

Green Hill Solar Farm

EN010170

Environmental Statement

Chapter 3: The Development Site

Prepared by: Lanpro

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Issue Sheet

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Chapter 3: The Development Site

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3 The Development Site

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This chapter provides a description of the Order Limits within which the Scheme will be situated, and the surrounding area.

3.1.2 The chapter provides an overview of the environmental baseline conditions, particular environmental constraints, and sensitive environmental receptors. These are further considered and assessed in detail in the relevant technical chapters (Chapters 7 to 24) of this Environmental Statement (ES).

3.1.3 The Scheme comprises the following elements:

- Sites for built development such as Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels, substations and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and environmental mitigation and enhancement;
- The Cable Route Corridor, within which underground cables will transfer the electricity generated between the sites and to the point of connection to the National Grid network at Grendon Substation;
- Temporary access routes and temporary construction compounds for construction activities during the construction phase; and
- Permanent accesses for maintenance activities during the operational phase.

3.1.4 This chapter is supported by:

- Figure 1.1 (Location Plan) [EN010170/APP/GH6.4.1.1], which defines the Order Limits; and
- Works Plan [EN010170/APP/GH2.4].

3.2 Baseline conditions

3.2.1 The existing baseline conditions within the Order Limits and surrounding areas have been identified through desktop studies of publicly available data, and surveys.

3.2.2 Key land uses and designations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Public Rights of Way (PRoW);
- Airfields;
- Waterbodies;
- Flood risk and drainage areas;
- Historic environmental designations;
- Landscape designations;
- Internationally designated ecological sites;
- Nationally designated ecological sites;



- Locally designated ecological sites;
- Mineral safeguarding designations;
- Best and most versatile grade agricultural land;
- Sites allocated under local planning policy;
- Residential areas; and
- Roads.

3.3 The Order Limits

3.3.1 The Scheme is located across land to the north, east and southeast of Northampton; the west and south of Wellingborough and around the villages of Walgrave, Mears Ashby, Earls Barton, Bozeat, Grendon and Lavendon. All of the Sites lie within a 20km radius of the Point of Connection (PoC) to the National Grid at the Grendon Substation. The total area extent of the Order Limits is approximately 1,441.4 hectares (ha).

3.3.2 The Scheme is located within the local administrative boundaries of North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council. The Scheme (at Green Hill G) lies adjacent to the administrative boundary of Bedford Borough Council.

3.3.3 The surrounding area is predominantly rural with small settlements and villages across the length of the Scheme.

3.3.4 The main highway routes in the vicinity of the Order limits are the A45 and A14, which are both dual carriageway roads, and the A43, A428 and A509 which accommodate high traffic flows and heavy goods vehicles. The A43, A428 and A509 are predominantly single carriageway roads.

Sites for Built Development

3.3.5 The Scheme consists of nine sites (the Sites) for built development, namely solar PV panels, substations, BESS, environmental mitigation and enhancement. The Sites have a combined area of approximately 1,200.6 hectares (ha).

3.3.6 The Sites are named as following, from north to south:

- Green Hill A;
- Green Hill A.2;
- Green Hill B;
- Green Hill C;
- Green Hill D;
- Green Hill E;
- Green Hill BESS;
- Green Hill F; and



- Green Hill G.

3.3.7 The location of the Sites is presented on Figure 1.1 (Location Plan) [EN010170/APP/GH6.4.1.1].

3.3.8 All of the Sites are currently in agricultural use.

Green Hill A

3.3.9 Green Hill A covers approximately 173.7hectares (ha).

3.3.10 The village of Walgrave is 600m south, and the village of Old is 300m west of Green Hill A. Cherry Hill, a small hamlet developed in the early 2000s, is southwest of Green Hill A. The nearest properties in Old are approximately 80m west of Green Hill A. Some isolated properties are near the boundaries of Green Hill A, outside Old and Walgrave.

3.3.11 Green Hill A consist of two groups of agricultural fields in the parishes of Old and Walgrave, within the West Northamptonshire Council area.

3.3.12 The land is characterised by fields separated by hedgerows and scattered trees. Green Hill A slopes gently from north to south, ranging from approximately 105m to 135m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), with a shallow valley and a small tree-lined stream in the center-west.

3.3.13 An 11kV overhead power line runs north-south through the center of Green Hill A, parallel to Newland Road, and there is a small, derelict agricultural building in the north.

Table 3.1: Green Hill A Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
Roads	Broughton Road runs northeast from the village of Old, forming the northern boundary of Green Hill A before meeting Newland Road at its northernmost point. Newland Road then runs south from this point to the village of Walgrave. Walgrave Road is southwest of Green Hill A and becomes Old Road, connecting Old village to Walgrave village.
PRoW	The nearest footpath, NN DF 4, is located near the westernmost point of Green Hill A and runs northeast to the village of Mawsley. After crossing the A43 (Kettering Road), there are other bridleways leading to Broughton and Pytchley.
Airfields	Pitsford Airstrip lies approximately 4.4km southwest of Green Hill A. The airfields are private and unpaved.
Waterbodies	The nearest main river to Green Hill A is an unnamed river which lies 800m to the west and runs into the Scaldwell arm of Pitsford Water.



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
<p>Flood risk and drainage</p>	<p>Fluvial Flood Risk</p> <p>A network of land drainage ditches is located within Green Hill A. Flows within the ditches are expected to flow generally in a south-westerly direction based on local topography.</p> <p>The entirety of Green Hill A is situated in Flood Zone 1 and therefore has less than a 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding with the exception of a small section (Fields AF25 – 28) where the flood extents encroach slightly into the Site Boundary.</p> <p>The Environment Agency’s (EA) Historical Flood Map indicates that Green Hill A has historically flooded and neither has the area immediately surrounding either site.</p> <p>Surface Water Flood Risk</p> <p>The EA Flood Risk from Surface Water Map indicates that the land at Green Hill A ranges from a very low risk of surface water flooding (less than 0.1% annual probability) to low risk of surface water flooding (between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability) to medium risk of surface water flooding (between a 3.3% and 1% annual probability) to high risk of surface water flooding (greater than 3.3% annual probability).</p> <p>The surface water flooding extents largely match the courses of the land drainage ditches which flow throughout Green Hill A.</p> <p>A series of land drains is shown to run throughout Green Hill A.</p>
<p>Historic environment designations</p>	<p>Conservation Areas</p> <p>Scaldwell Conservation Area is located approximately 2km to the west of Green Hill A.</p> <p>Listed Buildings</p> <p>There is a cluster of 17 listed buildings at Old village to the west of Green Hill A, the nearest being the Grade II listed Jasmine Cottage (NHLE 1376865), approximately 130m from Green Hill A’s western extent. These are all Grade II listed buildings apart from the Church of St Andrew (NHLE 1376651) which is Grade I.</p> <p>There is a cluster of 10 listed buildings at Walgrave to the south of Green Hill A, the nearest being the Grade II listed North Hall (NHLE 1203361), approximately 615m from Green Hill A’s southern boundary. These are all Grade II listed buildings apart from the Church of St Peter (NHLE 1281745) which is Grade I.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>White Lodge Farmhouse, approximately 320m to the east of Green Hill A is a Grade II listed building (NHLE 1203302).</p> <p>Archaeological Features</p> <p>Walgrave Moated Site Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1011036) is located approximately 500m to the south of Green Hill A.</p> <p>Two parts of the abandoned areas of Walgrave Medieval Village Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1418583) are located approximately 865m to the south, and 900m to the southeast of Green Hill A respectively.</p> <p>Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>Lamport Hall, Grade II (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) List Entry 1001036) is the nearest Registered Park and Garden, located 2.8km west of Green Hill A.</p>
<p>Landscape designations</p>	<p>Ancient Woodland</p> <p>No recorded Ancient Woodlands are in proximity to the Site.</p> <p>Landscape Character Area</p> <p>Green Hill A is located within two of the National Character Areas (NCAs) as defined by Natural England as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527); and • NCA Profile: 95 Northamptonshire Uplands (NE565). <p>Green Hill A is located within one Landscape Character Type (LCT), LCT 5 Clay Plateau which contains one Landscape Character Area (LCA), LCA 5b Sywell Plateau, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 (Ref 3.1) .</p> <p>There are a further three LCTs located between 2km and 5km of Green Hill A: LCT Profile: 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes north and west of the Sites; LCT 13: Undulating Hills and Valleys; and LCT Profile: 17 River Valley Floodplain.</p> <p>These LCTs are broken down further into LCAs and include: LCA Profile: 4e Pitsford Water; LCA Profile: 4d Hanging Houghton; LCA Profile 4f: Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes; LCA Profile: 17c Brampton Valley Floodplain; and LCA Profile: 13d: Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Other Landscape Designations</p> <p>The nearest playing fields are located in Walgrave, 376m south of Green Hill A, and playing fields located in Old village, 390m west of Green Hill A.</p>
<p>Internationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site is approximately 10km southeast from Green Hill A, comprising a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits, extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain running from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville north of Thrapston.</p>
<p>Nationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Pitsford Reservoir SSSI is located approximately 1.33km (at the closest point) south-west of Green Hill A. The reservoir and surrounding habitats host large numbers of birds associated with open water, both throughout winter and breeding seasons. Botanical habitats are also very diverse, with many county rarities recorded.</p> <p>Birch Spinney and Mawsley Marsh SSSI is located 2km north of Green Hill A. It is a rare type of ash-maple woodland, partly on peat with notable marshes and also includes a stretch of a dismantled railway line.</p>
<p>Locally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Walgrave East Meadow Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is located 600m south-east of Green Hill A. The neutral grassland meadow, which also contains two streams fringed with rush pasture, supports a diverse range of meadow plants and indicator species.</p> <p>Broughton Green Lane LWS is located 700m east of Green Hill A. This site comprises a green lane, which forms a wildlife corridor, with ancient woodland indicators and a diverse range of invertebrates recorded.</p> <p>Old Pours Gorse LWS is located 900m north of Green Hill A and comprises a woodland approximately 9.5 hectares in size.</p> <p>Wildlife Trust Reserves</p> <p>Pitsford Water Wildlife Trust Reserves (WTR) is located 1.5km southwest of Green Hill A. Four main streams enter the reserve and form large bays of shallow water across connected valleys. During winter these provide excellent feeding and sheltering areas for wildfowl, whereas lowered water levels in summer</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	expose stretches of mud and foraging areas for migrating waders.
Mineral safeguarding designations	The majority of Green Hill A lie within two Minerals Safeguarding Areas (sand and gravel) as defined in the adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017) (Ref 3.2).

Green Hill A.2

- 3.3.14 Green Hill A.2, located 800m southeast of Green Hill A, covers approximately 65.3 hectares.
- 3.3.15 Green Hill A.2 is approximately 900m east of Walgrave and 900m northeast of Hannington. Rectory Farm and New Lodge Farm border the site.
- 3.3.16 Green Hill A.2 consist of two groups of agricultural fields in the parishes of Old and Walgrave, within the West Northamptonshire Council area. The eastern boundary of Green Hill A.2 is adjacent to North Northamptonshire Council boundary.
- 3.3.17 Green Hill A.2 slopes gently from east to west, ranging from approximately 110m to 135m AOD. Both areas have agricultural access from nearby roads.
- 3.3.18 An 11kV overhead line crosses the easternmost field of Green Hill A.2, which also has a small telecoms tower north of Rectory Farm.

Table 3.1: Green Hill A.2 Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
Roads	Green Hill A.2 is bordered to the north by Kettering Road and to the east by the A43 (also known as Kettering Road).
PRoW	The nearest bridleway NN CT 3 runs east to west just south of Green Hill A.2. After crossing the A43 (Kettering Road), there are other bridleways leading to Broughton and Pytchley.
Airfields	Hold Farm Airstrip lies approximately 500m southeast of Green Hill A.2. The airfield is private and unpaved. The larger, paved Sywell Aerodrome is located 3.7km south of Green Hill A.2.
Waterbodies	No waterbodies are found within a 1km radius of the Site.
Flood risk and drainage	Fluvial Flood Risk A network of land drainage ditches is located within Green Hill A.2. Flows within the ditches are expected



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>to flow generally in a westerly (Green Hill A.2) direction based on local topography.</p> <p>The entirety of Green Hill A.2 is situated in Flood Zone 1 and therefore has less than a 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding.</p> <p>The Environment Agency's (EA) Historical Flood Map indicates that Green Hill A.2 have historically flooded and neither has the area immediately surrounding either site.</p> <p>Surface Water Flood Risk</p> <p>The EA Flood Risk from Surface Water Map indicates that the land at Green Hill A.2 ranges from a very low risk of surface water flooding (less than 0.1% annual probability) to low risk of surface water flooding (between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability) to medium risk of surface water flooding (between a 3.3% and 1% annual probability) to high risk of surface water flooding (greater than 3.3% annual probability).</p> <p>The surface water flooding extents largely match the courses of the land drainage ditches which flow throughout both Green Hill A.2.</p> <p>A series of land drains is shown to run throughout Green Hill A.2.</p>
<p>Historic environment designations</p>	<p>Conservation Areas</p> <p>Broughton Conservation Area is located approximately 2.3km to the northeast of Green Hill A and Green Hill A.2.</p> <p>Listed Buildings</p> <p>The Grade II listed Pytchley Lodge (NHLE 1213833) is located 1km northeast of Green Hill A.2.</p> <p>Archaeological Features</p> <p>The Medieval Village Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1418583) is approximately 740m west from Green Hill A.2.</p> <p>Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>No Registered Parks or Gardens were found in proximity to the Site.</p>
<p>Landscape designations</p>	<p>Ancient Woodland</p> <p>The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Badsaddle Wood (ancient and semi-natural woodland), located 308m east of Green Hill A.2. Withmale Park Wood (a mix of ancient and semi-natural woodland and ancient replanted woodland); and Hardwick Wood (a mix of ancient and semi-natural woodland and ancient</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>replanted woodland) are both also within a 2km distance of Green Hill A.2 at its nearest point.</p> <p>Landscape Character Area</p> <p>Green Hill A.2 is located entirely within NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527).</p> <p>Green Hill A.2 is located within one Landscape Character Type (LCT), LCT 5 Clay Plateau which contains one Landscape Character Area (LCA), LCA 5b Sywell Plateau, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 (Ref 3.1) .</p> <p>There is one further LCT located within 2km and 5km of Green Hill A.2; Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes.</p> <p>These are broken down into further LCAs between 2km and 5km and localised as :Northamptonshire LCA 4e Pitsford Water; and Northamptonshire LCA 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes.</p> <p>Other Landscape Designations</p> <p>The Hannington Allotments are approximately 950m southwest of Green Hill A.2.</p>
<p>Internationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site is approximately 10km southeast from Green Hill A.2, comprising a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits, extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain running from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville north of Thrapston.</p>
<p>Nationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Badsaddle, Withmale Park and Bush Walk Woods SSSI is located between 300m and 900m east and south-east of Green Hill A.2. This is ancient coppice woodland with oak and ash on wet calcareous soils.</p> <p>Hardwick Lodge Meadow SSSI is located 2.2km to the southeast of Green Hill A.2. This is a large area of diverse permanent pasture with an exceptionally rich and varied grassland flora that, in turn, supports uncommon invertebrates.</p>
<p>Locally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Walgrave East Meadow Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is located 150m west of Green Hill A.2. The neutral grassland meadow, which also contains two streams fringed with rush pasture, supports a diverse range of meadow plants and indicator species.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Highcroft Farm Meadow LWS is located 500m north of Green Hill A.2. The meadow, although predominately species poor having declined due to lacking appropriate management, hosts an invertebrate assemblage with supporting habitats.</p> <p>Wildlife Trust Reserves</p> <p>No Wildlife Trust Reserves are found within 2km of the Site.</p>
Mineral safeguarding designations	<p>The majority of both Green Hill A and A.2 lie within two Minerals Safeguarding Areas (sand and gravel) as defined in the adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017) (Ref 3.2).</p>

Green Hill B

3.3.19 The Green Hill B site is approximately 64.7 ha in area. Green Hill B is the westernmost site, located south-southwest of Green Hill A, within West Northamptonshire, in the civil parish of Holcot and near the boundary with Overstone. It is situated 850m south of Holcot village and 1.2km northeast of Moulton village. Green Hill B surrounds Tithe Farm Barns, which have been converted into commercial units, and there are individual residential properties nearby to the north and south.

3.3.20 The area consists of agricultural fields separated by hedgerows, with some woodland in the western part. The eastern part is relatively flat, while the western part slopes gently to the southwest. The elevation ranges from approximately 120m to 130m AOD. There is a small pond in the easternmost field. Green Hill B can be accessed from Moulton Road for maintenance purposes and will be accessed for construction and maintenance purposes from Sywell Road.

Table 3.2: Green Hill B Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
Roads	<p>Holcot Road runs to the west of Green Hill B, turning into Moulton Road near its northern boundary. There is a private entrance to Tithe Farm Barns from Moulton Road, adjoining Green Hill B. An existing entrance to Green Hill B from Sywell Road runs northwest to southeast past the east of Green Hill B towards the A43 at New Inn Spinney. The A43 Kettering Road is 600m southeast of the eastern end of Green Hill B.</p>
PRoW	<p>Footpath NN CW 1 passes through the easternmost part of Green Hill B heading north to the village of Holcot, and south where it is redesignated NN DG 2</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	(where it crosses into Overstone parish) before it joins footpath NN DG 3 from Moulton.
Airfields	Hold Farm Airstrip lies approximately 1.9km northwest, Sywell Aerodrome lies approximately 2.5km east and Hold Farm Airstrip lies approximately 4.8km northeast of Green Hill B.
Waterbodies	<p>Pitsford Reservoir is located approximately 800m northwest of Green Hill B.</p> <p>The are two nearby land drains within 200m of the Site Boundary, one located to the south of the Site and one to the east of the Site.</p>
Flood risk and drainage	<p>Fluvial Flood Risk</p> <p>There are two land drainage ditches located immediately to the south and southeast Green Hill B. Flows within the ditches flow in a south-westerly direction based on local topography. All the land drains are ordinary watercourses.</p> <p>Fluvial flooding could occur if the land drains overtopped their banks during or following an extreme rainfall event. The entirety of Green Hill B is situated in Flood Zone 1 and therefore has less than a 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding.</p> <p>The EA Historical Flood Map indicates that Green Hill B has not historically flooded and neither has the area immediately surrounding Green Hill B.</p> <p>Surface Water Flood Risk</p> <p>The EA Flood Risk from Surface Water Map indicates that Green Hill B ranges from a very low risk of surface water flooding (less than 0.1% annual probability) to low risk of surface water flooding (between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability) to medium risk of surface water flooding (between a 3.3% and 1% annual probability) to high risk of surface water flooding (greater than 3.3% annual probability).</p> <p>As described in the fluvial section above, the surface water flooding extents largely match the courses of the land drainage ditches.</p>
Historic environment designations	<p>Conservation Areas</p> <p>The nearest Conservation Area is Moulton Conservation Area, approximately 1.5km to the south-west of Green Hill B.</p> <p>Listed Buildings</p> <p>There is a cluster of eight listed buildings at the village of Holcot, the nearest being Pollys Cottage (NHLE 1067007) which is Grade II listed and is approximately</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>725m to the north-east of Green Hill B. All of the listed buildings in the village are Grade II apart from the Church of St Mary and All Saints (NHLE 1045863) which is Grade I listed and is approximately 750m to the north-east of Green Hill B.</p> <p>The Old Farmhouse and Attached Stables approximately 500m to the southeast of Green Hill B is a Grade II listed building (NHLE 1354758).</p> <p>Overstone Old Rectory, approximately 275m to the southeast of Green Hill B, is a Grade II listed building (NHLE 1075355).</p> <p>Rectory Farmhouse, approximately 70m to the southeast of Green Hill B, is a Grade II listed building (NHLE 1025896).</p> <p>Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>The closest Registered Park and Garden is Boughton Hall (NHLE 1001297), located approximately 3.3km to the west in the village of Boughton.</p>
<p>Landscape Designation</p>	<p>Ancient Woodland</p> <p>The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Sywell Wood (ancient replanted woodland), located approximately 2.6km northeast of Green Hill B.</p> <p>There are three blocks of Ancient Woodland located between 2km and 5km of Green Hill B which include: Sywell Wood Hardwick Wood (ancient replanted woodland); and Withmale Park Wood (a mix of ancient and semi-natural woodland and ancient replanted woodland).</p> <p>Landscape Character Area</p> <p>Green Hill B is located within two of the NCAs as defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527), and NCA Profile: 95 Northamptonshire Uplands (NE565).</p> <p>Green Hill B is located within LCT Profile: 5 Clay Plateau and one LCA, LCA Profile: 5b Sywell Plateau, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 (Ref 3.1).</p> <p>There are a further two LCT's located within 2km and 5km south of Green Hill B including LCT Profile: 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes and LCT Profile: 17 River Valley Floodplain.</p> <p>These are broken down further as LCAs and include: LCA Profile: 4b Moulton Slopes; LCA Profile: 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes; LCA Profile: 4d Hanging Houghton; LCA Profile: 4e Pitsford Water; LCA Profile:</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	5b Sywell Plateau; and RLCA Profile: 17c Brampton Valley Floodplain.
Internationally designated ecological sites	<p>Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites</p> <p>The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site is located approximately 11.5km southeast of Green Hill B. The site comprises a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits, extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain running from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville north of Thrapston. An extensive mosaic of wetland habitats is regularly used by over 20,000 wildfowl and wading birds and supports major overwintering bird assemblages. Qualifying features of the site include bittern and golden plover in addition to gadwall (migratory species).</p>
Nationally designated ecological sites	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Pitsford Reservoir SSSI is located 800m northwest (at the closest point) of Green Hill B. The reservoir and surrounding habitats host large numbers of birds associated with open water, both throughout winter and breeding seasons. Botanical habitats are also very diverse, with many county rarities recorded.</p> <p>Hardwick Lodge Meadow SSSI is located 3.0km to the northeast of Green Hill B. This is a large area of diverse permanent pasture with a rich and varied grassland flora that, in turn, supports uncommon invertebrates.</p> <p>Withmale Park and Bush Walk Woods SSSI is located approximately 5km northeast of Green Hill B. This is ancient coppice woodland with oak and ash on wet calcareous soils.</p>
Locally designated ecological sites	<p>Local Nature Reserves</p> <p>Crowfields Common Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located 2km south of Green Hill B. This site comprises three fields, adjacent to the village of Moulton, comprised of rough grassland and wildflower meadow, well-established hedgerows and few mature trees.</p> <p>Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Hog Hole Spinney local wildlife site (LWS) is located approx. 1.1km southwest of Green Hill B. A large woodland in the locality, the predominantly broadleaved woodland lies on sandy soils with oak, ash and a dense scrub understorey.</p> <p>Cowpasture Spinney LWS is located 1.5km southeast of Green Hill B and comprises a long, narrow</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>shelterbelt spinney with a stream, and associated emergent vegetation, running through the centre. A number of ancient woodland indicator species have been recorded amongst the variable tree cover.</p> <p>Wildlife Trust Reserves</p> <p>Pitsford Water Wildlife Trust Reserve is located 1.5km north of Green Hill B. Four main streams enter the reserve and form large bays of shallow water across connected valleys. During winter these provide excellent feeding and sheltering areas for wildfowl, whereas lowered water levels in summer expose stretches of mud and foraging areas for migrating waders.</p>
Mineral safeguarding designations	<p>The western half of Green Hill B lies within one Minerals Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel as defined in the adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017) (Ref 3.2).</p>

Green Hill C

3.3.21 Green Hill C covers approximately 56.3ha and mainly consists of agricultural fields, with a cleared area and access road for the neighboring Sywell Solar Farm. It spans Sywell and Mears Ashby parishes in North Northamptonshire. The land features medium-sized fields separated by hedgerows and substantial tree belts, and it is adjacent to Sywell Wood. A shallow valley with a small stream runs north-south through the center, with elevations ranging from approximately 110m to 120m AOD. Green Hill C has well-established internal agricultural tracks connected to the access track for Sywell Solar Farm.

3.3.22 Green Hill C is approximately 1.0km northeast of Sywell village and 1.3km north of Mears Ashby. There are no defined settlements nearby, but Beckworth Emporium Garden Centre is opposite the southern part of Green Hill C. Wood Lodge Farm is on the western boundary and accessible via Sywell Road. Green Hill C is also adjacent to Sywell Aerodrome, which includes an employment area, museum, aerodrome facilities, and a hotel.

Table 3.3: Green Hill C Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
Roads	<p>The southern boundary of Green Hill C runs along Wellingborough Road. From its junction with Glebe Road, there is a gated access into Sywell Solar Farm. The existing access road to the existing solar farm runs through Green Hill C.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
PRoW	Bridleway NN TN 7 runs along a tree belt through the centre-west of Green Hill C whereafter it turns north and follows the perimeter of Sywell Wood. This route also forms part of the Northamptonshire Round long-distance walking route.
Airfields	<p>Sywell Aerodrome directly neighbours Green Hill C. The aerodrome and its accompanying facilities are situated to the west and southwest of Green Hill C and are accessed from Wellingborough Road. The airfield is largely open for recreational aviation purposes with a 900m paved runway (03L/21R), and three smaller grass runways. The approach to grass runway 23 is taken directly over the western half of Green Hill C, with a distance of 120m between the boundary of Green Hill C and the runway end.</p> <p>William Pitts Airstrip is located 900m east of Green Hill C.</p> <p>Hold Farm Airstrip lies approximately 3.9km north of Green Hill C.</p>
Waterbodies	Whilst there are no main rivers on Green Hill C, there is a land drain which runs through the centre in a southwards direction and runs south under Wellingborough Road.
Flood risk and drainage	<p>Fluvial Flood Risk</p> <p>There is one land drainage ditch which runs through the centre of Green Hill C. Flows within the ditches are assumed to flow in a south-westerly direction based on local topography. All the land drains are ordinary watercourses.</p> <p>The entirety of Green Hill C is situated in Flood Zone 1 and therefore has less than a 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding.</p> <p>The EA Historical Flood Map indicates that Green Hill C has not historically flooded and neither has the area immediately surrounding it.</p> <p>Surface Water Flood Risk</p> <p>The EA Flood Risk from Surface Water map indicates that Green Hill C ranges from a very low risk of surface water flooding (less than 0.1% annual probability) to low risk of surface water flooding (between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability) to medium risk of surface water flooding (between a 3.3% and 1% annual probability) to high risk of surface water flooding (greater than 3.3% annual probability).</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>As described in the fluvial section above, the surface water flooding extents largely match the courses of the land drainage ditches.</p>
<p>Historic environment designations</p>	<p>Conservation Areas</p> <p>Sywell Conservation Area is located approximately 1km to the southwest of Green Hill C. Mears Ashby Conservation Area is located 1.1km south of Green Hill C.</p> <p>Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>The closest Registered Park and Garden is Great Harrowden Hall (NHLE 1000392) located 4.6km northeast of Green Hill C.</p>
<p>Landscape designations</p>	<p>Ancient Woodland</p> <p>The nearest block of Ancient Woodland to Green Hill C is Sywell Wood (ancient replanted woodland), which is located directly north of the northern boundary of Green Hill C. There is only one other block of Ancient Woodland within 2km of Green Hill C, Hardwick Wood (ancient replanted woodland) which is located 1.5km north of Green Hill C.</p> <p>There are a further two blocks of Ancient Woodland between 2km to 5km north of Green Hill C which include Withmale Park Wood (ancient replanted woodland) and Badsaddle Wood (ancient and semi-natural woodland).</p> <p>Landscape Character Area</p> <p>Green Hill C is located within one NCA as defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527).</p> <p>Green Hill C is located at the southeastern edge of the NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales and borders NCA Profile: 91 Yardley Whittlewood Ridge.</p> <p>Green Hill C is located within LCT Profile: 5 Clay Plateau and one LCA, LCA 5b: Sywell Plateau, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 (Ref 3.1).</p> <p>There are a further two LCTs located between 2km and 5km south of Green Hill C. These include LCT Profile: 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes and LCT Profile: 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain.</p> <p>These LCTs are broken down further as: LCA Profile: 4b Moulton Slopes; LCA Profile: 4C Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes; LCA Profile: 4e Pitsford Water; LCA Profile: 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes; and</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>LCA Profile: 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill.</p>
<p>Internationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site is approximately 6km southeast from Green Hill C. The site comprises a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits, extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain running from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville north of Thrapston.</p> <p>The wetland habitats are regularly used by over 20,000 wildfowl and wading birds and support overwintering bird assemblages. Qualifying features of the designated site include bittern and golden plover, in addition to gadwall (migratory species).</p>
<p>Nationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Hardwick Lodge Meadow SSSI is located 1.5km north of Green Hill C. This is a large area of diverse permanent pasture with a rich and varied grassland flora that, in turn, supports uncommon invertebrates.</p> <p>Badsaddle, Withmale Park and Bush Walk Woods SSSI is located approximately 3km north of Green Hill C. This is ancient coppice woodland with oak and ash on wet calcareous soils.</p> <p>Pitsford Reservoir SSSI is located approximately 4.5km (at the closest point) west of Green Hill C. The reservoir and surrounding habitats host large numbers of birds associated with open water, both throughout winter and breeding seasons. Botanical habitats are also very diverse, with many county rarities recorded.</p>
<p>Locally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)</p> <p>Hardwick Wood LWS is approximately 1.5km north of Green Hill C and comprises an ancient woodland replanted with oak and spruce. At least 20 ancient woodland indicators and neutral grassland indicators were recorded on site.</p> <p>Sywell Reservoir and Country Park LWS is located 1.8km south of Green Hill C. In addition to SSSI status, the Country Park consists of a reservoir and a mosaic of other habitats, including neutral grassland, scrub woodland and swamp edge habitat.</p> <p>Vivians Covert LWS is located 1.8km east of Green Hill C, a small woodland in which at least seven ancient woodland indicators are present.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Cowpasture Spinney LWS is located approximately 2km southwest of Green Hill C. It comprises a long, narrow shelterbelt spinney with a stream, and associated emergent vegetation, running through the centre. A number of ancient woodland indicator species have been recorded amongst the variable tree cover.</p> <p>Hardwick Road Verge LWS is located 2km northeast of Green Hill C. Bounding the north and south of Hardwick Road, the grassland communities on the road verges are indicative of neutral grassland habitats.</p>
Mineral Designations	There are no Minerals Safeguarding Areas covering Green Hill C.

Green Hill D

3.3.23 The Green Hill D site is approximately 42.1 ha in area. Green Hill D is located 240m east of Green Hill C. It is a narrow strip of fields stretching 1.6km north to south and is approximately 300 to 400m wide. Green Hill D is entirely within Mears Ashby parish in North Northamptonshire, with its northeastern boundary adjacent to Wilby and Wellingborough parishes.

3.3.24 The site consists of agricultural fields separated by hedgerows and scattered trees, with a more established tree belt along the western boundary. The land slopes gently from east to west, where a stream (a tributary of Swanspool Brook) marks the boundary. Elevations of the land topography range from approximately 100m to 120m above ordnance datum (AOD). Access is provided by existing agricultural routes from Highfield Road. The southern corner is just north of Mears Ashby village. Three farmsteads, including The Grange with its prominent water tower, are dispersed around Green Hill D.

Table 3.4: Green Hill D Environmental Designation and Sensitivities

Category	Description of Designations and Sensitivities
Roads	Highfield Road covers the entire eastern boundary of Green Hill D, meeting Moonshine Gap and Wellingborough Road, the latter of which also briefly borders the northern boundary of Green Hill D.
PRoW	Footpath NN TN 3 runs north to south from the southernmost point of Green Hill D, running directly through the centre of Green Hill D to its meeting point with Wellingborough Road. Herein on NN TN 3 continues north to Hardwick, where it is redesignated at Footpath NN TG 4.



Category	Description of Designations and Sensitivities
Airfields	<p>No airfields are located within or immediately border Green Hill D. Sywell Aerodrome is approximately 1.1km west of Green Hill D and William Pitts Airstrip is located 400m east of Green Hill D.</p> <p>Hold Farm Airstrip lies approximately 3.9km north of Green Hill D.</p>
Waterbodies	<p>There is an unnamed ordinary watercourse which is located along the western boundary of Green Hill D, flowing in a southerly direction, where it later becomes the main river Swanspool Brook approximately 2.6km southeast of Green Hill D.</p>
Flood Risk and Drainage Designations	<p>Fluvial Flood Risk</p> <p>There is an unnamed ordinary watercourse located along the western boundary of Green Hill D, flowing in a southwesterly direction. Fluvial flooding could occur if the ordinary watercourse overtopped its banks during or following an extreme rainfall event.</p> <p>The majority of Green Hill D is situated in Flood Zone 1 and therefore has less than a 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding. However, a limited area to the south-western boundary is identified as being in Flood Zone 3, associated with the unnamed ordinary watercourse.</p> <p>The EA Historical Flood Map indicates that Green Hill D has not historically flooded and neither has the area immediately surrounding it.</p> <p>Surface Water Flood Risk</p> <p>The EA Flood Risk from Surface Water map indicates that Green Hill D ranges from a very low risk of surface water flooding (less than 0.1% annual probability) to low risk of surface water flooding (between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability) to medium risk of surface water flooding (between a 3.3% and 1% annual probability) to high risk of surface water flooding (greater than 3.3% annual probability).</p> <p>As describe in the fluvial section above, the surface water flooding extents largely match the courses of the land drainage ditches and ordinary watercourses.</p>
Historic environment designations	<p>Conservation Areas</p> <p>Mears Ashby Conservation Area is located approximately 115m to the southwest of Green Hill D at its nearest point.</p> <p>Listed Buildings</p> <p>There is a cluster of 29 listed buildings at Mears Ashby, the nearest being the Grade II listed Manor</p>



Category	Description of Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Farmhouse (NHLE 1040695), approximately 175m south-west of Green Hill D. These are all Grade II listed buildings apart from the Church of All Saints (NHLE 1040692) and Mears Ashby Hall (NHLE 1040699) which are both Grade II* listed.</p> <p>Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>The closest Registered Park and Garden is Great Harrowden Hall located 4.2km northeast of Green Hill D. There are no other Registered Parks and Gardens within 5km of Green Hill D.</p>
<p>Landscape designations</p>	<p>Ancient Woodland</p> <p>The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Sywell Wood (ancient replanted woodland), which is located 770m northwest of Green Hill D. There is one block of Ancient Woodland within 2km of Green Hill D, Hardwick Wood (ancient replanted woodland) which is located 2km northwest of Green Hill D.</p> <p>There are a further two blocks of Ancient Woodland between 2km to 5km north of Green Hill D which include Withmale Park Wood (ancient replanted woodland) and Badsaddle Wood (ancient and semi-natural woodland).</p> <p>Landscape Character Area</p> <p>Green Hill D is located within one LCT, LCT 5 Clay Plateau which contains one Landscape Character Area (LCA), LCA 5b Sywell Plateau, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010.</p> <p>There are two further LCTs located between 2km and 5km of Green Hill D including; Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes; and Northamptonshire LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain.</p> <p>Additional LCAs located between 2km and 5km from Green Hill D include; Northamptonshire LCA 4b Moulton Slopes; Northamptonshire LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes; Northamptonshire LCA 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes; and Northamptonshire LCA 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill.</p>
<p>Internationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site is approximately 5km east and southeast of Green Hill D. The internationally important site comprises a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits, extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain running from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to</p>



Category	Description of Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Thorpe Waterville north of the village of Thrapston. An extensive mosaic of wetland habitats is regularly used by over 20,000 wildfowl and wading birds and supports major overwintering bird assemblages. Qualifying features of the designated site include bittern and golden plover, in addition to gadwall (migratory species).</p>
<p>Nationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Hardwick Lodge Meadow SSSI is located 1.7km northwest of Green Hill D. This is a large area of diverse permanent pasture with an exceptionally rich and varied grassland flora that, in turn, supports uncommon invertebrates.</p> <p>Badsaddle, Withmale Park and Bush Walk Woods SSSI is located approximately 2km northwest of Green Hill D. This is ancient coppice woodland with oak and ash on wet calcareous soils.</p>
<p>Locally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Sywell Reservoir and Country Park LWS is located 1.2km south of Green Hill D. The Country Park comprises reservoir and a mosaic of other habitats, including neutral grassland, scrub woodland and swamp edge habitat.</p> <p>Vivians Covert LWS is located 1.4km northeast of Green Hill D, a small woodland in which at least seven ancient woodland indicators are present with the site considered a good candidate for improvements.</p> <p>Park Farm Industrial Estate LWS is located 1.7km east of Green Hill D. Green Hill D contains a mosaic of grassland, scrub and woodland habitats.</p> <p>Hardwick Wood LWS is approximately 1.8km north of Green Hill D and comprises an ancient woodland replanted with oak and spruce. At least 20 ancient woodland indicators and neutral grassland indicators were recorded on site.</p> <p>Hardwick Road Verge LWS is located 2km northeast of Green Hill D. Bounding the north and south of Hardwick Road, the grassland communities on the road verges are indicative of neutral grassland habitats.</p>
<p>Mineral safeguarding designations</p>	<p>There are no Minerals Safeguarding Areas covering Green Hill D.</p>



Green Hill E

- 3.3.25 The Green Hill E site is approximately 308.6ha in area. Green Hill E is the largest site within the Scheme, located 300m east of Green Hill D. It spans 3.2km from north to south and is within Mears Ashby and Wilby parishes in North Northamptonshire.
- 3.3.26 The site features agricultural fields separated by hedgerows and scattered trees, with some woodland parcels, including Wilby Spinney along the eastern boundary. The topography includes a central plateau bordered by small, steep valleys feeding Swanspool Brook, with elevations ranging from approximately 75m to 115m above ordnance datum (AOD). Green Hill E has several existing agricultural access points from nearby roads.
- 3.3.27 An 11kV overhead power line runs east-west through the centre, south of and parallel to Wilby Road. Green Hill E is situated between several settlements: Mears Ashby to the west, Earls Barton approximately 500m from the southern boundary, Wilby 1.3km to the east, and Wellingborough 2km to the east. There are also a few isolated properties nearby, including The Grange and Wilby Hall.
- 3.3.28 A gas pumping station with a prominent transmission tower is located on the south side of Wilby Road, surrounded by the eastern side of Green Hill E.

Table 3.5: Green Hill E Environmental Sensitivities

Category	Description of environmental sensitivity
Roads	<p>Wilby Road runs east to west through the middle of Green Hill E, connecting Mears Ashby to Wellingborough. It becomes Mears Ashby Road when it crosses into Wilby parish.</p> <p>To the west of Green Hill E, another road named Mears Ashby Road starts at the western edge of Mears Ashby and runs south to Earls Barton, forming the western boundary of Green Hill E. This road meets the A4500 Main Road near the southern boundary of Green Hill E. The A4500 is a partially dualled secondary route between Wellingborough and Northampton via Wilby and Earls Barton.</p>
PRoW	<p>Footpath NN TN 1 is routed through Green Hill E extending from Mears Ashby Road heading north to the village of Mears Ashby. Together with the adjacent Footpath NN TN 2, these provide foot access from Mears Ashby to the nearby Sywell Country Park and Reservoir. These footpaths also form part of the Northamptonshire Round long-distance route.</p> <p>Footpath NN TU 3 which links to NN UL 24 is located within Green Hill E at its northernmost point, linking Wilby Hall to Cromwell Spinney on the outskirts of Wellingborough. A dead-end byway NN TN 10 runs for</p>



Category	Description of environmental sensitivity
	only 200m from Mears Ashby towards Green Hill E but terminates short of the Green Hill E boundary.
Airfields	<p>The William Pitt Airstrip at The Grange is a private grass airstrip immediately to the west of Green Hill E.</p> <p>Sywell Aerodrome is situated 2km northwest, and Hold Farm Airstrip lies approximately 4.9km north of Green Hill E.</p>
Waterbodies	<p>There is an Unnamed Ordinary Watercourse which flows through Green Hill E southwards along the western boundary and then follows around to the southern boundary in an easterly to north easterly direction. A second Unnamed Ordinary Watercourse flows along the whole eastern boundary of Green Hill E before converging with the first Unnamed Ordinary Watercourse 130m southeast of Green Hill E. Once converged, the watercourse becomes Swanspool Brook as it passes under the A4500 Main Road and makes its way past the village of Wilby into Wellingborough, where it adjoins the River Nene.</p>
Flood Risk and Drainage Designations	<p>Fluvial Flood Risk</p> <p>A network of land drainage ditches is located within Green Hill E (see Appendix 10.8 – Green Hill E). Flows within the ditches are expected to flow in a south-westerly direction based on local topography.</p> <p>According to the EA’s updated Flood Map for Planning, the majority of Green Hill E is situated in Flood Zone 1. However, an area that bisects Fields EF23 and EF33, the southern and eastern boundaries, and an area that bisects Fields EF9 and EF10 are indicated to be within Flood Zone 3. The Flood Zones are largely shown to remain outside the extents of the proposed development with the exception of Field EF10 where flood zone extents are shown to encroach into the proposed panelled areas.</p> <p>Surface Water Flood Risk</p> <p>The EA Flood Risk from Surface Water map indicates that Green Hill E ranges from a very low risk of surface water flooding (less than 0.1% annual probability) to low risk of surface water flooding (between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability) to medium risk of surface water flooding (between a 3.3% and 1% annual probability) to high risk of surface water flooding (greater than 3.3% annual probability).</p> <p>As described in the fluvial section above, the surface water flooding extents largely match the courses of the land drainage ditches and ordinary watercourses.</p>



Category	Description of environmental sensitivity
<p>Historic Designations</p>	<p>Conservation Areas</p> <p>Mears Ashby Conservation Area is located approximately 67m to the west of Green Hill E at its nearest point.</p> <p>Earls Barton Conservation Area is located approximately 700m to the south of Green Hill E.</p> <p>Listed Buildings</p> <p>There is a cluster of 29 listed buildings at the village of Mears Ashby, the nearest being the Grade II listed The Old Farmhouse (NHLE 1371722) approximately 50m west of Green Hill E, and the Grade II listed 5, Duchess End (NHLE 1191195) approximately 60m south of Green Hill E. These are all Grade II listed buildings apart from the Church of All Saints (NHLE 1040692) and Mears Ashby Hall (1040699) which are both Grade II*.</p> <p>There is a cluster of 35 listed buildings at the village of Earls Barton, the nearest being the Grade II listed Rose Cottage (NHLE 171677), and the Grade I listed Church of All Saints (NHLE 1294226) approximately 800m and 900m to the south of Green Hill E respectively. Apart from the latter, all of these are Grade II listed buildings.</p> <p>Sandpit Barn (NHLE 1040780), approximately 450m to the east of Green Hill E, is a Grade II listed building.</p> <p>Archaeological Features</p> <p>The Earls Barton motte castle Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1009510) is located approximately 1.5km to the south of Green Hill E.</p> <p>Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>The closest Registered Park and Garden is the Castle Ashby Estate (1000385) which is located 3.6km south of Green Hill E. There are no other Registered Parks and Gardens within 5km of Green Hill E.</p>
<p>Landscape Designation</p>	<p>Ancient Woodland</p> <p>The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Sywell Wood (ancient replanted woodland), which is located 1.5km northwest of Green Hill E. There are two blocks of Ancient Woodland between 2km and 5km of Green Hill E which include Hardwick Wood (ancient replanted woodland), located 2.9km northeast of Green Hill E, and Withmale Park Wood (ancient replanted woodland) located 4km north of Green Hill E.</p>



Category	Description of environmental sensitivity
	<p>Landscape Character Area</p> <p>Green Hill E is located within one NCA, defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527).</p> <p>Green Hill E is located at the southeastern edge of the NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales and borders NCA Profile: 91 Yardley Whittlewood Ridge.</p> <p>Green Hill E is located within two LCTs: LCT Profile: 5 Clay Plateau and LCT Profile: 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 (Ref 3.1). These are broken down further into LCAs: LCA Profile: 5b Sywell Plateau and LCA Profile: 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes.</p> <p>There are a further two LCTs located between 2km and 5km south of Green Hill E: LCT Profile: 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain; and LCT Profile: 12 Limestone Valley Slopes.</p> <p>Additional LCAs located between 2km and 5km from Green Hill E include: Northamptonshire LCA 4b Moulton Slopes; Northamptonshire LCA 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes; Northamptonshire LCA 12a Wollaston to Irchester; and Northamptonshire LCA 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill.</p>
<p>Internationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site (and SSSI) is located 2.6km southeast of Green Hill E. The internationally important designated site comprises a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits, extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain running from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville north of the village of Thrapston. An extensive mosaic of wetland habitats is regularly used by over 20,000 wildfowl and wading birds and supports major overwintering bird assemblages. Qualifying features of the site include bittern and golden plover, in addition to gadwall (migratory species).</p>
<p>Nationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Hardwick Lodge Meadow SSSI is located 2.5km northwest of Green Hill E. This is a large area of diverse permanent pasture with an exceptionally rich and varied grassland flora that, in turn, supports uncommon invertebrates.</p> <p>Wollaston Meadows SSSI is located 4km east of Green Hill E. This SSSI is on the banks of the River Nene and is composed of two species-rich hay</p>



Category	Description of environmental sensitivity
	meadows with overgrown hedgerows and ditch habitats.
Locally designated ecological sites	<p>Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Sywell Reservoir and Country Park LWS is located 350m west of Green Hill E. The Country Park comprises reservoir and a mosaic of other habitats, including neutral grassland, scrub woodland and swamp edge habitat.</p> <p>Wilby Meadows Stream LWS is located 700m east of Green Hill E. This is a section of the Wilby Brook that flows through farmland habitats connected to the watercourses bounding the south of Green Hill E and is designated for its water vole colony.</p> <p>Park Farm Industrial Estate LWS is located 1km northeast of Green Hill E. The site contains a mosaic of grassland, scrub and woodland habitats.</p> <p>Vivians Covert LWS is located 1.3km northeast of Green Hill E, a small woodland in which at least seven ancient woodland indicators are present.</p> <p>Wilby Bay Meadows LWS is located 1.9km to the east of Green Hill E and comprised a neutral grassland lowland meadow. Although poor management has comprised the LWS site, species-rich grassland patches and neutral indicator species remain.</p>
Mineral Designations	There are no Minerals Safeguarding Areas covering Green Hill E.

Green Hill F

- 3.3.29 The Green Hill F site is approximately 275.8ha in area. Green Hill F consists of agricultural fields in the parishes of Easton Maudit and Bozeat, entirely within North Northamptonshire. Its northwestern boundary follows the parish boundary of Grendon. The site has an irregular shape, stretching approximately 3.8km from north to south.
- 3.3.30 The area features irregularly shaped fields bounded by hedgerows and scattered trees, with gently rolling hills separated by small streams. The land generally slopes up towards the east and south, with elevations ranging from approximately 55m to 105m AOD. Green Hill F has several existing agricultural access points from nearby roads.
- 3.3.31 Several overhead electricity transmission lines cross Green Hill F. A 132kV line crosses the northernmost field from northwest to southeast, passing north of Grendon and Bozeat. A 400kV line briefly crosses the southernmost corner, though no pylons are within the site boundary. Green Hill F wraps around the north, east, and south of Easton Maudit



village and is less than 300m west of Bozeat, separated by the A509. Nearby properties include Slype House, Oakfield, Home Farm, and Low Farm.

Table 3.6: Green Hill F Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
Roads	<p>The most western field of Green Hill F is separated from the rest of Green Hill F by Grendon Road, which connects Grendon to Easton Maudit. This route continues as Easton Lane, running east-west between Easton Maudit and Bozeat, once again crossing Green Hill F between the villages. The A509 runs to the east of Green Hill F and in three distinct places borders Green Hill F.</p>
PRoW	<p>The area around Green Hill F hosts a network of PRoWs. A number of these cross through Green Hill F in two distinct areas. In the north, Footpaths NN TA 1, NN TA 4~1, NN TD 2, NN TD 3, NN TF 5, all cross Green Hill F. Some of these references refer to the same route where they cross into different parishes (namely Bozeat, Easton Maudit, and Grendon).</p> <p>Footpath NN TA 4 enters Green Hill F at the southern point of Field FF6 before turning northeast and exiting Green Hill F through FF4. Footpath NN TA 1 and NN TF 11 branch off NN TA 4 in the centre of Green Hill F and continues north then west towards Lower End, Grendon. Footpath NN TD 3 also meets NN TA 4 in the centre of Green Hill F towards Easton Maudit village. Footpaths NN TA 3, NN TD 2 and NN TF 5 provide a direct walking route between Grendon and Bozeat, and crosses through Green Hill F through fields FF8, FF11 and FF19. This path also intersects Footpath NN TD 3.</p> <p>In the southern portion of Green Hill F, Footpath NN TD 5 cuts in a consistent direction from Oakfield, Easton Maudit towards Lavendon. NN TD 5 is met by NN TD 7 which tracks west towards Yardley Hastings. Finally, Bridleway NN TD 8 crosses through the site at field FF28 into Horn Wood, before crossing Green Hill F again at Field FF33, where it crosses the route of Footpath NN TD 5. The bridleway thereafter goes southwest towards Warrington via Old Pastures woodland.</p>
Airfields	<p>Easton Maudit Airfield is a private grass strip associated with Home Farm, immediately adjacent to the boundary of Green Hill F. The runway is situated no less than 50 meters north-northwest of fields FF29 and FF30. Due to the runway orientation and the</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>shape of Green Hill F, approach to the runway from either direction involves flying over Green Hill F.</p> <p>Tower Farm Airstrip lies approximately 3.2km northeast of Green Hill F.</p>
Waterbodies	<p>There is a network of land drainage ditches located within Green Hill F, as well as three tributaries of an unnamed main river which run through the centre in a northerly direction based on local topography towards the confluence of Grendon Brook (to the north of Green Hill F), then gradually making its way to the River Nene.</p>
Flood Risk and Drainage Designations	<p>Fluvial Flood Risk</p> <p>A network of land drainage ditches is located within Green Hill F, as well as three tributaries of an unnamed main river. Flows within the ditches are expected to flow in a northerly direction based on local topography. All the land drains are ordinary watercourses and are therefore the responsibility of the Lead Local Flood Authority to maintain, whereas the main rivers are the responsibility of the EA to maintain.</p> <p>According to the EA’s updated Flood Map for Planning, the majority of Green Hill F lies within Flood Zone 1, indicating a low risk of flooding. However, sections of several fields, particularly in the north are indicated to be within Flood Zone 3. The Flood Zones are largely shown to remain outside the extents of the developable areas with the exception of Fields FF3 and FF32 where flood zone extents are shown to encroach into the proposed panelled areas. Historically, flooding has affected the northern part of Green Hill F, most notably during the River Nene flood event in March 1947. The EA has provided flood extents from the Grendon 2013 model, which closely match the EA’s Flood Zone extents. These are based on generalised national modelling. In the absence of detailed local flood data, surface water maps have been used as a proxy to assess potential fluvial flood risks. Based on the above and considering the embedded mitigation as part of the design of the solar panels the overall risk of surface water flooding at Green Hill F is considered to be low.</p> <p>Surface Water Flood Risk</p> <p>The EA Flood Risk from Surface Water map indicates that the site ranges from a very low risk of surface water flooding (less than 0.1% annual probability) to low risk of surface water flooding (between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability) to medium risk of surface</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>water flooding (between a 3.3% and 1% annual probability) to high risk of surface water flooding (greater than 3.3% annual probability).</p> <p>As described in the fluvial section above, the surface water flooding extents largely match the courses of the land drainage ditches and ordinary watercourses.</p>
<p>Historic Designations</p>	<p>Conservation Areas</p> <p>Easton Maudit Conservation Area is located approximately 10m east of Green Hill F at its nearest point.</p> <p>Grendon Conservation Area is located approximately 850m to the northwest of Green Hill F.</p> <p>Listed Buildings</p> <p>There is a cluster of 13 listed buildings in the village of Easton Maudit, the nearest being the Grade II listed The Old Vicarage (NHLE 1040782) approximately 150m west of Green Hill F. These are all Grade II listed buildings apart from the Church of St Peter and St Paul (NHLE 1189610) which is Grade I listed, and 22 High Street (NHLE 1040784) which is Grade II* listed. To the south of the village, Home Farmhouse (NHLE 1040785) is approximately 10m to the northwest of Green Hill F at its nearest point. This Grade II listed building has an incorrect grid reference in its NHLE entry which places it approximately 620m further to the north, towards the centre of the village of Eastern Maudit.</p> <p>There is a cluster of 29 listed buildings in Grendon, the nearest being the grade II listed 29, Chequers Lane (NHLE 1040738) approximately 700m northwest of Green Hill F. These are all Grade II listed buildings apart from the Church of St Mary (NHLE 1190552) and Grendon Hall (NHLE 1040746) which are Grade II* listed.</p> <p>There is a cluster of 16 listed buildings in the village of Bozeat, the nearest being the Grade II listed Bozeat War Memorial (NHLE 1428093) approximately 350m to the east of Green Hill F. These are all Grade II listed buildings apart from the Church of St Mary (NHLE 1040795) which is Grade I listed.</p> <p>There is a cluster of four Grade II listed buildings at the eastern edge of Castle Ashby Park, the nearest comprising East of Nevitts Lodge (NHLE 1189903), Left Gatepier at East or Nevitt's Lodge (NHLE 1189913) and Right Gatepier at East or Nevitt's Lodge (NHLE 1041611) all approximately 900m to the west of Green Hill F.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Low Farmhouse (NHLE 1371681) is approximately 90m to the southwest of Green Hill F at its nearest point and is Grade II listed.</p> <p>Greenfield Lodge (NHLE 1040669) is approximately 610m to the northeast of Green Hill F and is Grade II listed.</p> <p>Archaeological Features</p> <p>Aerial photography indicates that Easton Lodge Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1003876) is approximately 25m to the south of Green Hill F.</p> <p>Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>The closest Registered Park and Garden is the Castle Ashby Grade I Registered Park and Garden (NHLE 1000385), located 750m to the west. Other Registered Parks and Gardens within 5km include Hinwick House (1000576) located 3km northeast of Green Hill F and Hinwick Hall (1000575) located 3.4km northeast.</p>
<p>Landscape Designation</p>	<p>Ancient Woodland</p> <p>The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Horn Wood (ancient and semi-natural woodland), which is adjacent to the southeastern extent of Green Hill F.</p> <p>There are a further nine blocks of Ancient Woodland within 2km of Green Hill F including: Cold Oak Copse (ancient replanted woodland) to the west; Nun Wood (ancient and semi-natural Woodland) to the southeast; Three Shrine Wood (ancient and semi-natural woodland) to the southeast; The Slipe (ancient and semi-natural woodland) to the southeast; Templegrove Spinney (ancient and semi-natural woodland) to the east; and four smaller Spinneys which are unnamed blocks of ancient and semi-natural woodland to the south.</p> <p>Landscape Character Areas</p> <p>Green Hill F is located within one NCA defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 54 Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge (NE501).</p> <p>The site is located at the northern portion of the NCA Profile: 91 Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge.</p> <p>A further two NCAs are located within 2km of Green Hill F and include NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales to the north and NCA Profile: 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands to the south.</p> <p>Green Hill F is located within three LCTs: LCT Profile: 12 Limestone Valley Slopes; LCT Profile: 6 Undulating Claylands and LCT Profile: 8 Low Wooded Clay Ridge,</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 (Ref 3.1).</p> <p>These are broken down further into LCAs and include: LCA Profile: 12a Wollaston to Irchester; LCA Profile: 6c Bozeat Claylands; and LCA Profile: 8b Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase.</p> <p>There are a further eight LCTs located between 2km and 5km south of Green Hill F: LCT Profile: Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes; LCT Profile: Northamptonshire LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain; Bedfordshire LCT Profile: 1 Clay Farmland; Bedfordshire LCT Profile: 2 Wooded Wolds; Bedfordshire LCT Profile: 3 Limestone Valleys; Milton Keynes LCT 1 Wooded Wolds; Milton Keynes LCT 3 River Floodplains; and Milton Keynes LCT 2 Undulating Valley Slopes</p> <p>These are broken down further into LCAs and include: Northamptonshire LCA 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill; Northamptonshire LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes; Northamptonshire LCA 6b Hackleton Claylands; Bedfordshire LCA 2A Hinwick; Bedfordshire LCA 1B Riseley; Bedfordshire LCA 3A Harrod - Great Ouse; Milton Keynes LCA 1a Yardley Chase Wooded Wolds; Milton Keynes LCA 2a Ouse Northern Undulating Valley Slopes; Milton Keynes LCA 2b Ouse Southern Undulating Valley Slopes; and Milton Keynes LCA 3b Ouse Floodplains.</p>
<p>Internationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar (and SSSI) site is located approximately 2.13km north-west of Green Hill F. The internationally important site comprises a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits, extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain running from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville north of Thrapston. An extensive mosaic of wetland habitats is regularly used by over 20,000 wildfowl and wading birds and supports major overwintering bird assemblages. Qualifying features of the designated site include bittern and golden plover, in addition to gadwall (migratory species).</p>
<p>Nationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Bozeat Meadow SSSI is located approximately 70m east of Green Hill F, beyond the A509. This protected site comprises unimproved grassland on well drained clay and loam soils. Diverse botanical communities are present across medieval ridge and furrows.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Dungee Corner Meadow SSSI is located 2.2km east of Green Hill F. The well drained hay meadow on boulder clay is traditionally managed, including no use of artificial fertilisers or herbicides, and with diverse flora. A population of locally rare green-winged orchids are also present.</p> <p>Odell Great Wood SSSI is located 4.8km east of Green Hill F. This is a large wet ash-maple woodland with exceptionally rich flora. The extensive and well-developed system of rides is another important feature, adding greatly to the value of the site for flowering plants, butterflies and other invertebrates.</p> <p>Yardley Chase SSSI is approximately 3.8km southwest of Green Hill F. Military use of the site has resulted in a long absence of intensive agriculture, supporting the retention of diverse semi-natural habitats (woodland and unimproved grassland) present and increased value for invertebrates. This includes 30 breeding butterfly species records.</p> <p>Wollaston Meadows SSSI is located approximately 4km northeast of Green Hill F. This site on the banks of the River Nene is composed of two species-rich hay meadows with overgrown hedgerows and ditch habitats.</p>
<p>Locally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Local Nature Reserves</p> <p>Summer Leys LNR is located 2.7km north of Green Hill F. This is an excellent nature reserve easily qualifying as a LWS with fen, swamp and marsh indicators recorded within the gravel pits and neutral grassland indicators in the surrounding grasslands.</p> <p>County Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Nun Wood County Wildlife Sites (CWS) is located 1.2km northwest of Green Hill F. This is a broadleaved ancient woodland, neutral grassland and a pond, which is directly connected to Threshire Wood.</p> <p>Templegrove Spinney CWS is located 1.8km to the west of Green Hill F. This is a broadleaved, semi-natural, ancient woodland.</p> <p>The Slipe CWS is located 1.2km east of Green Hill F. This is a broadleaved, semi-natural, ancient woodland.</p> <p>Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Bozeat Cemetery LWS is located 280m to the east of Green Hill F. This cemetery contains areas of species rich meadow.</p> <p>Bozeat Glebe Meadow LWS is located 510m to the east of Green Hill F. This is a former hay meadow that</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>has still retained a decent meadow flora, in particular on the slopes.</p> <p>Bozeat Verge LWS is located 15m to the south of Green Hill F. This is a species rich wildflower verge formed on the road cutting of the A509 to the west of Bozeat.</p> <p>Bozeat Wood LWS is located 620m to the south-east of Green Hill F. This is a small oak-ash woodland, possibly ancient in origin, with an interesting ground flora.</p> <p>Castle Ashby Parkland LWS is located 1.3km west of Green Hill F. Situated centrally within the Castle Ashby parkland, this woodland extends between the church, ponds and boathouse. The LWS hosts a large variety of parkland and semi-natural species, and a largely semi-natural ground flora but with several ancient woodland species recorded, alongside some unusual parkland additions.</p> <p>Castle Ashby Woodland LWS is located 2km northwest of Green Hill F. This area of old woodland, probably originating from the establishment of Castle Ashby parkland, is well-established and supports some unusual flora and a range of invertebrates.</p> <p>Cold Oak Copse LWS is located 310m to the west of Green Hill F. This site is listed on the Northants Ancient Wood inventory, with six ancient woodland indicators recorded.</p> <p>Grendon Quarter Pond LWS is located 1.5km northwest of Green Hill F and comprises a large fishing lake with a fringe of marginal vegetation and a surround of tall trees.</p> <p>Horn Wood LWS is adjacent to the southeastern boundary of Green Hill F. This site qualifies as a LWS with 14 ancient woodland indicators recorded.</p> <p>Long Furlong and Old Pastures LWS is located 490m to the southwest of Green Hill F. This is a large area of replanted ancient woodland, with 16 ancient woodland indicators recorded.</p> <p>Menagerie Pond LWS is located 1.2km west of Green Hill F. Areas of thick fringing emergent vegetation and occasional aquatic plants support diverse invertebrate communities associate with the lake situated within Castle Ashby parkland.</p> <p>Par Pond LWS is located 1.1km west of Green Hill F. This is a long lake on the edge of Castle Ashby Park,</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>well-vegetated with emergent and marginal vegetation and surrounded by parkland habitats.</p> <p>Scotland Pond LWS is located 1.7km west of Green Hill F. This is a large angling lake fringed with marginal and emergent vegetation.</p> <p>The Basin LWS is located 1.9km northwest of Green Hill F. This is a narrow lake within the Castle Ashby Estate, with a good cover of emergent and marginal vegetation providing habitat for birds and amphibians.</p> <p>Threshire Wood LWS is located 1.6km southeast of Green Hill F. This is an ancient semi-natural woodland with a good range of ground flora species.</p> <p>Warren Ponds LWS is located 1.3km to the west of Green Hill F. These ponds extend the habitat of Par Pond LWS and provide cover for birds and amphibians. Some of the ponds within Warren Ponds LWS are of significance as an extension to the wetland habitat corridor network.</p> <p>Yardley Brook Field LWS is located 590m to the west of Green Hill F. This field has areas of species rich calcareous grassland associated with the old earthworks.</p>
Minerals Designations	<p>Green Hill F lies within a Mineral Safeguarding Area (sand and gravel) as defined in the adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017) (Ref 3.2). In addition, Green Hill F abuts an allocation for future mineral extraction associated with Bozeat Quarry. Green Hill F is within a Minerals Consultation Zone associated with the allocation for future mineral extraction.</p>

Green Hill G

- 3.3.32 The Green Hill G site is approximately 170.9ha in area. Green Hill G lies entirely within the City of Milton Keynes, near the tripoint of North Northamptonshire, Milton Keynes, and Bedford Borough. It features open agricultural fields separated by hedgerows and scattered trees, with substantial woodland (Threshire Wood) to the northeast. The land slopes gently from north to south, ranging from approximately 70m to 105m above ordnance datum AOD, with a shallow valley and small stream running through the centre. Green Hill G has a main access from the A428.
- 3.3.33 A 400kV overhead power line crosses the southern half of Green Hill G. The village of Lavendon is approximately 500m southeast, while the hamlet of Warrington has a few dispersed properties to the west and south. Bozeat is 2.4km north, and Olney is 2.6km southwest. There are



a few isolated properties, including Northey Farm to the northwest, and a petrol station to the southwest, accessible via the Warrington Toll Bar Roundabout.

Table 3.7: Green Hill G Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
Roads	Green Hill G is bordered to the west by the A509 London Road and to the south by the A428 Northampton Road. These roads meet at Warrington Toll Bar Roundabout and continue southeast to Lavendon. The A428 connects Bedford to Northampton, whilst the A509 links Wellingborough to Milton Keynes. Tinick Lane, with limited access, branches off the A428 into Green Hill G approximately 750m along its southern boundary.
PRoW	<p>Bridleway MK Lavendon 002 and Bridleway MK Lavendon 015 form a continuous north-south route along most of the eastern boundary of Green Hill G, including the length of Tinick Lane. The bridleway continues in both directions beyond Green Hill G towards Hinwick to the north, and Clifton Reynes to the south. This route forms part of the Three Shires Way.</p> <p>Bridleway MK Lavendon 014 links Tinick Lane to Castle Road along the northern boundary of Field GF13, while Bridleway MK Lavendon 004 links Bridleway MK Lavendon 002 to Castle Road via the north of field GF9.</p> <p>Originating from Northey Farm, Footpath MK Lavendon 005 cuts through the centre of Green Hill G from the northwest corner to the centre-east of Green Hill G where it meets Bridleway MK Lavendon 002 and Bridleway MK Lavendon 015. This section forms part of the Milton Keynes Boundary Walk. The footpath continues on as Footpath MK Lavendon 001 into the village of Lavendon.</p>
Airfields	Easton Maudit Airfield lies approximately 2.4km northwest from the boundary of Green Hill G.
Waterbodies	There is a network of land drains (ordinary watercourses) which join and flow southwards through the centre of Green Hill G. The land drains become a more rational watercourse flowing through Lavendon to the south and ultimately discharge to the River Great Ouse (main river).
Flood Risk and Drainage Designations	<p>Fluvial Flood Risk</p> <p>There is a network of land drains which join and flow southwards through the centre of Green Hill G. The land drains become a more rational watercourse</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>flowing through Lavendon to the south and ultimately discharge to the River Great Ouse. Flows within the ditches are expected to flow in a south-westerly direction based on local topography.</p> <p>Fluvial flooding could occur if the land drains overtopped their banks during or following an extreme rainfall event.</p> <p>The majority of Green Hill G is situated in Flood Zone 1 and therefore has less than a 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding. However, a limited area to the southern boundary is identified as being in Flood Zone 3, associated with the land drain and unnamed Ordinary Watercourse. The EA Historical Flood Map indicates that Green Hill G has not historically flooded. Nearby Lavendon, to the south east, has flooded in recent events.</p> <p>Surface Water Flood Risk</p> <p>The EA Flood Risk from Surface Water map indicates that Green Hill G ranges from a very low risk of surface water flooding (less than 0.1% annual probability) to low risk of surface water flooding (between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability) to medium risk of surface water flooding (between a 3.3% and 1% annual probability) to high risk of surface water flooding (greater than 3.3% annual probability).</p> <p>As described in the fluvial section above, the surface water flooding extents largely match the courses of the land drainage ditches.</p>
<p>Historic Designations</p>	<p>Conservation Areas</p> <p>Lavendon Conservation Area is located approximately 575m to the southeast of Green Hill G. There are no other Conservation Areas within 2km.</p> <p>Listed Buildings</p> <p>There is a cluster of 13 listed buildings with the village of Lavendon, all of which are located within the Conservation Area, the nearest being at 33 Northampton Road (NHLE 1212621) which is located approximately 600m to the southeast of Green Hill G. These are all Grade II listed buildings apart from the Church of St Peter and St Michael (NHLE 1212619) which is Grade I listed.</p> <p>There is also a cluster of five Grade II listed buildings at Lavendon Grange, the nearest being Lavendon Grange (1289456) itself which is approximately 845m to the southeast of Green Hill G.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Home Farmhouse (NHLE 128918) is approximately 700m to the southwest of Green Hill G and is a Grade II listed building.</p> <p>Warrington House Farm (NHLE 1289233) is located approximately 800m to the south-west of Green Hill G and is a Grade II listed building.</p> <p>Archaeological Features</p> <p>The Lavendon Castle: a motte and bailey and associated enclosures at Castle Farm Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1009542) is located approximately 300m to the east of Green Hill G.</p> <p>The Bury: a ringwork and associated earthworks 100m north of Lavendon Church Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1011295) is located approximately 600m to the southeast of Green Hill G.</p> <p>The Lavendon Abbey: the site of a Premonstratensian abbey, fishponds and field system at Lavendon Grange Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1011309) is located approximately 550m to the south of Green Hill G.</p> <p>Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>The nearest Registered Park and Garden is Historic Park and Garden to Turvey House (NHLE 1431122) which is approximately 2.6km to the southeast and registered at Grade II, and Castle Ashby (NHLE 100385) which is located approximately 4.3km to the northwest and which is registered as Grade I listed.</p>
<p>Landscape Designation</p>	<p>Ancient Woodland</p> <p>The northern extent of the eastern boundary of Green Hill G is directly bordered by two blocks of Ancient and semi-natural Woodland which include Three Shire Wood and Nun Wood.</p> <p>There are a further eight blocks of Ancient Woodland (ancient and semi-natural woodland) within 2km of Green Hill G. The closest of which include Barslay Spinney located 15m west of Green Hill G, Broadlane Spinney, Nuniron Spinney and Newland Spinney located between 400 and 800m west of Green Hill G. Other larger blocks of Ancient Woodland within 2km include the Slipe located 500m to the north, Lavendon Wood located 720m east and Snip Wood located 1.2km southeast of Green Hill G.</p> <p>Landscape Character Area</p> <p>Green Hill G is located within two NCAs defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 91 Yardley-</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Whittlewood Ridge (NE501) and NCA Profile: 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands (NE555).</p> <p>Green Hill G is located within two LCTs: Milton Keynes LCT 1 Wooded Wolds; and Milton Keynes LCT 2 Undulating Valley Slopes.</p> <p>These are broken down further into LCAs and include: LCA Profile:1a Yardley Clay Plateau Farmland; and LCA Profile: 2a Ouse Northern Undulating Valley Slopes.</p> <p>There are a further eight LCTs located between 2km and 5km south of Green Hill G: Northamptonshire LCT 6 Undulating Claylands; Northamptonshire LCT 8 Low Wooded Clay Ridge; Northamptonshire LCT 12 Limestone Valley Slopes; Bedfordshire LCT 1 Clay Farmland; Bedfordshire LCT 2 Wooded Wolds; Bedfordshire LCT 3 Limestone Valleys; Milton Keynes LCT 3 River Floodplains; and Milton Keynes LCT 2 Undulating Valley Slopes.</p> <p>These are broken down further into LCAs and include: Northamptonshire LCA 6b Hackleton Claylands; Northamptonshire LCA 6c Bozeat Claylands; Northamptonshire LCA 8b Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase; Northamptonshire LCA 12a Wollaston to Irchester; Bedfordshire LCA 1A Cranfield to Stagsden; Bedfordshire LCA 2A Hinwick; Bedfordshire LCA 2B Pavenham; Bedfordshire LCA 3A Harrod - Great Ouse; Milton Keynes LCA 3b Ouse Floodplains; and Milton Keynes LCA 2b Ouse Southern Undulating Valley Slopes.</p>
<p>Internationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site is located approximately 6.2km north of Green Hill G. The site comprises a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits, extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain running from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville north of Thrapston. An extensive mosaic of wetland habitats is regularly used by over 20,000 wildfowl and wading birds and supports major overwintering bird assemblages. Qualifying features of the site include bittern and golden plover in addition to gadwall (migratory species).</p>
<p>Nationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Bozeat Meadow SSSI is located 2.9km north of Green Hill G. This protected site comprises unimproved grassland on well drained clay and loam soils. Diverse botanical communities are present across medieval ridge and furrows.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Dungee Corner Meadow SSSI is located 4.2km northeast of Green Hill G. The well drained hay meadow on boulder clay is traditionally managed, including no use of artificial fertilisers or herbicides, and with diverse flora. A population of locally rare green-winged orchids are also present.</p> <p>Yardley Chase SSSI is approximately 3.8km west of Green Hill G. Military use of the SSSI site has resulted in a long absence of intensive agriculture, supporting the retention of diverse semi-natural habitats (woodland and unimproved grassland) present and increased value for invertebrates. This includes 30 breeding butterfly species records.</p>
<p>Locally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Local Nature Reserves</p> <p>Harrold Odell Country Park LNR is located 4.5km to the northeast of Green Hill G. This site is on the edge of the River Ouse, and contains two lakes, seasonally flooded woodland, osier beds and water meadows.</p> <p>County Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Nun Wood County Wildlife Site is located adjacent to the northeastern boundary of Green Hill G. This is a broadleaved ancient woodland, neutral grassland and a pond, which is directly connected to Threshire Wood.</p> <p>Templegrove Spinney County Wildlife Site is located 1.6km to the northeast of Green Hill G. This is a broadleaved, semi-natural, ancient woodland.</p> <p>The Slipe County Wildlife Site is located 500m to the northeast of Green Hill G. This is a broadleaved, semi-natural, ancient woodland.</p> <p>Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Bozeat Wood is located 300m to the north of Green Hill G. This is a small oak-ash woodland, possibly ancient in origin, with associated ground flora.</p> <p>Horn Wood is located 1.4km to the north of Green Hill G. This site qualifies as a LWS with 14 ancient woodland indicators recorded.</p> <p>Lavendon Wood is located 700m to the east of Green Hill G. This is an ancient semi-natural woodland with a good range of ground flora species.</p> <p>Long Furlong and Old Pastures is located 900m to the west of Green Hill G. This is a large area of replanted ancient woodland, with 16 ancient woodland indicators recorded.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	Threshire Wood is located adjacent to the north-eastern boundary of Green Hill G. This is an ancient semi-natural woodland with a good range of ground flora species.
Mineral Designation	The southern edge of Green Hill G lies within two Mineral Safeguarding Areas designated in the Milton Keynes Minerals Local Plan (2017) (Ref 3.2); one for sand and gravel and the other for limestone.

Green Hill BESS

3.3.34 The Green Hill BESS site is 43.3ha in area. The two agricultural fields of Green Hill BESS are bounded by substantial hedgerows and tree belts, located entirely within the parish of Grendon, North Northamptonshire. The land is largely flat at an elevation of approximately 50m AOD, situated at the edge of the River Nene valley floor. The area is dominated by the Grendon Substation and its associated tree planting, with flooded remnants of gravel and sand quarries to the north.

3.3.35 Several overhead lines (OHLs) cross the site. The northern field contains a 400kV National Grid OHL and a 132kV distributor OHL. Two more 132kV OHLs cross the proposed access to the northern field near Pastures Farm, and another 132kV OHL crosses the southern field. The village of Grendon is approximately 600m southeast of Green Hill BESS, and Pastures Farm, to the west, includes existing farm access as a potential access point to the north of Green Hill BESS.

Table 3.8: Green Hill BESS Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
Roads	Station Road runs from the northwest of the Green Hill BESS into Grendon. The road runs along the southwestern side of the Green Hill BESS. Station Road provides the existing entrance into the Grendon Substation, and existing agricultural accesses to Pastures Farm.
PRoW	There is one public right of way directly adjacent to Green Hill BESS, north of the existing Grendon Substation. Footpath NN TF 3 originates northwest of the Grendon Substation at Station Road near to the bridge over the River Nene, passing north of Green Hill BESS enroute to Lower End, Grendon.
Waterbodies	There is an unnamed main river which runs along the north-western boundary and a second unnamed main river which runs along the south-eastern boundary of the Green Hill BESS. The rivers run from the west and



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	south respectively to Grendon Lakes which are immediately to the northeast of Green Hill BESS.
<p>Flood Risk and Drainage Designations</p>	<p>Fluvial Flood Risk</p> <p>The nearest watercourse is Whiston Brook, an EA main river that is located to the northwest of Green Hill BESS1. Whiston Brook is a tributary of the River Nene, also a main river, situated approximately 650m north of the site at its closest point.</p> <p>A further EA main river named Grendon Brook flows in a northerly direction and forms the eastern boundary of Field BESS 1 within the BESS Site. Whiston Brook and Grendon Brook flow in a general northeastern direction before they all converge into the River Nene approximately 1km from the Site.</p> <p>Fluvial flooding could occur if the land drains overtopped their banks during or following an extreme rainfall event.</p> <p>The EA Historical Flood Map indicates that Field BESS 1 has historically flooded in March 1947 due to the River Nene.</p> <p>A direct rainfall modelling methodology was undertaken in January 2024 to assess the fluvial flood risk to the BESS site from neighbouring sections of the River Nene and Grendon Brook, given the small size of the catchment. Given the locations of the proposed BESS developments, excluding the north-east of BESS1, the site is considered to be at Low risk of fluvial flooding. As the north-east of BESS1 is modelled to have depths of up to 0.67m, the risk in this area is considered to be at a Moderate risk of fluvial flooding.</p> <p>Surface Water Flood Risk</p> <p>The EA Flood Risk from Surface Water map indicates that Green Hill BESS ranges from a very low risk of surface water flooding (less than 0.1% annual probability) to low risk of surface water flooding (between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability) to medium risk of surface water flooding (between a 3.3% and 1% annual probability) to high risk of surface water flooding (greater than 3.3% annual probability).</p> <p>As described in the fluvial section above, the surface water flooding extents largely match the courses of the watercourses and land drainage ditches.</p>
<p>Historic Designations</p>	<p>Conservation Areas</p> <p>Grendon Conservation Area is located approximately 530m to the southeast of Green Hill BESS at its nearest point.</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Listed Buildings</p> <p>There is a cluster of 29 listed buildings in Grendon, the nearest being the Grade II listed Gates and Gatepiers approximately 10m east of Grendon Hall (NHLE 1190676) approximately 590m east of Green Hill BESS. These are all Grade II listed buildings apart from the Church of St Mary (NHLE 1190552) and Grendon Hall (NHLE 1040746) which are Grade II*.</p> <p>Station Lodge (NHLE 1294156) approximately 200m to the west of Green Hill BESS is a Grade II listed building.</p> <p>Archaeological Features</p> <p>Medieval Cross 170m west of Hall Farm Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1016320) is approximately 770m to the east of Green Hill BESS.</p> <p>Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>Castle Ashby Grade I Registered Park and Garden (NHLE 1000385) is approximately 30m to the southwest of Green Hill BESS at its nearest point.</p>
<p>Landscape Designation</p>	<p>Ancient Woodland</p> <p>The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Cold Oak Copse (ancient replanted woodland), which is located 3km south of Green Hill BESS. There is only one other block of Ancient Woodland within 5km of Green Hill BESS, Horn Wood (ancient and semi-natural woodland) which is located 3.6km southeast of Green Hill BESS.</p> <p>Landscape Character Area</p> <p>Green Hill BESS is located within one NCA, defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527).</p> <p>Green Hill BESS is located at the southeastern edge of the NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales and borders NCA Profile: 91 Yardley Whittlewood Ridge.</p> <p>Green Hill BESS is located within two LCTs: Northamptonshire LCT Profile: 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain; and Northamptonshire LCT Profile 12 Limestone Valley Slopes as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 (Ref 3.1). These are broken down into two LCAs: LCA Profile: 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill; and LCA Profile: 12a Wollaston to Irchester.</p> <p>Within 2km and 5km are the following LCTs: Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>Slopes; Northamptonshire LCT 2 Undulating Valley Slopes; Northamptonshire LCT 6 Undulating Claylands; and Northamptonshire LCT 8 Low Wooded Clay Ridge.</p> <p>These are broken down further between 2km and 5km and localised as: Northamptonshire LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes; Northamptonshire LCA 6b Hackleton Claylands; Northamptonshire LCA 6c Bozeat Claylands; Northamptonshire LCA 8b Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase; and Northamptonshire LCA 18c The Nene - Duston Mill to Billing Wharf.</p>
<p>Internationally Designated Sites</p>	<p>The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar shares the northern boundary of Green Hill BESS. The site comprises a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits, extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain running from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to the village of Thorpe Waterville north of the village of Thrapston. An extensive mosaic of wetland habitats is regularly used by over 20,000 wildfowl and wading birds and supports major overwintering bird assemblages. Qualifying features of the designated site include bittern and golden plover, in addition to gadwall (migratory species).</p>
<p>Nationally designated ecological sites</p>	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Wollaston Meadows SSSI is located 3km northeast of Green Hill BESS. Green Hill BESS is on the banks of the River Nene and is composed of two species-rich hay meadows with overgrown hedgerows and ditch habitats.</p> <p>Bozeat Meadow SSSI is located 3km southeast of Green Hill BESS and comprises unimproved grassland on well drained clay and loam soils. Diverse botanical communities are present across medieval ridge and furrows.</p> <p>Dungee Corner Meadow SSSI is located 5km east of Green Hill BESS. The well drained hay meadow on boulder clay is traditionally managed, including no use of artificial fertilisers or herbicides, and supports diverse flora. A population of locally rare green-winged orchids are also present.</p> <p>Yardley Chase SSSI is located 5km southwest of Green Hill BESS. Military use of the site has resulted in a long absence of intensive agriculture, supporting the retention of diverse semi-natural habitats (woodland and unimproved grassland) present and increased</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	value for invertebrates. This includes 30 breeding butterfly species records.
<p>Locally Designated Sites</p>	<p>Local Nature Reserves</p> <p>Summer Leys LNR is located 2km northeast of Green Hill BESS. This is an excellent nature reserve easily qualifying as a LWS with fen, swamp and marsh indicators recorded within the gravel pits and neutral grassland indicators in the surrounding grasslands.</p> <p>Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Grendon Lakes LWS is located 200m north of Green Hill BESS. This is a mosaic of wetland habitats of huge importance to over-wintering birds.</p> <p>Grendon Lakes North LWS is located 500m north of Green Hill BESS. This is also a mosaic of wetland habitats including a number of small gravel pits, fragments of wet grassland and mire and good aquatic vegetation.</p> <p>Grendon Quarter Pond LWS is located 500m south of Green Hill BESS and comprises a large fishing lake with a fringe of marginal vegetation and a surround of tall trees.</p> <p>Earls Barton Meadow LWS is located 700m northwest of Green Hill BESS. This floodplain meadow site is adjacent to the River Nene, near to gravel extraction, and features neutral grassland indicators and many elements of MG4 grassland communities indicative of well-drained permanent pasture and meadows.</p> <p>Earls Barton Carr LWS is located 800m northwest of Green Hill BESS. This large area of wet woodland on former gravel workings adjacent to the Nene supports at least 10 indicator species of fen, swamp and marsh habitats, despite declining habitat condition.</p> <p>Earls Barton Lock Lake LWS is located 800m north of Green Hill BESS and comprises another Nene Valley gravel pit with abundant marginal vegetation.</p> <p>Scotland Pond LWS is located 800m south of Green Hill BESS. This is a large angling lake fringed with marginal and emergent vegetation.</p> <p>The Basin LWS is located 1km south of Green Hill BESS. This is a narrow lake within the Castle Ashby Estate, with a good cover of emergent and marginal vegetation providing habitat for birds and amphibians.</p> <p>Menagerie Pond LWS is located 1.3km south of Green Hill BESS. Areas of thick fringing emergent vegetation and occasional aquatic plants support diverse</p>



Category	Environmental Designations and Sensitivities
	<p>invertebrate communities associate with the lake situated within Castle Ashby parkland.</p> <p>Castle Ashby Woodland LWS is located 1.4km southwest of Green Hill BESS. This area of old woodland, probably originating from the establishment of Castle Ashby parkland, is well-established and supports some unusual flora and range of invertebrates.</p> <p>Castle Ashby Parkland LWS is located 1.7km southwest of Green Hill BESS. Situated centrally within the Castle Ashby parkland, this woodland extends between the church, ponds and boathouse. A large variety of parkland and semi-natural species, and a largely semi-natural ground flora but with several ancient woodland species have been recorded, alongside some unusual parkland additions.</p> <p>Par Pond LWS is located 1.5km south of Green Hill BESS. This is a long lake on the edge of Castle Ashby Park, well-vegetated with emergent and marginal vegetation and surrounded by parkland habitats.</p> <p>Ecton Gravel Pits LWS is located 1.7km northwest of Green Hill BESS. This site comprises three gravel pits alongside the River Nene. The pits vary in size and shape and provide a mixture of wildlife habitats.</p> <p>Engine Pond LWS is located 1.9km southwest of Green Hill BESS. This is a well-established pond, with emergent vegetation and abundant dragonflies and damselflies.</p> <p>Hardwater Meadows LWS is located 2km northeast of Green Hill BESS and comprises a network of fields adjacent to the River Nene. Species-rich wetland vegetation surrounds the pond and old river channels.</p> <p>Warren Ponds LWS is located 2km south of Green Hill BESS. These ponds extend the habitat of Par Pond LWS and provide cover for birds and amphibians. Some of the ponds within Warren Ponds LWS are of significance as an extension to the wetland habitat corridor network.</p>
<p>Mineral Designations</p>	<p>Green Hill BESS lies within a Minerals Safeguarding Area (sand and gravel) as defined in the adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017) (Ref 3.2).</p>



Cable Route Corridor

- 3.3.36 The route and location of the Cable Route Corridor is shown in Figure 1.1: Location Plan [EN010170/APP/GH6.4.1.1]. The Cable Route Corridor connects the Sites and runs in a north to south orientation. The Cable Route Corridor briefly runs west to Green Hill B.
- 3.3.37 The total length for the Cable Route Corridor is approximately 31km and the area within the Order Limits associated with the Cable Route Corridor is approximately 168ha.

Cable Route Corridor Route - Green Hill A to A.2

- 3.3.38 The Cable Route Corridor originates at the eastern boundary (Field AF24) and passes through adjacent agricultural land, to the east of Walgrave before crossing Kettering Road. The Cable Route Corridor then accesses Green Hill A.2 along its northwestern border.

Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

- 3.3.39 Kettering road will be crossed by the Cable Route Corridor and serve as a route for immediate access to Green Hill A and Green Hill A.2 as well as temporary construction access for the Cable Route Corridor.
- 3.3.40 Footpath NN|DT|8, a PRoW, crosses the Cable Route Corridor in an east to west orientation. This footpath follows a route via Kettering Road, Walgrave, towards Northampton.
- 3.3.41 Adjacent to the west of the Cable Route Corridor lies a block of deciduous woodland (a priority habitat).
- 3.3.42 This segment of the Cable Route Corridor is located within a Minerals Safeguarding Areas (sand and gravel) as defined in the adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017) (Ref 3.2).

Cable Route Corridor Route - Green Hill A.2 to Green Hill B

- 3.3.43 The Cable Route Corridor passes from the southwestern corner of Green Hill A.2, heading southwards across agricultural fields, bordering industrial estates Mere Farm and Polvedere estates crossing Red House Lane.
- 3.3.44 The Cable Route Corridor passes through agricultural fields for another 1.2km before it reaches Kettering Road. At A43 Kettering Road, the Cable Route Corridor heads along the alignment of the road for approximately 2km before traversing northwards through agricultural fields towards Sywell Road.
- 3.3.45 After crossing Sywell Road, the Cable Route Corridor continues for approximately another 600m before it enters Green Hill B at its northeastern corner.

Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

- 3.3.46 Red House Lane serves as a route for temporary construction access for the Cable Route Corridor. Red House Lane and Sywell Road will require crossing by the Cable Route Corridor.



- 3.3.47 The Bridleway NN|CT|3, a PRow, crosses the Cable Route Corridor from east to west, south of Green Hill A.2. Two PRowS, Bridleway NN|CT|5 and Footpath NN|CT|6, cross the Cable Route Corridor in a north-south direction, ending at Kettering Road. Footpath NN|CW|1, a PRow, crosses the Cable Route Corridor from north to south at the east side of Site B heading north to the village of Holcot. There are several PRow between Green Hill A.2 and Green Hill B leading providing routes between Walgrave, Hannington and Holcot.
- 3.3.48 North of Red House Lane, adjacent to the Cable Route Corridor is an area of deciduous woodland, further east of the corridor within approximately 150m is another area of deciduous woodland as well as a block of traditional orchard (priority habitat) within approximately 320m, north of Hannington. North of Kettering Road, within approximately 30m east of the Cable Route Corridor is an area of deciduous woodland.
- 3.3.49 This section of the Cable Route Corridor lies partially within a Minerals Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel.

Cable Route Corridor Route – A43 Kettering Road to Green Hill C

- 3.3.50 Along a 1.2km stretch of the A43 Kettering Road, the Cable Route Corridor will diverge and extend southward toward Green Hill C. The Cable Route Corridor will pass through agricultural fields for a further 2km, passing Sywell Wood and the northern extent of Sywell Aerodrome before entering Green Hill C.

Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

- 3.3.51 The Cable Route Corridor will cross Kettering Road, which connects Walgrave to the A43.
- 3.3.52 Sywell wood (ancient, replanted woodland), is located directly north of the northern boundary of Green Hill C and east of the Cable Route Corridor.
- 3.3.53 Sywell Aerodrome directly neighbours Green Hill C, the Cable Route Corridor passes the northern extent of the Aerodrome. The Aerodrome and its accompanying facilities are situated to the west and southwest of Green Hill C and are accessed from Wellingborough Road.

Cable Route Corridor Route - Green Hill C to Green Hill D

- 3.3.54 The Cable Route Corridor will pass from the eastern extent of Green Hill C, continuing along an agricultural field before crossing Moonshine Gap Road and another agricultural field. The Cable Route Corridor enters Green Hill D along its western boundary. The length of the Cable Route Corridor here will be approximately 280m.

Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

- 3.3.55 The Cable Route Corridor passes Moonshine Gap Road, which links with Wellingborough Road and Highfield Road.
- 3.3.56 Between Green Hill C and D, the Cable Route Corridor is crossed by Footpath NN|TN|3 (a PRow) which becomes NN|TN|3 upon entering



Green Hill D, the PRow goes through Green Hill D to its meeting point with Wellingborough Road. Herein on NN|TN|3 continues north to Hardwick, where it is redesignated at Footpath NN|TG|4.

Cable Route Corridor Route - Green Hill D to Green Hill E

- 3.3.57 The Cable Route Corridor will pass from Green Hill D's eastern boundary, crossing Highfield Road and an agricultural field before entering Green Hill E at its northwestern corner.

Cable Route Corridor Route – Green Hill E to Green Hill BESS

- 3.3.58 The Cable Route Corridor will exit Green Hill E at its eastern boundary and head southwards through an agricultural field before it crosses Mears Ashby Road. The route will continue for another 1.2km through agricultural fields before it crosses Swanspool Brook and then Main Road. Past Main Road, the route will continue for another 1.6km through agricultural fields until it reached Doddington Road (B573).
- 3.3.59 The Cable Route Corridor will cross Doddington Road and continue through further agricultural fields before it then passes alongside the A45 (northern side) further southwards. The Cable Route Corridor continues within agricultural fields crossing Nene Way and Station Road before it turns southwards, under the A45. Once the Cable Route Corridor crosses the A45 it continues southwards, crossing Grendon Road.
- 3.3.60 The Cable Route Corridor crosses the River Nene, south of the River Nene, the Cable Route Corridor passes through active mineral quarrying areas before it reaches Whiston Road. The Cable Route Corridor continues along the alignment of Whiston Road eastwards until it crosses Station Road before connecting to Green Hill BESS at its eastern boundary.

Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

- 3.3.61 The Cable Route Corridor crosses several roads including: Mears Ashby Road, Main Road, Doddington Road, Nene Way, Station Road (at two points), A45 and Grendon Road.
- 3.3.62 The PRow NN|TC|14 is a byway and follows the Nene Way crossing over the A45 and crosses the Cable Route Corridor in a north-south direction.
- 3.3.63 There are several areas of deciduous woodland south of the A45, the closest being approximately 20 metres east of the Cable Route Corridor.
- 3.3.64 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI is approximately 200 metres east of the Cable Route Corridor. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site is located 2.6km southeast of Green Hill E and shares the northern boundary of Green Hill BESS. The internationally important designated site comprises a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits, extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain running from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville north of the village of Thrapston.



- 3.3.65 The Cable Route Corridor crosses Swanspool Brook, a main river, which later adjoins the River Nene. The Cable Route Corridor crosses the River Nene, a main river. Footpath NN|TC|17, a PRow, follows the River Nene, crossing the Cable Route Corridor in an east-west direction. The Cable Route Corridor is located approximately 20m to the west of White Mills Lock and Marina (lock nine on the River Nene), a marina for mooring boats with floating pontoons with accommodation of up to 141 boats.
- 3.3.66 The cable route between Green Hill E and the Green Hill BESS is in the vicinity of the River Nene and its tributaries, which is situated within Flood Zones 2 and 3. Flood Zone 2 is defined as land assessed as having between a 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 100 (0.1% to 1% AEP) chance of river flooding. Flood Zone 3 is defined as land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater (>1% AEP) chance of river flooding.
- 3.3.67 South of the River Nene, the Cable Route Corridor passes through active mineral quarrying areas before it reaches Whiston Road. This area is a sand and gravel Minerals Safeguarding Area south of Earls Barton. These are fluvial sand and gravel deposits here associated with the River Nene. These deposits are actively being worked, and the Cable Route Search Area also passes through several Minerals Safeguarding Areas as defined in the adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017) (Ref 3.2).

Cable Route Corridor Route - Green Hill BESS to Green Hill F

- 3.3.68 The Cable Route Corridor continues from the eastern boundary of Green Hill BESS, heading southwards towards Green Hill F. The Cable Route Corridor passes through agricultural fields following the alignment of Station Road for approximately 450m before it crosses Station Road and continues southwards across agricultural fields for another approximately 950m until it reaches Yardley Road.
- 3.3.69 Continuing southwards, the Cable Route Corridor crosses Yardley Road and through agricultural fields before entering Green Hill F.
- 3.3.70 Between Green Hill F sites there is a requirement for a cable route to the west of Easton Maudit in order to connect the southwestern and southeastern part of Green Hill F, due to its size. An additional section of Cable Route Corridor is required between FF21 and FF25.

Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

- 3.3.71 The Cable Route Corridor crosses Station Road before crossing Yardley Road, both of which provide access into Grendon. Yardley Road which will be used as a temporary access road for the construction of the Cable Route Corridor.
- 3.3.72 North of Station Road, the Cable Route Corridor crosses Footpath NN|TF|10, a PRow which route goes from Station Road, Grendon, passing north of nos. 700-710 Station Road.
- 3.3.73 To the west, adjacent to the Cable Route Corridor here, is the Grade I Registered Park and Gardens of Castle Ashby (NHLE 1000385), located



750m to the west of Green Hill F, which includes several pockets of deciduous woodland. There is a cluster of four Grade II listed buildings at the eastern edge of Castle Ashby Park.

- 3.3.74 The PRoW, Footpath NN|TF|4, a route from Manor Road, Grendon, towards Castle Ashby, crosses the Cable Route Corridor in an east-west direction. The Cable Route Corridor is also crossed by Bridleway NN|TD|9, a PRoW which starts in Easton Maudit Village and heads towards Castle Ashby.
- 3.3.75 Approximately 440m east of the Cable Route Corridor is the Grendon Conservation Area, whereby there is a cluster of 29 listed buildings in Grendon. Easton Maudit Conservation Area is located within approximately 300m of the Cable Route Corridor, whereby there is a cluster of 13 listed buildings in the village of Easton Maudit.
- 3.3.76 The section of the cable route between Green Hill F and the Green Hill BESS site is in the vicinity of the River Nene and its tributaries, which is situated within Flood Zones 2 and 3. Flood Zone 2 is defined as land assessed as having between a 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 100 (0.1% to 1% AEP) chance of river flooding. Flood Zone 3 is defined as land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater (>1% AEP) chance of river flooding.
- 3.3.77 The Cable Route Corridor connecting Green Hill F to Green Hill BESS passes through the Minerals Safeguarding Areas (sand and gravel) south of Green Hill BESS as defined in the adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017) (Ref 3.2).

Cable Route Corridor Route – Green Hill F and Green Hill G

- 3.3.78 The Cable Route Corridor will pass from the southern tip of Green Hill F through agricultural fields for 2km before entering Green Hill G at its northwestern corner.

Environmental Designations and Sensitivities

- 3.3.79 An area of Ancient Woodland is located adjacent, southwest of the Cable Route Corridor.
- 3.3.80 Bridleway NN|TD|8 (Easton Maudit village towards Warrington), a PRoW, crosses the Cable Route Corridor in this location in an east-west orientation.
- 3.3.81 Located approximately 420m east of the Cable Route Corridor is the Scheduled Monument north of Easton Lodge (NHLE 1003876), aerial photography indicates that Easton Lodge Scheduled Monument is approximately 25m to the south of Green Hill F.



References

- Ref 3.1 Northamptonshire County Council. (2010). Current Landscape Character Assessment. Northamptonshire: Northamptonshire County Council. Available at: [REDACTED].
- Ref 3.2 Northamptonshire County Council. (2017). Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Northamptonshire: Northamptonshire County Council. Available at: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/adopted-minerals-and-waste-local-plan>.