

# **Green Hill Solar Farm**

## **EN010170**

### **Environmental Statement**

### **Appendix 12.7: Historic Landscape**

### **Assessment**

Prepared by: Lanpro

Date: May 2025

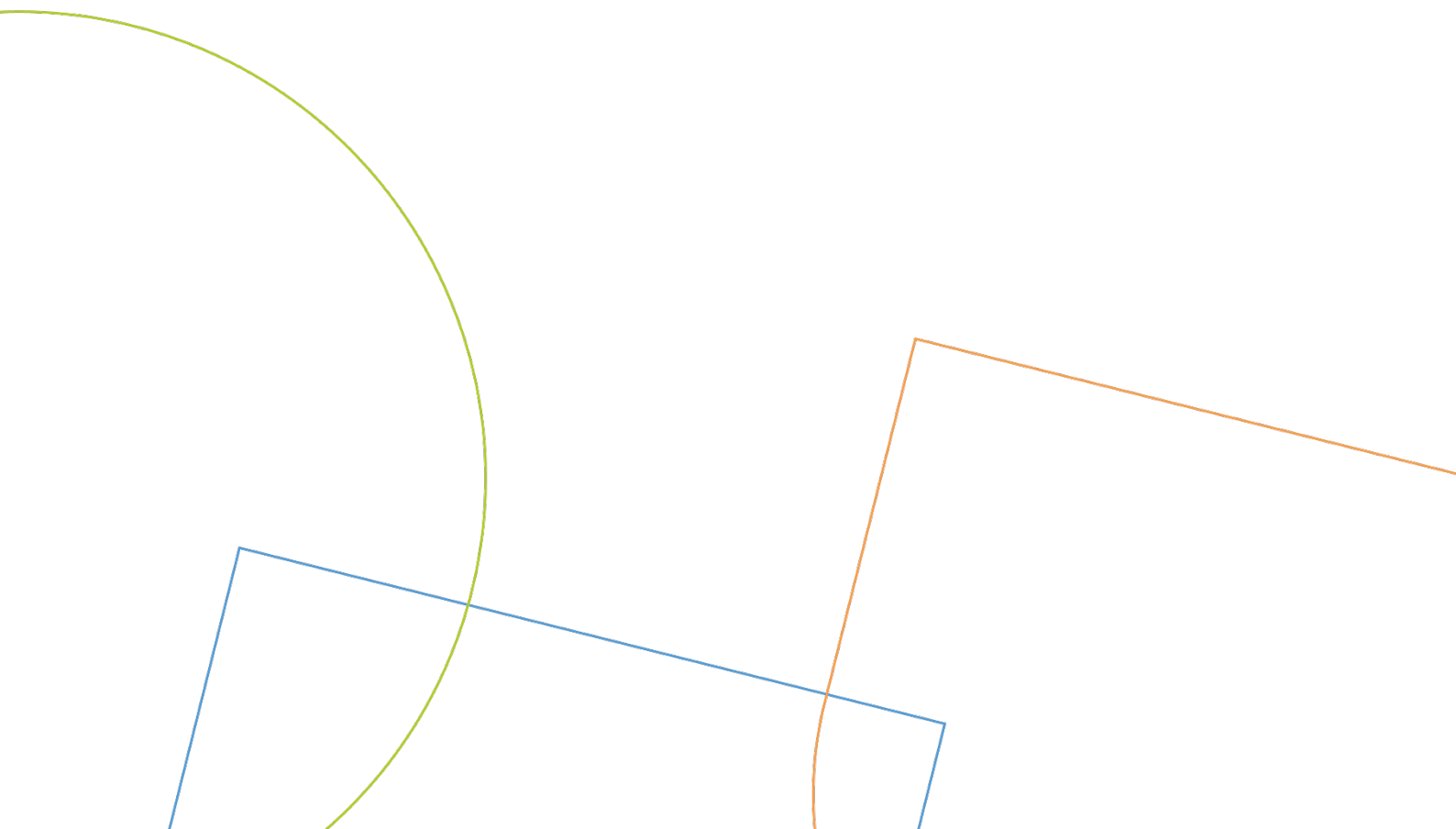
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# **Green Hill Solar Farm**

## **Historic Landscape Character Assessment**

Project no. 3535/H  
On behalf of Island Green Power



# Green Hill Solar Farm: Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Green Hill Solar Farm

March 2025

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## Issue Sheet

### Green Hill Solar Farm: Historic Landscape Character Assessment

Project no. 3535/H

Document Prepared for: Island Green Power

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# Contents

<b>NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY</b>		<b>V</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>POLICY AND GUIDANCE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>BASELINE INFORMATION</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>24</b>

## List of Figures

- Figure 12.3.1. Historic Landscape Character Green Hill A and Cable Corridor
- Figure 12.3.2. Historic Landscape Character Green Hill A.2 and Cable Corridor
- Figure 12.3.3. Historic Landscape Character Green Hill B and Cable Corridor
- Figure 12.3.4. Historic Landscape Character Green Hill C and Cable Corridor
- Figure 12.3.5. Historic Landscape Character Green Hill D and Cable Corridor
- Figure 12.3.6. Historic Landscape Character Green Hill E and Cable Corridor
- Figure 12.3.7. Historic Landscape Character Green Hill F and Cable Corridor
- Figure 12.3.8. Historic Landscape Character Green Hill G and Cable Corridor
- Figure 12.3.9. Historic Landscape Character Green Hill BESS and Cable Corridor

## List of Plates

- Plate 1. HLC29 on Site A
- Plate 2. HLC12 on Site A
- Plate 3. HLC4 on Site A
- Plate 4. HLC5 on Site A
- Plate 5. HLC14 on Site B
- Plate 6. HLC34 on Site C
- Plate 7. HLC18, HLC20 and HLC33 on Site C
- Plate 8. HLC21 on Site D
- Plate 9. HLC11 on Site E
- Plate 10. HLC2 on Site F
- Plate 11. HLC43 on Site F
- Plate 12. HLC26 on Site F
- Plate 13. HLC29 on Site F
- Plate 14. HBC9842 On Site G
- Plate 15. HBC9823 on Site G
- Plate 16. HLC13 on the BESS site
- Plate 17. HLC12 on the BESS site
- Plate 18. HLC2 on the BESS site

## Non-Technical Summary

Lanpro Services Limited was commissioned by Green Hill Solar Farm to produce a Historic Landscape Character (HLC) assessment for the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm (the Scheme). The Scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and this assessment has been undertaken to inform a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

This HLC Assessment has been produced for all the constituent 'Sites' that form the Scheme (Green Hill A, Green Hill A.2, Green Hill B, Green Hill C, Green Hill D, Green Hill E, Green Hill F, Green Hill G and the Green Hill BESS). Collectively, these are located within the administrative area of Milton Keynes City Council, the West Northamptonshire District of Northamptonshire and the North Northamptonshire District of Northamptonshire.

The nature of the proposed development, comprising a solar farm, means that the legibility of the historic field pattern that constitutes the present landscape character, as defined by individual HLC units, will be retained by the Scheme. Existing boundaries and hedgerows will be maintained and all development will be reversible following decommissioning, with minimal residual landscape changes.

The Scheme is therefore considered to cause a low level of impact on the overall character of the historic landscape (i.e. less than substantial harm at the lower end of the scale in NPPF / NPS terms). Consequently it is considered that the Scheme will not alter the ability to understand or experience the historic landscape character within the Order Limits and the legibility of the historic landscape will be maintained.

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Lanpro Services Limited was commissioned by Island Green Power to produce a Historic Landscape Character (HLC) assessment report to support the planning application for the Greenhill Solar Farm. The Order Limits for the Greenhill Solar Farm spans three local authorities: North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council. This assessment addresses the information requirements set out in the National Policy Statement (NPS) (EN-1 and EN-3) and provides the proportionate response sought by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 1.1.2 This document provides an assessment of the impact that could be caused by the proposed development of Green Hill Solar Farm to the historic landscape, comprising HLC units as defined by the Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment (NHLCA; Holmes 2007 and Hardcastle 2015) and the Milton Keynes Council Historic Landscape Character (MKHLC).
- 1.1.3 The assessment has been undertaken to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework's Section 16: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' and NPS 2024, *Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy* (EN-1) and NPS 2024, *National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure* (EN-3).
- 1.1.4 This document forms appendix 12.3 of the Cultural Heritage Environmental Statement chapter.



## 2 Policy and Guidance

- 2.1.1 In considering any planning application for development, the Planning Inspectorate and the Local Planning Authorities will be guided by current legislation, national planning policy, local policy and by other material considerations.

### Historic England Guidance

- 2.1.2 The guidance provided by Historic England in *Historic Landscape Characterisation: A Tool for Understanding and Managing Whole Areas* (2025) discusses the nature of HLC, rather than how to assess impact to it. It states that “*HLC does not attach an expert’s ascription of significance or value, recognising that these are not immutable.*”. It goes on to state that: “*Characterisation recognises that landscape is and always has been dynamic and that society and its decision makers are most often involved in the careful management of change rather than preservation in the face of it.*”

### National Policy Statements (NPS) (2024)

#### NPS (EN-1)

- 2.1.3 NPS EN-1 is the overarching policy statement for energy. It considers the provision of and the potential impacts which arise from the development of all types of energy infrastructure.
- 2.1.4 Section 5.9 of NPS EN-1 considers the potential impacts on the historic environment. Paragraph 22 of this section states: “*In determining applications, the Secretary of State should seek to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by the proposed development, including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset (including assets whose setting may be affected by the proposed development), taking account of.... historic landscape character records.*” This coupled with paragraph 9 highlights the importance of considering the potential impacts of schemes on HLC, in order to better understand impacts on the wider setting of heritage assets. Paragraph 9 states: “*The applicant should undertake an assessment of any likely significant heritage impacts of the proposed development as part of the EIA .... Consideration will also need to be given to the possible impacts, including cumulative, on the wider historic environment. The assessment should include reference to any historic landscape or seascape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing impacts relevant to the proposed project*” (NPS 2024a).

#### NPS (EN-3)

- 2.1.5 NPS EN-3 is the National Policy Statement which considers provision for the development of renewable energy infrastructure.
- 2.1.6 Section 2.5 of NPS EN-3 considers how to ensure good design of energy infrastructure. Paragraph 2 of this section states that: “*Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-location with other marine and terrestrial uses, and in*

*the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage” (NPS 2024b).*

- 2.1.7 Section 2.10 of NPS EN-3 specifically considers solar photovoltaic generation. Paragraph 108 of this section refers to potential impacts of solar panels which *“may include the effects on the setting of Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets as well as on Historic Landscape Character”* (NPS 2024b). This paragraph provides some insight into how HLC should be considered, setting it aside from heritage assets as a stand-alone concept which may inform effects on the setting of heritage assets.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2025)**

- 2.1.8 As already established above with reference to the relevant National Policy Statements, HLC units are not considered to be heritage assets in their own right and are not specifically discussed in Section 16 of the NPPF which covers the policy regarding the historic environment. However, other sections of the NPPF do discuss the importance of developments being sympathetic with the local character, for instance, paragraph 135c which states *“Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments... are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities)”* (NPPF 2024). This engrains the need to understand the local character of an area when proposing development.

### **Local Policy**

#### **North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy**

- 2.1.9 The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (2016) outlines the local plan for the area which includes both Kettering and Wellingborough, it is in effect until 2031.
- 2.1.10 Policy 3 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy lays out the policy on landscape character. The policy states that: *“Development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting, retaining and, where possible, enhancing the distinctive qualities of the landscape character area which it would affect.”* In order to achieve this, the policy states that development should conserve and enhance character where possible and provide appropriate landscape mitigation (North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit 2016).

#### **West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy**

- 2.1.11 The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (2014) outlines the local plan, until 2029, for the area which encompasses the towns of Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley.
- 2.1.12 Policy BN5 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy considers the historic environment and landscape. With regards to development and the historic landscape, the policy states that development should *“be sympathetic to locally distinctive landscape*

*features, design styles and materials in order to contribute to sense of place.”* (West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit 2014).

**Plan: MK 2016-2031**

- 2.1.13 The Plan MK (2019) outlines the local plan for the Milton Keynes District unit 2031, this encompasses Site G of the Greenhill Solar Farm.
- 2.1.14 In paragraphs 13.4 and 19.10, this plan acknowledges HLC as a useful resource for understanding the wider landscape and as a tool for providing evidence to the planning process (Milton Keynes Council 2019).
- 2.1.15 This report has also been created with reference to the *Milton Keynes Review of Local Landscape Designations* produced by LUC in May 2024. This document has been assessed in more detail in the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment.

**Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Guidance**

- 2.1.16 CIfA’s guidance does not cover HLC in depth, however, their *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (2020) states in paragraph 3.5.3: “*Reports should contain as a minimum.... a description of the area’s historic character and the effect of proposed development upon it (where appropriate, this should include options for conserving or enhancing local character)*” (CIfA 2020).

### **3 Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The purpose of this HLC assessment is to meet the requirements of NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3, the NPPF and any local plans, in order to inform planning decisions when considering proposals that have the potential to have an impact, directly or indirectly, upon historic landscape character. It is not concerned with other planning issues.
- 3.1.2 The assessment of the potential impacts of the historic landscape character has been based on HLC units defined by the NHLCA (Holmes 2007 and Hardcastle 2015) and the MKHLC.
- 3.1.3 The degree of impact to HLC through development is variable and can sometimes be positive rather than negative. The wide range of potential impacts include: change of land use, change in nature and shape of field boundaries, change in access to the landscape and changes in sensory appreciation of the landscape.
- 3.1.4 Under the requirements of national and local policy and in line with the relevant professional guidance, the process of undertaking a HLC impact assessment is:
1. Understanding the factors which contribute to the character of the HLC unit in order to understand its historic value
  2. Understanding the nature of the proposed development in order to understand the potential impact to this historic value
  3. To assess the impact of the proposed development on HLC units
- 3.1.5 For the purposes of this report, HLC units are not considered to be heritage assets in their own right, as is established above from the relevant policy and guidance. Value will be ascribed, in line with the methodology and criteria detailed in Section 3.3, as well as professional judgement, in order to understand the potential impact to the historic landscape character from the Scheme as required by the NPS EN-1 and EN-3.
- 3.1.6 HLC units within the Scheme have been given project and site-specific codes so that relevant units can be rapidly identified.
- 3.1.7 The assessment has taken account of the Historically Important Hedgerows. The contribution the Historically Important Hedgerows to the 'value' of the HLC units has been considered. They have been used to inform the assessment in this document, however, they are not discussed here in detail.

**Table 3.1.1: Information Sources**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Data</b>	<b>Detail</b>
Local Authority	Local plan document, guidance which steers development and conservation and raw HLC data.	Local Plan, Local Historic Environment Records (HER)
Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment	Assessment of historic landscape types within Northamptonshire	Documents available online: <a href="https://doi.org/10.5284/1047634">https://doi.org/10.5284/1047634</a>
Historic Mapping	Indication of change over time within HLC units.	Historic Ordnance Survey (OS) early drawings and maps from the first edition to the present day.
Online Sources	Web-published local history	British History Online, The genealogist, Blackwell's mapping
Archives	Historic archive collections	Historic estate maps, tithe mapping etc.
Client Information	Plans, proposals, design intent and known parameters	Proposed development plans, technical reports etc.

## Site Visits

- 3.1.8 Visits to the individual Sites were undertaken on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 in overcast conditions. The site visits were undertaken to provide a greater understanding of the aspects that contribute to the HLC units “value”, informed by professional judgement. Additionally they were used to inform potential impacts.



## 4 Baseline information

### Green Hill A

- 4.1.1 There are 42 individual HLC units mapped within 1km of the Site A Order Limits by the NHLCA (Holmes 2007, 12), representing three of the twelve broad character types mapped across the county (Enclosed land, Settlement, and Woodland). There are four larger HLC Areas (HLCAs) within the 1km search area, named as Lamport - Moulton Uplands and Brampton Brook - River Ise Watershed which are both largely characterised by the Pre-19th century Parliamentary Enclosure type, Ise Valley side: Broughton – Harrowden, which is largely characterised by the Large Modern Fields Type, and Brampton Brook - River Ise Watershed which is largely characterised by the Modern Fields type. There are seven individual HLC units within, or partially within the Order Limits, all of which are located within the Lamport - Moulton Uplands HLCA, and these are described in more detail below.
- 4.1.2 Within Green Hill A and A.2, there are seven HLC units that were mapped by the NHLCA, listed in Table 4.1.1 below (Figures 12.3.1 and 12.3.2).

**Table 4.1.1: Gazetteer of Historic Landscape Character (HLC) units within Green Hill A**

HLC ID	Landscape Type	HLC Type	Origins of enclosure/woodland	Name
HLC4	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
HLC5	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Fragmented parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
HLC6	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Modern fields	Ancient enclosure	Red Lodge
HLC7	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
HLC12	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Large modern fields	Open fields	Walgrave Lodge
HLC29	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Fragmented parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
HLC38	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Fragmented parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A

### Green Hill B

- 4.1.3 There are 21 individual HLC units mapped within 1km of the Site B Order Limits by the NHLCA. Site B only occupies one unit, labelled as HLC 14 and called 'Tithe Farm'. This comprises the 'Fragmentary parliamentary enclosure' type and characterised as having a regular pattern (Holmes 2007; Figure 12.3.3).

### Green Hill C, D and E

- 4.1.4 There are 54 individual HLC units mapped within 1km of the Site C, D and E Order Limits by the NHLCA (Holmes 2007, 12), representing 11 of the 12 broad character types mapped across the county (Civic; Communications; Enclosed Land (fieldscapes); Industrial Land; Orchards; Parkland and Gardens; Recreational; Settlement; Unenclosed Land; Water, and Woodland). There are two HLC Areas (HLCAs) within the 1km search area, named as Nene Valley: Ecton - Great Doddington and Sywell Clay Plateau, which are largely characterised by the 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure and Fragmented Parliamentary Enclosure broad types respectively.
- 4.1.5 There are nine HLC units within, or partially within, Green Hill C, D and E, and these are described in the tables below.
- 4.1.6 Within Green Hill C, there are four HLC units that were mapped by the by the NHLCA , listed in Table 4.1.2 below (Figure 12.3.3).

**Table 4.1.2: Gazetteer of Historic Landscape Character (HLC) units within Green Hill C**

HLC ID	Landscape Type	HLC Type	Origins of enclosure/woodland	Name
HLC19	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Modern fields	Open fields	N/A
HLC20	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Large modern fields	Open fields	N/A
HLC33	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	19th century non parliamentary enclosure	Assarted	N/A
HLC34	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Pre 19th century non parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	Woodlodge Farm

- 4.1.7 Within Green Hill D, there is one HLC unit that were mapped by the NHLCA, listed in Table 4.1.3 below (Figure 12.3.5).

**Table 4.1.3: Gazetteer of HLC units within Green Hill D**

HLC ID	Landscape Type	HLC Type	Origins of enclosure/woodland	Name
HLC21	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	Cheesecake Spinney

- 4.1.8 Within Green Hill E, there are four HLC units that were mapped by the NHLCA, listed in Table 4.1.4 (Figure 12.3.6).

**Table 4.1.4: Gazetteer of HLC units within Green Hill E**

HLC ID	Landscape Type	HLC Type	Origins of enclosure/woodland	Name
HLC11	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
HLC12	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	The Grange
HLC13	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Modern fields	Open fields	Trafalgar Covert
HLC23	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Modern fields	Open fields	Wilby Hall

### Green Hill F

- 4.1.9 There are 56 individual HLC units mapped within 1km of the Site F Order Limits by the NHLCA, representing four of the twelve broad character types mapped across the county (Enclosed land, Settlement, Parkland and Woodland). There are two HLC Areas (HLCAs) within the 1km search area, named as *Bozeat Claylands* and *Southern Nene Valley Side: Hardingstone - Castle Ashby*, which are largely characterised by the 19<sup>th</sup> century *Parliamentary Enclosure* and *Fragmented Parliamentary Enclosure* broad types respectively. There are eight individual HLC units within, or partially within the study site, and these are described in more detail below.
- 4.1.10 Within Green Hill F, there are eight HLC units that were mapped by the NHLCA, listed in Table 4.1.5 below (Figure 12.3.7).

**Table 4.1.5: Gazetteer of HLC units within Green Hill F**

<b>HLC ID</b>	<b>Landscape Type</b>	<b>HLC Type</b>	<b>Origins of enclosure/woodland</b>	<b>Name</b>
HLC2	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Fragmented non parliamentary enclosure	Ancient enclosure	N/A
HLC10	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Large modern fields	Ancient enclosure	The Lodge
HLC26	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Pre 19th century non parliamentary enclosure	Ancient enclosure	N/A
HLC29	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	19th century parliamentary enclosure	Ancient enclosure	Low Farm
HLC32	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Large modern fields	Ancient enclosure	N/A
HLC34	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Large modern fields	Open fields	N/A
HLC36	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Fragmented parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	York College
HLC43	Enclosed land (fieldscapes)	Pre 19th century non parliamentary enclosure	Ancient enclosure	Park Farm

### **Green Hill G**

- 4.1.11 Ten HLC units were mapped within the study site by the Milton Keynes Council Historic Landscape Character (MKHLC), all of which are of the 'Enclosure' Broad HLC Type. The locations of these HLC units are illustrated on Figure 12.3.8, indicated by the HLC reference codes as highlighted in bold below.
- 4.1.12 Within Green Hill G, there are 10 HLC units mapped by the MKHLC Project in 2004, listed in Table 4.1.6 below (Figure 12.3.8).

**Table 4.1.6: Gazetteer of HLC units within Green Hill G**

<b>HLC ID</b>	<b>Broad Type</b>	<b>HLC Type</b>	<b>Period</b>
HBC9694	Enclosure	Enclosure (20th Century Prairie Fields)	Mid 20th Century to Late 20th Century - 1950 AD to 1999 AD
HBC9699	Enclosure	Enclosure (20th Century Prairie Fields)	Mid 20th Century to Late 20th Century - 1950 AD to 1999 AD
HBC9701	Enclosure	Enclosure (20th Century Prairie Fields)	Mid 20th Century to Late 20th Century - 1950 AD to 1999 AD

HLC ID	Broad Type	HLC Type	Period
HBC9703	Enclosure	Enclosure (20th Century Prairie Fields)	18th Century to Victorian - 1774 AD to 1885 AD
HBC9823	Enclosure	Parliamentary Enclosure (Divided Allotments)	18th Century to Victorian - 1774 AD to 1885 AD
HBC9839	Enclosure	Parliamentary Enclosure (Divided Allotments)	18th Century to Victorian - 1774 AD to 1885 AD
HBC9840	Enclosure	Enclosure (20th Century)	18th Century to Victorian - 1774 AD to 1885 AD
HBC9841	Enclosure	Enclosure (20th Century Prairie Fields)	18th Century to Victorian - 1774 AD to 1885 AD
HBC9842	Enclosure	Enclosure (pre 18th Century Irregular)	Medieval to 18th Century - 1066 AD to 1774 AD
HBC9843	Enclosure	Parliamentary Enclosure (Divided Allotments)	18th Century to Victorian - 1774 AD to 1885 AD

### Green Hill BESS

- 4.1.13 There are 23 individual HLC units mapped within 1km of the BESS Order Limits by the NHLCA, representing six of the twelve broad character types mapped across the county (Enclosed land; Settlement; Water, Parkland (and ornamental gardens); Industrial land, and Civic)
- 4.1.14 BESS1 occupies the north-western edge of a larger HLC unit labelled as HLC2 on Figure 12.3.9 and named as 'Lakeside'. This comprises the 'Enclosed land' broad historic landscape type and is characterised as having a 'Regular' pattern and is further characterised as having 'ruler-straight' boundaries, which are 'often indicative of Parliamentary or modern enclosure' (Holmes 2007, 18). It is also characterised as having had 'Minor loss' of field boundaries since the 1880s, i.e., 40% or less (Holmes 2007, 19). The unit is further characterised as land that was enclosed from a former open field system.
- 4.1.15 The BESS2, BESS3 and the access route all occupy part of the same HLC unit, labelled as HLC13 on Figure 12.3.9, and named as 'Pastures Farm'. This comprises the 'Enclosed land' broad historic landscape type and is characterised as having an 'Irregular' pattern, indicating that: 'There is no sense of overall patterning. The fields may be 'ancient enclosure or assarts' (Holmes 2007, 17). The HLC unit is further characterised as having 'dog-leg' boundaries, an indicator of where former field boundaries have been removed (Holmes 2007, 18), and as having 'Major loss' of field boundaries since the 1880s, i.e., 'more than 40% loss although the character of the fields within is still retained' (Holmes 2007, 19). The unit is further characterised as land that was enclosed from a former open field system.
- 4.1.16 Grendon Substation largely occupies its own HLC unit, labelled as HLC12 on Figure 12.3.9, which comprises the 'Civic' broad landscape type, although the woodland shelter belt which provides screening for the sub-station along the northern edge of Station Road



is included in HLC19 which forms part of the 'Enclosed land' broad historic landscape type within Castle Ashby Park.

#### **Cable Route Corridor**

- 4.1.17 There are 77 individual HLC units mapped within 250m of the Cable Route Corridor by the NHLCA (Holmes 2007, 12; Figures 12.3.1 to 12.3.9), representing 9 of the 11 broad character types mapped across the county (*Civic; Communications; Enclosed Land (fieldscapes); Industrial Land; Orchards; Parkland and Gardens; Recreational; Settlement; Unenclosed Land; Water, and Woodland*).
- 4.1.18 Two HLC units were mapped within the study site as part of the MKHLC project in 2004, all of which are of the 'Enclosure' Broad HLC Type.
- 4.1.19 There are 42 individual HLC units within, or partially within the Cable Route Corridor, four of which lie in both the Cable Route Corridor and Solar and BESS sites and are not discussed below.
- 4.1.20 All but four HLC units are of the *Enclosed land* broad HLC type. The outliers include three *Communication* broad HLC type and one *Recreational* broad HLC type. Two of the *Communication* broad types are of the *20th century communication* primary type and the other is of the *Large modern fields* primary type. The *Recreational* broad type is of the *Modern Fields* primary type.
- 4.1.21 Of the *Enclosed land* broad HLC type, 12 units are of the *Earlier parliamentary enclosure* primary type, seven of the *19th century parliamentary enclosure* primary type, four of the *19th century non-parliamentary enclosure* primary type, seven are of the *Large modern fields* primary type, four are of the *Modern fields* primary type,
- 4.1.22 Table 4.1.7 below details the 38 HLC units located solely in the Cable Route Corridor.

**Table 4.1.7: Gazetteer of HLC units within Green Hill Cable Route Corridor**

<b>HLC ID</b>	<b>Landscape Type</b>	<b>HLC Type</b>	<b>Origins of enclosure/woodland</b>	<b>Name</b>
CRHLC 1	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	New Lodge Farm
CRHLC 2	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	Mere Farm
CRHLC 3	Enclosure	Large modern fields	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 4	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	Pastures Farm
CRHLC 5	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A

<b>HLC ID</b>	<b>Landscape Type</b>	<b>HLC Type</b>	<b>Origins of enclosure/woodland</b>	<b>Name</b>
CRHLC 6	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	Teacaddy Farm
CRHLC 7	Enclosure	19th Century parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	New Inn Spinney
CRHLC 8	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	Foxhill Farm
CRHLC 9	Enclosure	Pre 19th century non parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 10	Recreation	Modern fields	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 11	Enclosure	Pre 19th century non parliamentary enclosure	Ancient Enclosure	N/A
CRHLC 12	Enclosure	19th Century non parliamentary enclosure	Open Fields	N/A
CRHLC 13	Communication	20th Century communication	Open fields	Sywell Aerodrome
CRHLC 14	Enclosure	Pre 19th century non parliamentary enclosure	Assarted	N/A
CRHLC 15	Enclosure	Large modern fields	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 16	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	Brookhill Farm
CRHLC 17	Enclosure	Large modern fields	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 18	Enclosure	19th century parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	South Lodge
CRHLC 19	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	Copplemore Barn

<b>HLC ID</b>	<b>Landscape Type</b>	<b>HLC Type</b>	<b>Origins of enclosure/woodland</b>	<b>Name</b>
CRHLC 20	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 21	Enclosure	Modern Fields	Open fields	Sandpit Barn
CRHLC 22	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	Grange Farm
CRHLC 23	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 24	Enclosure	Earlier parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	Mill Lane Farm
CRHLC 25	Enclosure	Large modern fields	Open fields	Brimshill Spinney
CRHLC 26	Enclosure	19th Century parliamentary enclosure	Pasture	N/A
CRHLC 27	Enclosure	Large modern fields	Ancient enclosure	N/A
CRHLC 28	Enclosure	19th Century parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 29	Enclosure	19th century parliamentary enclosure	Ancient enclosure	N/A
CRHLC 30	Enclosure	19th century parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 31	Enclosure	19th century parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 32	Enclosure	19th century parliamentary enclosure	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 33	Enclosure	Modern fields	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 34	Enclosure	Large modern fields	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 35	Communication	Large modern fields	Open fields	N/A

<b>HLC ID</b>	<b>Landscape Type</b>	<b>HLC Type</b>	<b>Origins of enclosure/woodland</b>	<b>Name</b>
CRHLC 36	Communication	20th Century communication	Open fields	N/A
CRHLC 37	Enclosure	Modern fields	Open fields	N/A
HBC98 47	Enclosure	Pre 19th century non parliamentary enclosure	Medieval to 18th century – 1066 AD to 1774 AD	N/A

## 5 Assessment of Significance

- 5.1.1 Although Historic England guidance (2025) states that “*HLC does not attach an expert’s ascription of significance or value, recognising that these are not immutable*”, for the purpose of this assessment the value or ‘sensitivity’ of the historic landscape character for land within the Order Limits of the Scheme has been identified with consideration to the criteria in Table 3.3.1.
- 5.1.2 Assessment of value has been undertaken in consideration of Historic England’s *Statement of Heritage Significance. Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (2019).
- 5.1.3 The majority of the landscape within the Order Limits of the Scheme is characterised by post-medieval and modern enclosure (including pre-19<sup>th</sup> century non-parliamentary enclosure, parliamentary enclosure, fragmentary enclosure and modern fields). Within the cable route corridor there are three areas defined as ‘communication’ broad type and one area defined as a ‘recreational’ broad type, all of which are characterised by modern land uses (i.e. Sywell Aerodrome and Roads). Historical mapping dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century (see archaeological desk-based assessment – Appendix 12.2) record the changing field patterns and demonstrate that the majority of land within the Order Limits has remained primarily in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval period. While the present field pattern within the Order Limits retains much of the layout established following post-medieval enclosure and primary parliamentary enclosure acts, field boundary removal has occurred across the Order Limits of the Scheme.
- 5.1.4 Post-medieval enclosure is a common field pattern type found across much of the rural landscape across Northamptonshire and it is therefore considered to have a low ‘value’ of sensitivity.
- 5.1.5 Areas characterised by modern land use have a negligible value.



## 6 Impact Assessment

### Proposed Development

- 6.1.1 The proposed development forms part of the wider Green Hill Solar Farm Scheme which consists of a series of Solar Arrays within Green Hill A, A.2, B, C, D, E, F and G, a BESS, two 400kV substations and a number of 132kV and 33kV substations. A full impact assessment will be included in the Environmental Statement (ES) on the basis of maximum design parameters that will be developed as the Scheme progresses.

### Potential Impacts to Historic Landscape Character

- 6.1.2 The proposed Scheme will see the construction of solar and associated infrastructure in fields that are currently used for arable production. As a result there will be a temporary change in the land use for the Scheme duration from agrarian to energy production.
- 6.1.3 There is potential for the removal of discrete sections of hedgerow during the construction phase of the Scheme, during the installation of the cable route and to widen access points for HGVs. Any such impacts are likely to be minimal as only small sections of hedgerows will require removal, as opposed to full field boundaries. Where possible hedgerow removal will be reinstated, meaning that these impacts will largely be of a temporary and reversible nature.
- 6.1.4 The Scheme is therefore considered to cause a low level of impact on the overall character of the historic landscape (i.e. less than substantial harm at the lower end of the scale in NPPF / NPS terms). Elements that characterise the historic landscape within the Order Limits of the Scheme (such as hedgerows) will be retained, and any temporary change in land use will be reversed following decommissioning. It is considered that the Scheme will not alter the ability to understand the historic landscape character within the Order Limits and the legibility of the historic landscape and field pattern will be maintained.
- 6.1.5 The landscape mitigation proposals include the reinforcement of existing hedgerows with native species. Where new field boundaries are required, the Scheme will look where possible to reinstate historically documented field boundaries. Landscape mitigation is expected to reach maturity by Year 15 of the Scheme. Where these mitigation proposals enhance the landscape character they will be retained as far as feasibly possible following decommissioning, as part of a legacy landscape.

## **7 Conclusion**

- 7.1.1 The majority of the landscape within the Order Limits of the Scheme is characterised by a field pattern comprising post-medieval and modern enclosure. Where pre-19<sup>th</sup> century non-parliamentary enclosure and post-medieval parliamentary enclosure survives, this is evidenced by the layout of fields in relation to historical mapping (e.g. 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey mapping) and the HLC assessment produced for Northamptonshire (Holmes 2007 and Hardcastle 2015) and the Milton Keynes Council Historic Landscape Character (MKHLC). The character of the field patterns are common throughout Northamptonshire and are considered to have a low value of local interest as part of this assessment. Within the cable route corridor there are also four areas characterised by non-agricultural modern land uses. Areas characterised by modern land use are considered to have a negligible value in terms of the historic landscape.
- 7.1.2 The nature of the Scheme means that the legibility of the historic field pattern that constitutes the present landscape character, as defined by individual HLC units, will be retained by the Scheme. Existing boundaries and hedgerows will be maintained, and all development will be reversible following decommissioning, with minimal residual landscape changes.
- 7.1.3 The Scheme is therefore considered to cause a low level of impact on the overall character of the historic landscape (i.e. less than substantial harm at the lower end of the scale in NPPF / NPS terms). Consequently it is considered that the Scheme will not alter the ability to understand or experience the historic landscape character within the Order Limits and the legibility of the historic landscape will be maintained.

## 8 References

- Britnell, R. 1964, *A History of Lavendon*
- ClfA 2020, *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*
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- Hardcastle, K. 2015, *Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment*, [REDACTED] (last accessed March 2025)
- Historic England 2019, *Statement of Heritage Significance. Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets*
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- Holmes, M. 2007, 'Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. March 2007'. Northamptonshire Archaeology. Report 07/038.
- LUC 2024, *Milton Keynes Review of Local Landscape Designations*
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- NPPF 2024, *National Planning Policy Framework*
- West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit 2014, *West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan*

**Figures**



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481500



Title: Figure 12.3.1 Historic Landscape Character Green Hill A and Cable Corridor

Document: Volume 1  
Cultural Heritage  
Environmental Statement (ES)

Legend:

Order Limits

Historic Landscape Character

Earlier Parliamentary  
Enclosure

Fragmented Parliamentary  
Enclosure

Modern Fields

Data: Historic England, 2025; Environment Agency, 2025; Natural England, 2025; Lanpro, 2025  
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



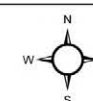
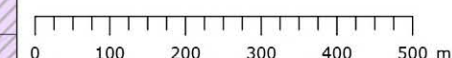
APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Application Doc No.: EN010170/APP/GH6.4.12.3.1

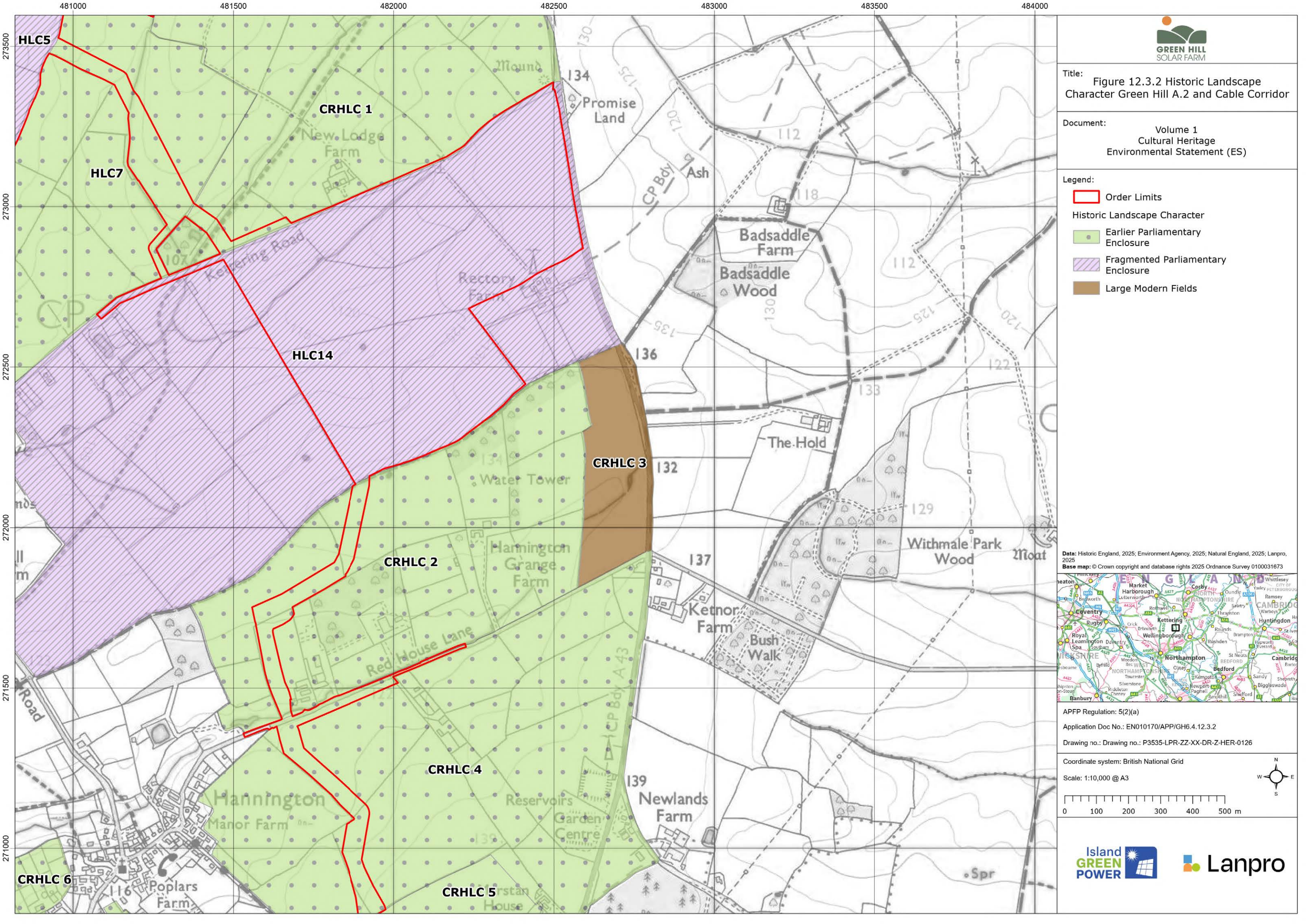
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Coordinate system: British National Grid

Scale: 1:10,000 @ A3







Title: Figure 12.3.2 Historic Landscape Character Green Hill A.2 and Cable Corridor

Document: Volume 1  
Cultural Heritage  
Environmental Statement (ES)

- Legend:
- Order Limits
  - Historic Landscape Character
    - Earlier Parliamentary Enclosure
    - Fragmented Parliamentary Enclosure
    - Large Modern Fields

Date: Historic England, 2025; Environment Agency, 2025; Natural England, 2025; Lanpro, 2025  
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

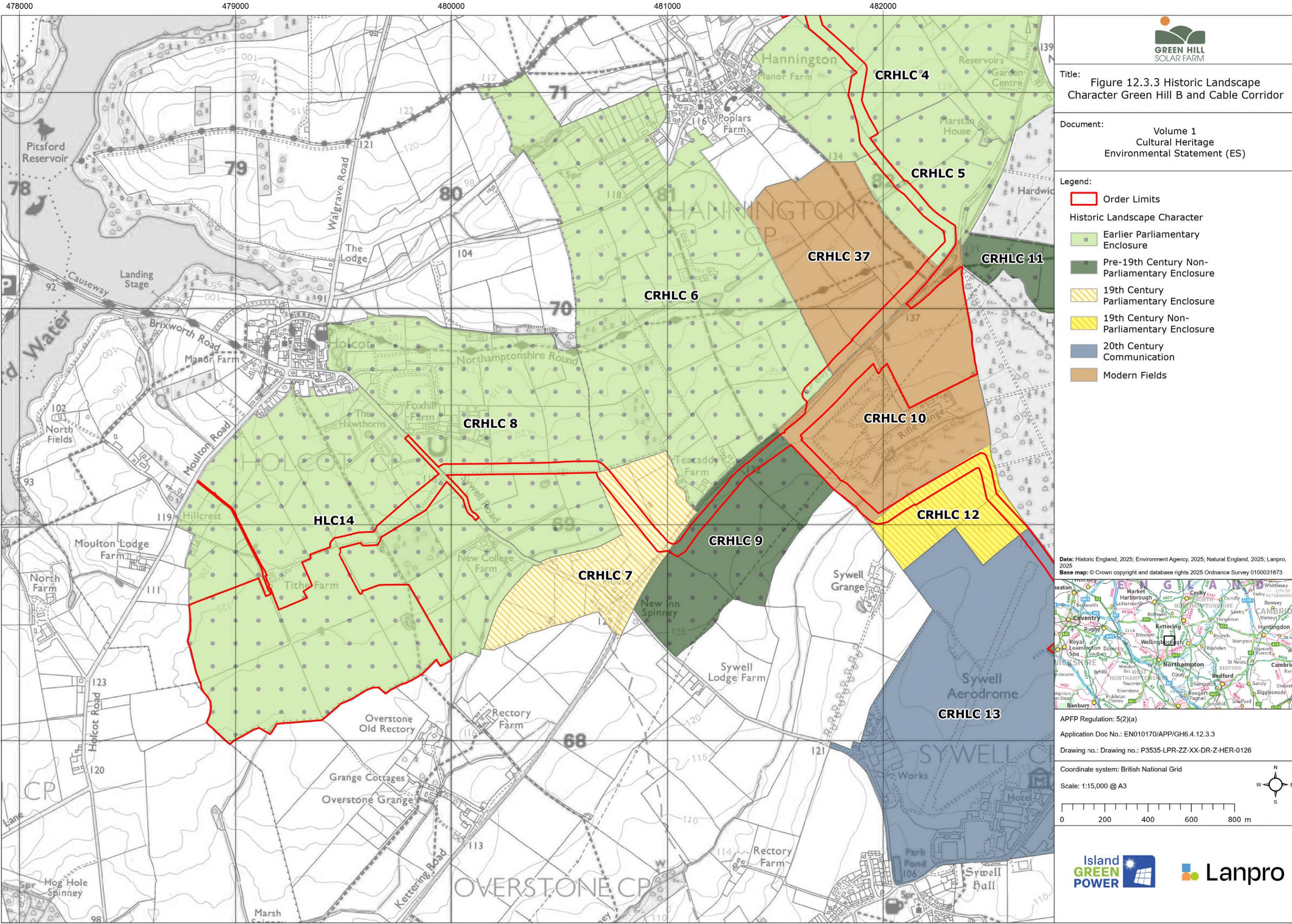


APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)  
Application Doc No.: EN010170/APP/GH6.4.12.3.2  
Drawing no.: Drawing no.: P3535-LPR-ZZ-XX-DR-Z-HER-0126

Coordinate system: British National Grid  
Scale: 1:10,000 @ A3







Title: Figure 12.3.3 Historic Landscape Character Green Hill B and Cable Corridor

Document: Volume 1  
Cultural Heritage  
Environmental Statement (ES)

- Legend:
- Order Limits
  - Historic Landscape Character
    - Earlier Parliamentary Enclosure
    - Pre-19th Century Non-Parliamentary Enclosure
    - 19th Century Parliamentary Enclosure
    - 19th Century Non-Parliamentary Enclosure
    - 20th Century Communication
    - Modern Fields

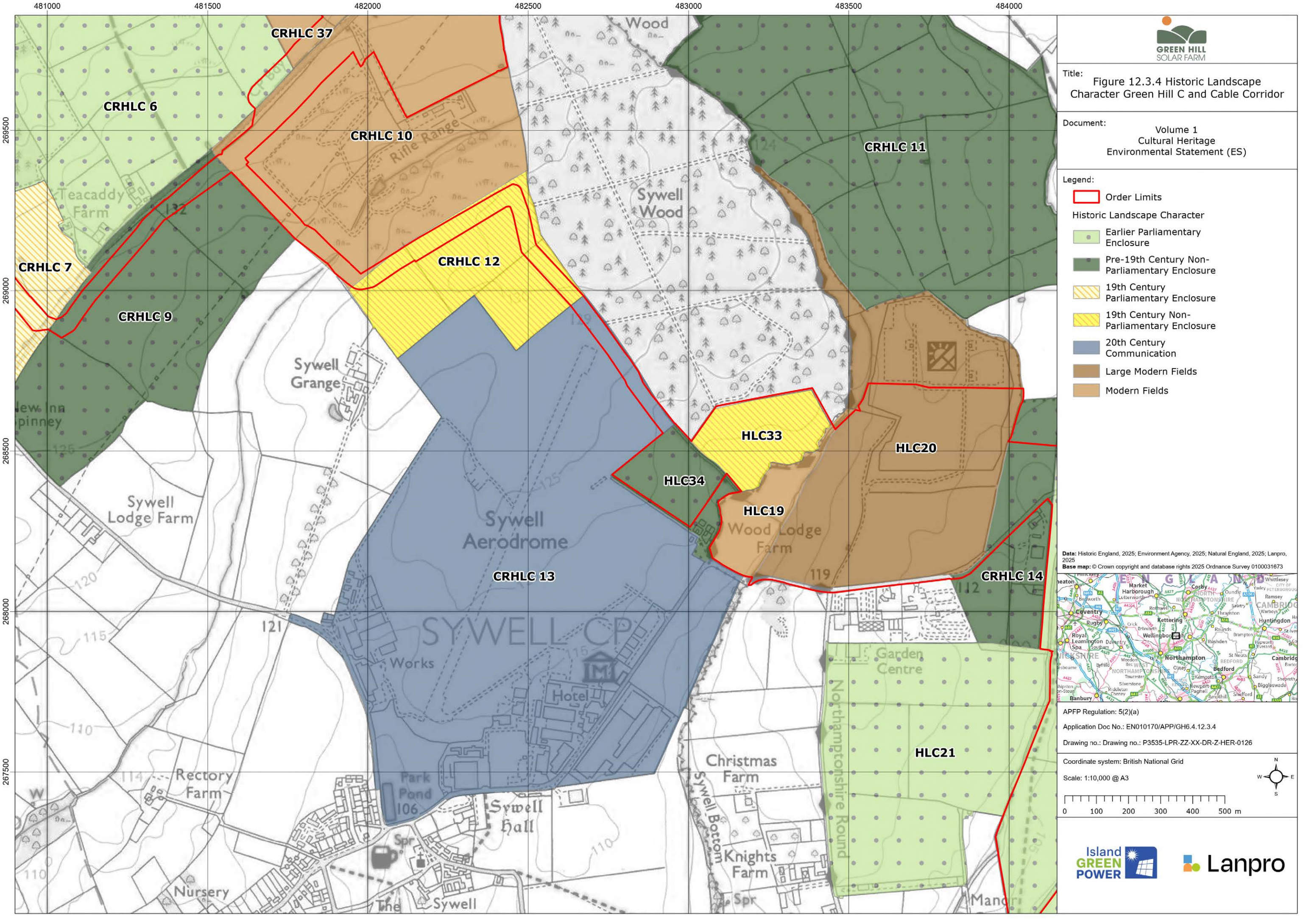
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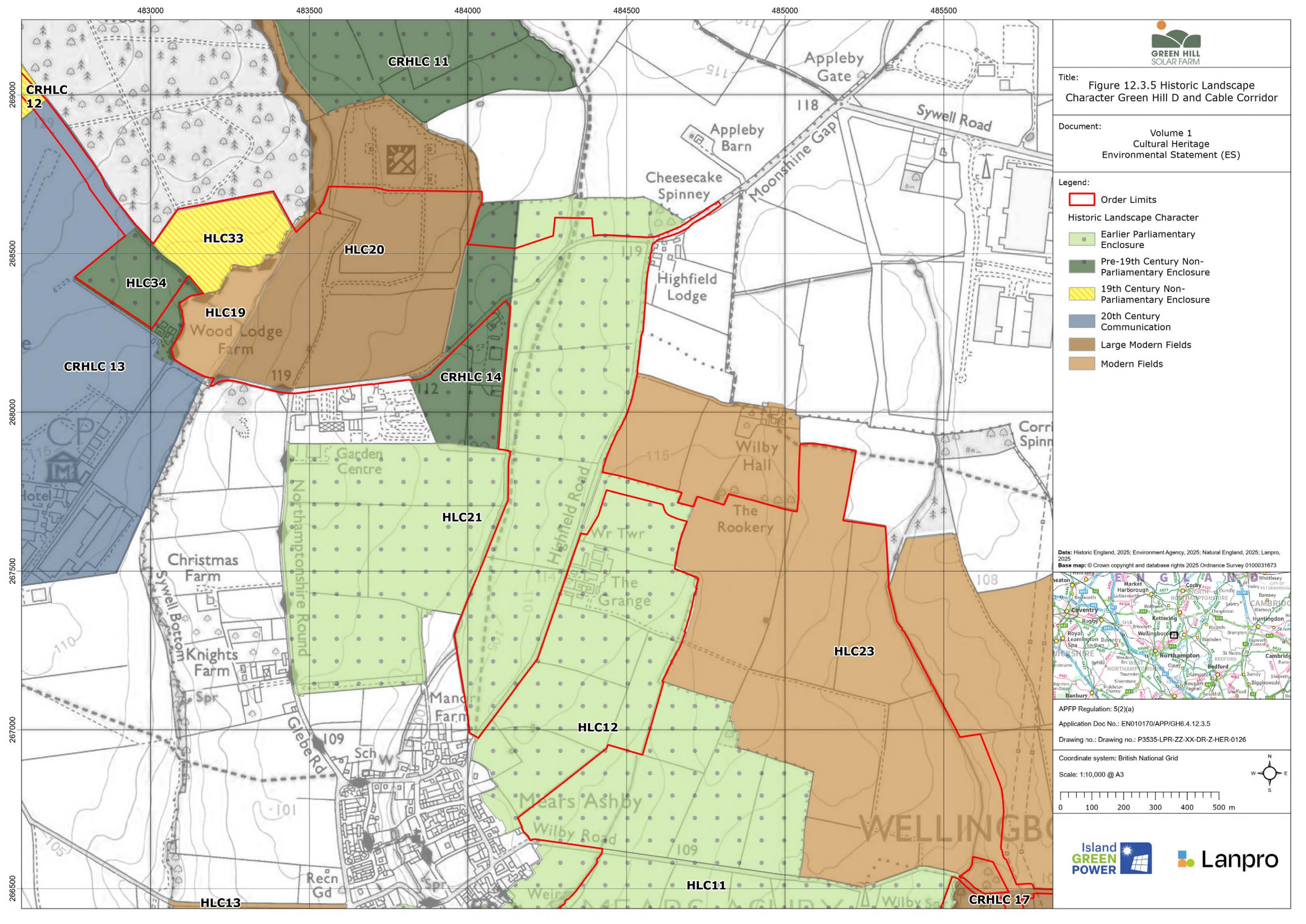
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Drawing no.: Drawing no.: P3535-LPR-ZZ-XX-DR-Z-HER-0126  
Coordinate system: British National Grid  
Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3











Title: Figure 12.3.5 Historic Landscape Character Green Hill D and Cable Corridor

Document: Volume 1  
Cultural Heritage  
Environmental Statement (ES)

- Legend:
- Order Limits
  - Historic Landscape Character
    - Earlier Parliamentary Enclosure
    - Pre-19th Century Non-Parliamentary Enclosure
    - 19th Century Non-Parliamentary Enclosure
    - 20th Century Communication
    - Large Modern Fields
    - Modern Fields

Data: Historic England, 2025; Environment Agency, 2025; Natural England, 2025; Lanpro, 2025  
Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

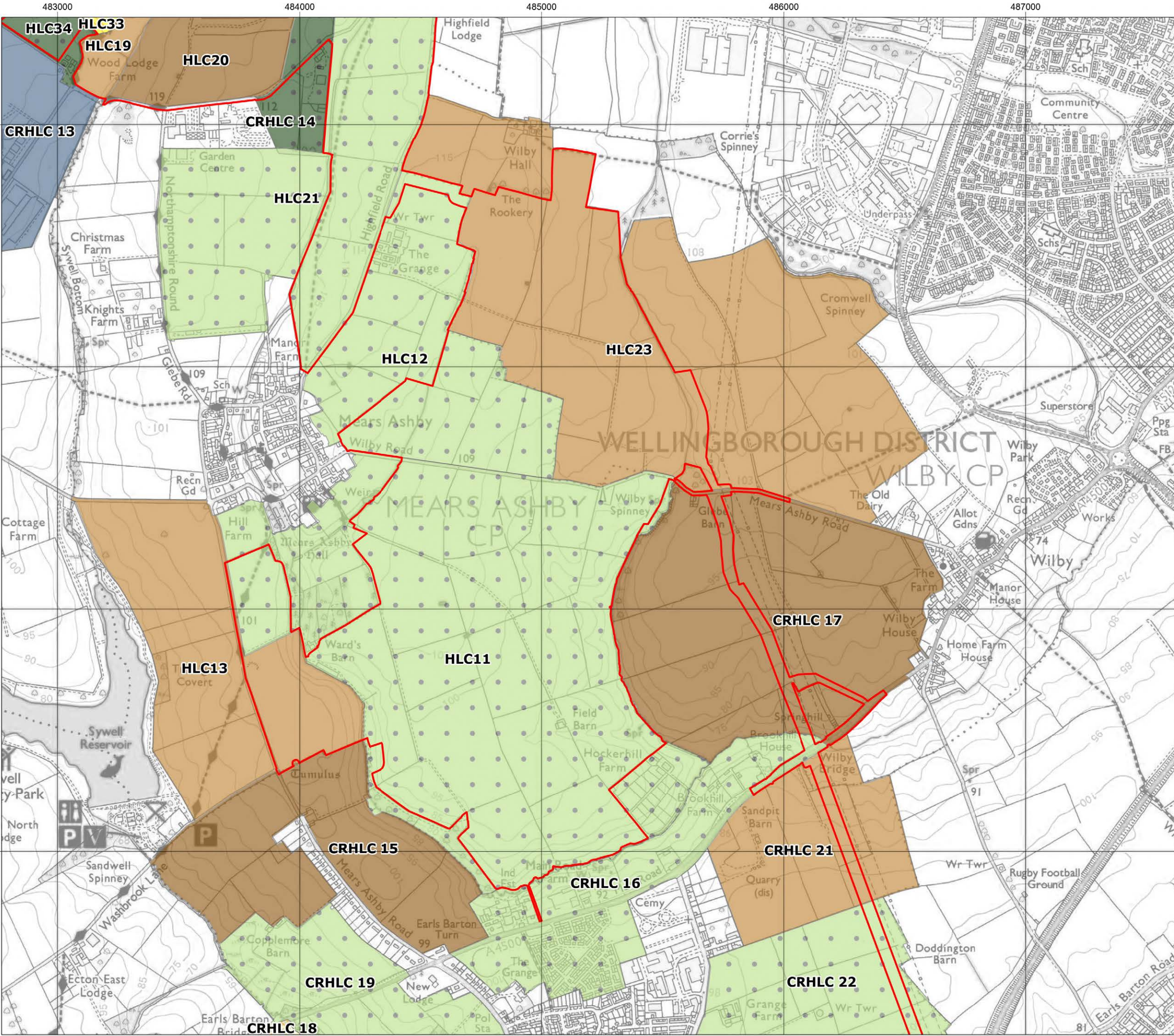



APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)  
Application Doc No.: EN010170/APP/GH6.4.12.3.5  
Drawing no.: Drawing no.: P3535-LPR-ZZ-XX-DR-Z-HER-0126

Coordinate system: British National Grid  
Scale: 1:10,000 @ A3









**GREEN HILL  
SOLAR FARM**

Title: Figure 12.3.6 Historic Landscape Character Green Hill E and Cable Corridor


Document: Volume 1  
Cultural Heritage  
Environmental Statement (ES)

Legend:

- Order Limits
- Historic Landscape Character
  - Earlier Parliamentary Enclosure
  - Pre-19th Century Non-Parliamentary Enclosure
  - 19th Century Parliamentary Enclosure
  - 19th Century Non-Parliamentary Enclosure
  - 20th Century Communication
  - Large Modern Fields
  - Modern Fields

Data: Historic England, 2025; Environment Agency, 2025; Natural England, 2025; Lanpro, 2025

Base map: © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



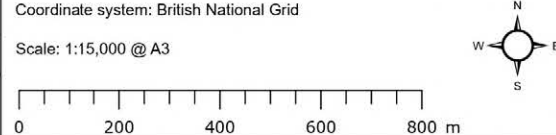
APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)


Application Doc No.: EN010170/APP/GH6.4.12.3.6

Drawing no.: Drawing no.: P3535-LPR-ZX-XX-DR-Z-HER-0126


Coordinate system: British National Grid

Scale: 1:15,000 @ A3





**Island  
GREEN  
POWER**

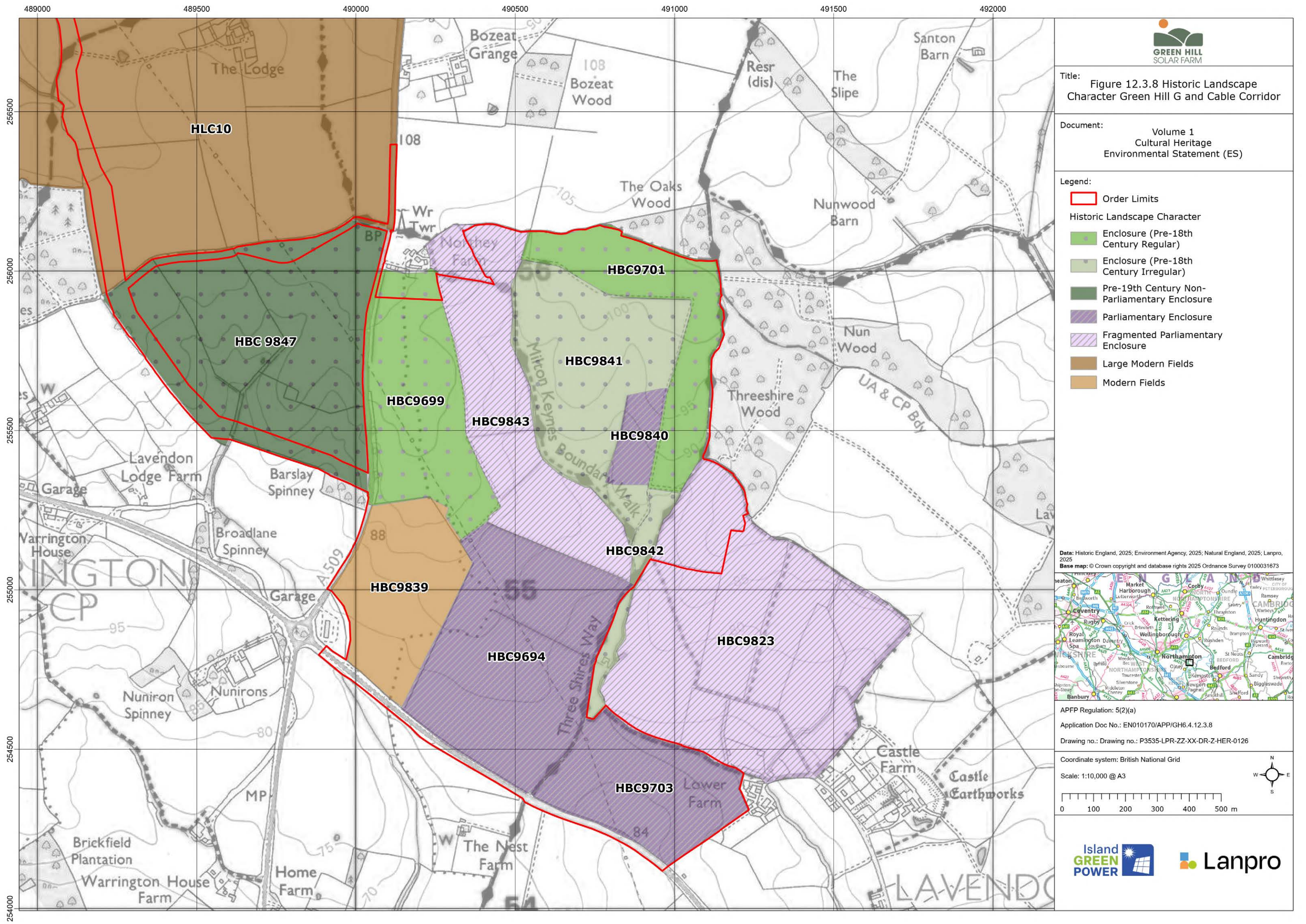


**Lanpro**

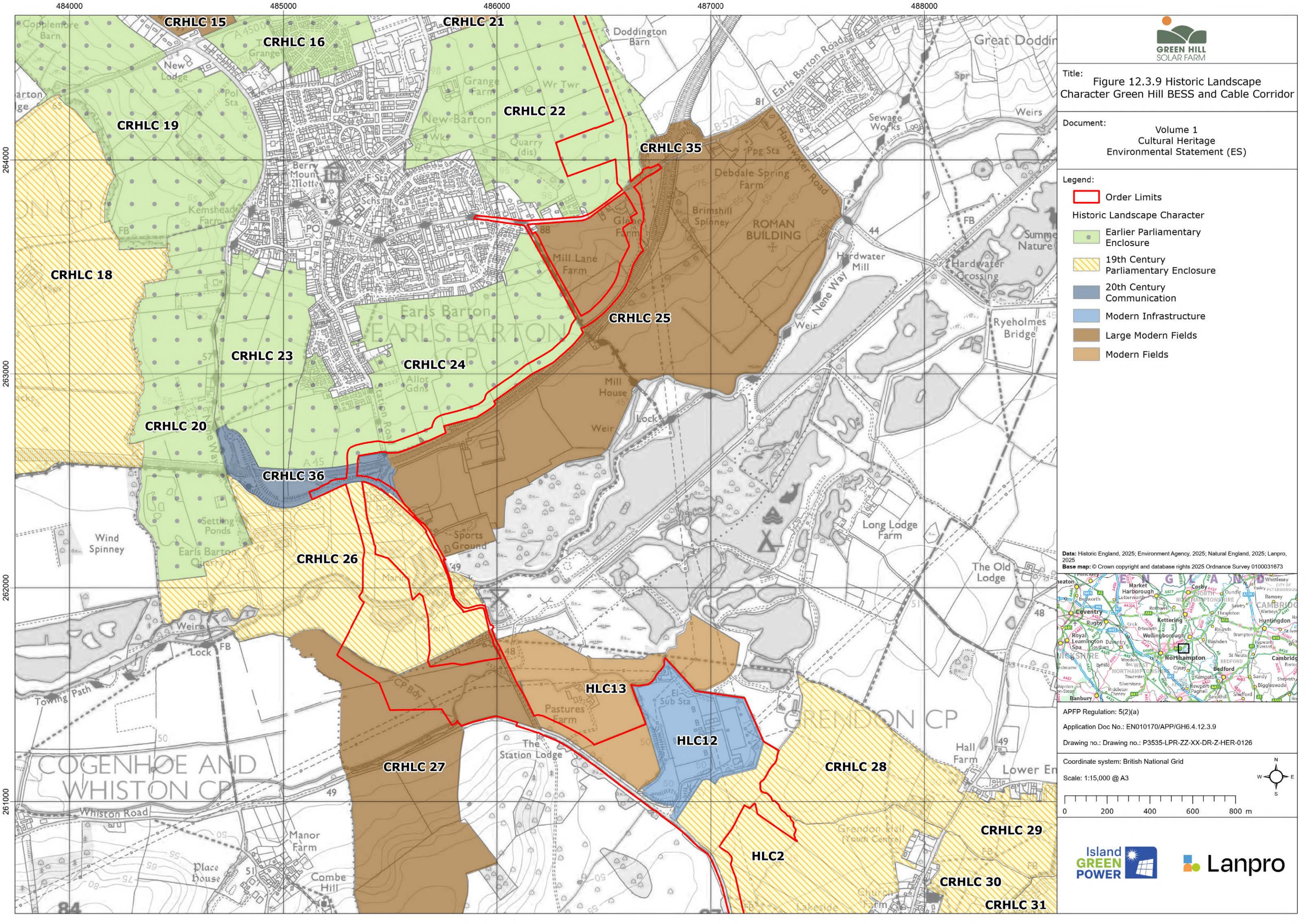














**Plates**



Plate 1. HLC29 on Site A



Plate 2. HLC12 on Site A



Plate 3. HLC4 on Site A



Plate 4. HLC5 on Site A





Plate 5. HLC14 on Site B



Plate 6. HLC34 on Site C



Plate 7. HLC18, HLC20 and HLC33 on Site C



Plate 8. HLC21 on Site D





Plate 9. HLC11 on Site E



Plate 10. HLC2 on Site F



Plate 11. HLC43 on Site F



Plate 12. HLC26 on Site F





Plate 13. HLC29 on Site F



Plate 14. HBC9842 On Site G



Plate 15. HBC9823 on Site G



Plate 16. HLC13 on the BESS site





Plate 17. HLC12 on the BESS site



Plate 18. HLC2 on the BESS site

