, we are identifying landowners along a potential underground cable route to help connect the proposed Sites to each other and to the National Grid. We have identified your landownership and name through our Land Registry searches. We would greatly appreciate it if you could contact us with your email and phone number quoting the 'Ref' above, so we are able to discuss the project with you. Bruton Knowles colleagues will be in the local area for the next few weeks carrying out further on site investigations to establish all landownership parties which could be affected by the project.

More about Green Hill Solar Farm

The way we consume energy is already changing, the move towards renewables and the transition away from fossil fuels is an environmental and economic necessity. To hit our net zero and climate change targets, boosting our solar energy generation is essential. We need to get large amounts of renewable energy in the system to help ensure energy security and combat climate change – as well as helping to reduce people's energy bills.

Green Hill Solar Farm would provide a maximum power output of 500 MW megawatts (MW), which will provide a substantial source of electricity for the country. The energy storage element of the scheme will help store surplus renewable generation and then deploy it to the national grid when it is needed.

We appreciate your time and we look forward to hearing from you. For more information, please visit the Green Hill Project website: www.greenhillsolar.co.uk



Email: Greenhill@brutonknowles.co.uk
Bruton Knowles
60 Church Street,
Birmingham, B3 2DJ

Green Hill Solar Farm – Co:design workshops

March 2024

Agenda

	Item	Presenter	Time
1.	Welcome, meet the team, about today	Copper	10 Mins
2.	About IGP, need for solar and the project	IGP	5 Mins
3.	Session #1: Presentation – An Introduction to Green Hill Solar Farm	Copper/IGP/Technical consultants	40 Mins
4.	Q&A session	Copper to chair	20 Mins
5.	Refreshments break	-	20 Mins
6.	Session #2: Interactive sessions – discuss key topic areas	All	60 Mins
7.	Time to come together as a group and to report back on findings and reflect on the constraints plan	Copper	15 Mins
8.	Next steps, closing remarks and opportunity for final comments	Copper/ IGP	10 Mins
9.	Workshop close	-	-

Welcome and meet the Project Team

Our plans for Green Hill Solar Farm.....

Team Introductions:

- [REDACTED] (IGP) – Project Development Manager
- [REDACTED] (Lanpro) – Planning Project Manager
- [REDACTED] (Lanpro) – EIA Project Manager
- [REDACTED] (Copper) – Communications Consultant
- [REDACTED] (Copper) – Communications Consultant
- Technical Consultants

About today

- These collaboration workshops form an important role in the formative stages of the project and non-statutory consultation.
- Your engagement will help us to refine our plans and project design as this develops in more detail.
- We want to hear your local knowledge to help us to better understand the local context, any key constraints and what else is important to you for the development.
- We will present a 'constraints plan' and explain what the components of the site will be and describe the buffers and considerations that will go into the siting of equipment. This will feed into a more detailed layout plan ready for Statutory Consultation later this year.
- We want this session to be as open and collaborative as possible. There will be opportunities for you to ask questions of the team.

Gathering feedback

You can provide comments today by:

- Providing comments on post-it notes, which can be pinned on printed maps.
- Place pins to identify notable locations and constraints in the area.
- Using comment sheets – there will be an opportunity to write down your final thoughts at the end of today's workshop.

We will also be noting down actions and key discussion points throughout the day. After this workshop, these will be written up into a report.

About Island Green Power (IGP)

IGP specialises in the development of utility-scale solar and battery plants, overseeing the entire development process from start to finish including the sourcing of land, securing grid connections and obtaining planning consents.

IGP has successfully developed more than 1 GW of renewable energy assets. Over the past decade, IGP has undertaken the development of 34 solar projects worldwide, with 17 of these projects located in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

Further information about Island Green Power and their projects can be found on their website: www.islandgp.com

Need for solar in the UK

- National level – Government has set net zero and energy security targets to decarbonise by 2050 under the Climate Change Act. **This target is immovable.**
- Government is committed to five-fold increase in solar deployment by 2035 (up to 70GW).
- North and West Northamptonshire Councils have committed to becoming carbon neutral ahead of government goals
- Energy produced by utility-scale solar farms like Green Hill is needed to meet these net zero targets
- The way we consume energy is already changing - the demand for electricity is increasing
- Solar is a fast, reliable and affordable form of energy.
- Government is supportive of solar that is co-located with battery energy storage to maximise the efficiency of land use.

About the project

- The applicant for this development will be Green Hill Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of IGP.
- Green Hill Solar Farm will include solar arrays with a capacity of 500 MW and associated infrastructure including Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- As it is proposing over 50 MW, it is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will be consented through the Development Consent Order (DCO).
- Proposed submission of the DCO in 2025.



IGP Developed Site: Exning - Suffolk

Timeline



Session #1: An Introduction to Green Hill Solar Farm

Project overview

- The Point of Connection would be the Grendon 400kV substation.
- Cable routes are currently being assessed.
- The proposals for the solar farm will include solar panel arrays, battery containers, inverters, transformers, substations, site access, cable connections, security fencing and CCTV monitoring equipment, construction compounds and mitigation and enhancement including landscaping and biodiversity net gain (BNG).
- We are aiming for 60-year operational period following which the scheme will be decommissioned.

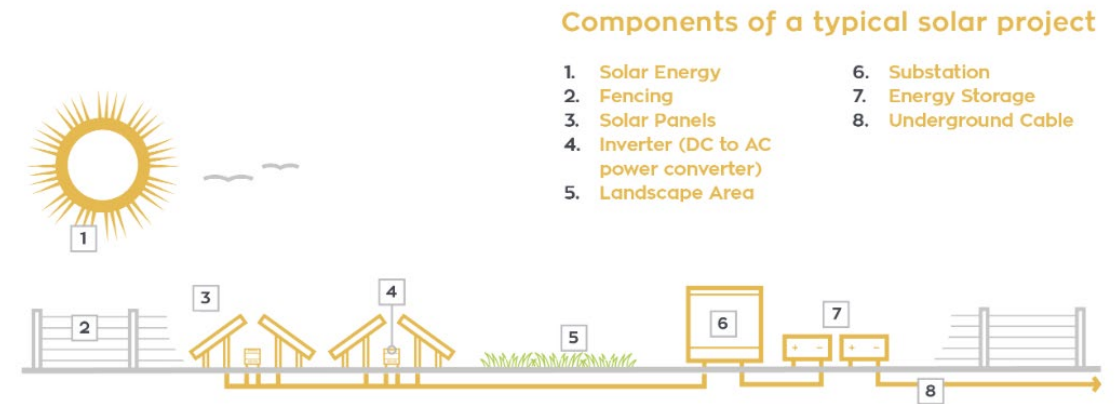
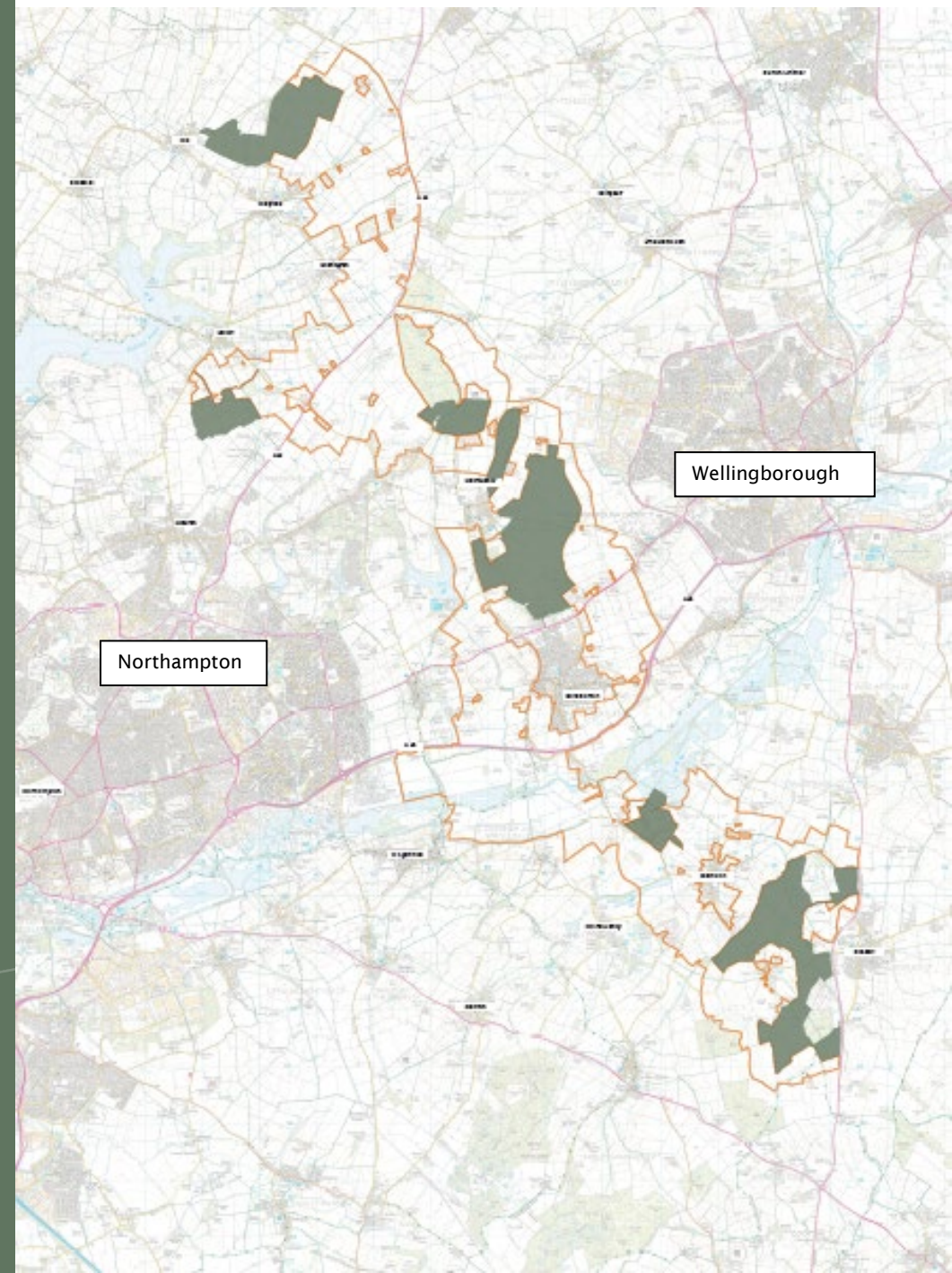
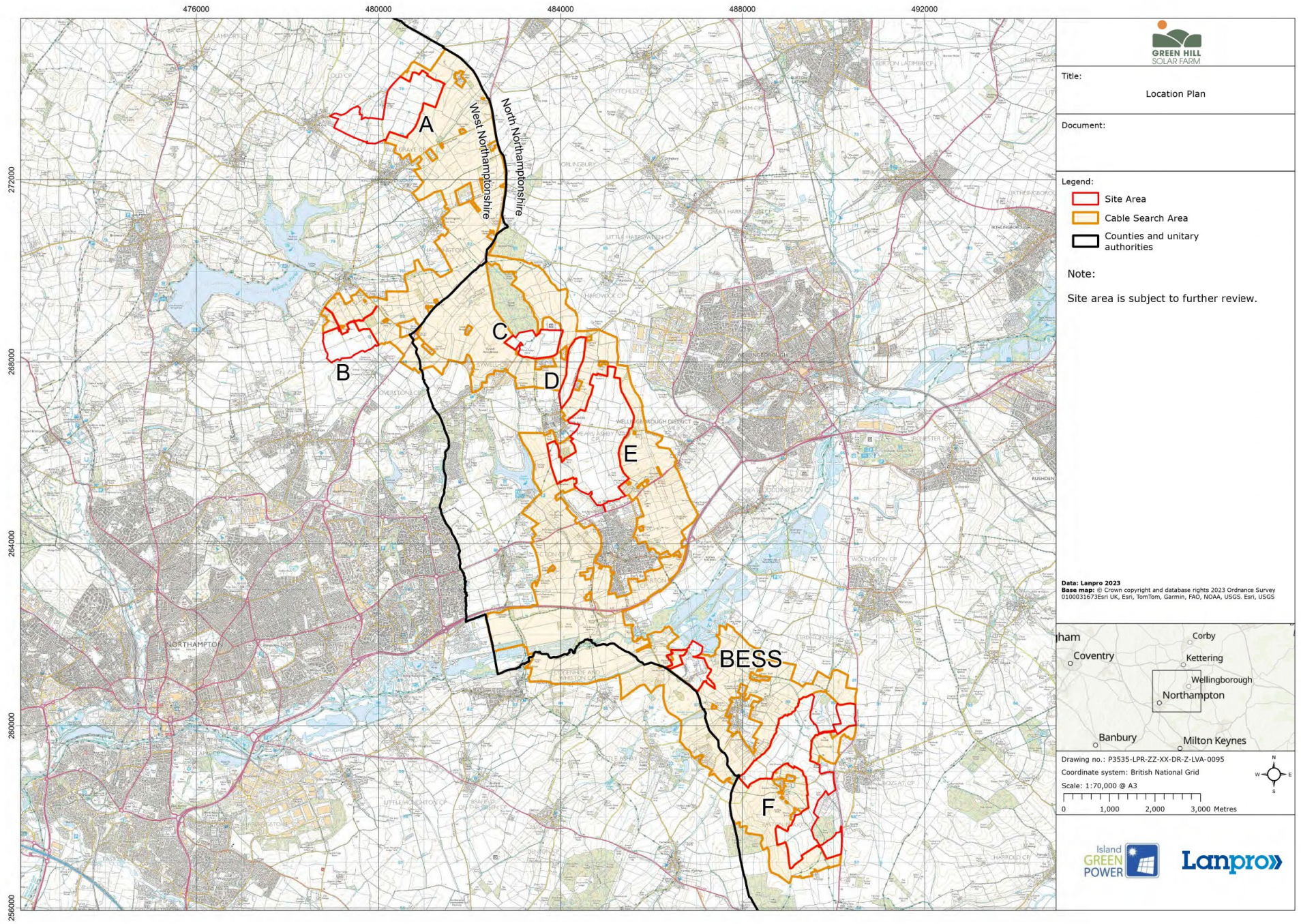


Figure not to scale and for indicative purposes only.

The sites

- Approximately 950 hectares of land split across administrative boundaries of West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire Councils
- The proposals consist of 7 separate site areas: A - F and BESS
- We have agreed with 9 landowners on the use of their land for the solar farm
- The sites will be located within 10 local parishes
- The proposals will require approximate 21 KM underground cable route (subject to further assessment)





Title:
Location Plan

Document:

Legend:
Site Area
Cable Search Area
Counties and unitary authorities

Note:
Site area is subject to further review.

Data: Lanpro 2023
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 0100031673 Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Esri, USGS



Drawing no.: P3535-LPR-ZZ-XX-DR-Z-LVA-0095
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:70,000 @ A3
0 1,000 2,000 3,000 Metres



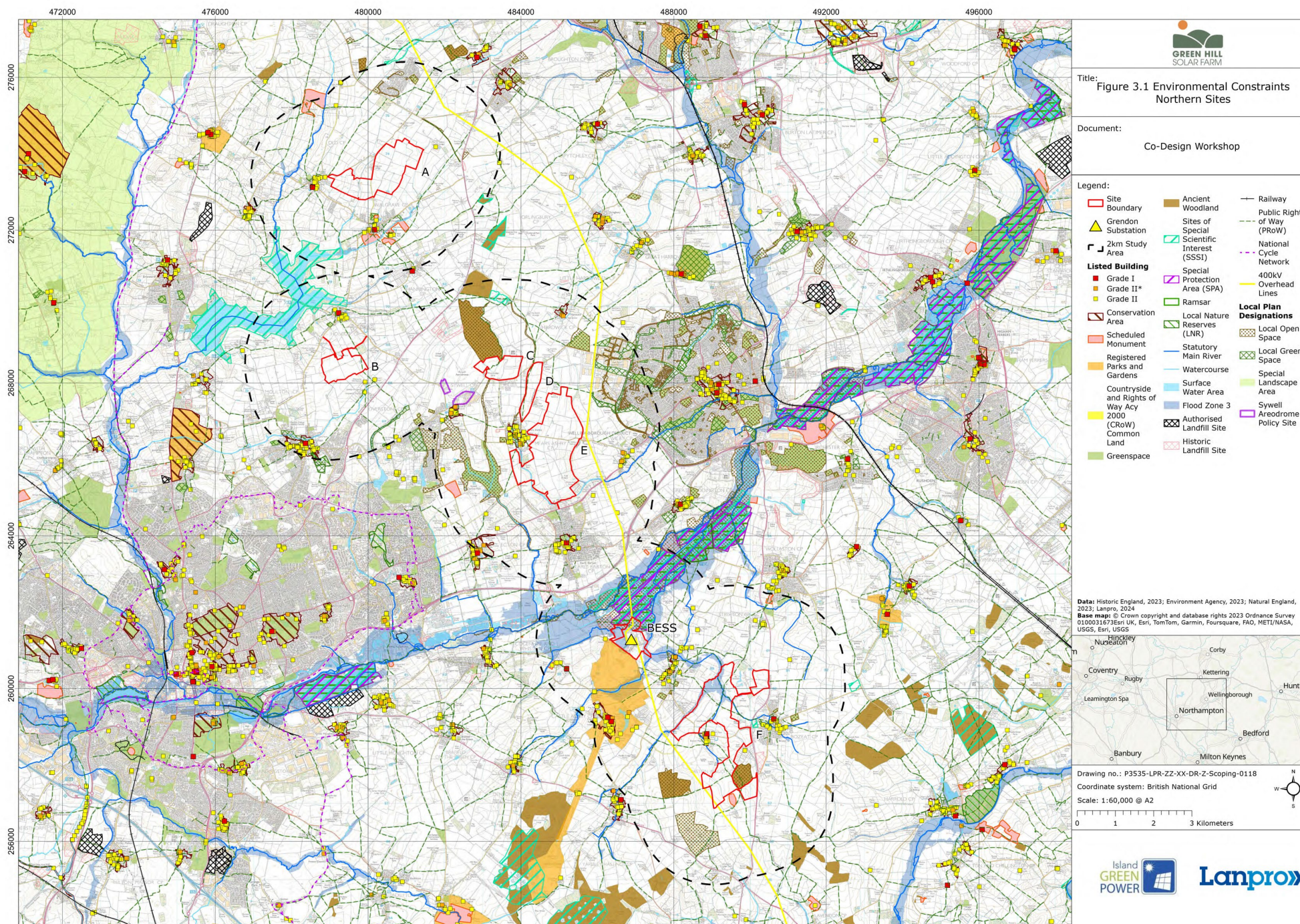
Location plan

Work undertaken to date

- Desk-based assessments
- Site surveys ongoing:
 - Ecology
 - Geophysical
 - Agricultural Land Classification
 - Arboricultural
 - Landscape
 - Topographical
 - Noise
- Constraint mapping
- Cable route optioneering



IGP Developed Site: Low Farm - Lincolnshire



Title:
Figure 3.1 Environmental Constraints
Northern Sites

Document:
Co-Design Workshop

- Legend:
- Site Boundary
 - Grendon Substation
 - 2km Study Area
 - Listed Building
 - Grade I
 - Grade II*
 - Grade II
 - Conservation Area
 - Scheduled Monument
 - Registered Parks and Gardens
 - Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) Common Land
 - Greenspace
 - Ancient Woodland
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Ramsar
 - Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
 - Statutory Main River
 - Watercourse
 - Surface Water Area
 - Flood Zone 3
 - Authorised Landfill Site
 - Historic Landfill Site
 - Railway
 - Public Right of Way (PRoW)
 - National Cycle Network
 - 400kV Overhead Lines
 - Local Plan Designations
 - Local Open Space
 - Local Green Space
 - Special Landscape Area
 - Swell Aerodrome Policy Site

Data: Historic England, 2023; Environment Agency, 2023; Natural England, 2023; Lanpro, 2024
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 01000316735 Sri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, USGS



Drawing no.: P3535-LPR-ZZ-XX-DR-Z-Scoping-0118
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:60,000 @ A2



Constraints plan

Environmental analysis of constraints to further shape and define the area of search.

Inclusion of buffers where development would be too sensitive.

Constraints

Examples of the constraints being considered at this stage:

- Heritage - listed buildings; conservation areas; Scheduled Ancient Monuments; registered parks and gardens.
- Ecology and Arboriculture - Upper Nene Valley SPA, SSSI, Ramsar; habitats; local wildlife sites; protected species; ancient woodlands; trees including veteran and ancient; hedgerows.
- Landscape - residential and other receptors, topography, landscape character.
- Transport - access points; routes to each scheme area for construction vehicles and abnormal loads where required; public rights of way (PRoW); weight restrictions; the nature and character of local communities and roads.
- Other - Agricultural Land Classification; noise; hydrology; glint and glare; air quality.

Opportunities

Examples of the opportunities being considered at this stage:

- Landscape enhancements
- Ecology
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
- Public access
- Job creation
- Community benefit fund



IGP Developed Site: Mill Farm - Lincolnshire

Assessments and mitigation

Assessments will be undertaken in accordance with the scope agreed with PINS.

The ES will describe the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.

Many mitigation measures will become integral to the design of the Scheme (and are referred to as 'embedded mitigation'). This could include:

- SuDS
- Implementation of standard offsets from environmental receptors
- Size and scale of the scheme
- Construction environmental management plan

Where impacts cannot be avoided, even with embedded mitigation, additional mitigation measures will be identified to reduce these effects to acceptable levels where practicable.

Any effects that endure following the implementation of embedded and additional mitigation measures are defined as 'residual effects'.

Input welcome

- Panel locations
- Landscape mitigation/enhancement – screening/vegetation around the perimeter
- Enhancement measures incorporated into the design for the benefit of the community, e.g. orchards and/or educational initiatives
- PRow network realignments within the red line boundary
- Access routes
- Community benefits
- Local knowledge e.g local birds species, habitat preferences

Discussing the key issues and constraints

We will now be focusing on a number of key topic areas in relation to how we design the project going forwards.

The topics below are examples of environmental topics that will be addressed as part of our ongoing assessments.

- Site selection and consideration of alternatives
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Cultural heritage
- Landscape and visual
- Transport and access
- Water environment
- Socio-economics and land use (including consideration of agricultural land)
- Other environmental topics

We value your input on these key issues and welcome any comments you have in the interactive session.

Topic #1 - Site selection and alternatives

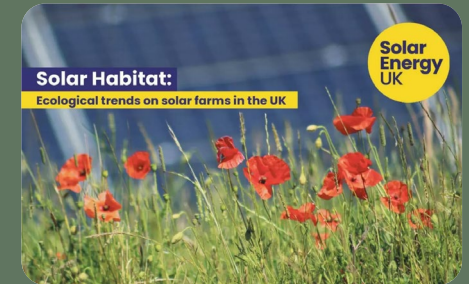
- May 2021 – 500MW import/export connection at Grendon Substation secured with National Grid.
- 20KM search radius was established to identify the potential location(s) for a solar farm:
 - Desk-based assessments of environmental constraints
 - Desk-based review of planning constraints
 - Review of landowners/estates with over 250 acres of land
 - Discussions with landowners/estates to confirm their willingness
 - Site visits

Topic #2 - Ecology and biodiversity

- Principal ecological constraints identified by the desk study: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA, Ancient Woodland...
- Farmland habitats within the site for wetland, farmland and ground-nesting birds are being carefully considered.
- Comprehensive habitat and species surveys are currently underway
 - which will allow us to identify and assess the potential ecological constraints and opportunities.
- Species specific surveys include (but are not limited to):
 - breeding and wintering birds, bats, amphibians, water voles and otters.
- Where potential impacts to biodiversity are identified, we will provide appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures in consultation with Natural England and other bodies, such as Wildlife Trusts.
- Considerable ecological enhancement of the site will also be delivered, through:
 - the sensitive management and enhancement of habitats currently present , and
 - the creation of new areas of habitat valuable for a range of wildlife.

Topic #2 - Ecology and biodiversity

- Solar farms are a major opportunity for Biodiversity Net Gain and can be havens for wildlife if managed and monitored properly. With appropriate seeding and planting undertaken in the right locations, strategic areas left unpanelled to create biodiversity-focused habitat, and management reduced during the summer months to allow for grass and flower seeding.
- Clarkson and Woods has undertaken ecological monitoring of almost 200 post-construction solar farms since 2015, and has developed a standardised approach to ecological monitoring on solar farms, along with SEUK.
- We also develop the annual report Solar Habitat, published by SEUK which outlines results of ecological monitoring across large numbers of solar farms. We have also contributed to SEUK's Natural Capital Best Practice Guidance, which intends to promote the design, construction and operation of high-quality solar farm projects which enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services.



Topic #3 - Cultural heritage

- Nine Conservation Areas within 2km containing clusters of Listed Buildings
- Also clusters of Listed Buildings within 2km in Old, Walgrave, Holcot, Wilby, Whiston, Strixton & Bozeat.
- 318 Listed Buildings within 2km of the Scheme:
 - Ten are Grade I Listed & 15 are Grade II* Listed.
- Ten Scheduled Monuments within 2km of the Scheme.
- Assessments will be undertaken in consultation with Historic England and the LPAs' Archaeological Advisors.
- Geophysical surveys are currently being undertaken, and the results of these will help to inform the development of appropriate mitigation strategies.



The Grade II* listed Church of St. Mary, Grendon
(NHLE 1190552)

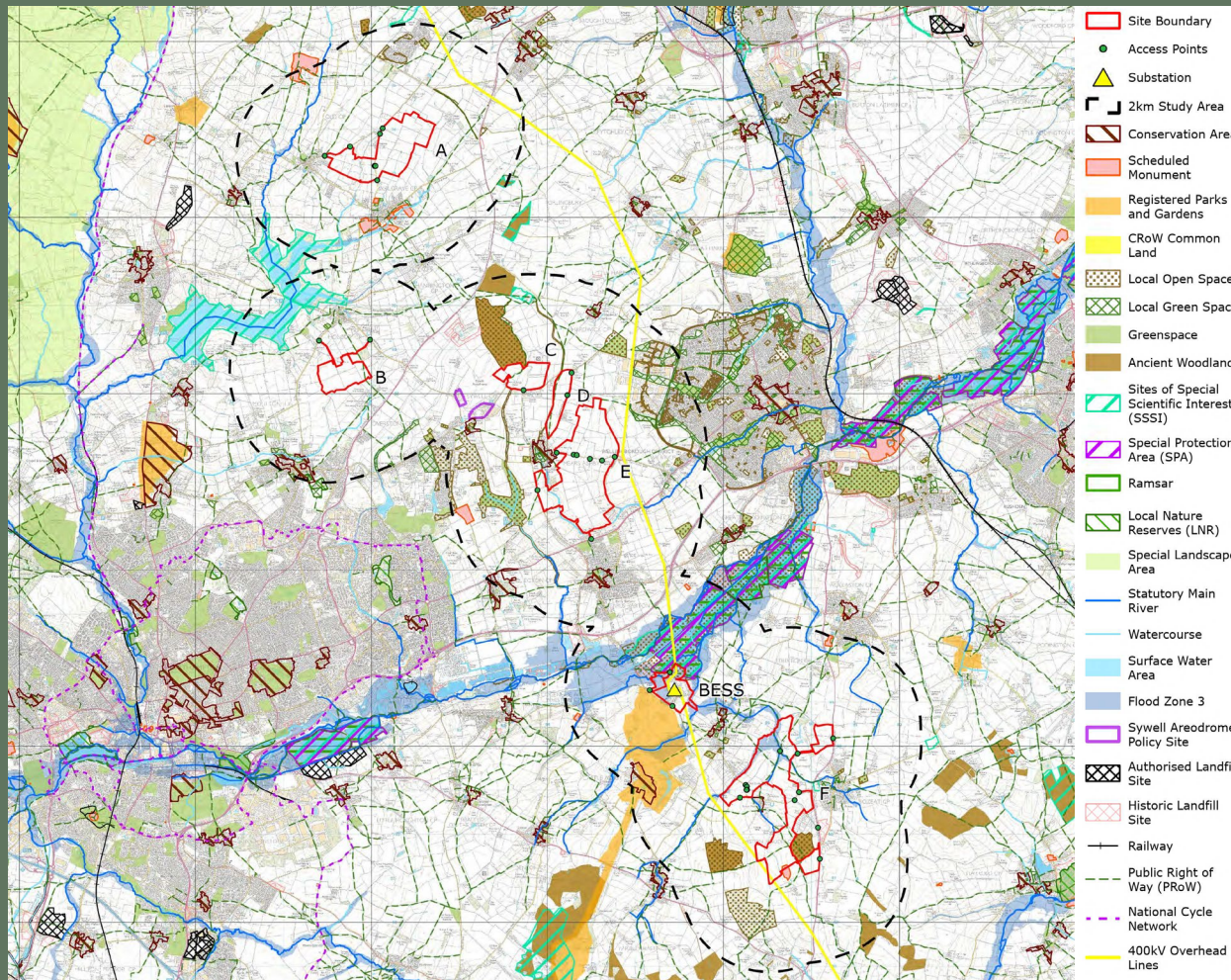
Cultural heritage

- Mitigation measures commonly used on solar schemes include the avoidance of areas of archaeological sensitivity and the use of solar panel mounting structures that do not penetrate the earth.
- Solar panels have the added benefit of protecting archaeological remains from destruction caused by agricultural activity.



Geophysical Survey being undertaken within the Scheme

Topic #4 - Landscape and visual impact



Landscape Outputs

1. Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)
2. Landscape Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans
3. Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)

Landscape Opportunities

- Enhancing Green Infrastructure – e.g Connecting existing woodland, blocks/reinforcing hedgerows and verges/ ground cover.
- Where possible screening existing infrastructure in the Landscape.
- Where possible enhancing to Public Rights of Way (PROW).

Landscape Constraints

- Landform.
- Ecological constraints – e.g Flora/ fauna and water courses.
- Designations – e.g Ancient Woodland/ PROW / Registered Parks and Gardens.
- Existing built form, transport, services and utilities.
- Landscape amenity and visual amenity – Local Green Space / Key views.

Constraints and opportunities are all mapped in one Environmental Masterplan that informs an iterative design process.

Landscape and visual impact

- Initial landscape site visits - to understand the landscape and visual constraints and opportunities.
- A number of key viewpoints are established and
 - agreed with the landscape specialist from the relevant local planning authority, and
 - assessed within the final LVIA chapter.
 - Verified photomontages of the proposed development to help indicate likely changes.
- Assessment work carried out informs the layout of the proposed infrastructure and any proposed mitigation.
 - This includes any offsets required to protect any identified constraints.
- Mitigation will be incorporated into the scheme where appropriate including:
 - setting back from existing development;
 - providing new planting to help screen views where appropriate.
- Planting proposals are agreed with ecologists and management prescriptions are documented within the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan to ensure successful establishment and long-term management and maintenance.

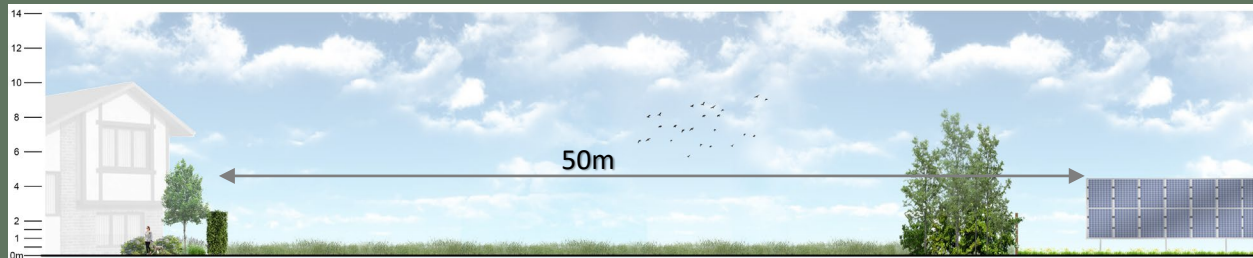
Landscape and visual impact

Criteria where Buffer Applied	Buffer Size
Ecological Buffers	
At least one of: •Species Rich Hedgerow •A ditch or watercourse of any kind •Any hedgerow with a tree with low potential for roosting bats	8m
At least one of: •Signs of Otter or Water Vole in the ditch or Watercourse •Any hedgerow with a tree with moderate potential for roosting bats •Outlier badger setts	10m
Individual Trees and Woodland (not Ancient Woodland)	10m (unless Arb survey indicates greater RPA)
Any hedgerow with a tree with high potential for roosting bats	12m
Ancient Woodland	15m
Some minor watercourses (depending on Ecological Value)	15m
Ponds (no GCN)	20m
At least one of: Major watercourses Main badger setts	30m

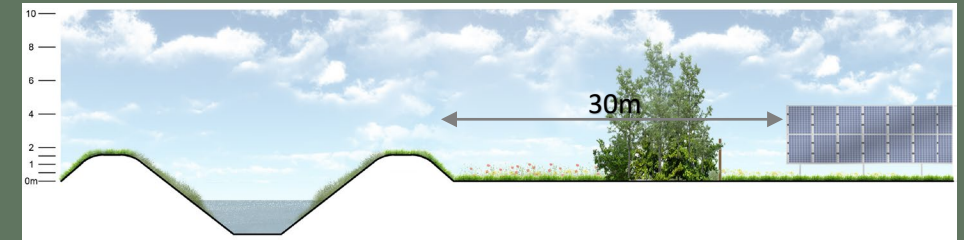
Criteria where Buffer Applied	Buffer Size
Ecological Buffers	
Ponds containing Great Crested Newts	50m
Bat roosts	Case by Case
Schedule 1 bird nests (Barn Owl, hobby etc)	Case by Case
Other Buffers	
Curtilage of Residential Properties	50m
PRoW (Public Footpath, Bridleway etc..)	15m
Internal Drainage Board (IDB) drain	9m
Services	6m minimum
Red Line Boundary	5m
Internal offset from fence to panel	4m minimum

Landscape and visual impact

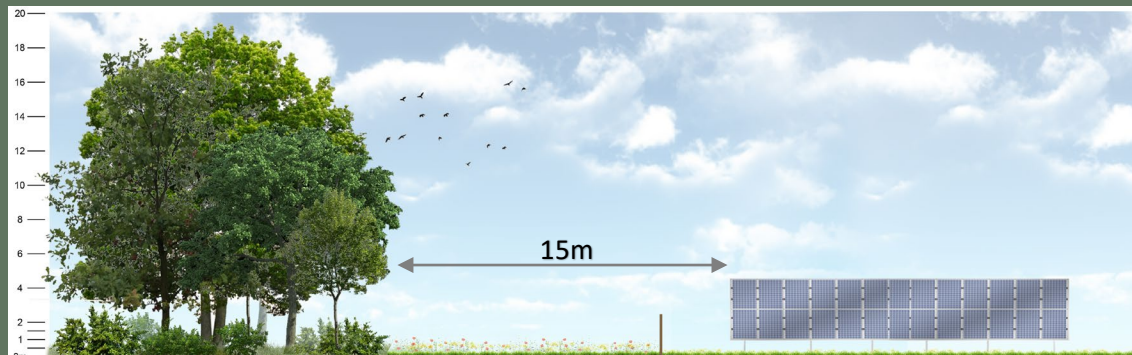
Indicative Landscape Section



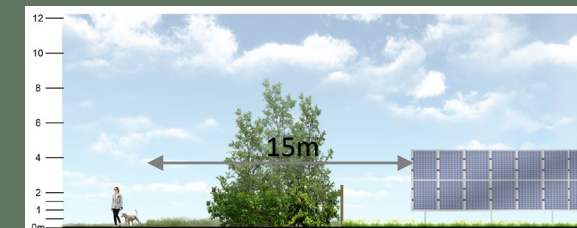
Residential Receptors



Main Watercourse



Ancient Woodland



Public Right of Way

Topic #5 - Transport and access

- Initial desktop reviews and site visits - to understand the transport and access constraints and opportunities.
- Review of field access points for construction vehicles.
 - are suitable access points available or are new access points needed?
 - highway safety and access visibility are key.
 - are groups of fields interconnected?
- Review of route options to scheme access points.
 - what routes are available from the primary and strategic road networks?
 - what activity is found along the route (are there footways, crossings, shops, homes, schools etc)
 - can sensitive routes be avoided?
 - speed limit, traffic restrictions, road safety
 - road geometry (horizontal and vertical)
- Will the proposal affect any Public Right of Way?

Topic #5 - Transport and access

- The preferred access and route options will be assessed through a Transport Assessment and as part of the EIA.
- A Construction Traffic Management Plan will also be in place to manage construction traffic.
- Traffic surveys of the preferred routes will be undertaken to inform the assessments and provide an understanding of existing traffic movements.
- Vehicle movement forecasts will consider the specific movements of the project:
 - construction vehicles delivering materials
 - construction worker vehicles
 - abnormal loads
- Post construction, access requirements and vehicle movements will be limited to maintenance requirements.

Topic #6 - Water environment

- Initial constraints mapping indicates small ordinary watercourses exist within and adjacent to all parcels within the scheme.
- The cable route would cross watercourses, including the River Nene and associated flood zones.
- A Flood Risk Assessment and a Drainage Statement will be prepared as part of the DCO application.
- A combined water quality, flood risk and drainage assessment will consider the impacts of the scheme through the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
- A Water Framework Directive (WFD) Screening will be undertaken.
- Constraints to be considered within the Masterplanning Process:
 - Development (excluding the cable route) should be directed entirely to Flood Zone 1 – BESS flood zones are superseded by our model results.
 - All development (excluding the cable route) should be restricted to areas not within 8m of the top of bank of any watercourses and open land drains.
 - Lower topographical Areas within the parcels should be considered at this time as at risk and earmarked for attenuation should the LLFA require it (TBC)

Topic #7 - Socio-economics and land use

- Natural England predictive mapping indicates that the site is predominantly Grade 3.
- An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey will be undertaken for the ES to confirm the grading of the site.
- The site is mostly in agricultural use.
- The socio-economic assessment will also consider other aspects such as impacts on:
 - employment
 - local businesses
 - local amenities
 - land use
 - access to public rights of way and other walking and cycling routes.

Topic #7 cont. – Community benefit

- We value your feedback on what benefits you would like to see and what would be of most benefit for communities closest to the project.
- Benefits could be on-site and off-site, along with benefits independent to the project or in collaboration with other projects/initiatives.
- On-site – this refers to initiatives that you would like to see incorporated into the project design and on the site itself
 - For example, this could be environmental mitigation and enhancements, or achieving biodiversity net gain, through additional planting and habitat creation. Additional footpaths for the lifetime of the solar farm could be considered in the site design.
- Off-site – this refers to separate initiatives, including supporting wider community projects (new and existing), or providing shared benefits outside of the project areas
 - For example, this could be providing support for wider educational initiatives, local EV charging points, a fund for community projects.

Design principles

- At this early stage we are developing our project 'design principles'. By working collaboratively with local stakeholders, these principles will also help guide decision-making for the project to ensure we can unlock wider climate, environmental and socio-economic benefits from the development through good design.
- The National Infrastructure Commission's design principles for national infrastructure projects are grouped under: People, Places, Climate and Value. We want to hear your views about what's important locally for each of these themes, to help inform the development of our design principles for the project.
- As part of our statutory consultation later this year, we will be consulting on our detailed design layout and proposals for wider environmental enhancements and community benefits. This design will be informed by the feedback we receive today.
- Topics for the design could include recreational improvements such as new footpaths, aligning our landscaping with other local proposals such as rewilding, or providing other community infrastructure such as electric vehicle charging points.

Other environmental topics

The following topics are also being considered as part of the EIA scoping stage:

- Climate change
- Minerals
- Electromagnetic fields
- Light pollution
- Air quality
- Noise and vibration
- Climate change
- Human health
- Glint and glare
- Ground conditions and contamination
- Major accidents and disasters
- Tourism, recreation and human health
- Telecommunications, utilities and television receptors
- Waste
- Arboriculture

Q&A



Coffee break



Section #2: Interactive sessions – Key topic areas

We are looking for your comments on the following areas:

Topic #1 - Site selection and alternatives

- Do you have any comments on the location of the scheme?
- Are there any further criteria that need to be considered as we refine our plans further?
- Is there anything further we need to consider in our initial search areas, cable corridor and connection search areas?

Topic #2 - Ecology & biodiversity

- What habitats and species do you consider to be a priority within the local area?
- Are there any local species populations that you feel should be given additional consideration?
- Are there any particular biodiversity and wildlife enhancements that you would like to see included within the scheme?

Topic #3 - Cultural heritage

- We are currently gathering data regarding known heritage assets within the proximity of the Scheme. Are there any local heritage features we should be aware of?

Topic #4 - Landscape & visual impact

- Are there any key landscape features that we should be aware of?
- Are there any key viewpoints that we should be aware of?
- What type of enhancement and mitigation measures would you like to see?
- Where would you like to see enhancement and mitigation measures?

Topic #5 - Transport & access

- Which routes should development traffic avoid?
- Which public rights of way are well-used locally?
- Would there be benefits to introducing a permissive path through the site/s?

Topic #6 - Water environment

- Are there any popular water courses locally?
- Is there a history of flooding/poor drainage that we should be aware of?
- Are there any sensitive sites that we should be aware of?

Topic #7 - Socio-economics, land use and community benefit

- Do you have any comments on socio-economics and land use, such as impacts on employment, local businesses, impacts on local amenities and land use, and impacts on public rights of way?
- Do you have any thoughts on our approach to community benefits and how local people can benefit from the scheme?
- Are there any local groups or projects that could positively benefit from the scheme?
- Thinking about the design principles: People, Places, Climate and Value - what's important locally for each of these themes?

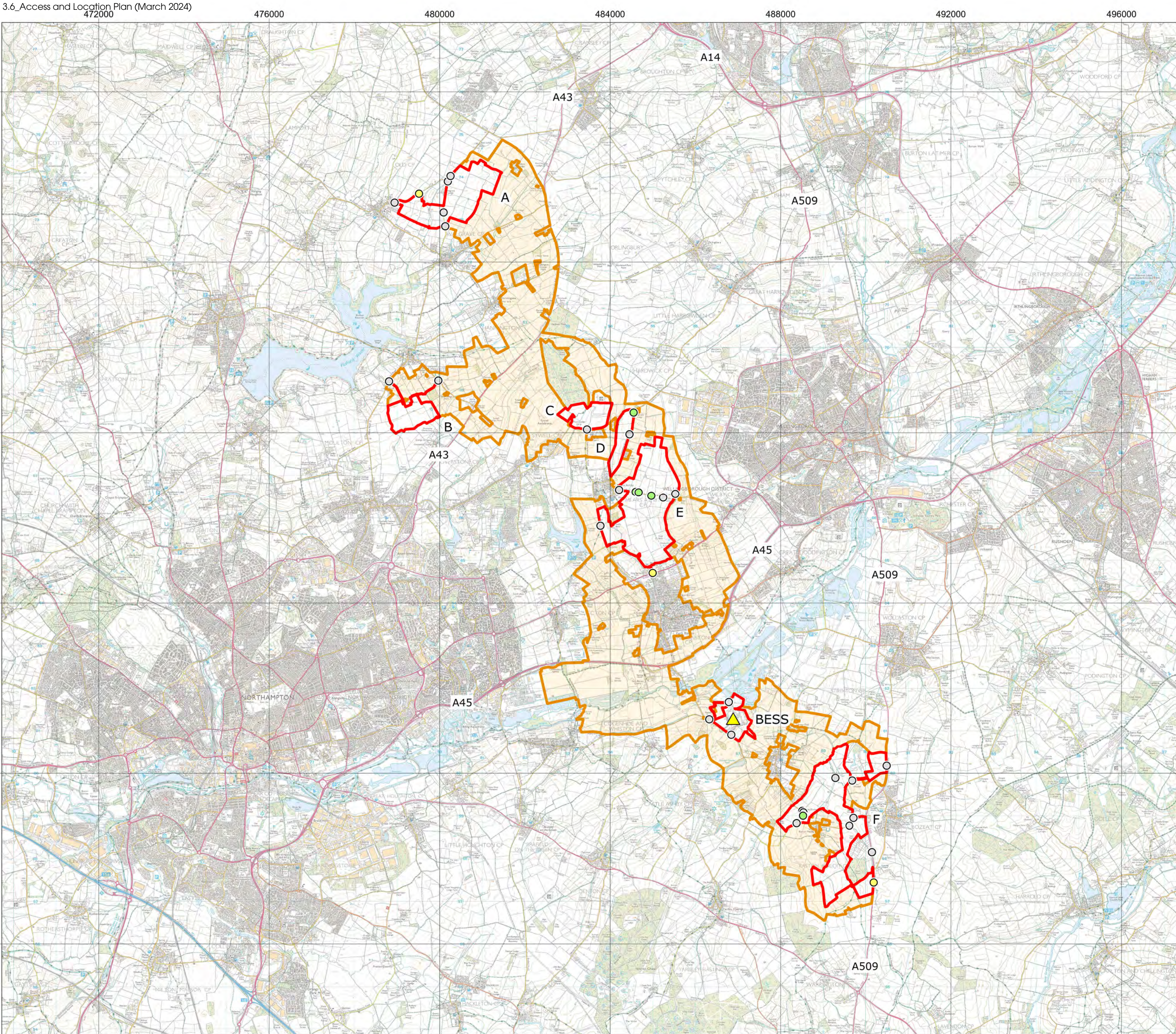
Other environmental topics

- Do you have any comments on the other topics that are also being considered as part of the EIA scoping stage?
 - Climate change
 - Minerals
 - Electromagnetic fields
 - Light pollution
 - Air quality
 - Noise and vibration
 - Climate change
 - Human health
 - Glint and glare
 - Ground conditions and contamination
 - Major accidents and disasters
 - Tourism, recreation and human health
 - Telecommunications, utilities and television receptors
 - Waste

Feedback from the group discussions

What happens next

- Thank you for attending today's workshop.
- Your feedback will help inform the layout and refine the proposals for Green Hill Solar Farm.
- We will publish a report on the outcomes from today on the project website www.greenhillsolar.co.uk .
- The statutory consultation in September 2024 will include a site layout plan.
- In the meantime, if you have any further comments or questions, please get in touch via info@greenhillsolar.co.uk or on 0800 012 9882.



Title:
Figure 1 Access and Location Plan

Document:
Co-design Workshop

- Legend:
- Site Area
 - Cable Search Area
 - Access Points for Further Assessment**
 - Existing
 - Gap in Hedgerow
 - New
 - Grendon Substation

Data: Lanpro 2023
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 0100031673 Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS



Drawing no.: P3535-LPR-ZZ-XX-DR-Z-Scoping-0116
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:60,000 @ A2
0 1 2 3 Kilometers





Title: Figure 3.1 Environmental Constraints Northern Sites

Document: Co-Design Workshop

- Legend:
- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Site Boundary | Ancient Woodland | Railway |
| Grendon Substation | Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | Public Right of Way (PROW) |
| 2km Study Area | Special Protection Area (SPA) | National Cycle Network |
| Listed Building | Ramsar | 400kV Overhead Lines |
| Grade I | Local Nature Reserves (LNR) | Local Plan Designations |
| Grade II* | Statutory Main River | Local Open Space |
| Grade II | Watercourse | Local Green Space |
| Conservation Area | Surface Water Area | Special Landscape Area |
| Scheduled Monument | Flood Zone 3 | Sywell Aerodrome Policy Site |
| Registered Parks and Gardens | Authorised Landfill Site | |
| Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) Common Land | Historic Landfill Site | |
| Greenspace | | |

Data: Historic England, 2023; Environment Agency, 2023; Natural England, 2023; Lanpro, 2024
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 0100031673 Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, USGS



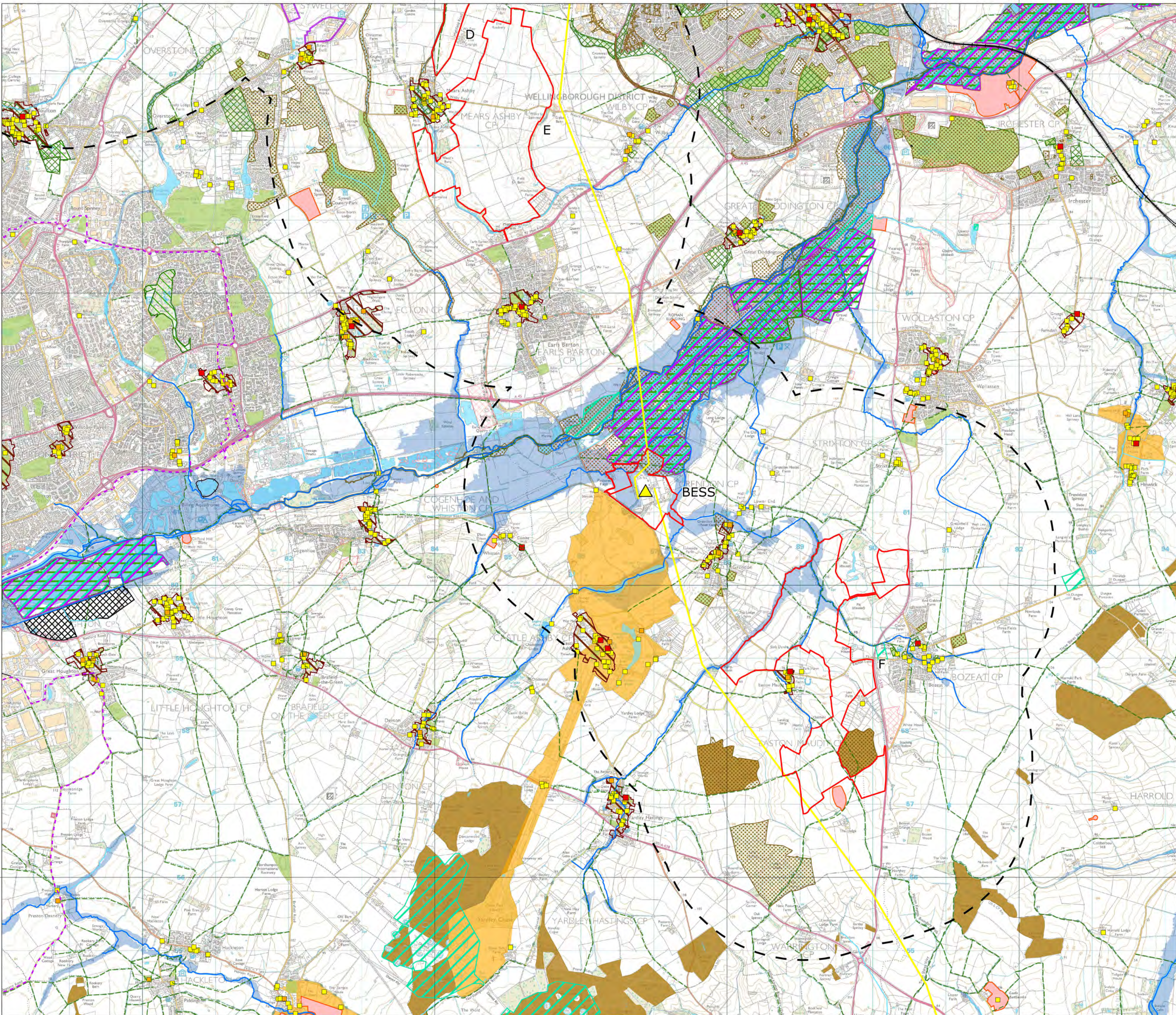
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Coordinate system: British National Grid

Scale: 1:35,000 @ A2

0 1 2 3 Kilometers





Title: Figure 3.2 Environmental Constraints Southern Sites

Document: Co-Design Workshop

Legend:

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Site Boundary | Greenspace | Historic Landfill Site |
| Grendon Substation | Ancient Woodland | Railway |
| 2km Study Area | Sites of Special Interest (SSSI) | Public Right of Way (PROW) |
| Listed Building | Special Protection Area (SPA) | National Cycle Network |
| Grade I | Ramsar | 400kV Overhead Lines |
| Grade II* | Local Nature Reserves (LNR) | Local Plan Designations |
| Grade II | Statutory Main River | Local Open Space |
| Conservation Area | Watercourse | Local Green Space |
| Scheduled Monument | Surface Water Area | Sywell Areodrome Policy Site |
| Registered Parks and Gardens | Flood Zone 3 | |
| Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) Common Land | Authorised Landfill Site | |

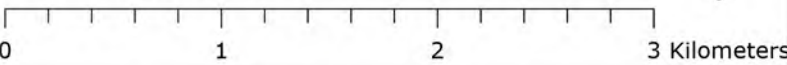
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Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 0100031673 Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

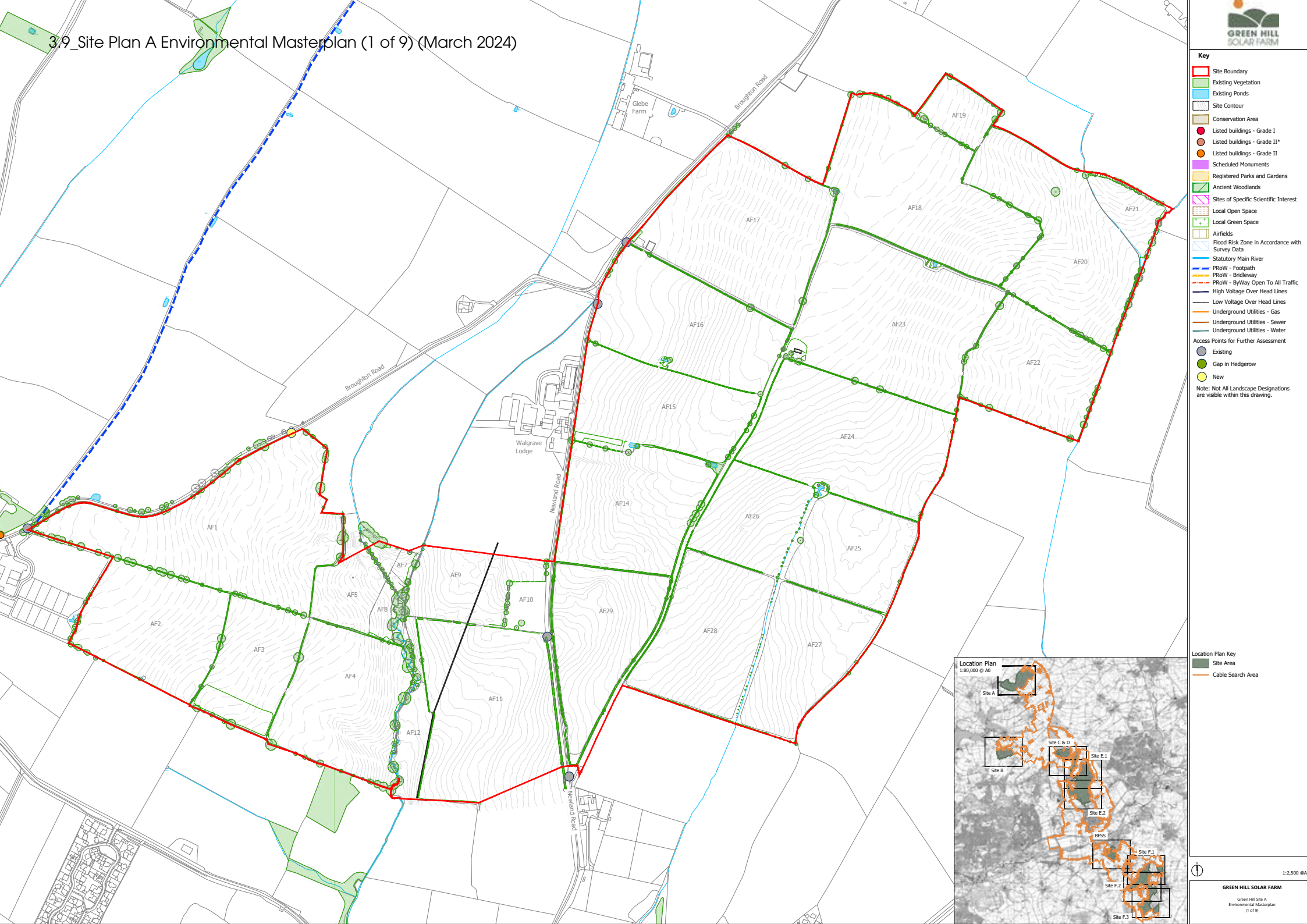


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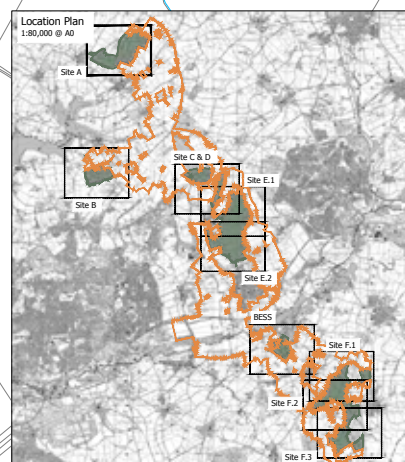




Key

- Site Boundary
- Existing Vegetation
- Existing Ponds
- Site Contour
- Conservation Area
- Listed buildings - Grade I
- Listed buildings - Grade II*
- Listed buildings - Grade II
- Scheduled Monuments
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Ancient Woodlands
- Sites of Specific Scientific Interest
- Local Open Space
- Local Green Space
- Airfields
- Flood Risk Zone in Accordance with Survey Data
- Statutory Main River
- PtW - Footpath
- PtW - Bridleway
- PtW - ByWay Open To All Traffic
- High Voltage Over Head Lines
- Low Voltage Over Head Lines
- Underground Utilities - Gas
- Underground Utilities - Sewer
- Underground Utilities - Water
- Access Points for Further Assessment
- Existing
- Gap in Hedgerow
- New

Note: Not All Landscape Designations are visible within this drawing.

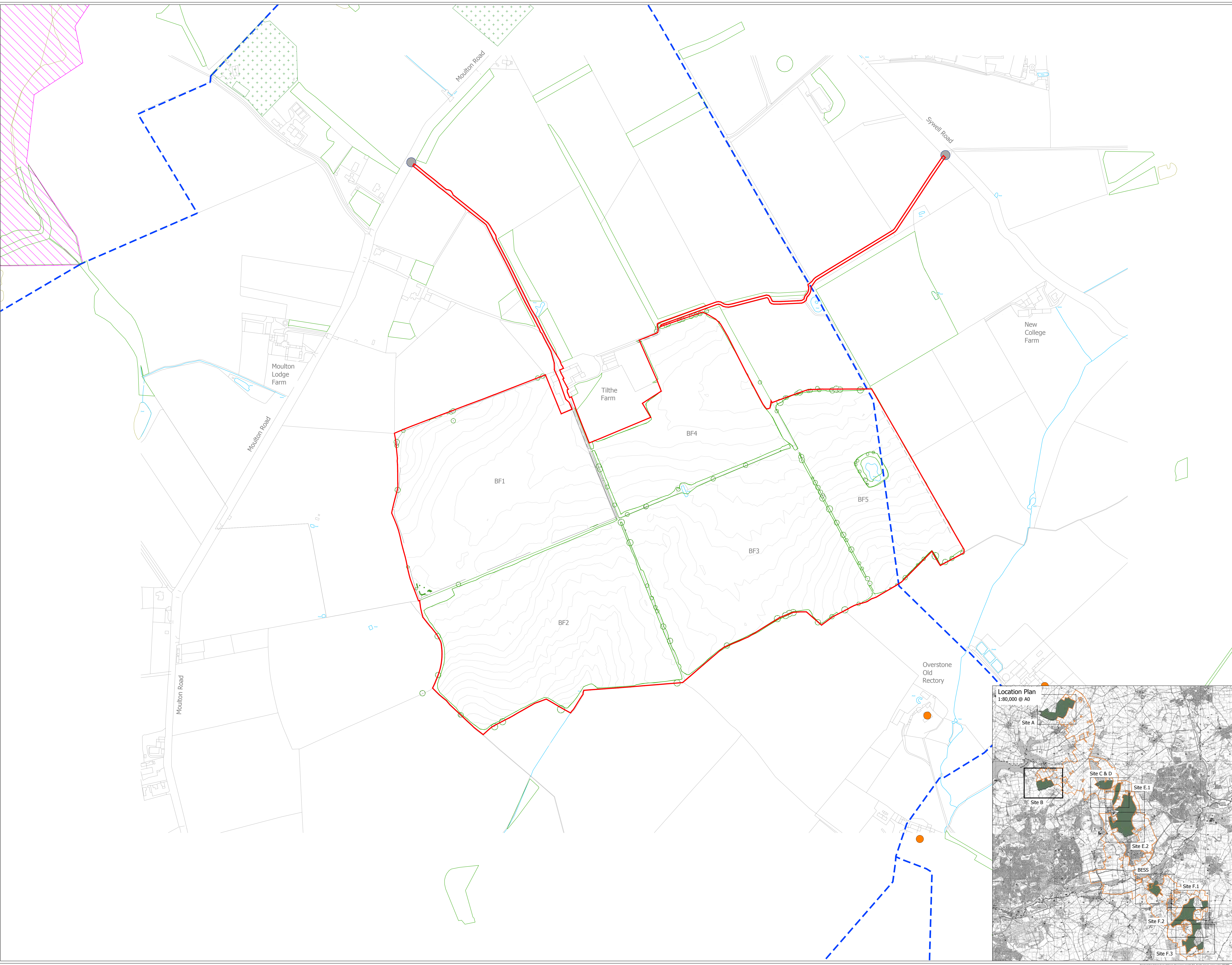


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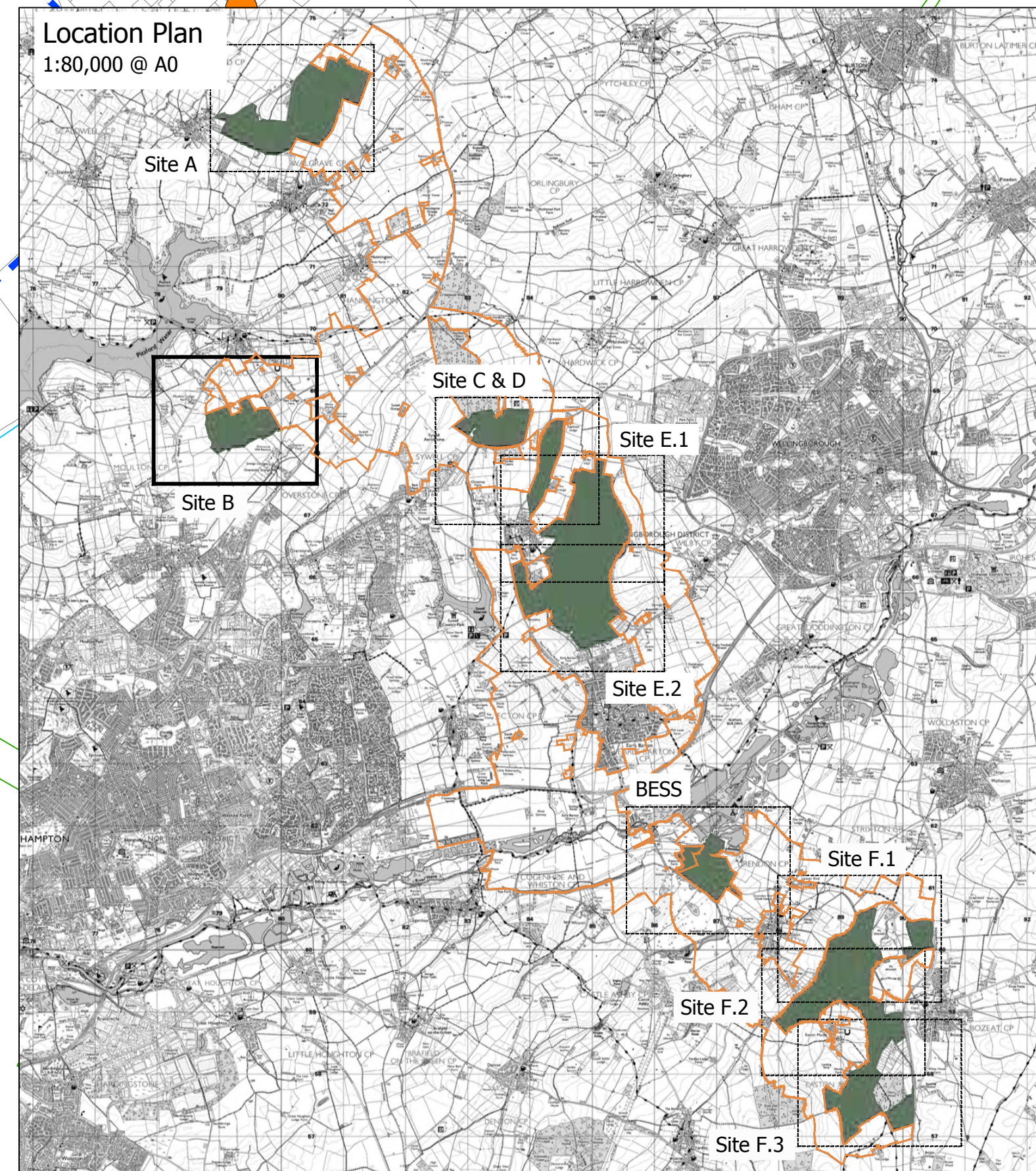
- Site Area
- Cable Search Area

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GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM
Green Hill Site A
Environmental Masterplan
(1 of 9)



- Key**
- Site Boundary
 - Existing Vegetation
 - Existing Ponds
 - Site Contour
 - Conservation Area
 - Listed buildings - Grade I
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- Location Plan Key**
- Site Area
 - Cable Search Area

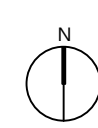
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Location Plan Key

- Site Area
- Cable Search Area

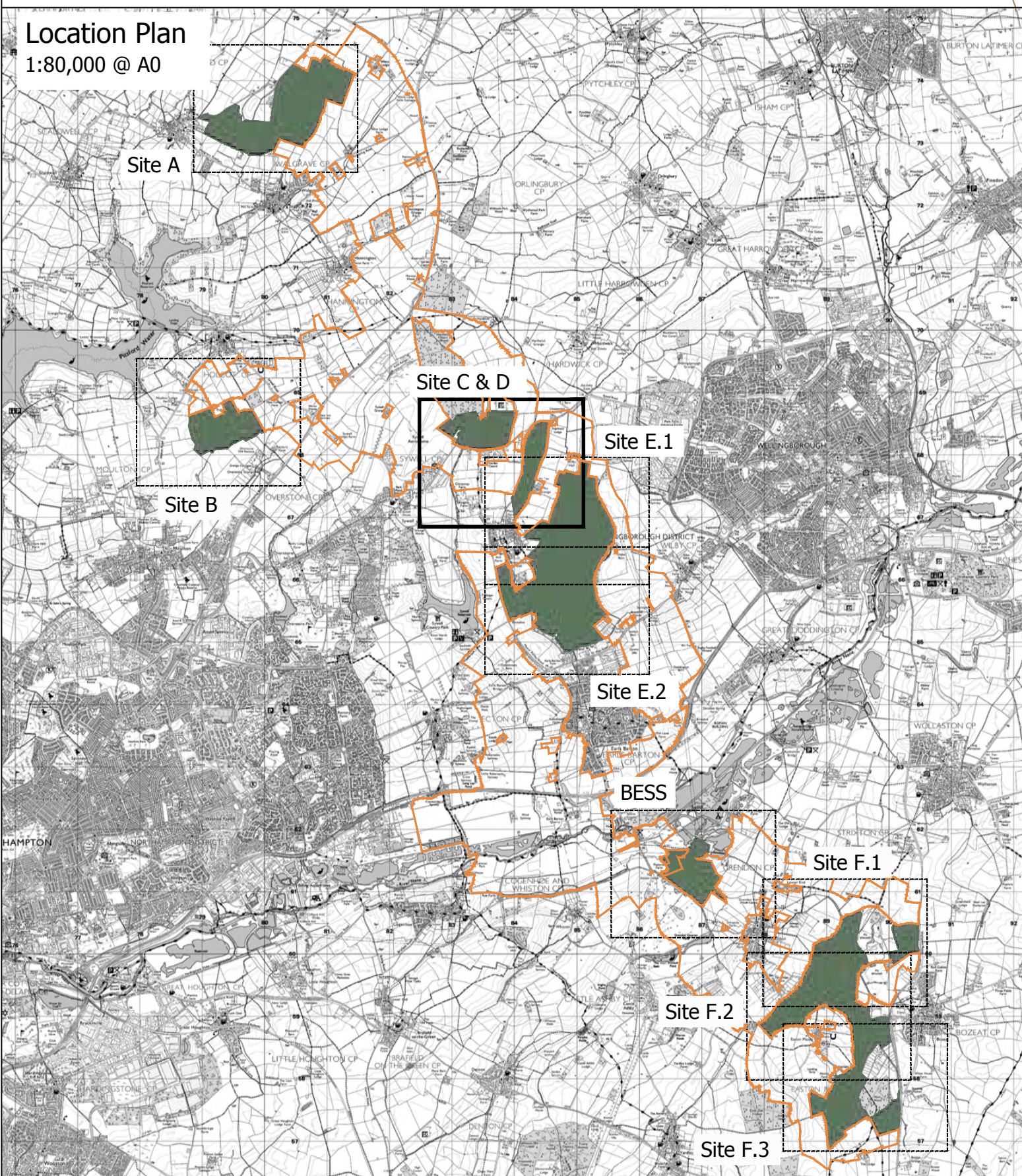
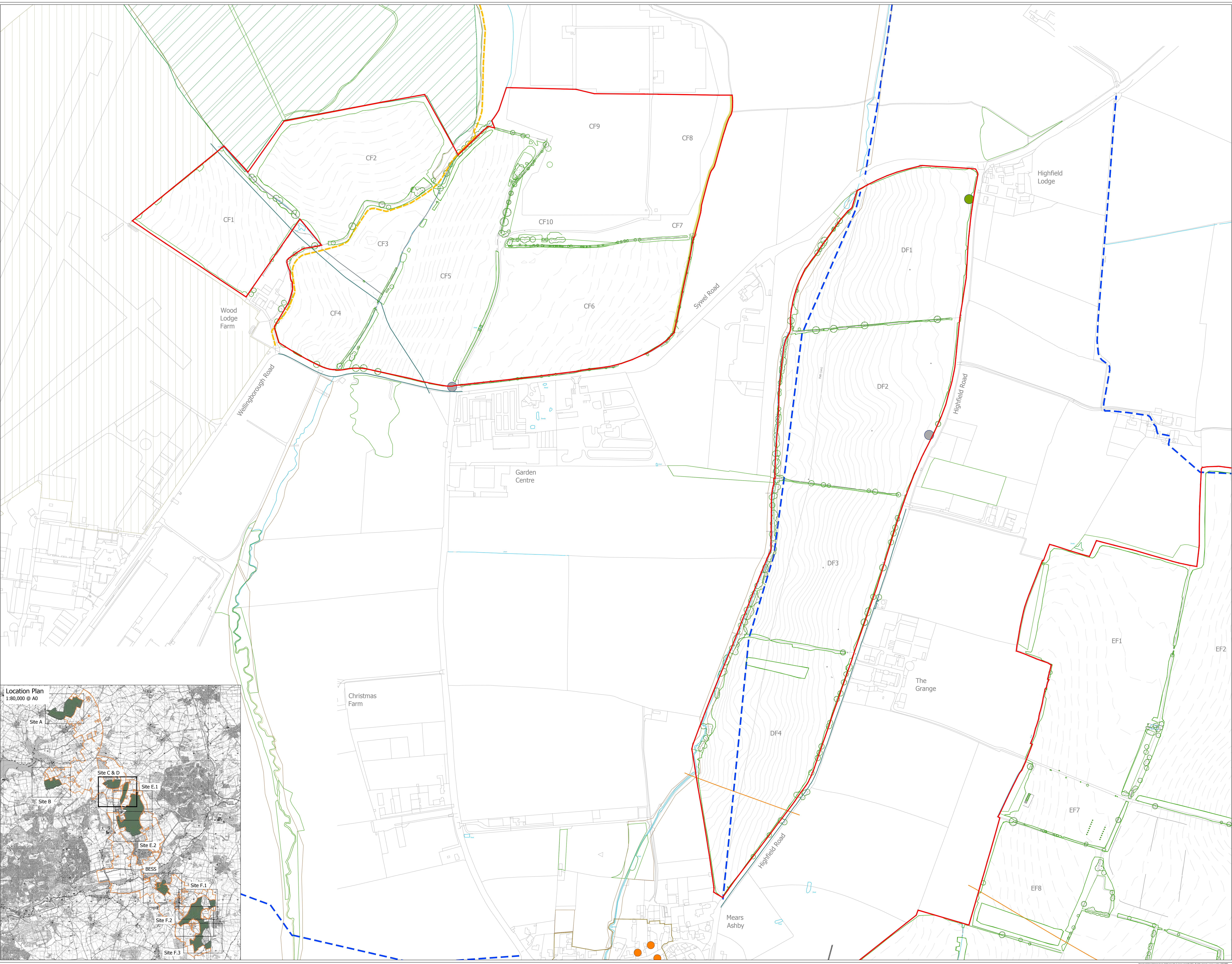


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GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM

Green Hill Site C & D
Environmental Masterplan
(3 of 9)

Revised: 12/01/2023
Green Hill Solar Farm
Environmental Masterplan
(3 of 9)

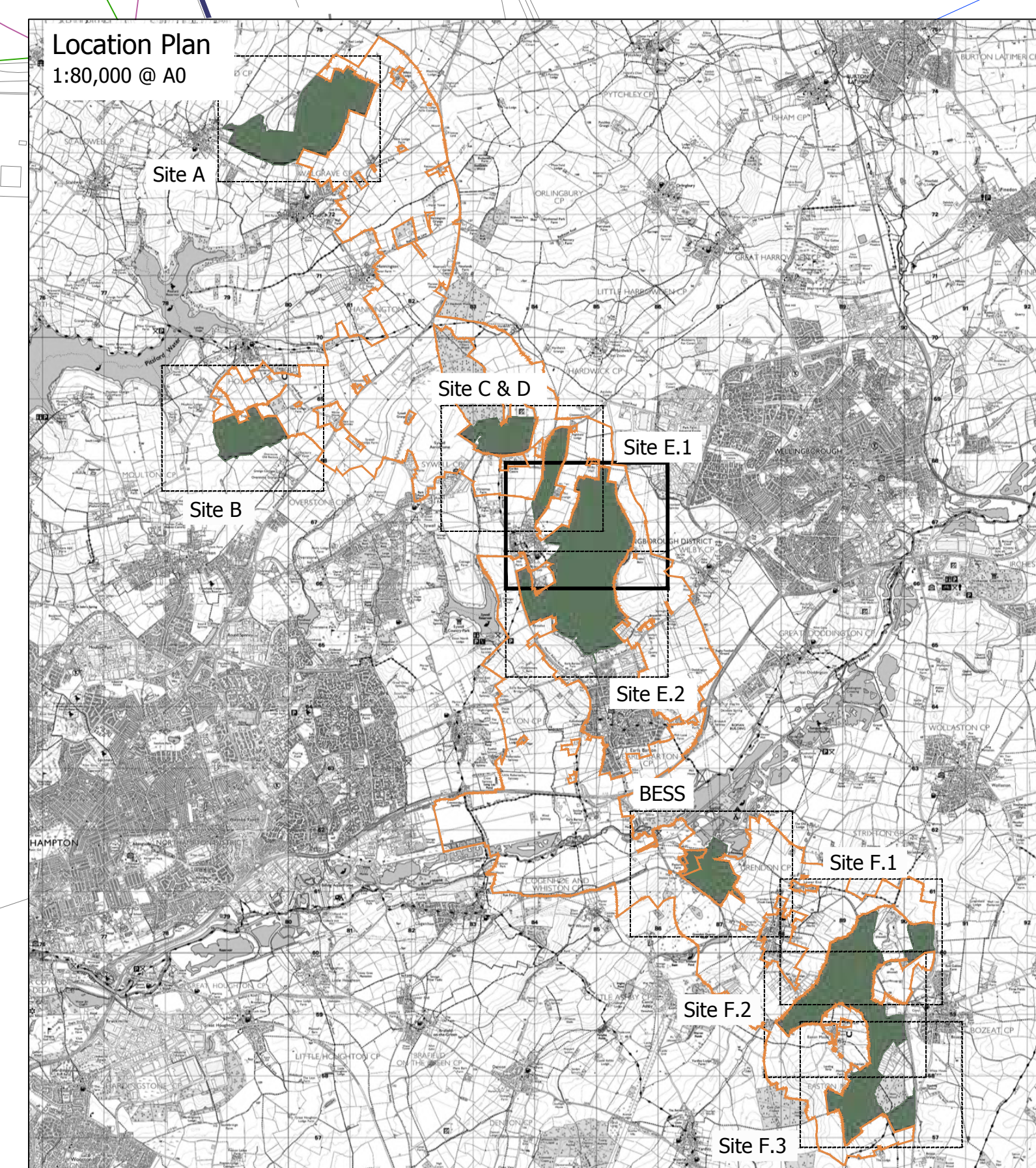


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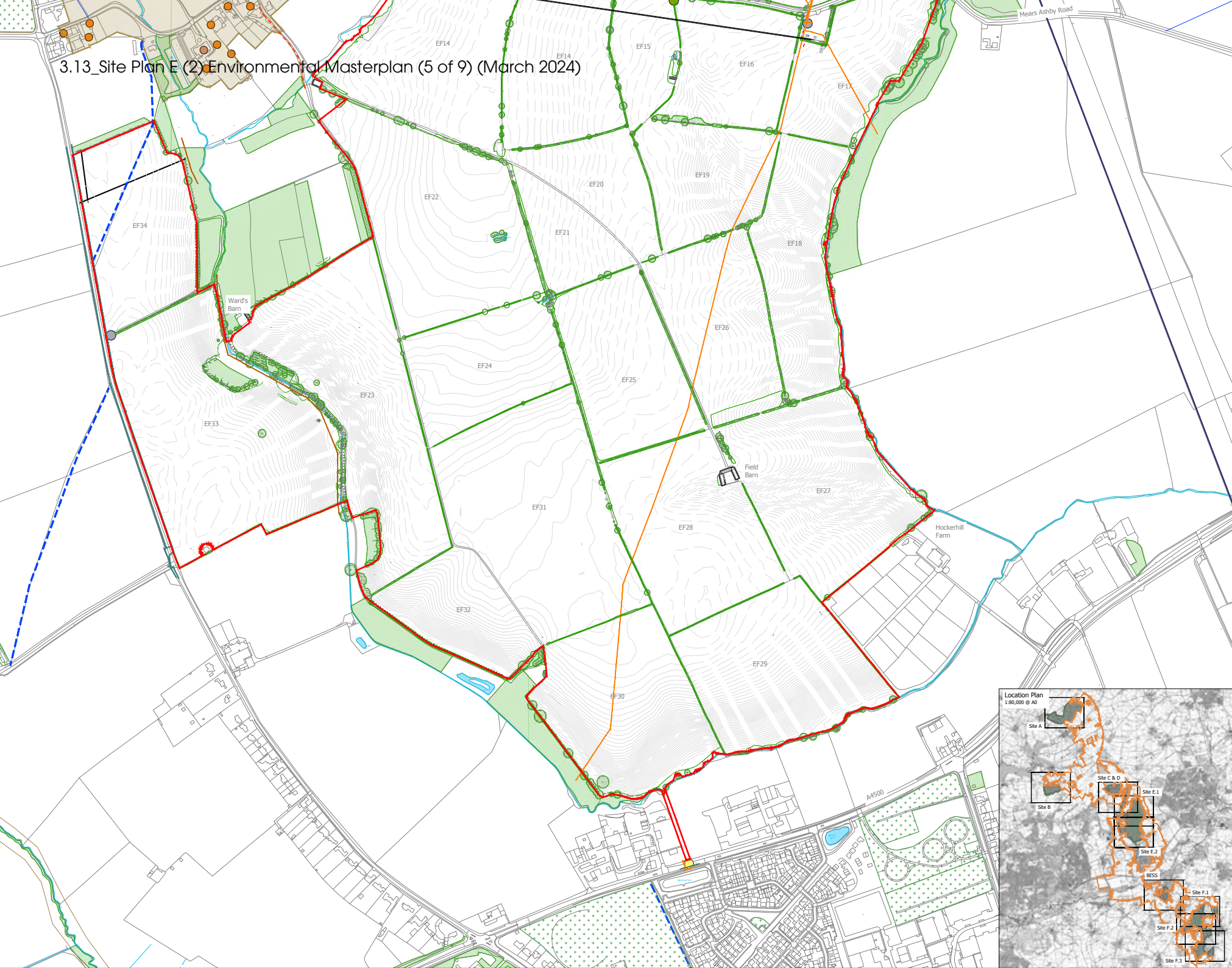
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Location Plan Key

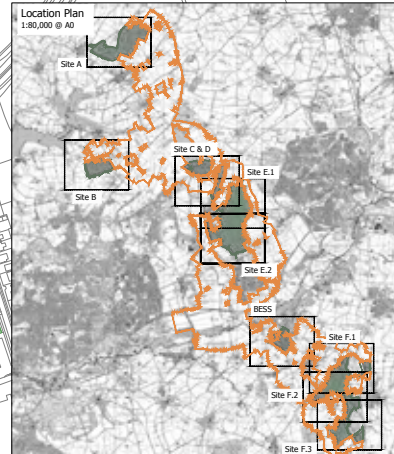
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- Cable Search Area



3.13_Site Plan E (2) Environmental Masterplan (5 of 9) (March 2024)



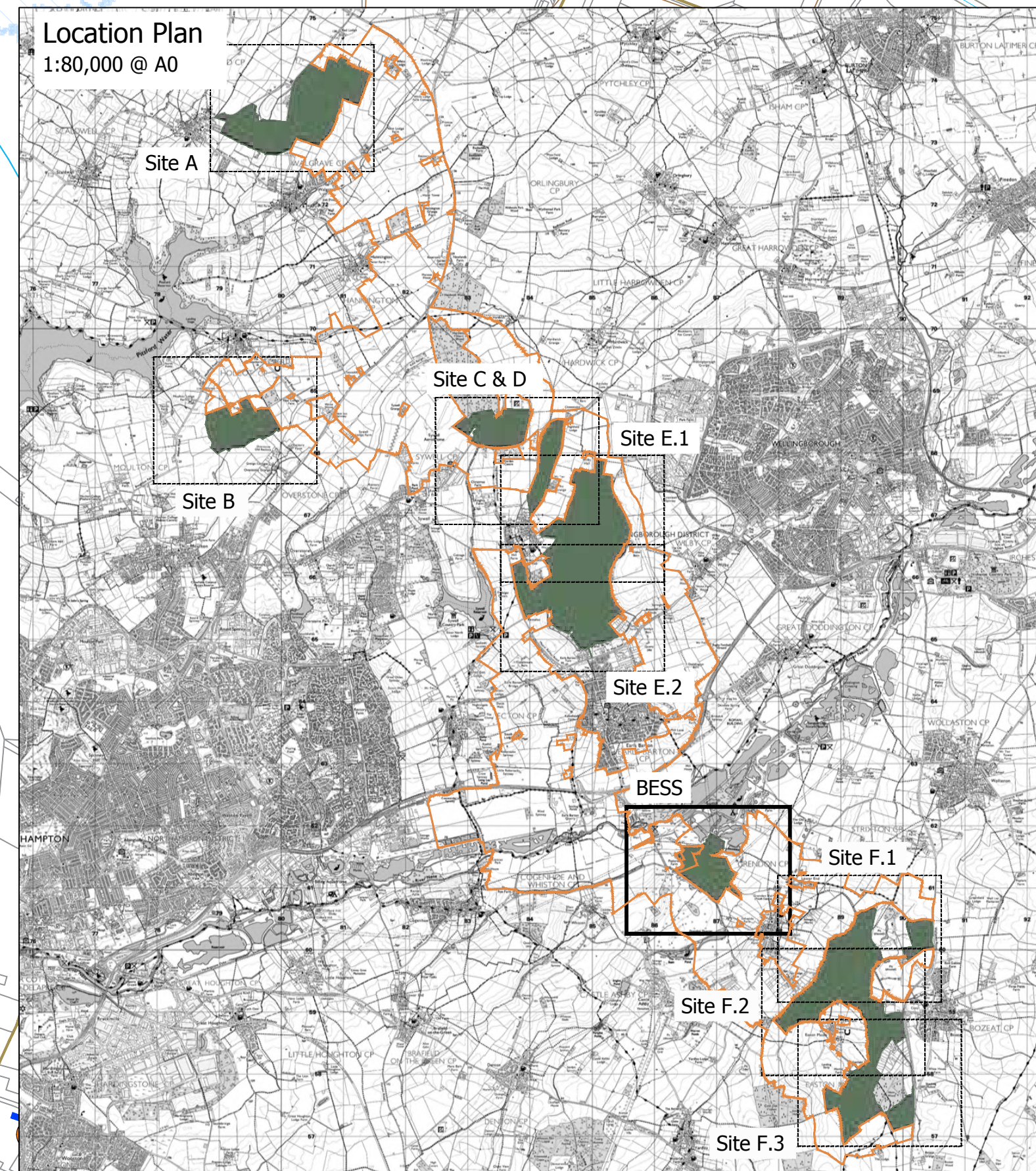
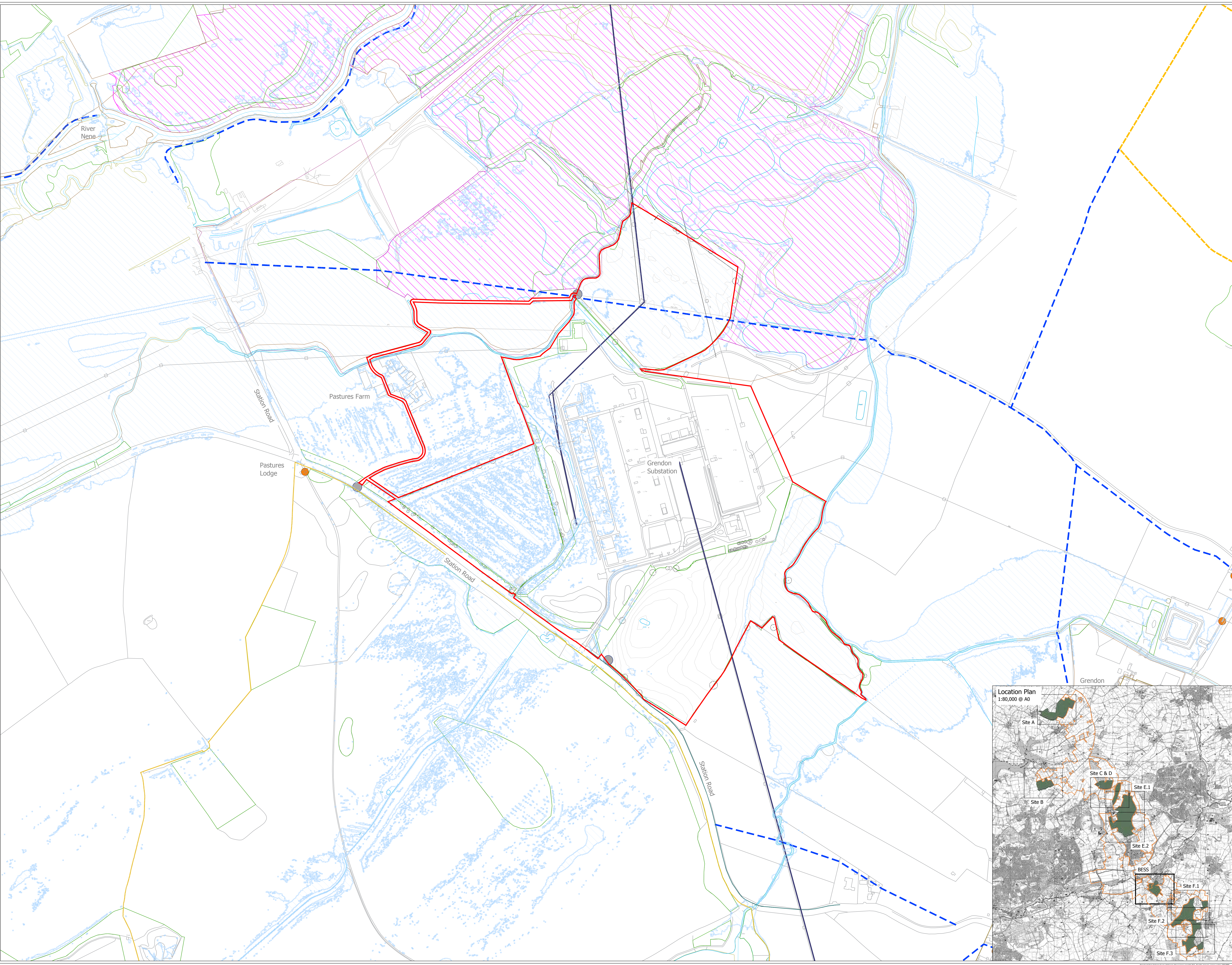
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 - Gap in Hedgerow
 - New
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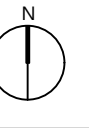
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Location Plan Key

- Site Area
- Cable Search Area



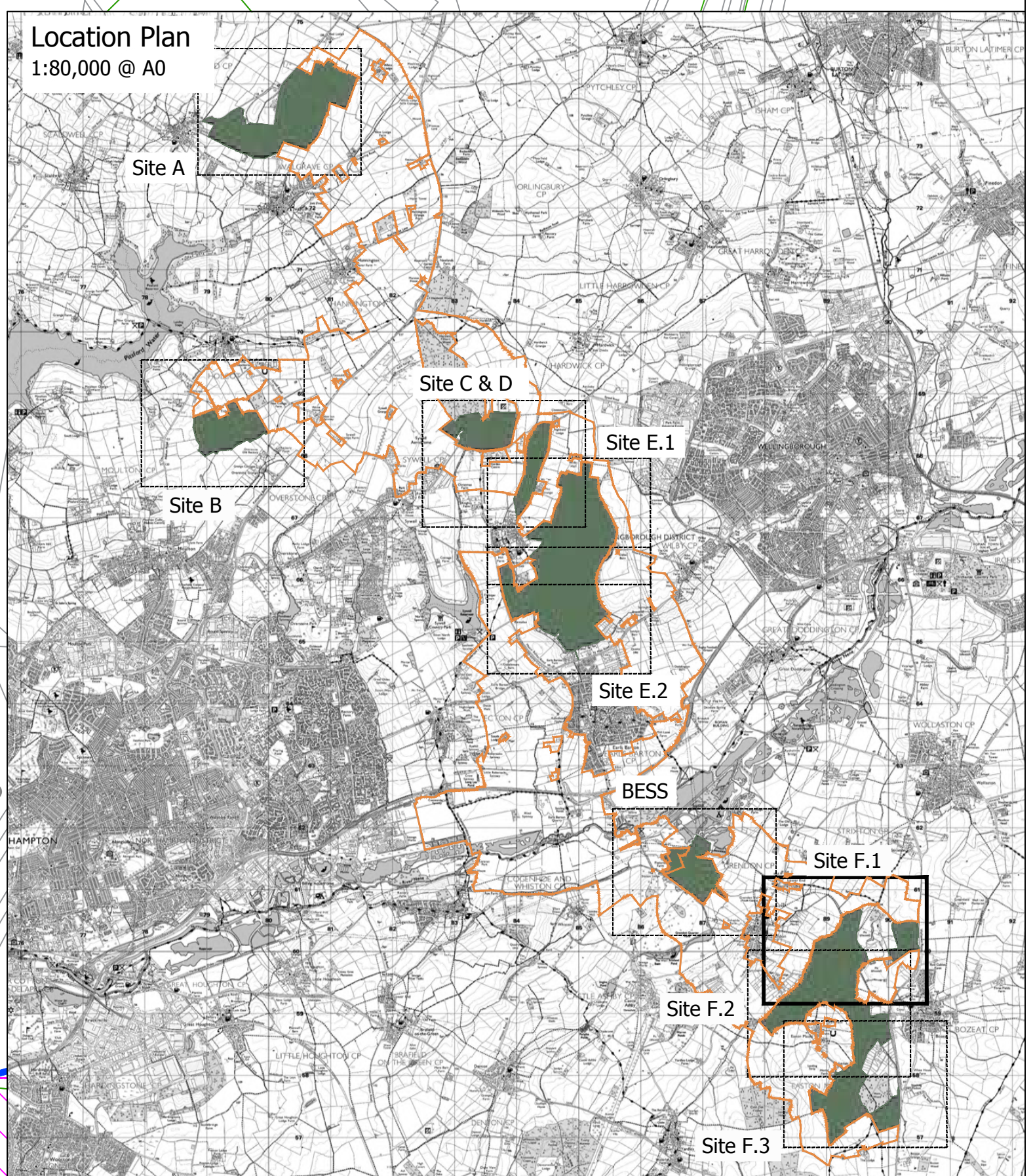
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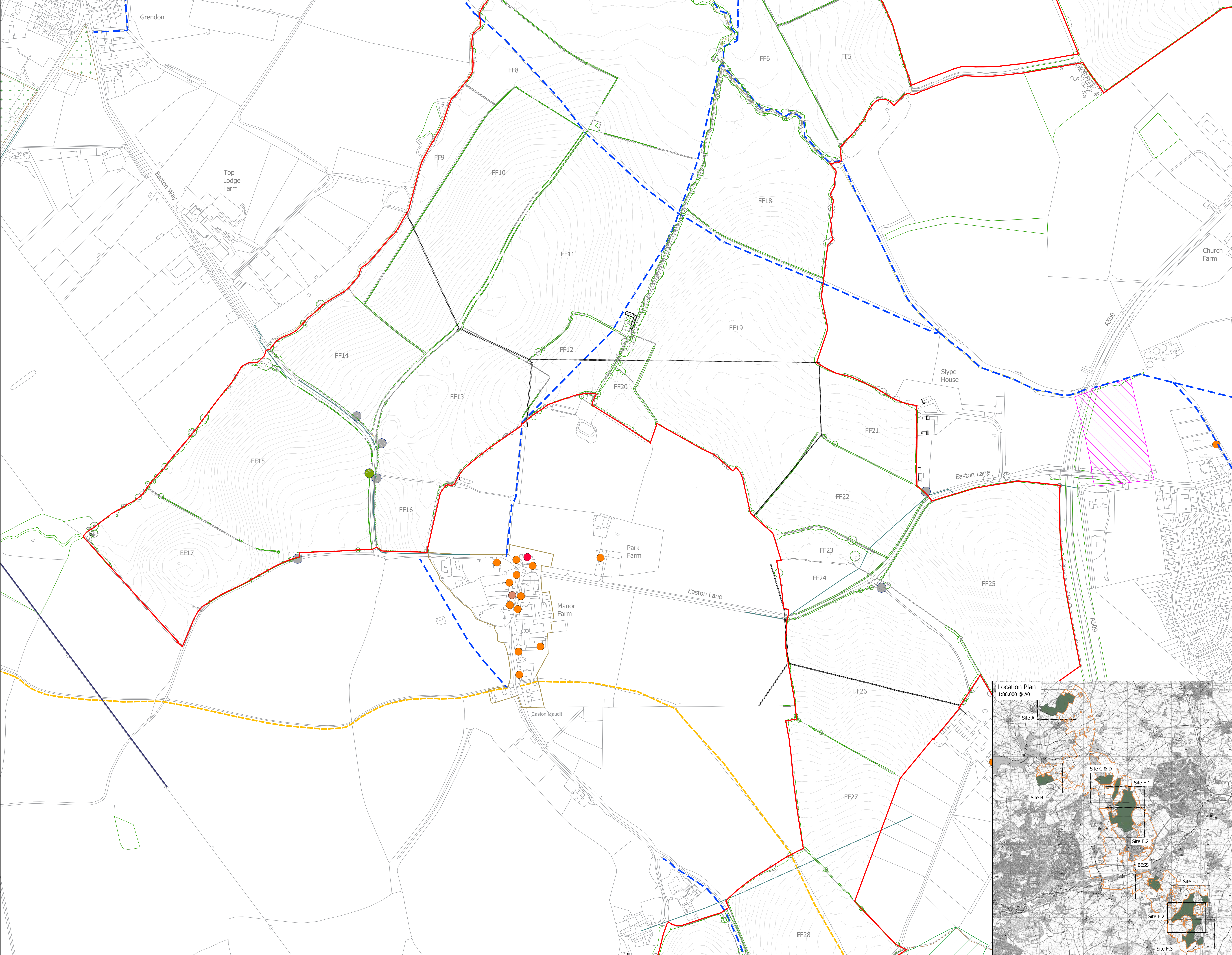
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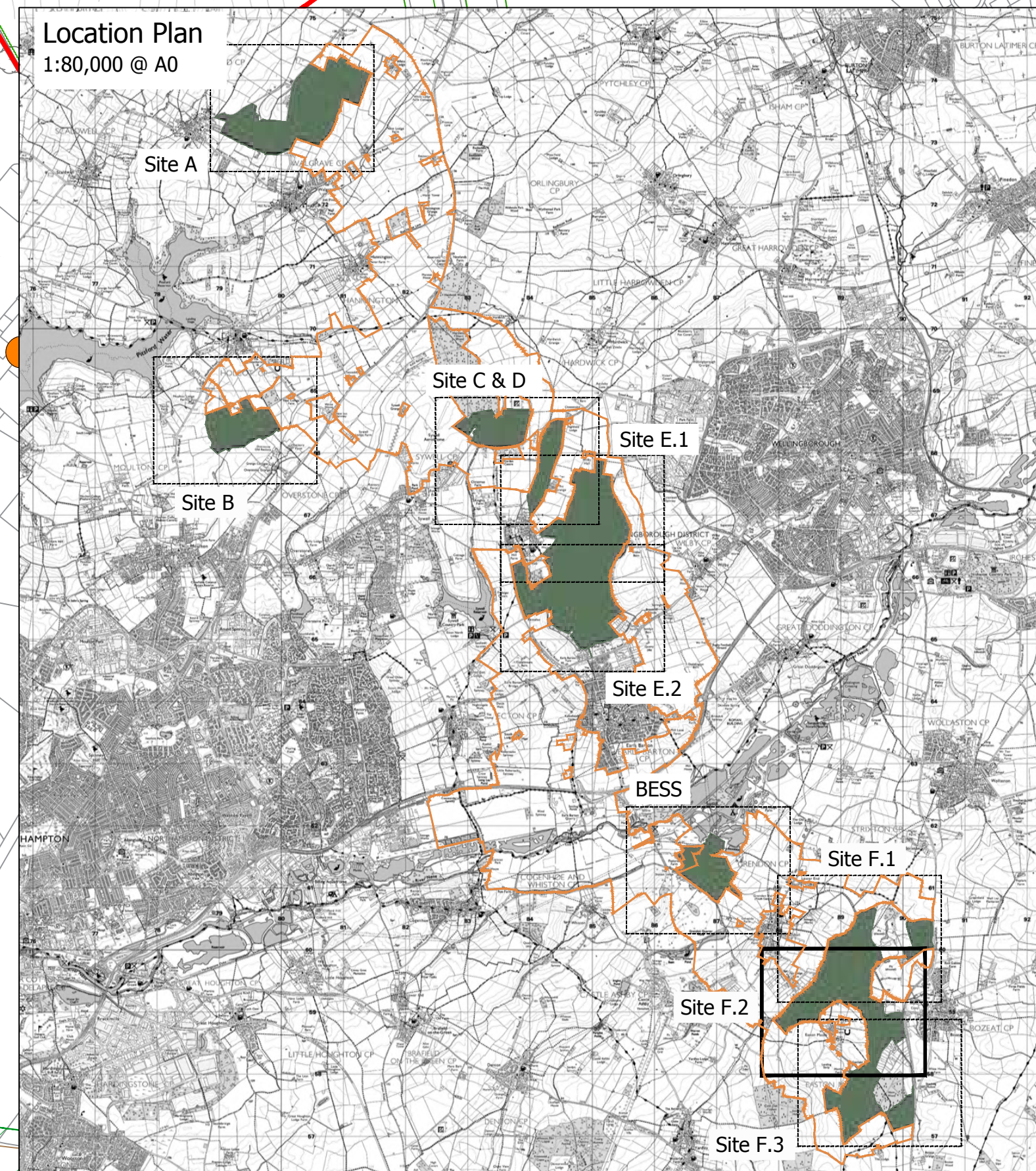
Location Plan Key

- Site Area
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- Key**
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 - Existing
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Location Plan Key

- Site Area
- Cable Search Area

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GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM

Green Hill Site F (2)
Environmental Masterplan
(7 of 9)

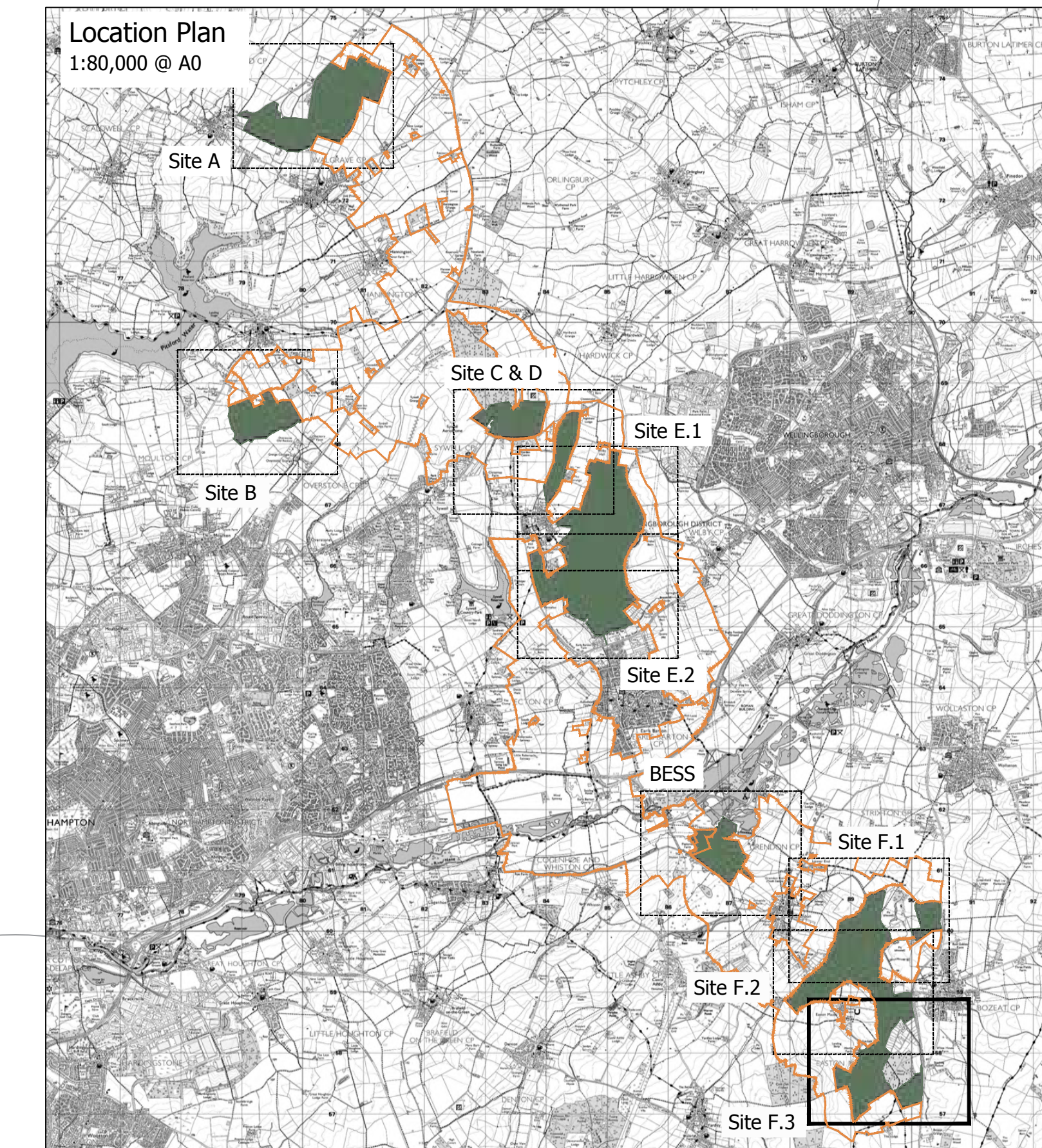


Key

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 - Existing
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 - New
- Note: Not All Landscape Designations are visible within this drawing.

Location Plan Key

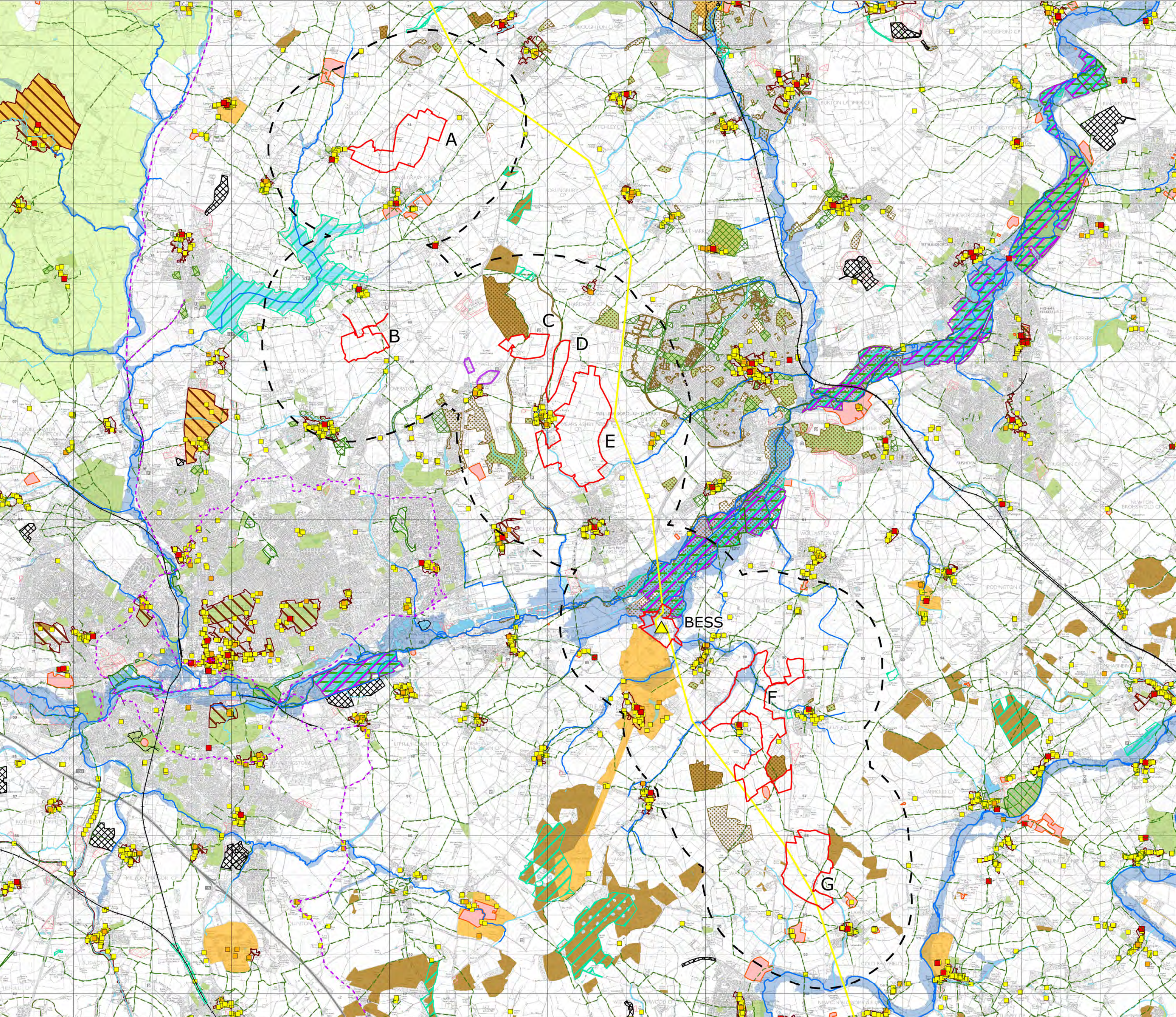
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- Cable Search Area



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GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM

Green Hill Site F (3)
Environmental Masterplan
(7 of 9)



Title:
Figure 3 Environmental Constraints

Document:
Co-Design Workshop

- Legend:
- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Site Boundary | Ancient Woodland | Railway |
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| Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) Common Land | Historic Landfill Site | |
| Greenspace | | |

Data: Historic England, 2023; Environment Agency, 2023; Natural England, 2023; Lanpro, 2024
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 0100031673 Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, USGS



Drawing no.: P3535-LPR-ZZ-XX-DR-Z-Scoping-0118
Coordinate system: British National Grid
Scale: 1:65,000 @ A2

0 1 2 3 Kilometers



