

Green Hill Solar Farm

EN010170

Change Notification 2

Prepared by: Lanpro

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Planning Inspectorate, Guidance: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination, March 2025



Contents

<u>1</u>	<u>Notification of Intention to Submit a Change Application</u>	<u>3</u>
1.1	Notification	3
1.2	Background	3
<u>2</u>	<u>Intended Changes</u>	<u>4</u>
2.2	Change 1: Optionality to allow for a 400 kV Substation at Green Hill G	4
2.3	Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G	4
2.4	Change 3: Optionality to allow for 400 kV Cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; optionality to allow 132kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G	4
2.5	Change 4: Removal of Panels (Work No.1) and reduction of Work No. 1(d)) in AF29 and replaced with biodiversity mitigation and enhancement (Work Nos 9).	5
<u>3</u>	<u>Consultation</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>Information on Environmental Impacts</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Examination Procedure and Timing</u>	<u>9</u>
5.2	Supporting Documents	9
<u>6</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Appendix A: Plan of Proposed Changes</u>		<u>11</u>



Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Green Hill Solar Farm

Examination – Change Application 2

Change Notification 2

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1 Notification of Intention to Submit a Change Application

1.1 Notification

1.1.1 This submission is to notify the Examining Authority ('ExA') that Green Hill Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) is intending to make a request for changes to the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for Green Hill Solar Farm (the Scheme). The changes are expected to comprise:

1. Optionality to allow for a 400 kV Substation at Green Hill G;
2. Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G;
3. Optionality to allow for 400 kV Cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; optionality to allow 132kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G; and
4. Removal of Panels (Work No.1) and reduction of Work No. 1(d) from field AF29 and replacement with biodiversity mitigation and enhancement (Work No 9).

1.1.2 A Change Application will be prepared having regard to the Planning Inspectorate Guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination' dated 24 March 2025 (PINS Change Guidance) and to DCLG document 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on Changes to Development Consent Orders', dated December 2015.

1.1.3 The Applicant considers that no Changes engage the provisions in The Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the 'CA Regulations').

1.1.4 The Applicant considers that the proposed changes, which are set out below, are not so substantial as to constitute a materially different project.

1.1.5 The Applicant would welcome the ExA's comments on the procedure on the consultation arrangements set out below.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 The proposed changes outlined below have been identified following a detailed review of the existing electrical design and changes to the Scheme requested by the ExA in their Schedule of Changes to draft Development Consent Order **[PD-015]**.



2 Intended Changes

2.1.1 It is expected that the Change Application will comprise the following discrete changes.

2.2 Change 1: Optionality to allow for a 400 kV Substation at Green Hill G

2.2.1 Change One comprises the provision of optionality to allow for a 400kV substation to be located at Green Hill G. A detailed post-submission review of the Scheme's electrical design undertaken by the Applicant has identified the need for flexibility to allow for either a 132 kV or a 400 kV substation in this location. The draft DCO will therefore seek consent for both options.

2.2.2 The 400kV substation will be located within the revised area of work no. 3A of the Works Plans. This would form 'Option B' for Green Hill G, comprising the removal of panels and the provision of a 400 kV substation.

2.2.3 The 400 kV substation would accord with the maximum design parameters, and the maximum height of the substation infrastructure would be 12.5 m, in accordance with the Concept Design Parameters and Principles, as previously assessed for the 400 kV substations at Green Hill C and the Green Hill BESS. The 400 kV substation would comprise either Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS).

2.2.4 To facilitate the construction of the substation, an access track will be required to the south of GF3. Due to the height of the equipment, an offset from the overhead line will be maintained, meaning the previously proposed track to the east of the field will not be used. The new access track will require a hedgerow gap in the southern part of the field and the associated Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan will be updated to reflect.

2.3 Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G

2.3.1 Change Two comprises two areas of woodland planting within Green Hill G.

2.3.2 Following ongoing discussions with the Landscape Officer at Milton Keynes City Council, it has been agreed that woodland planting will be implemented to enhance screening between GF12 and GF13 where Three Shires Way intersects Green Hill G off the A428. The additional woodland planting in this area will be implemented under both design options (A and B) for Green Hill G.

2.3.3 Additional woodland planting will also be provided to the south of field GF3. This planting will provide habitat connectivity to the ancient woodland, Barslay Spinney, located to the west of Green Hill G, and will also assist in providing mitigatory screening of the 400 kV substation. This woodland planting would be implemented under 'Option B' only.

2.4 Change 3: Optionality to allow for 400 kV Cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; optionality to allow 132kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G

2.4.1 Change Three comprises the provision of optionality to allow the electrical cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G to be 400kV. A detailed post-



submission review of the Scheme's electrical design undertaken by the Applicant has identified the requirement for 400 kV cabling. This change would be implemented under 'Option B' for Green Hill G only.

- 2.4.2 The cabling will accord with the maximum design parameters already set and the change from 132kv cabling to 400 kV cabling will sit within the parameters already assessed.
- 2.4.3 As a consequence of this change, elements of the cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G will be changed from Work No. 5B to Work No. 5A to reflect the requirement for 400 kV cabling in this area.
- 2.4.4 If Option B is progressed, the cable connection between Green Hill F and Green Hill G will also require an element of the cabling to be 132kV.
- 2.4.5 The cabling will accord with the maximum design parameters already set and the change from 33 kV cabling to 132kV cabling will sit within the parameters already assessed.
- 2.4.6 As a consequence of this change, elements of the cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G will be upgraded to Work No. 5B.

2.5 Change 4: Removal of Panels (Work No.1) and reduction of Work No. 1(d)) in AF29 and replaced with biodiversity mitigation and enhancement (Work Nos 9).

- 2.5.1 Following publication of the Examining Authority's Schedule of Changes to draft Development Consent Order **[PD-015]**, the Applicant notes the Examining Authority's recommendation, under the comments on Work No. 1, for the removal of Work Nos. 1 and 1(d) from field reference AF29.
- 2.5.2 The Applicant has reviewed this recommendation and will implement the change accordingly.
- 2.5.3 Work No. 1 will be removed from field AF29 and the area of Work No. 1(d) has been reduced to the northern section of AF29. Cabling is required in this field to enable connection between fields AF10 (west of Newland Road) and AF14 and AF28 (east of Newland Road). Field AF29 will be proposed for biodiversity mitigation and enhancement under Work No 9. AF29 will be changed to skylark mitigation.



3 Consultation

- 3.1.1 The Applicant considers that the modifications to the Scheme associated with the Proposed Changes are minor and would not result in a materially different DCO Application from that accepted for examination. No additional land is required and no change is being made to the proposed compulsory acquisition for the Scheme. Given the specific circumstances of this Change Request and the nature of the Proposed Changes, the Applicant has therefore determined that it would not be proportionate to consult all prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(a)–(d) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008), who were previously consulted through the non-statutory, statutory, and targeted consultations undertaken during the Pre-Application phase of the Project.
- 3.1.2 The Applicant has conducted targeted pre-application engagement with parties likely to be affected by the proposed changes to the Scheme design. Given the nature of the Proposed Changes, this engagement has been limited to the host authorities for the Scheme, Parish Councils, other statutory bodies identified by the Applicant and landowners.
- 3.1.3 In relation to Changes 1 to 4, the Applicant wrote to the host local authorities, West Northamptonshire Council, North Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council, via email summarising the changes and inviting further discussion. The changes were discussed with North Northamptonshire planning officer during one of the monthly meetings on the 5th February 2026. The changes will also be discussed with Milton Keynes City Council planning and landscape officer on the 11th February 2026.
- 3.1.4 In relation to Changes 1 to 4, the Applicant also wrote to the Parish Councils, relevant landowners and other statutory bodies identified by the Applicant, via email on or by 9th February 2026 summarising the changes and inviting further discussion.
- 3.1.5 No response has been received prior to the date of the submission of this Change Application.

Table 1: Parties subject to pre-application targeted engagement

Party	Interest	
Local Authorities	North Northamptonshire Council	Host Authority for Change 3.
	West Northamptonshire Council	Host Authority for Changes 3 and 4.
	Milton Keynes City Council	Host Authority for Changes 1, 2 and 3.
Parish Councils	Lavendon Parish Council	Parish Council for Change 2.
	Warrington Civil Parish	Parish Council for Change 1 and 3.



Other Statutory Bodies Identified by the Applicant	Historic England	Changes 1 to 4
	Environment Agency	Changes 1 to 4
	National Highways	Change 1
	Natural England	Changes 1 to 4
	National Grid Electricity Transmission	Change 1 and 3
Landowners	Ruth Lesley Meikle Andrew Meikle Ian James Meikle	Change 1 and 3
	Meikle Farming Limited	Change 2
	Trinity Land Limited	Change 3
	Spencer Douglas David Compton Marquess of Northampton	Change 3
	Compton Family Trust Corporation Limited	Change 3
	J A Knight & Son (Farmers) Limited	Change 4

- 3.1.6 PINS Change Guidance does not set out a requirement to carry out public consultation on environmental information relating to a change request.
- 3.1.7 The information on environmental impacts, set out below, that will accompany the Change Application is anticipated to demonstrate that there will be no materially new or different potential environmental impacts as a result of the proposed changes.
- 3.1.8 The Applicant's position is therefore that it is not necessary or desirable to conduct a public consultation on these changes. This is in line with the decision of the ExA on change applications made during the Examination of other solar DCOs such as the West Burton Solar Project.



4 Information on Environmental Impacts

- 4.1.1 Assessments are currently being undertaken to determine any changes to the potential environmental impacts set out in the Environmental Statement.
- 4.1.2 Based on these assessments, the Applicant will submit a Change Application with supporting environmental information relating to the changes proposed. In addition, a revised version of any document forming part of the Environmental Statement or that is referred to in the draft Development Consent Order, incorporating the proposed changes, will be submitted with the Change Application.
- 4.1.3 It is not currently anticipated that findings relating to any topic will need to be updated as a result of the changes to the Order limits and no materially new or different environmental effects are anticipated.



5 Examination Procedure and Timing

- 5.1.1 The Applicant has sought to submit the Change Application in advance of Deadline 5 and the hearings proposed to take place in March, in order to allow sufficient time for comments to be made by Interested Parties by Deadline 6. This would provide approximately five weeks for comment. The Applicant would then be able to respond to any comments at Deadline 7.
- 5.1.2 The Applicant considers that by submitting the Change Application at this stage would also allow sufficient time for the Examining Authority to consider the changes prior to the hearings, currently programmed to be held in the week commencing 9th March 2026. The Applicant considers that these hearings could also be used to discuss the proposed changes, with any actions from the hearings submitted at Deadline 6.
- 5.1.3 As the Proposed Changes do not seek any additional compulsory acquisition powers, the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) do not apply to this Change Request. Accordingly, no additional consultation is required under the CA Regulations.

5.2 Supporting Documents

- 5.2.1 It is expected that the following additional and updated documents will be provided in support of the Change Request.

Additional Documents

1. Change Application and Supporting Environmental Information Report.
2. Augmented ZTV Green Hill G only (Option B).
3. Viewpoint Photography and Photomontage Green Hill G (Option B).
4. Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan G (Option B).
5. Technical Addendum to Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage.

Revised Documents – with Tracked Changes Version when Required

6. Guide to the Application.
7. Works Plan.
8. Environmental Statement Appendix 12.6 Archaeological Mitigation Strategy.
9. Environmental Statement Figure 4.10_Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan A.
10. Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.
11. Grid Connection Statement.
12. Concept Design Parameters and Principles.



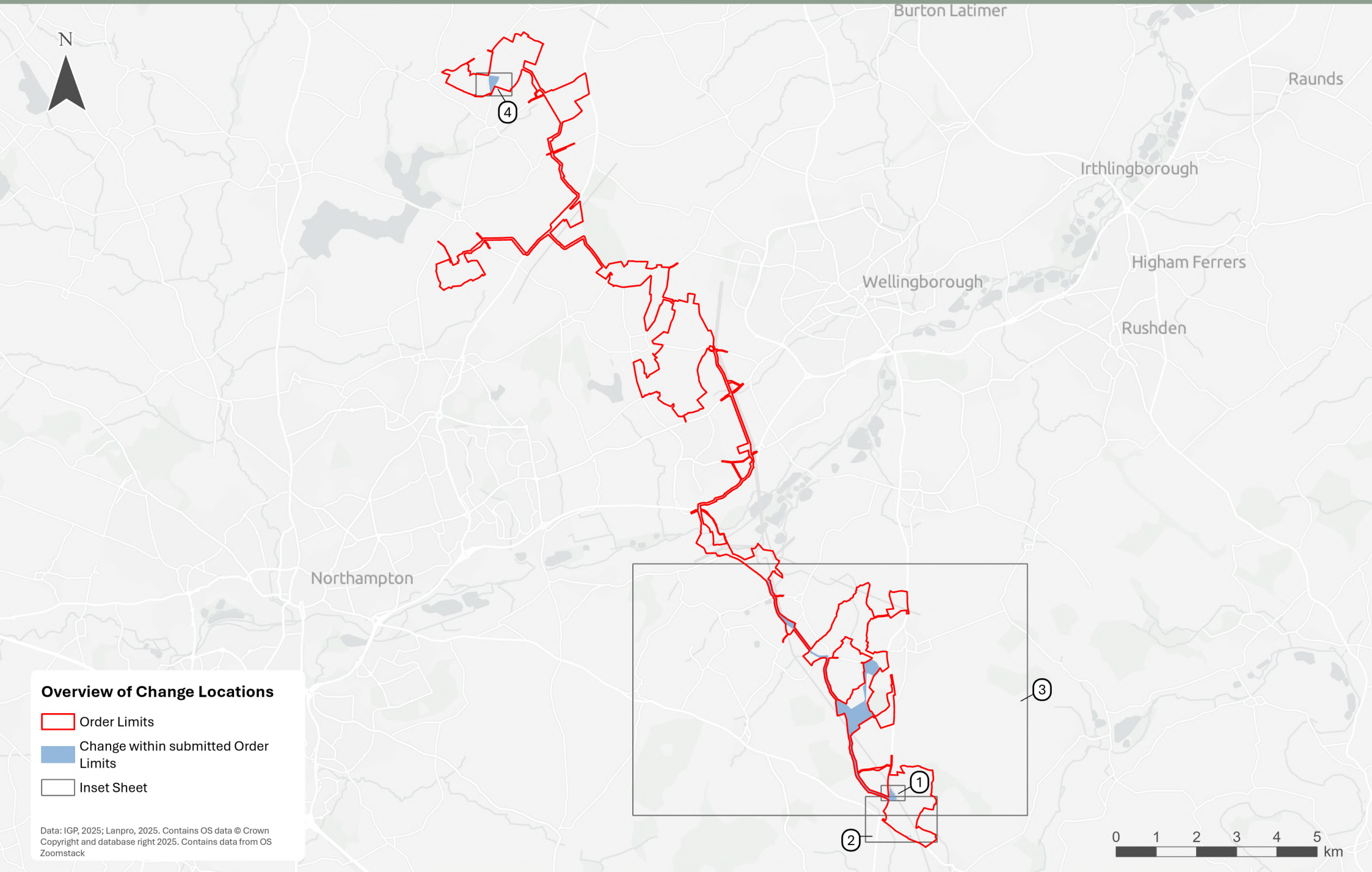
6 Conclusion

- 6.1.1 The proposed Change Application enables the Applicant to respond to feedback from key stakeholders, and the proposed timetable and procedure ensures the Examination of the DCO application and Change Application remains inclusive and efficient, with all parties having the opportunity to participate, and Examination completed within the time remaining.
- 6.1.2 The Applicant considers that the proposed changes can be fully considered by the Examining Authority and that the Change Request can be determined within the remaining timeframe of the Examination.



Appendix A: Plan of Proposed Changes

Change Application 2



Change Application 2



Change Number 1



Order Limits

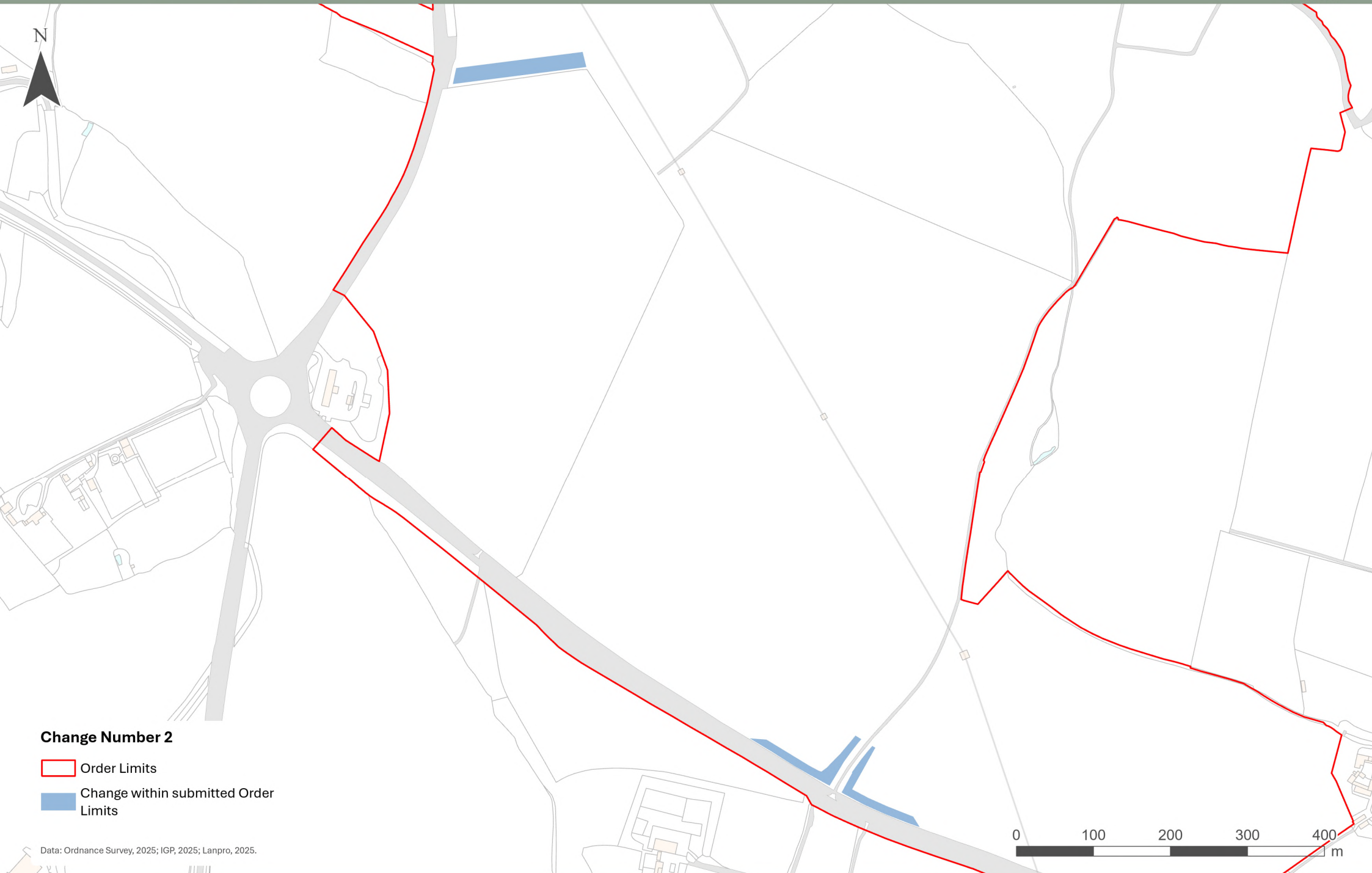


Change within submitted Order
Limits

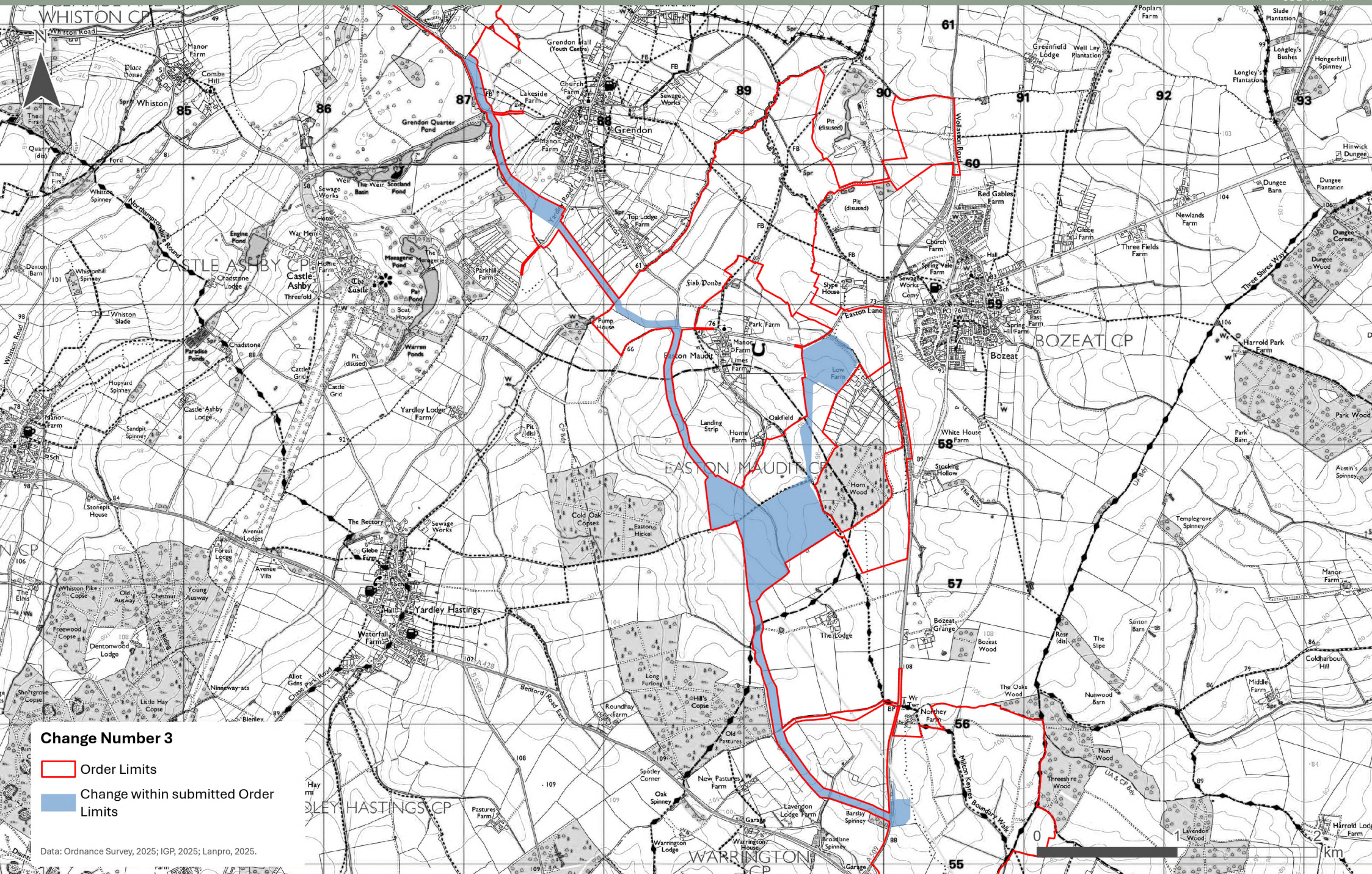
Data: Ordnance Survey, 2025; IGP, 2025; Lanpro, 2025.



Change Application 2



Change Application 2



Change Application 2

