



# Green Hill Solar Farm

## EN010170

### Change Application 2 and Supporting Environmental Information Report

Prepared by: Lanpro  
Date: February 2026

Document Reference: CR2/GH9.6  
The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010  
Rules 8(1)(c)



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## Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Green Hill Solar Farm

Examination – Change Application 2

Change Application 2 and Supporting Environmental Information Report

### Prepared by

Name: Charlotte Astrella

Job title: Associate EIA Consultant

### Approved by

Name: Jane Crichton

Job title: Technical Director

Revision	Date	Prepared by	Approved by
Original	17/02/2026	CA	JC



## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 This Report constitutes a Change Application which has been prepared in accordance with PINS Change Guidance (Ref.1), along with accompanying documents listed in Section 6 below, proposing changes within the Order Limits of the Application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for Green Hill Solar Farm (the 'Scheme').

1.1.2 The Scheme comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility and energy storage facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) and export connection to the National Grid.

1.1.3 The Scheme is described in full in **ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description [REP1-031]** supporting the Application.

1.1.4 The Scheme comprises a number of fields (the 'Site' or 'Sites') described as Green Hill A, Green Hill A.2, Green Hill B, Green Hill C, Green Hill D, Green Hill E, Green Hill F, Green Hill G, and Green Hill BESS for the solar arrays, grid connection infrastructure and energy storage; and the Cable Route Corridors. The Sites are located to the northeast and southeast of Northampton, and the west and south of Wellingborough. See the **Location Plan [REP3-004]** for the Site locations.

1.1.5 The Application for the Scheme was submitted by Green Hill Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) to the Planning Inspectorate on 23 May 2025. The application was accepted for Examination on 19 June 2025 and Examination commenced on 22 October 2025.

1.1.6 The Scheme is being developed by the Applicant.

1.1.7 The Applicant has endeavoured to undertake open and meaningful engagement with stakeholders before and during the Examination. As a result of this, the Applicant is now seeking to make four changes to the Scheme design.

1.1.8 Notification of the Applicant's intention to submit a change request was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 10th February 2026.

1.1.9 The Proposed Changes and their rationale are set out in more detail in Section 3, below. Briefly, they comprise:

- Change 1: Optionality to allow for a 400 kV Substation at Green Hill G.
- Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G.
- Change 3. Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.
- Change 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).



## 1.2 Structure of this Report

- Section 2 of this Report sets out the legislative and regulatory framework relevant to the examination of a DCO Change Application.
- Section 3 describes the detail of the Proposed Changes and why they are required.
- Section 4 describes the engagement carried out prior to this Change Application being submitted.
- Section 5 sets out the supporting environmental information.
- Section 6 lists the documents submitted as part of the Change Application.
- Section 7 concludes this Change Application.



## 2 Legislative Context

### 2.1 Examination Guidance and PINS Change Guidance

2.1.1 The Examination Guidance (Ref.2) states, at paragraph 018 that “*there are occasions when applicants may wish to make changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination, but this should not be the routine practice*”.

2.1.2 The changes being proposed are the result of a detailed post-submission review of the Scheme by the Applicant and of representations made by Interested Parties and landowners since submission of the DCO Application.

2.1.3 The PINS Guidance states that the Examining Authority may accept an application for a material change provided that the changed project would not “*constitute a materially different project*”, that there is sufficient time to examine the change and that other procedural requirements are met.

2.1.4 The assessment by the Applicant as to whether the change would constitute a materially different project is set out in Section 3.6 below. The proposed timetable for meeting the procedural requirements is provided in Section 4 below.

2.1.5 The Examination Guidance recommends that the Applicant discusses changes with the relevant statutory consultees. Details of pre-application engagement conducted by the Applicant are provided in Section 4, below.

2.1.6 The PINS Change Guidance includes a list of information required for a change application at Figure 2b. The location of the information accompanying this application is set out in **Table 2.1**.

**Table 2.1: Requirements in Step 4 of PINS Change Guidance**

Requirement	Location
1. Description of the proposed change	Section 3 of this Report.
2. Reasons and need	Section 3 of this Report.
3. Schedule of application documents and plans	Section 6 of this Report lists the documents that accompany this Application. The revised <b>GH1.3_F Guide to the Application [CR2/GH1.3_F]</b> provides a full list of all submitted documents.
4. Impact on securing any consents or licences	The Applicant has not identified any impacts of the Proposed Changes on the securing of consents and licences for the Scheme.
4. Revised draft DCO and Explanatory Memorandum	The Proposed Changes do not include a request for additional powers of compulsory acquisition or any additional land. As such, the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) (Ref.5) do not apply to this Change Request.  The Applicant has not identified any amendments required to the draft DCO and Explanatory Memorandum as a result of the Proposed Changes.



Requirement	Location
5. Compulsory Acquisition documents (Book of Reference, Land Plan, Statement of Reasons, Funding Statement)	<p>The Proposed Changes do not include a request for additional powers of compulsory acquisition or any additional land. As such, the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) do not apply to this Change Request.</p> <p>The Applicant has not identified any amendments required to the Book of Reference, Land Plan, Statement of Reasons, Funding Statement as a result of the Proposed Changes.</p>
7. Supplemental land rights tracker	<p>The Proposed Changes do not include a request for additional powers of compulsory acquisition or any additional land. As such, the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) do not apply to this Change Request.</p> <p>The Applicant has not identified any amendments required to the land and rights tracker as a result of the Proposed Changes.</p>
8. Description of how CA Regulations procedures can be accommodated	<p>The Proposed Changes do not include a request for additional powers of compulsory acquisition or any additional land. As such, the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) do not apply to this Change Request.</p>
6. Assessment of changes to significant environmental effects	Section 5 of this Report.
7. Consultation Report	Section 4 of this Report.

## 2.2 Compulsory Acquisition Regulations

2.2.1 The Proposed Changes comprise refinements to the Scheme layout and design only. The Change Request does not involve any increase or extension of the Order limits and does not require any additional compulsory acquisition powers in respect of new or existing plots of land or interests.

2.2.2 The Proposed Changes do not seek any additional compulsory acquisition powers or any additional land. Consequently, the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) (Ref.5) do not apply to this Change Request.



## 2.3 **The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017**

2.3.1 Section 5(2)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('APFP') (Ref.4) requires that applications for orders for development consent must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) that meets the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA Regulations') (Ref.7).

2.3.2 Supporting environmental information is reported in Section 5 of this Report. The topics reported within the ES have considered the conclusions of the ES (**[APP-037 to APP-064]**) in relation to the Proposed Changes, and in particular whether there are any changes to potential significant effects compared to those reported in the ES for the Scheme. The assessment concludes that there are no new or different likely significant environmental effects.

2.3.3 The PINS Change Guidance notes that there is no statutory requirement to consult on the environmental information. Given the nature and scale of the changes, the targeted consultation already carried out as well as the consultation required with local authorities and prescribed consultees, the Applicant considers that further consultation would not be proportionate.



### 3 Description of Changes

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This Change Application and Supporting Environmental Information Report considers four changes proposed to be made to the submitted Scheme. These changes have been identified following a detailed review of the existing electrical design. These changes comprise:

- **Change 1:** Optionality to allow for a 400 kV Substation at Green Hill G.
- **Change 2:** Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G.
- **Change 3:** Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.
- **Change 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).

3.1.2 Please refer to Appendix A for plan of Proposed Changes.

#### 3.2 **Change 1: Optionality to allow for a 400 kV Substation at Green Hill G.**

3.2.1 Change One comprises the provision of optionality to allow for a 400 kV 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.

3.2.2 The 400 kV substation will be located within the revised area of Work No. 3A of the **Works Plans [CR2/GH2.4\_E]**. This would form 'Option B' for Green Hill G, comprising the removal of panels and the provision of a 400 kV substation. Option A includes a 132 kV substation as originally proposed in the DCO application.

3.2.3 The 400 kV substation would accord with the maximum design parameters set out in Table 3 of the **Concept Design Parameters and Principles [CR2/GH7.17\_B]**. Figure 1.1 of Appendix A of the **Concept Design Parameters and Principles [CR2/GH7.17\_B]** illustrates the parameters within which infrastructure of varying heights can be located. The maximum height of the substation infrastructure is 12.5 m, in accordance with the Concept Design Parameters and Principles previously assessed for the 400 kV substations at Green Hill C and the Green Hill BESS.

3.2.4 The 400 kV substation would comprise either Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS). For the purposes of this Report, the assessment has been undertaken on a worst-case basis, using the maximum parameters set out in the **Concept Design Parameters and Principles [CR2/GH7.17\_B]**.

3.2.5 To facilitate the construction of the 400 kV substation in Option B, 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 construction access track will require a temporary hedgerow gap in the southern part of the field. The access



track will accord with the parameters set out in **Concept Design Parameters and Principles [CR2/GH7.17\_B]**

3.2.6 **Figure 8.2.14 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan G (Option B) [CR2/GH8.2.14]** has been updated to reflect this change.

### 3.3 **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

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

3.3.2 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. **ES Figure 4.20: Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan G (Revision A) [CR2/GH6.4.4.20\_A]** and **Figure 8.2.14 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan G (Option B) [CR2/GH8.2.14]** have been updated to reflect this change.

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

3.3.4 **Figure 8.2.14 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan G (Option B) [CR2/GH8.2.14]** has been updated to reflect this change to the south of field GF3.

### 3.4 **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

3.4.1 Change Three comprises the provision of optionality to allow the electrical cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G to be up to 400 kV. Further to the identification of the requirement for the option for a 400 kV substation at Green Hill G (being Change 1), cabling capable of handling the higher voltage connection at Green Hill G is required.

3.4.2 This change would be implemented under 'Option B' for Green Hill G only.

3.4.3 The cabling will accord with the maximum design parameters set out in the Table 4 of the **Concept Design Parameters and Principles [CR2/GH7.17\_B]** document.

3.4.4 The ES assessed the maximum design scenario as set out in Table 4.1 of **Chapter 4: Scheme Description [REP1-031]**. The changes presented will sit within the maximum parameters already assessed within the ES.

3.4.5 The Cable Route Corridor between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G will require up to 400 kV cabling. As a consequence of this change, the cabling between Green Hill BESS, Green Hill F and Green Hill G have been changed from Work No. 5B to Work No. 5A to reflect the requirement for up to 400 kV cabling, as shown in the **Works Plan [CR2/GH2.4\_E]**.



3.4.6 If Option B is progressed, the 132 kV substation on Green Hill F may be connected to the 400 kV substation on Green Hill G. To accommodate this, the cable connection between Green Hill F and Green Hill G will require elements of cabling to be up to 132 kV. The change is to include a single 132 kV circuit together with three 33 kV circuits within the trench, to enable connection of panels and the substation located within Green Hill F. This will accord with the maximum design parameters already set out in the **Concept Design Parameters and Principles [CR2/GH7.17\_B]**. As a consequence of this change, elements of the cabling across Green Hill F will be upgraded to Work No. 5B as shown in the **Works Plan [CR2/GH2.4\_E]**.

3.4.7 The Cable Route Corridor between Green Hill G and Green Hill F will require a trench consisting of one 132 kV circuit and one 400 kV circuit, this will accord with the maximum design parameters already set and assessed. To reflect this change, the Work No. has been updated in these areas to Work No. 5A, as shown in the **Works Plan [CR2/GH2.4\_E]**.

### **3.5 Change 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)**

3.5.1 Following publication of the Examining Authority's schedule of proposed changes to the **draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) [REP3-024]**, 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.

3.5.2 The Applicant has reviewed this recommendation and has accepted the majority of the suggestion as Change Four. As shown on the **Works Plans [CR2/GH2.4\_E]**, Work No. 1 has been removed from field AF29 and the area of Work No. 1(d) has been reduced to the northern section of AF29. An area for Work No. 1(d), being the electrical and communications cabling between the solar arrays and onsite substations, is required in this field to enable connection between fields AF10 (west of Newland Road) and AF14 and AF28 (east of Newland Road). These cables will be laid below ground and therefore do not require any increase hedgerow height as mitigation, identified by the Examining Authority as a key concern underpinning their suggested change. Field AF29 is now proposed for biodiversity mitigation and enhancement under Work Nos 6 and 9.

3.5.3 AF29 has been changed to ground nesting bird mitigation, continued arable land. Section 5.5 of this Report discusses the potential benefits of this change in respect of Skylark mitigation.

3.5.4 Access to the fields west of Newland Road are proposed to be via Broughton Road (Access A-1), with vehicles routing via an internal construction haul road and crossing Newland Road via a crossing point (Crossings A-1(E) and A-1(W)). In order to enable construction, replacement and decommissioning activities, an internal access track will still be required in AF29 to enable the crossing point across Newland Road between AF29 and AF9.

3.5.5 Following review of the Examining Authorities comments on the draft Development Consent Order, the following comment was noted, '*field boundary*



*hedges of AF29 could be left at current heights as there would be no alien man-made features to screen*'. Considering the removal of panels in this field; and to maintain the existing openness that exists along the adjacent section of Newland Road and the Permissive Path, through the middle of Green Hill Site A the previously proposed additional tree planting along the eastern and western boundaries of AF29 has been removed. In line with the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [CR2/GH7.4\_C]**, the existing hedgerow along the boundaries will be maintained and gapped up (infilled) wherever practicable. The **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [CR2/GH7.4\_C]** Section 4.3 has been amended to outline hedgerow management requirements for the eastern and western boundaries of AF29.

3.5.6 **ES Figure 4.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan A [CR2/GH6.4.4.10\_C]** has been updated to reflect this change.

### **3.6 Materiality**

3.6.1 There is no statutory definition of a 'material' change to a DCO application, although the term is referenced in the Examination Guidance. The determination as to whether this Change Application constitutes a material change is therefore a matter for the Examining Authority. The changes proposed in this Change Application comprise refinements to the Scheme layout and design only. These refinements have resulted in updates to the assessment of potential environmental impacts, which are reported in Section 5 of this Report. This confirms that the Proposed Changes will not result in any new or different significant effects compared to those reported in the **ES [APP-037 to APP-064]** submitted with the DCO Application.

3.6.2 The PINS Guidance notes that a proposed change may, in some cases, be sufficiently substantial to constitute a 'materially different project'. However, the Guidance also confirms that there is no statutory definition of what constitutes a "material" or "non-material" change to a DCO application.

3.6.3 The Proposed Changes relate to minor refinements to the Scheme layout and design. They would not affect any additional land interests beyond those already identified, nor do they involve any material increase or extension of the Order Limits. Accordingly, no additional compulsory acquisition powers in respect of new plots of land or interests are required.

3.6.4 In addition, the Change Request does not impact any consents or licences for the Project, which remain as set out in the **Consents and Agreements Position Statement [REP1-149]**.

3.6.5 In view of the above, it is clear that the Proposed Changes are non-material. The Project remains materially the same as that described and assessed in the DCO Application submitted for examination, and the changes would not give rise to any materially new or different effects or require the inclusion of additional land.

3.6.6 The Applicant therefore considers that the Proposed Changes are not so substantial as to constitute a materially different project. No changes are proposed to the principal elements of the Scheme.



## 4 Consultation

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 As outlined in Section 3 of this Report, the Applicant considers that 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) (Ref.3), who were previously consulted through the non-statutory, statutory, and targeted consultations undertaken during the Pre-Application phase of the Project.

4.1.2 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.

**Table 4.1: Parties subject to pre-application targeted engagement**

Category	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	Change 1 and 3
	Andrew Meikle	
	Ian James Meikle	
	Meikle Farming Limited	Change 2



Category	Party	Interest
	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

## 4.2 Section 42 of Planning Act 2008

4.2.1 The Applicant has engaged with the relevant statutory stakeholders prescribed under Section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008.

4.2.2 The Proposed Changes would not affect any of the areas specified in Section 42(2) of the Planning Act 2008. Consultation under Section 42(1)(aa) of the Planning Act with the Marine Management Organisation is therefore not required.

4.2.3 In relation to Section 42(1)(b) of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant has engaged with the host authorities only.

4.2.4 The land is outside the Greater London area and consultation with the Greater London Authority is not required under Section 42(1)(c).

4.2.5 The consultation carried out with parties with land interests under Section 42(1)(d) is detailed below.

4.2.6 The Applicant considers that the pre-application consultation carried out and described in this section is proportionate in view of the limited nature of the Proposed Changes to the Scheme and to the available time for the changes to be examined.

## 4.3 Consultation with Local Planning Authorities

4.3.1 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 on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 summarising the changes and inviting further discussion.

4.3.2 The changes were discussed with North Northamptonshire planning officer during one of the monthly meetings on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026. No comments were provided by North Northamptonshire Council, the Changes were acknowledged and it was advised that any comment would be provided following submission of the Change Application.

4.3.3 The changes were also discussed with Milton Keynes City Council Planning Officer and Archaeology Officer on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026. No comments were provided by Milton Keynes City Council, the Changes were acknowledged and it was advised that any comment would be provided following submission of the Change Application.



4.3.4 The Applicant will also seek to discuss changes with West Northamptonshire Council during the monthly meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026. No response from West Northamptonshire has been received prior to the date of the submission of this Change Application.

#### **4.4 Consultation with Parish Councils**

4.4.1 In relation to Changes 1 to 3, the Applicant wrote to the Parish Councils, Warrington Civil Parish and Lavendon Parish Council via email on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 summarising the changes and inviting further discussion.

4.4.2 No response has been received prior to the date of the submission of this Change Application.

#### **4.5 Consultation with Other Statutory Bodies Identified by the Applicant**

4.5.1 In relation to Changes 1 to 4, the Applicant wrote to the other statutory bodies identified by the Applicant listed in Table 4.1 above, via email on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 summarising the changes and inviting further discussion.

4.5.2 No response has been received prior to the date of the submission of this Change Application.

#### **4.6 Consultation with Landowners**

4.6.1 In relation to Changes 1 to 4, the Applicant wrote to the relevant landowners listed in Table 4.1 above, via email on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 summarising the changes and inviting further discussion.

4.6.2 The Applicant has received acknowledgement from all landowners and is in ongoing discussions with them in relation to any queries they may have.

#### **4.7 Proposed Examination Timetable**

4.7.1 The Applicant has sought to submit the Change Application in advance of Deadline 5 and the hearings proposed to take place in March 2026, 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.

4.7.2 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

4.7.3 As the Proposed Changes do not seek any additional compulsory acquisition powers, the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regulations) (Ref. 5) do not apply to this Change Request. Accordingly, no additional consultation is required under the CA Regulations.

4.7.4 As noted in paragraph 2.3.3, there is no statutory requirement to consult on environmental information. Given the nature and scale of the changes, and in light of the outcomes of the environmental review reported in Section 5 of this Report concluding that the Proposed Change would not give rise to any new or



significant environmental effects. Having regard to the targeted consultation already undertaken, together with the consultation required with local authorities and prescribed consultees, the Applicant considers that further consultation would not be proportionate.

4.7.5 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.

4.7.6 The Examining Authority responded to the Change Notification within the **Examining Authority's response to the Applicant's notice of intention to make changes to the application**. This response stated that '*The ExA considers that the applicant's approach to consultation as set out in section 3 of [AS-017] is appropriate and proportionate and takes due regard of the Inspectorate Guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination' dated 24 March 2025 and to DCLG document 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on Changes to Development Consent Orders', dated December 2015. Submission of the Change Application in mid-February would allow sufficient time for the changes to be fully considered prior to the close of the examination*'.



## 5 Supporting Environmental Information

### 5.1 Overview

5.1.1 The likely environmental impacts and effects resulting from the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning are reported in the **ES [APP-037 to APP-064]** submitted as part of the DCO application for the Scheme and updated during the Examination.

5.1.2 This Supporting Environmental Information has been produced to assess the Proposed Changes and document any alterations to the content of the **ES [APP-037 to APP-064]** and associated documents as submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 23 May 2025 or as since amended.

5.1.3 The Proposed Changes are described in Section 2 of this Report.

### 5.2 Assessment Findings

5.2.1 This Section provides an assessment of the Proposed Changes. The following topics (as included in the ES) are considered:

- Climate Change;
- Landscape and Visual Impact;
- Ecology and Biodiversity;
- Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage;
- Minerals;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Transport and Access;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Glint and Glare;
- Air Quality;
- Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation;
- Human Health;
- Arboriculture;
- Agricultural Circumstances;
- Electromagnetic Fields;
- Ground Conditions and Contamination;
- Major Accidents and Disasters;
- Other Environmental Matters:
  - Light Pollution;
  - Waste Production and Management;
  - Telecommunication, Utilities and Television.



- 5.2.2 Each topic section compares the effect of the change to the conclusions of the ES during the construction, operation and decommissioning phase, as well as identifies if the change results in any changes to the cumulative assessment (including in-combination effects) presented in the ES.
- 5.2.3 Considering the changes do not require any amendments to the Order Limits, it is considered the baseline for the environmental topics remain unchanged as detailed in ES **[APP-044 to APP-061]**.

### **5.3 Climate Change**

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

- 5.3.1 As detailed in **ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [APP-044]**, 12 transformers (7no. 400/33 kV transformers and 5no. 132/33 kV transformers with inverters and switchgear) have been considered to assess the potential embodied emissions of greenhouse gases associated with the Scheme. As the emissions associated with the total transformers considered for the Scheme make up only 0.3% the total emissions of the Scheme through its lifecycle, it is not anticipated that the proposed alteration of upgrading the substation to 400 kV from 132 kV would have a significant effect on the overall conclusions of the **Climate Change Chapter [APP-044]**.

#### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G.**

- 5.3.2 There is no change to the conclusions of the assessment of construction, operational and decommissioning impacts on the lifecycle GHG assessment, climate change resilience assessment and in-combination climate change assessment as a result of the Proposed Change. The results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-044]** of the ES.

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

- 5.3.3 As detailed in **ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [APP-044]**, indicative cable lengths have been used to assess the total potential embodied emissions of greenhouse gases associated with the scheme. The cable lengths are unlikely to change as a result of the proposed alterations. Should there be any minor changes, the emissions associated with the total cable routes of the Scheme make up only 0.4% of the total Construction Phase emissions and 0.1% of the total emissions of the Scheme through its lifecycle, it is not anticipated that the proposed alteration would have a significant effect on the overall conclusions of the **Climate Change Chapter [APP-044]**.

#### **Change 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)**

- 5.3.4 The removal of panels would potentially result in a reduced energy generation meaning the Scheme would generate less zero emission energy. However, there would also be a reduction in embodied carbon emissions associated with panel manufacturing, construction and transportation to the Scheme.



5.3.5 As a result of the above, it is not anticipated that, while some of the values within **ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [APP-044]** may change, there would not be a change to the overall conclusions.

### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.3.6 The atmospheric concentration of GHGs and resulting effect on climate change is affected by all sources globally. As GHG emission impacts and resulting effects are global rather than affecting one localised area, the approach to cumulative effects assessment for GHGs differs from that for many ES topics.

5.3.7 The 'cumulative effects' section of the **ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP 044]** has considered potential cumulative effects. However, the Proposed Changes do not affect the findings of any of the cumulative scheme effects and the conclusion that there are not anticipated to be any significant cumulative effects as a result of all three developments with regards to Climate Change in either the construction or operational scenarios remains unchanged.

5.3.8 Consequently, there is no change to the assessment of cumulative effects on climate change as a result of the Proposed Changes. The results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-044]** of the ES.

## **5.4 Landscape and Visual Impact**

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

5.4.1 The 400 kV substation would accord with the maximum design parameters set out in Table 3 of the Concept Design Parameters and Principles **[CR2/GH7.17\_B]**. Figure 1.1 of Appendix A of the Concept Design Parameters and Principles **[CR2/GH7.17\_B]** illustrates the parameters within which infrastructure of varying heights can be located. The maximum height of the substation infrastructure is 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.

5.4.2 Whilst the proposed area for the 400 kV substation is located within the same field and falls largely within the original location of the 132 kV substation, the infrastructure requirements for a 400 kV substation require a greater footprint. As such, the parameters for the area within which the substation infrastructure are to be located has been carefully considered to ensure potential adverse effects associated with it are minimised.

5.4.3 Testing through the use of Reverse ZTV, ZTV **[CR2/GH8.2.11]**, Sections, and Photomontage **[CR2/GH8.2.13]** has been undertaken to ensure that the taller elements of the substation (up to 12.5 m) are located to maximise screening by existing landform and vegetation where practicable. The 12.5 m maximum parameter height has been restricted to the northern most area of the triangle of land in which Work No. 3A may be located, with the parameter heights stepping down towards the southern extent to 7.5 m and then lastly 4.5 m, this is outlined in Figure 1.1 of Appendix A of the Concept Design Parameters and Principles **[CR2/GH7.17\_B]**. The use of a restriction in the maximum height parameters helps reduce potential adverse visual effects associated with the taller infrastructure, with the use of the 7.5 m and 4.5 m parameters being similar to



that set out within the parameters for the area to accommodate the 132 kV substation.

5.4.4 The 400 kV substation would comprise either Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS). For the purposes of this ES Addendum, the assessment has been undertaken on a worst-case basis, using the maximum parameters set out in the Concept Design Parameters and Principles **[CR2/GH7.17\_B]**.

5.4.5 Additional mitigation has been included (See Change 2 below) to the south of field GF3. As well as providing ecological and habitat connections and improvements, once established (by Year 15) this planting would help provide screening of the 400 kV substation from the wider countryside to the south. This additional woodland (Proposed Native Woodland Copse/Shelter Belt (Scrub and Tree Planting)) would be roughly 175 m long by 20 m deep to create a dense linear woodland immediately south of the proposed 400 kV substation.

5.4.6 The location of the 132 kV substation was identified as it is located within an area of Green Hill G that has no public access, is set away from the PRoW network and residential properties and located alongside the existing high voltage transmission lines that run directly through the Site. It is also well separated from the adjacent A509 by an established belt of roadside vegetation.

5.4.7 It is acknowledged that the 400 kV substation results in an intensification of substation and related infrastructure within this part of the Green Hill G Site. However, this is within an isolated location within the Green Hill G that should development go ahead would become enclosed to the west and south by the existing and proposed tree belts and to the wider Site by the proposed solar array. The proposed substation would also be located immediately alongside the existing High Voltage Transmission lines which cross Green Hill G. As such, given the approach taken to restricting the taller infrastructure to being within the more screened location (by landscape and existing vegetation), this intensification is not considered to result in any notable visual changes to the experience that users would have moving through the Site or when viewed from nearby roads when compared to that associated with the 132 kV substation in this location. Additionally, impacts upon Landscape Character would be no greater than those initially reported within the LVIA.

5.4.8 As demonstrated on the accompanying ZTV **[CR2/GH8.2.11]** and Photomontage **[CR2/GH8.2.13]**, visibility of the 400 kV substation is limited, with it being the proposed solar array resulting in a more apparent change to both visual amenity and landscape character locally. As such the change from 132 kV substation to 400 kV substation would not cause additional Landscape or Visual impacts during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases beyond those identified within the **ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-045]**.

#### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

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

5.4.10 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 the Three Shires Way (LVIA receptor TP227) intersects Green Hill G north off the A428. The additional woodland planting in this area will be implemented under both design options (A and B) for Green Hill G. The proposed planting includes for two additional flanks of Proposed Native Woodland Copse/Shelter Belt (Scrub and Tree Planting), each roughly 175 m in length and 10 m deep that run alongside the A428 and turn north along PRoW MK|Lavendon|015#2 (TP227), the Three Shires Way.

- 5.4.11 This additional planting would provide greater screening of the proposals as users pass along the initial section of the PRoW, approximately 75 m. Beyond this the landscape proposals remain as with the original Scheme with Proposed Native Species Rich Hedgerow With Irregular Spaced Native Hedgerow Trees to the west and for Proposed Secondary Native Species Rich Hedgerow With Densely Spaced Native Hedgerow Trees to the east.
- 5.4.12 This additional planting would also provide greater screening into the Site for users of the A428 (TR015) as they pass the access point for the PRoW into the Site. Equally, the additional planting would help provide additional screening for users to the south of the Site such as from MK|Lavendon|015#1 (TP240), The Three Shires Way and beyond.
- 5.4.13 Whilst the above change would help create greater enclosure around the junction, it would not result in the reduction of those effects as previously identified during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases within the **LVIA [APP-045]**.
- 5.4.14 Additional woodland planting will also be provided to the south of field GF3. This planting will provide habitat connectivity to the ancient woodland, Barsley Spinney, located to the west of the 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.
- 5.4.15 This additional woodland (Proposed Native Woodland Copse/Shelter Belt (Scrub and Tree Planting)) would be roughly 175 m long by 20 m deep to create a dense linear woodland immediately south of the proposed 400 kV substation. The implications of this change in regards to its mitigating effects relating directly to the 400 kV substation are set out in response to Change 1 above. Native woodland has been proposed in this location to form an ecological connection to the existing adjacent Barsley Spinney and to be in keeping with the existing character and structure of the landscape in this location. The additional woodland would result in an increase in proposed landscape fabric improvements within Green Hill G, but not enough to materially change the findings of the LVIA.
- 5.4.16 As such, Change 2 would not cause additional Landscape or Visual impacts during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases beyond those identified within the **ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-045]**.



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

5.4.17 The cabling will accord with the maximum design parameters set out in the Table 4 of the **Concept Design Parameters and Principles [CR2/GH7.17\_B]** document.

5.4.18 The ES assessed the maximum design scenario as set out in Table 4.1 of **Chapter 4: Scheme Description [REP1-031]**. The changes presented will sit within the maximum parameters already assessed within the ES. As such the change from 132 kV cabling to 400 kV cabling would not cause additional impacts during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases beyond those assessed within the **LVIA [APP-045]**.

**Change 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)**

5.4.19 The removal of panels from AF29 would result in the retention of the field under arable use. Change 4 also removes the previously proposed tree planting along the eastern and western field boundary for AF29 and to maintain the hedgerows at a height of approximately 1.5 m (or as existing if greater) to maintain the existing openness that exists along the adjacent section of Newland Road (TR100) and the Permissive path (through the middle of Green Hill A).

5.4.20 The removal of panels within AF29 would push the array further north from the adjacent settlement of Walgrave, creating greater separation distance. This separation would be most noticeable for users traveling along Newland Road whereas as a result of the removal of panels, the time taken before road users are alongside the array would be increased, or when traveling south, increase the time between leaving the array and entering the edge of the village helping preserve the rural hinterland to the settlement.

5.4.21 A similar experience would be applicable to users of the permissive route through Green Hill A. The removal of panels within AF29 results in the point at which users become directly alongside the array now being when they become alongside panels within AF28. From this point panels are on either side of the route, whereas before panels were almost entirely on both sides of this central part of the permissive route. These changes, whilst minor, would help create a more pleasant and open experience for users at the start (or end) of this permissive path.

5.4.22 The removal of panels from AF29 also provides greater separation between infrastructure and the nearby Acorn Centre (RG73).

5.4.23 Whilst the above change would help create a more pleasant and open experience for users of Newland Road and the permissive path it would not result in the reduction of those effects as previously identified during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases within the **LVIA [APP-045]**. The same applies to effects on the nearby Acorn Centre (RG73).



5.4.24 As such, Change 4 would not cause additional Landscape or Visual impacts during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases beyond those identified within the **ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-045]**.

#### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.4.25 The changes have been reviewed and are not considered to give rise to any changes to the assessment of cumulative impacts to the findings of the LVIA **[APP-045]**. Results remain as outlined within **ES Appendix 8.3 ES LVIA Assessment Sheets (Revision A) [REP1-041]**.

### **5.5 Ecology and Biodiversity**

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

5.5.1 Change 1 would result in the removal of a small area of proposed solar panels within field GF3, which would be replaced by the proposed 400 kV substation. This change would result in a minor reduction (approximately 2 ha) in the extent of grassland creation in GF3 (as grassland creation is proposed across all of the solar array areas within the Scheme), although this is not considered to be significant in the context of the extent of grassland creation proposed across the solar array areas in Green Hill G and the other Sites.

5.5.2 Change 1 may also require some additional hedgerow removal on the southern boundary of field GF3 to facilitate the construction of an access track which avoids the overhead line on the eastern side of GF3. However, as per Section 3 of this document, the access track will be a maximum width of 6 m, and therefore hedgerow losses associated with the construction of the track are anticipated to be minor (no wider than 10 m). In the context of the wider Green Hill G Site which supports over 10 km of hedgerows at baseline (and will also feature over 4 km of additional hedgerow creation through the Scheme), this additional hedgerow loss is not considered significant.

5.5.3 The potential effects of Change 1 on the **ES Appendix 9.13 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Revision A [REP1-043]** are discussed in the 'Impacts on Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment' section below.

5.5.4 The construction of a larger 400 kV substation within field GF3 does not have any significant bearing on the baseline assessments of important ecological features – either designated sites, habitats, or species. The change also has no bearing on the considerations within the **Habitats Regulations Assessment [REP1-153]**.

5.5.5 The results of the ecological baseline assessment therefore remain as outlined in the **ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity Revision A [REP1-033]**, and there are no changes to the **Habitats Regulations Assessment [REP1-153]**.

#### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.5.6 Although the new areas of woodland planting proposed within Green Hill G under Change 2 are not particularly significant in extent, once established, these areas of woodland planting would constitute ecological 'stepping stones', improving the connectivity between discrete parcels of existing woodland within the local



landscape, such as Barsley Spinney and Threeshire's Wood. These habitats would also provide additional foraging and nesting/roosting opportunities for a range of wildlife associated with woodlands, potentially including rare barbastelle bats which were recorded in relatively high numbers across Green Hill G.

5.5.7 This change is beneficial but does not materially affect the significance level of any of the ecological impacts or residual effects previously identified. The results of the ecological baseline assessment therefore remain as outlined in the **ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity Revision A [REP1-033]**.

5.5.8 The potential effects of Change 2 on the **ES Appendix 9.13 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Revision A [REP1-043]** are discussed in the 'Impacts on Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment' section below.

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

5.5.9 As detailed in **ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity Revision A [REP1-033]**, the maximum parameter for the width of the cable route working area was used in the assessment to identify a reasonable worst-case scenario for impacts to hedgerows and other habitats within the Cable Route Corridor. Where hedgerows are crossed, a maximum working width of 10 m (comprising a 3.5 m wide cable trench as well as a 3 to 6.5 m wide haul road) has been used across the assessment to determine the extent of potential temporary hedgerow loss at each point where the cable route intersects a hedgerow. These specifications are consistent with the parameters of the proposed cabling changes.

5.5.10 Given that the working width required for the 132 kV or 400 kV cables proposed under Change 3 is no larger than the maximum scenario assessed across all ecological impact assessments, Change 3 is not considered to have any bearing on the assessments of important ecological features – either designated sites, habitats, or species.

5.5.11 The results of the ecological baseline assessment therefore remain as outlined in the **ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity Revision A [REP1-033]** and **ES Appendix 9.13 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Revision A [REP1-043]**.

**Change 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)**

5.5.12 Change 4, the removal of panels in AF29, will entail the retention of this field under arable use, instead of being sown with grassland and constructed with panels.

5.5.13 As a result, there will be a net reduction of 6.81ha of grassland habitat created by the Scheme, with 6.81ha of arable land retained instead. This, along with the removal of the previously proposed tree planting along the boundaries of AF29 and the maintenance of the existing hedgerows at their current heights, has minor, non-significant connotations for the level of biodiversity net gain delivered by the Scheme. This is discussed in the 'Impacts on Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment' section below.



5.5.14 The only other ecological feature for which Change 4 is noteworthy, is ground-nesting birds. Skylark mitigation calculations have been completed based on the number of territories retained, absorbed and mitigated by the Scheme. Change 4 will entail the retention of two additional baseline skylark territories, which reduces the number of territories lost from 178 to 176. Furthermore, AF29 will be brought under a spring-sown cereal regime, as per the OLEMP **[CR2/GH7.4\_C]**, which will increase its carrying capacity for skylarks. This will mitigate an additional 1.6 territories.

5.5.15 Overall, with Change 4, a total of 134.1 territories will be retained, absorbed or mitigated by the Scheme, compared to 130.5 without Change 4. This means 47.7% of the baseline skylark population will be retained, compared to 45.6%. This change is beneficial but does not affect the significance of the residual ecological effects. The results of the ecological baseline assessment therefore remain as outlined in the **ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity Revision A [REP1-033]**.

### **Impacts on Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment**

5.5.16 The four changes proposed have been assessed with regards to the potential effect on the outcome of the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment, and by extension, whether an updated version of the assessment would be required to accompany the Change Application.

5.5.17 With Changes 1-4 considered, the Scheme would deliver the following:

- A net gain of +70.00% Habitat Units (a 0.66% reduction from the previously reported +70.66% figure);
- +18.15% Hedgerow Units (a 0.40% reduction from the previously reported +18.55% figure); and
- No change to the watercourse unit assessment.

5.5.18 The reduction in the net gain in Habitat Units is primarily a result of the lower value of agricultural land supporting skylark nesting habitat in AF29, relative to the Modified Grassland and Other Neutral Grassland habitats associated with the solar panel array which was previously proposed to occupy this field. In addition, the larger substation at Green Hill G will reduce the quantity of grassland creation associated with the previously proposed solar array in this field, although this is slightly offset through the additional woodland planting in Green Hill G.

5.5.19 The reduction in Hedgerow Units is primarily a result of the removal of the previously proposed linear tree planting along the boundaries of AF29, as well as the replacement of some hedgerow planting at Green Hill G with an area of woodland planting. It is important to note that the proposed changes would not result in any additional losses of existing hedgerow; the lower net gain in Hedgerow Units is purely a result of a slightly reduced level of additional hedgerow planting.

5.5.20 Given that the design of the Scheme requires an element of flexibility (as outlined in the **draft DCO Revision C [REP3-024]**), the submitted version of the BNG assessment is indicative, and will be subject to minor changes resulting from amendments to the layout of the Scheme, both during examination and post-



consent. Requirement 9 of the **draft DCO Revision D [EX5/GH3.1\_D]** (to be submitted at Deadline 5) commits the Scheme to delivering a minimum of a +47% net gain in Habitat Units, and minimum +10% net gains in both Hedgerow and Watercourse Units. Requirement 9 of the **draft DCO Revision D [EX5/GH3.1\_D]** (to be submitted at Deadline 5) commits the Scheme to delivering a minimum of a +47% net gain in Habitat Units, and minimum +10% net gains in both Hedgerow and Watercourse Units. This approach provides the flexibility required to accommodate minor changes in the layout of the Scheme following design evolution during- and post-examination, whilst ensuring that the Scheme is still committed to providing significant net gains for biodiversity.

5.5.21 Given that the changes to the assessment through Changes 1-4 are not considered significant (resulting in a change of less than 1% of the net gain for Habitat Units and Hedgerow Units), and therefore do not impact the Scheme's capacity to deliver a net gain for biodiversity or achieve its commitments as outlined in the **Draft DCO Revision D**, an updated version of the BNG assessment was not considered to be required to accompany this Change Application.

5.5.22 The results of the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment therefore remain broadly as outlined in the **ES Appendix 9.13 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Revision A [REP1-043]**.

### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.5.23 There is no change to the conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts as a result of the Proposed Changes. The results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity Revision A [REP1-033]**.

## **5.6 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage**

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

5.6.1 It is not expected that the proposed Change 1 will materially affect the hydrology, flood risk or drainage conclusions reported in **ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Revision A [REP1-023]** and the **Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [REP1-053]**, including the parcel level assessment for Green Hill G. The updated 400 kV substation footprint remains subject to the same embedded design approach as outlined in **Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [REP1-053]**, including locating built development in Flood Zone 1 where practicable, maintaining overland flow paths, and providing site specific drainage controls for areas of hardstanding so that there is no increase in offsite flood risk. Construction phase controls such as temporary drainage, soil management, pollution prevention and emergency response provisions as outlined in the **Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP1-131]** remain applicable.

5.6.2 The change has been reviewed in terms of flood risk and drainage and is not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results



remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Revision A [REP1-023]**.

### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.6.3 Considering the minor nature of the proposed changes, Change 2 has been reviewed in terms of flood risk and drainage and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Revision A [REP1-023]**.

### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.6.4 It is not expected that the proposed Change 3 will materially affect the hydrology, flood risk or drainage conclusions reported in **ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Revision A [REP1-023]** and the **Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [REP1-053]**. The cable route assessment and embedded mitigation were based on a reasonable worst case working corridor and trench parameters, including open cut trenching and trenchless techniques where required. The changes proposed remain within the Cable Route Corridor and do not introduce new watercourse interactions or new discharge locations beyond those already assessed. Construction phase controls for runoff, silt mobilisation and pollution prevention (including working method controls at watercourse crossings and reinstatement) as outlined in the **Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP1-131]** remain applicable and sufficient. This also applies to locations where 33 kV cabling is proposed to be upgraded to include 132 kV cabling in Green Hill F.

5.6.5 The change has been reviewed in terms of flood risk and drainage and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Revision A [REP1-023]**.

### **Change 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)**

5.6.6 It is not expected that the Proposed Change 4, being the removal of panels in AF29, will materially affect the hydrology, flood risk or drainage conclusions reported in **ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Revision A [REP1-023]** and the **Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [REP1-053]**. The change reduces the extent of panelled area relative to the assessed Scheme and would therefore be neutral in terms of surface water runoff rates, runoff volumes and associated offsite flood risk as AF29 would be continued arable land. The embedded mitigation and drainage design principles previously assessed, including the maintenance of existing flow routes, avoidance of obstruction to overland exceedance pathways, and the provision of localised drainage and SuDS controls where required, remain applicable and sufficient.



5.6.7 Construction phase controls relating to temporary drainage, soil handling, silt management and pollution prevention remain unchanged and continue to be secured through the **Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP1-131]**.

5.6.8 Considering the minor nature of the proposed Change 4, it has been reviewed in terms of flood risk and drainage and is not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases. The assessment results therefore remain as previously reported in **ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-047]**.

#### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.6.9 It is not expected that the Proposed Changes will alter the cumulative effects or effect interactions conclusions for hydrology, flood risk and drainage during construction, operation or decommissioning. The assessment approach, identified receptors, embedded mitigation and residual effects remain as reported in **ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Revision A [REP1-023]** and the **FRADS [REP1-053]**.

### **5.7 Minerals**

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

5.7.1 The change has been reviewed in terms of minerals and is not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]**.

#### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.7.2 The change has been reviewed in terms of minerals and is not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]**.

#### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.7.3 The change has been reviewed in terms of minerals and is not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]**.

#### **Change 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)**

5.7.4 The change has been reviewed in terms of minerals and is not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]**.



## **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.7.5 The changes have been reviewed in terms of minerals and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant cumulative effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 11: Minerals [APP-048]**.

## **5.8 Cultural Heritage**

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

5.8.1 The Proposed Change would not result in any additional indirect (i.e., setting) impacts to built heritage assets adjacent to Green Hill G. The intervening distance, topography, and vegetation limit intervisibility, ensuring that the assets' historic character, spatial relationships, and the ability to appreciate their significance would remain unaffected.

5.8.2 Two concentrations of archaeological features were identified during archaeological evaluation works in the south-west of Field GF3: GF3-02 and GF3-04. **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]** of the ES identified that there would be a potential for a minor adverse impact, which is not significant, assuming the archaeological remains were preserved in situ (i.e. through non-intrusive construction methodology for the solar panels and the micro siting of the substation away from archaeological features).

5.8.3 The greater area of impact of the 400 kV substation would result in the potential for direct impacts to GF3-02 and GF3-04 during the construction phase. Where direct impacts are proposed to these archaeological features, there is a potential for significant effects to occur (i.e. up to major/moderate adverse). Paragraph 7.3.6 of the **Appendix 12.6: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Revision B) [CR2/GH6.3.12.6\_B]** states: "*if mitigation by preservation in situ is deemed unsuitable for any areas with archaeological remains that require mitigation, strip map and sample will be considered as a suitable alternative in accordance with the final design.*" Additional mitigation in the form of strip, map and sample undertaken prior to any construction phase impacts to GF3-02 and GF3-04 would be sufficient to mitigate against impacts to archaeological features. Following the implementation of additional mitigation, the residual effect would be reduced to negligible adverse, which is not significant. This approach has been discussed and agreed with the Milton Keynes City Council Archaeology Officer. The **Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Revision B) [CR2/GH6.3.12.6\_B]** reflects this approach.

### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.8.4 As with Change 1 the Proposed Change will not result in any additional impacts to built heritage assets (see paragraph 5.8.1).

5.8.5 A concentration of archaeological features was identified during archaeological evaluation in the south of Field GF3 (GF3-04). **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]** of the ES identified that there would be a potential for a minor adverse impact, which is not significant, assuming the archaeological remains were preserved in situ (i.e. through non-intrusive construction methodology for the solar panels and the micro siting of the substation away from archaeological features). The proposed tree planting would result in the potential for direct



impacts to GF3-04 during the construction phase. Where direct impacts are proposed to these archaeological features, there is a potential for significant effects to occur (i.e. up to major/moderate adverse). Paragraph 7.3.6 of the **Appendix 12.6: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Revision B) [CR2/GH6.3.12.6\_B]** states: *"if mitigation by preservation in situ is deemed unsuitable for any areas with archaeological remains that require mitigation, strip map and sample will be considered as a suitable alternative in accordance with the final design."* As with Change 1 additional mitigation in the form of strip, map and sample undertaken prior to any construction phase impacts to GF3-04 would be sufficient to mitigate against impacts to archaeological features. Following the implementation of additional mitigation, the residual effect would be reduced to negligible adverse, which is not significant. This approach has been discussed and agreed with the Milton Keynes City Council Archaeology Officer. The **Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Revision B) [CR2/GH6.3.12.6\_B]** reflects this approach.

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

5.8.6 A **Technical Addendum to Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [CR2/GH8.4.2]** has been submitted with the Change Application that presents an update and clarification to the archaeological section of the ES **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]**. It should be noted that the technical addendum is relevant to the DCO application in general, as well as Change No.3, as it clarifies the approach to archaeological mitigation in areas where cabling (whether under Work No. 1(d), 5A or 5B) is required through areas of ecological mitigation and landscape planting.

5.8.7 The technical note identifies that proposed cabling has the potential to cause adverse 'significant' effects, ranging between neutral to major/moderate, to archaeological remains identified within FF27 and FF28 (FF27-01). Two mitigation options have been discussed and agreed with Historic England and the North Northamptonshire Archaeological Officer, and the AMS has been updated in accordance with these discussions (see **Appendix 12.6: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Revision B) [CR2/GH6.3.12.6\_B]**). Following the implementation of the agreed embedded and/or additional mitigation measures residual effects would be reduced to neutral to negligible adverse, which is not significant.

5.8.8 Change 3 would not cause additional impacts during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases beyond those assessed in **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]** of the ES and the technical addendum **[CR2/GH8.4.2]**.

5.8.9 The mitigation proposed in the **Appendix 12.6: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Revision B) [CR2/GH6.3.12.6\_B]** would be required where there is a potential for impacts to archaeological features. If the cabling is installed using a trenchless cabling technique, such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD), it should be undertaken to a depth greater than the lowest horizon of archaeological remains and in line with the methodology outlined in section 7.3 of the **AMS (Revision B) [CR2/GH6.3.12.6\_B]**. Where cabling is installed using an open cut



methodology, additional mitigation in the form of strip, map and sample would need to be undertaken prior to the installation of cabling in areas where archaeological features are present.

5.8.10 Considering the implementation of mitigation measures, there are no changes to the conclusions of the assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning impacts identified in **ES Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage [APP-049]** and technical addendum **[CR2/GH8.4.2]** as a result of the Proposed Changes.

**Change 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)**

5.8.11 The Proposed Change would not result in any additional effects to identified heritage assets. There is no change to the conclusions of the assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning impacts identified in **ES Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage [APP-049]** as a result of Change 4.

**Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.8.12 There is no change to the conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts as a result of the Proposed Changes as outlined in **ES Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]**.

## 5.9 Transport and Access

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

5.9.1 Construction worker and HGV movement numbers associated with Change 1 will be broadly similar to those assumed to build the 132 kV substation at Green Hill G. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the proposed change would have a significant effect on the overall conclusions of **ES Chapter 13 Transport and Access (Revision A) [REP2-003]**.

5.9.2 The Change will result in an increase in the number of Abnormal Load movements to Green Hill G. Due to the increase in size of substation, the routing of the Abnormal Load is currently being discussed with the relevant local authorities and the Applicant is awaiting feedback. This includes the review of using the existing proposed routing as described in the **Transport and Access Routes Supporting Document [REP1-167]** and the suitability of an abnormal load route along the A428 to the northeast is being explored. In the event that these routes are deemed unsuitable for the increased size of load associated with the 400kV substation, a technical solution is available that would utilise a greater number of smaller abnormal load deliveries. This would likely consist of up to six smaller abnormal loads, utilising the existing proposed routing as described in the **Transport and Access Routes Supporting Document [REP1-167]**.

5.9.3 These movements will continue to be notified by transport (haulage) operators, through the Electronic Service Delivery for Abnormal Loads (ESDAL2) system as confirmed in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Revision B) [REP3-064]**. The process ensures that local highway authorities and the police



are notified in advance and that appropriate measures for Abnormal Load movements will be put in place.

5.9.4 It is not expected that the Proposed Change will materially affect the transport and access conclusions reported in **ES Chapter 13 Transport and Access (Revision A) [REP2-003]** or **ES Appendix 13.2 Transport Assessment Part 1 of 3 (Revision A) [REP3-036]**. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 13 Transport and Access (Revision A) [REP2-003]**.

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

5.9.5 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of transport and access and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]**.

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

5.9.6 It is not expected that the Proposed Change 3 will materially affect the transport and access conclusions reported in **ES Chapter 13 - Transport and Access (Revision A) [REP2-003]** or **ES Appendix 13.2 Transport Assessment Part 1 of 3 (Revision A) [REP3-036]**. The cable route assessment was based on reasonable worst-case parameters, and a sensitivity test was presented in **Transport and Access Technical Note [REP2-055]**. The 400 kV cabling should not result in different traffic movement forecasts and the assessment remains unchanged.

5.9.7 The changes have been reviewed in terms of transport and access and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]**.

**Change 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)**

5.9.8 It is not expected that the Proposed Change 4 will materially affect the transport and access conclusions reported in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access (Revision A) [REP2-003]** or **ES Appendix 13.2 Transport Assessment Part 1 of 3 (Revision A) [REP3-036]**. The assessment was based on reasonable worst case parameters, with the installation of panels considered the most intensive level of traffic activity.

5.9.9 Considering the change would result in the replacement of panelled area with continued arable use this would result in reduced effects considering the reduction in HGV deliveries, although this change is not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003]**.



### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.9.10 It is not expected that the Proposed Changes will alter the effects on transport and access during construction, operation or decommissioning. The assessment approach, identified receptors, embedded mitigation and residual effects remain as reported.

### **5.10 Noise and Vibration**

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

5.10.1 The change from 132 kV substation to 400 kV substation would increase predicted noise levels at nearby sensitive receptors by a range of 1 to 6 dB during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases beyond those assessed in **Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051]** of the ES, and **ES Addendum Chapter 14 [REP1-168]**.

5.10.2 However, predicted noise levels from the construction, operation or decommissioning phases activities are anticipated to remain below background levels at all receptors. This is therefore below the LOAEL at all sensitive receptors, and an indication of negligible effects and not significant. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051]** and **ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]**.

#### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.10.3 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of noise and vibration and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051]** and **ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]**.

#### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.10.4 There would be no change to the Order Limits or construction duration as a result of Change 3. Additionally, Change 3 should not result in a change in traffic flows. As such, it is not expected that the Proposed Change will alter the effects on noise during construction, operation or decommissioning. The assessment approach, identified receptors, embedded mitigation and residual effects remain as reported in **ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051]** and **ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]**.

#### **Change 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)**

5.10.5 It is not expected that the Proposed Change 4 will materially affect the conclusions presented in **ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051]** and **ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]**. It is not expected that the Proposed Change 4 will alter the effects on Noise and vibration during construction, operation or decommissioning. The assessment approach,



identified receptors, embedded mitigation and residual effects remain as reported in **ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051]** and **ES Addendum Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration [REP1-168]**.

### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.10.6 The Proposed Changes are not expected to alter the predicted cumulative effects during the construction, operation, or decommissioning phases of the Scheme.

## **5.11 Glint and Glare**

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

5.11.1 Change 1 would result in the removal of a small area of proposed solar panels within field GF3, which would be replaced by the proposed 400 kV substation. As there is a reduction to the solar panel array areas on the Site, it is expected that the predicted potential impacts and residual effects of Glint and Glare will at most remain as reported in **ES Chapter 15: Glint and Glare [APP-052]**. As such, the assessment approach, identified receptors, embedded mitigation and residual effects remain as reported in **ES Chapter 15: Glint and Glare [APP-052]**.

### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.11.2 As there are no changes to the solar panel array areas on the Sites as part of this Change, there are no changes to the conclusions of the assessment of construction, operation and decommissioning impacts. The results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 15: Glint and Glare [APP-052]**.

### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.11.3 As there are no changes to the solar panel array areas on the Sites as part of this Change, there are no changes to the conclusions of the assessment of construction, operation and decommissioning impacts. The results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 15: Glint and Glare [APP-052]**.

### **Change 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)**

5.11.4 Change 4 will result in the reduction in solar panel array area on field AF29, it is expected that the predicted potential impacts and residual effects of Glint and Glare will at most remain as reported in **ES Chapter 15: Glint and Glare [APP-052]**. As such, the assessment approach, identified receptors, embedded mitigation and residual effects remain as reported in **ES Chapter 15: Glint and Glare [APP-052]**.

### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.11.5 It is not expected that the Proposed Changes will impact predicted glint and glare cumulative effects and effect interactions during the construction, operation, or decommissioning stages of the Scheme.



## 5.12 Air Quality

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

5.12.1 There would be no change to the Order Limits, BESS locations, or construction duration as a result of Change 1. Additionally, Change 1 should not significantly affect traffic flows. As such, it is not expected that the Proposed Change will alter the effects on air quality during construction, operation or decommissioning. The assessment approach, identified receptors, embedded mitigation and residual effects remain as reported in **ES Chapter 16: Air Quality [APP-053]**.

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

5.12.2 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of air quality and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 16: Air Quality [APP-053]**.

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

5.12.3 There would be no change to the Order Limits, BESS locations, or construction duration as a result of Change 3. Additionally, Change 3 should not result in a change in traffic flows. As such, it is not expected that the Proposed Change will alter the effects on air quality during construction, operation or decommissioning. The assessment approach, identified receptors, embedded mitigation and residual effects remain as reported in **ES Chapter 16: Air Quality [APP-053]**.

### Change 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)

5.12.4 There would be no change to the Order Limits, BESS locations, or construction duration as a result of Change 4. Additionally, Change 4 should not significantly affect traffic flows. As such, it is not expected that the Proposed Change will alter the effects on air quality during construction, operation or decommissioning. The assessment approach, identified receptors, embedded mitigation and residual effects remain as reported in **ES Chapter 16: Air Quality [APP-053]**.

### Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions

5.12.5 It is not expected that the Proposed Changes will impact predicted air quality cumulative effects and effect interactions during the construction, operation, or decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

## 5.13 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation

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

5.13.1 The workforce requirements to build, maintain and decommission a 400 kV substation in this location are not anticipated to change the significance of effects of employment, economic prosperity, or any indirect effects on accommodation need or other socio-economic receptors. Tourism and recreation receptors are



only indirectly affected by the proposals, largely as a result of distant views of the substation from PRoWs (namely bridleways Lavendon|002, 004, 014, and 015; and footpaths Lavendon|001, 005, and NN|TA|020) albeit in the visual context of the existing overhead power transmission lines. At this distance, the change in effect is minimal. Resultantly, the upgrade from a proposed 132 kV substation at Green Hill G to a 400 kV substation is not anticipated to generate any changes to the assessment of likely significant effects in Section 17.8 of **ES Chapter 17: Socio Economics, Tourism and Recreation [APP-054]**, or in the supporting **ES Appendix 17.1: Tourism and Recreation Receptor Tables [REP1-079]**.

### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.13.2 The Proposed Changes do not materially change the assessment of socio-economic receptors at any phase of the Scheme, due to this extremely limited influence the change would have on onsite labour requirements. Tourism and recreation receptors likely to be affected by the change are limited to the bridleways Lavendon BW14 and BW15 and to a lesser extent, the experience of approach to the Lavendon Conservation Area. As the changes are small in scale and have extremely location-specific impacts (a single viewpoint), the changes are not anticipated to have a material impact on the assessment outcomes for these receptors as assessed in **ES Appendix 17.1: Tourism and Recreation Receptor Tables [REP1-079]**.

### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.13.3 During construction and decommissioning, changes to workforce requirements to install or remove the proposed 400 kV circuits would not be materially greater than those required for 132 kV circuits. The type and duration of effect to PRoWs affected by cable trenching are unlikely to be substantially greater because of the upgrading from 132 kV cabling to 400 kV. Where 33 kV cabling is proposed to be upgraded to include 132 kV cabling within Green Hill F to facilitate this change, construction workforce requirements and the duration of any necessary closures to PRoWs are likely to be slightly greater, however these are not anticipated to change the outcomes of any effects as previously assessed. No effects are anticipated during operation or peak replacement activities as only ad hoc maintenance for inter-site cabling is anticipated to be required.

5.13.4 As such, the upgrading from 132 kV cabling to 400 kV, and supporting upgrades from 33 kV to 132 kV cabling within Green Hill F, is not anticipated to generate any changes to the assessment of likely significant effects to socio-economic and tourism and recreation effects as set out in Section 17.8 of **ES Chapter 17: Socio Economics, Tourism and Recreation [APP-054]**, or in the supporting **ES Appendix 17.1: Tourism and Recreation Receptor Tables [REP1-079]**.



**Change 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)**

5.13.5 During all phases of the Scheme, the removal of this field from panels will have a small, non-material impact on labour requirements, and thus on socio-economic receptors. The change will likely have a small-scale beneficial effect on the assessment of tourism and recreation effects, albeit solely on the use of Newland Road and the adjacent 'green lane' for recreation, and the equestrian facility at the Acorn Centre. However, in the context of effects from the rest of Green Hill A, this change is not anticipated to have a material change to the assessment of tourism and recreation effects as set out in Section 17.8 of **ES Chapter 17: Socio Economics, Tourism and Recreation [APP-054]**, or in the supporting **ES Appendix 17.1: Tourism and Recreation Receptor Tables [REP1-079]**.

**Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.13.6 The changes have been reviewed and are not considered to give rise to any changes to the assessment of cumulative impacts to socio-demographic receptors, employment, economic effects, or any changes to effects to tourism and recreation receptors, including public rights of way. The results remain as outlined in Section 17.11 of **ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation [APP-054]**, and in **ES Appendix 17.1: Tourism and Recreation Receptor Tables [REP1-079]**.

## **5.14 Human Health**

5.14.1 The assessment of human health baseline conditions and likely effects takes into consideration the assessments from other environmental topics. Those assessments which assess likely significant impacts on human receptors, and health and wellbeing infrastructure include:

- **ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-044];**
- **ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-045];**
- **ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [REP1-023];**
- **ES Chapter 13: Transport and Access [REP2-003];**
- **ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [APP-051] and ES Addendum to Chapter 14 [REP1-168];**
- **ES Chapter 16: Air Quality [APP-053];**
- **ES Chapter 17: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation [APP-054];**
- **ES Chapter 21: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-058];**
- **ES Chapter 22: Ground Conditions and Contamination [REP1-025]; and**
- **ES Chapter 23: Major Accidents and Disasters [APP-060].**



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

5.14.2 The change to the substation at Green Hill G has been reviewed and is not considered to give rise to any changes to the assessment of construction, operational and maintenance, or decommissioning effects for human health receptors. This is primarily due to the substation's location and its large separation from locations where human health receptors (homes, PRoWs) are likely to be affected. The results remain as outlined in Section 18.8 of **ES Chapter 18: Human Health [APP-055]**.

### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.14.3 The change to planting at Green Hill G has been reviewed and is not considered to give rise to any changes to the assessment of construction, operational and maintenance, or decommissioning effects for human health receptors. This is primarily due to the small-scale and targeted location for the change and its limited likely impact to the benefit of PRoW users of bridleways BW14 and BW15 only. The results remain as outlined in Section 18.8 of **ES Chapter 18: Human Health [APP-055]**.

### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.14.4 The change to inter-site cabling has been reviewed and is not considered to give rise to any changes to the assessment of construction, operational and maintenance, or decommissioning effects for human health receptors. While electromagnetic fields from 400 kV cabling are greater than for 132 kV cables, the impact on human exposure is no greater as the Scheme is still bound by offset distances between the cable route and locations of long-term human occupancy (homes, workplaces, schools etc.). This also applies to locations where 33 kV cabling is proposed to be upgraded to include 132 kV cabling in Green Hill F. The results remain as outlined in Section 18.8 of **ES Chapter 18: Human Health [APP-055]**.

### **Change 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)**

5.14.5 The change to remove panels from AF29 has been reviewed and is not considered to give rise to any material changes to the assessment of construction, operational and maintenance, or decommissioning effects for human health receptors. While the change is likely to have a small beneficial effect to the amenity of recreational users of Newland Road and the adjacent 'green lane', the change does not change the assessment outcomes with respect to 'open space, leisure and play'. Furthermore, the change may have a small beneficial effect to the experience of community and social amenity for residents in Walgrave, as the change goes a small way to increase the experience separation between the village and the Scheme. This is not however, anticipated to change any assessment outcomes with respect to 'community identity, culture



resilience and influence'. The assessment results therefore remain as set out in Section 18.8 of **ES Chapter 18: Human Health [APP-055]**.

### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.14.6 The changes have been reviewed and are not considered to give rise to any changes to the assessment of cumulative impacts to human health receptors. The results remain as outlined in Section 18.11 of **ES Chapter 18: Human Health [APP-055]**.

## **5.15 Arboriculture**

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

5.15.1 The Proposed Change 1 may require some additional hedgerow removal on the southern boundary of field GF3 to facilitate the construction of an access track which avoids the overhead line on the eastern side of GF3. However, as detailed in **ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056]**, hedgerows are considered separately in **ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity Revision A [REP1-033]** and so are discussed in Section 2.4 above. Accordingly, there are no projected impacts to arboricultural baseline.

5.15.2 The changes are not considered to give rise to any changes to the assessment of construction, operational and decommissioning effects for arboricultural receptors. The results remain as outlined in Sections 19.8 of **ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056]**, and in **ES Appendix 19.2 Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Arboricultural Method Statement [APP-171]**.

### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.15.3 Although the new areas of woodland planting within Green Hill G are limited in extent, the planting will contribute to an increase in canopy cover across the area, resulting in improved long-term arboricultural benefits. As these changes do not materially affect the retained arboricultural features on site, the findings remain as set out in **ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056]**, and in **ES Appendix 19.2: Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Arboricultural Method Statement [APP-171]**.

### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.15.4 As detailed in **ES Appendix 19.2: Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Arboricultural Method Statement [APP-171]** (AIA and OAMS), a maximum width of the cable route working area was used in the assessment to identify a reasonable worst-case scenario for impacts to retained arboricultural features. For open-cut sections, the maximum width of the trench will be 3.5 m. These specifications are within the requirements to facilitate installation of a 132 kV or 400 kV cable, as detailed in Section 3 above.

5.15.5 Given that the working width required for the 132 kV or 400 kV cables proposed under Change 3 is no larger than the maximum scenario assessed, the results of the arboricultural impact assessment, therefore, remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056]** and **ES Appendix 19.2: Arboricultural**

**Impact Assessment and Outline Arboricultural Method Statement [APP-171] (AIA and OAMS).****Change 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)**

5.15.6 The proposed removal of panels from AF29 has been reviewed. As part of the works within AF29, as outlined in Section 3.5 of this document, an internal access track will still be required within AF29 to facilitate vehicle access during the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. The indicative access arrangement for the internal access track will be located south of tree T5008 as shown on **ES Figure 4.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan A [CR2/GH6.4.4.10\_C]**. The swept path analysis for the access into AF29 is outlined in **ES Appendix 13.2: Transport Assessment (Revision A) [REP3-039]**.

5.15.7 During the detailed design stage, the requirements regarding mitigation and protection of the tree T5008 will be captured within the Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS). Accordingly, Change 4 is not considered to give rise to any changes to the arboricultural impact assessment. Therefore, the results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 19: Arboriculture [APP-056]** and **ES Appendix 19.2: Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Arboricultural Method Statement [APP-171] (AIA and OAMS)**.

**5.16 Agricultural Circumstances****Change 1: Optionality to allow for a 400 kV Substation at Green Hill G**

5.16.1 Although the Proposed Change 1 may result in slightly more disturbance of soil and agricultural land associated due to additional 2.5 ha of compound area required for the 400 kV substation, it would not result in any additional effects beyond those already assessed in **ES Chapter 20: Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]** for agricultural land, soils and agricultural landholdings during construction, operation and decommissioning. Although the additional 2.5 ha footprint for the 400 kV substation would lead to greater disturbance of soil and agricultural land, it does not alter the assessed sensitivity or the magnitude of change for these receptors in accordance with the assessment criteria and therefore does not change the overall effects on soil and agricultural land.

5.16.2 This would not cause severance and change the effect on agricultural landholdings either as there would be no severance in relation to farm activities once the construction starts.

5.16.3 The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 20: Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]**.

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

5.16.4 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of agricultural circumstances and are not considered to give rise to any



new or materially different significant effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 20: Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]**.

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

5.16.5 The Proposed Change 3 would not result in any additional effects beyond those already assessed in **ES Chapter 20: Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]** for agricultural land, soils and agricultural landholdings during construction, operation and decommissioning as it remains within worst-case parameters assessed in the ES.

5.16.6 The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 20: Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]**.

**Change 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)**

5.16.7 The Proposed Change 4, involving the removal of panels in AF29, would result in reduced disturbance to soils and agricultural land as it requires fewer construction activities and less soil handling during construction, which would be considered beneficial to the AF29 farmland.

5.16.8 Although AF29 would be continued arable land, it would not potentially benefit from the respite that would occur where land currently under arable production is converted to grassland (land between and under panels). The conversion of land can result in an increase in soil organic carbon, better soil structure, increased infiltration and enhanced soil microbial populations.

5.16.9 However, this is not considered to result in any new or materially different effects beyond those already assessed in **ES Chapter 20: Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]** for agricultural land, soils and agricultural landholdings during construction, operation and decommissioning.

**Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.16.10 There is no change to the effects and the conclusions of cumulative impacts in **ES Chapter 20: Agricultural Circumstances [APP-057]** as a result of the Proposed Changes.

## 5.17 **Electromagnetic Fields**

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

5.17.1 Change 1 has been reviewed with regards to electromagnetic fields. The substation upgrade may introduce additional electromagnetic fields, but it is not considered that there would be any additional significant effects due to the significant separation from residential receptors and so the results presented in **ES Chapter 21: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-058]** remains unchanged.



### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.17.2 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of electromagnetic fields and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 21: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-058]**.

### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.17.3 Change 3 has been reviewed with regards to electromagnetic fields. The cabling upgrades will increase the strength of electromagnetic fields, but it is not considered that there would be any additional significant effects due to the significant separation from residential receptors and so the results presented in **ES Chapter 21: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-058]** remain unchanged.

### **Change 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)**

5.17.4 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of electromagnetic fields and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 21: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-058]**.

### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.17.5 There is no change to the effects and the conclusions of cumulative impacts in **ES Chapter 21: Electromagnetic Fields [APP-058]** as a result of the Proposed Changes.

## **5.18 Ground Conditions and Contamination**

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

5.18.1 Change 1 has been reviewed with regards to ground conditions and contamination. It is not expected that the Proposed Change 1 will impact ground conditions and contamination during the construction, operation, or decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

5.18.2 The changes have been reviewed in terms of ground conditions and contamination and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 22: Ground Conditions and Contamination Revision A [REP1-025]**.

### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.18.3 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of ground conditions and contamination and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 22: Ground Conditions and Contamination Revision A [REP1-025]**.



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

5.18.4 Change 3 has been reviewed with regards to ground conditions and contamination. The upgraded 132kV to 400kV cabling trenches between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G will remain within the agreed, and previously assessed, 50 m Cable Route Corridor and therefore it is not expected the Proposed Change 3 will result in any new or materially different significant effects during the construction, operation, or decommissioning stages of the Scheme. The upgrade of cabling trenches between Green Hill F and Green Hill G from 33kV to include 132kV is also noted and it is not expected the Proposed Change 3 will result in any new or materially different significant effects during the construction, operation, or decommissioning stages of the Scheme. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 22: Ground Conditions and Contamination Revision A [REP1-025]**.

**Change 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)**

5.18.5 The Proposed Change 4 would result in reduced ground disturbance. However, this is not considered to result in any new or materially different effects beyond those already assessed in **ES Chapter 22: Ground Conditions and Contamination Revision A [REP1-025]** and so the assessment results remain as outlined in ES Chapter 22.

**Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.18.6 It is not expected that the Proposed Changes will impact ground conditions and contamination cumulative effects and effect interactions during the construction, operation, or decommissioning stages of the Scheme

**5.19 Major Accidents and Disasters**

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

5.19.1 The changes have been reviewed in terms of major accidents and disasters and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 23: Major Accidents and Disasters [APP-060]**.

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

5.19.2 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of major accidents and disasters and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 23: Major Accidents and Disasters [APP-060]**.



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

5.19.3 The changes have been reviewed in terms of major accidents and disasters and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 23: Major Accidents and Disasters [APP-060]**.

**Change 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)**

5.19.4 The changes have been reviewed in terms of major accidents and disasters and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 23: Major Accidents and Disasters [APP-060]**.

**Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.19.5 The changes have been reviewed in terms of major accidents and disasters and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant cumulative effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 23: Major Accidents and Disasters [APP-060]**.



## 5.20 Other Environmental Matters

### Light Pollution

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

5.20.1 The changes have been reviewed in terms of light pollution and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]**.

#### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.20.2 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of light pollution and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]**.

#### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.20.3 The changes have been reviewed in terms of light pollution and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]**.

#### **Change 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)**

5.20.4 The changes have been reviewed in terms of light pollution and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]**.

### Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions

5.20.5 The changes have been reviewed in terms of light pollution and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]**.

### Waste Production and Management

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

5.20.6 Change 1 would result in the removal of a small area of proposed solar panels within field GF3, which would be replaced by the proposed 400 kV substation. This change would result in a minor reduction in waste associated with the removal of panels and minor increase in waste associated with the increase in size of substation. It is considered that these changes are not considered to give



rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]**.

### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.20.7 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of waste and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]**.

### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.20.8 The changes have been reviewed in terms of waste production and management and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]**.

### **Change 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)**

5.20.9 Change 4 would result in the removal of a small area of proposed solar panels within field AF29; which would result in a reduction in waste produced during the operational maintenance phase and decommissioning phase. It is considered that these changes would be minor and would not give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]**.

### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interaction**

5.20.10 The changes have been reviewed in terms of waste production and management and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027].

### **Telecommunication, Utilities and Television**

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

5.20.11 The changes have been reviewed in terms of Telecommunication, Utilities and Television and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027].



### **Change 2: Provision of tree planting for Green Hill G**

5.20.12 Considering the minor nature of the Proposed Changes, they have been reviewed in terms of Telecommunication, Utilities and Television and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters [REP1-027]**.

### **Change 3: Optionality to allow for up to 400 kV cabling between Green Hill BESS and Green Hill G; and optionality to allow for up to 132 kV cabling between Green Hill F and Green Hill G.**

5.20.13 The changes have been reviewed in terms of Telecommunication, Utilities and Television and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters **[REP1-027]**.

### **Change 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)**

5.20.14 The changes have been reviewed in terms of Telecommunication, Utilities and Television and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters **[REP1-027]**.

### **Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions**

5.20.15 The changes have been reviewed in terms of Telecommunication, Utilities and Television and are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in ES Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters **[REP1-027]**.

## **5.21 Cumulative Effects and Effects Interactions**

5.21.1 The changes have been reviewed in terms of the potential for in-combination effects due to the interaction of two or more predicted environmental effects. The changes are not considered to give rise to any new or materially different significant in-combination effects for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment results remain as outlined in **ES Chapter 25: Cumulative Effects and Effect Interactions [APP-062]** and in each topic chapter.

## **5.22 Summary of Environmental Outcomes**

5.22.1 As stated above, the four Changes have been assessed by the same technical specialists that prepared the ES. The extent to which the changes are likely to lead to new or different significant environmental effects in line with the methodologies set out in the **ES Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology [APP-039]** has been considered.



5.22.2 This Supporting Environment Information outlines in Section 5 of this Report concludes that the assessments do not change, and no new or different residual likely significant effects have been identified for all topics. In summary, the changes to significant effects are set out within **Table 6.1** below.

**Table 5.1: Summary of Changes to Significant Effects**

Topic	Summary
Chapter 7: Climate Change	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 11: Minerals	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 13: Transport and Access	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 15: Glint and Glare	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 16: Air Quality	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 17: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 18: Human Health	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 19: Arboriculture	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 20: Agricultural Circumstances	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 21: Electromagnetic Fields	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 22: Ground Conditions and Contamination	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 23: Major Accidents and Disasters	No new or different likely significant environmental effects
Chapter 24: Other Environmental Matters	No new or different likely significant environmental effects



Topic	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Light Pollution;</li><li>• Waste Production and Management;</li><li>• Telecommunication, Utilities and Television.</li></ul>	



## 6 Schedule of Application Documents

6.1.1 An updated version of the **Guide to the Application [CR2/GH1.3\_F]** provides a full schedule of the application documents and plan, indicating which would be revised because of the Change Application and which do not change.

6.1.2 The new documents being submitted for this Change Application are listed in **Table 6.1**.

6.1.3 The documents for which revised versions are being submitted are listed in **Table 6.2**. It should be noted that **Technical Addendum to Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [CR2/GH8.4.2]** and the revised **Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [CR2/GH6.3.12.6\_B]** were intended to be submitted at Deadline 5; however, as these revised documents relate to the environmental assessment for the Scheme, against which these Proposed Change have been assessed, it was considered preferable to submit these documents early in order that they can be referred to when considering this Report. Similarly, one viewpoint requested by MKCC (MKCC1) is relevant to the assessment of the Proposed Changes and has been submitted with this Change Application.

**Table 6.1: New documents submitted with this Change Application**

Document Reference	Title
CR2/GH8.2.11	Augmented ZTV Green Hill G only (Option B)
CR2/GH8.2.12	Viewpoint Photography and Photomontage Green Hill G – MKCC1 (Option A)
CR2/GH8.2.13	Viewpoint Photography and Photomontage Green Hill G – MKCC1 (Option B)
CR2/GH8.2.14	Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan G (Option B)
CR2/GH8.4.2	Technical Addendum to Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage
CR2/GH9.4	Change Notification
CR2/GH9.5	Applicant Cover Letter for Change Application 2
CR2/GH9.6	Change Application and Supporting Environmental Information Report

**Table 6.2: Revised documents submitted with this Change Application**

Document Reference	Title	Reason for change
CR12GH1.3_F	Guide to the Application (Revision F) (Change Application)	Updates to list of documents and to introductory text
CR2/GH2.4_E	Works Plan (Revision E) (Change Application)	Updates in relation to Changes 1, 2, 3 and 4.



<b>Document Reference</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reason for change</b>
CR2/ GH6.3.12.6_B	ES Appendix 12.6 Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Revision B) (Change Application)	Updates in relation to Change 1 and 3.
CR2/GH4.4.10_C	ES Figure 4.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan A (Revision C) (Change Application)	Updates in relation to Change 4.
CR2/GH6.4.4.20_A	ES Figure 4.20: Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan G (Revision A) (Change Application)	Updates in relation Change 2.
CR2/ GH7.4_C	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Revision C) (Change Application)	Updates in relation to Changes 1,2 and 4.
CR2/GH7.13_A	Grid Connection Statement (Revision A) (Change Application)	Updates in relation to Changes 1 and 3.
CR2/GH7.17_B	Concept Design Parameters and Principles (Revision B) (Change Application)	Updates in relation Change 1.



## 7 Conclusion

- 7.1.1 The Proposed Changes are considered to be non-material and do not give rise to any new or different likely significant effects, as concluded in Section 5 of this Report. The Applicant regards the changes as minor amendments to the Scheme layout and design which are unsubstantial in nature, and not so significant as to constitute a materially different project from that submitted and accepted for examination. The Proposed Changes will not result in a DCO Application that is materially different in character from the one submitted and accepted for examination.
- 7.1.2 The Applicant considers that the engagement undertaken in relation to the Change Request, and the scope of consultation carried out, is appropriate and proportionate to the nature of the Proposed Changes.
- 7.1.3 The Applicant has considered the appropriate approach to bringing forward the Change Request in the context of the Examination Guidance and PINS Guidance. The Applicant considers that the changes can be fully considered by the Examining Authority and that the Change Request can be decided within the remaining time of the Examination.
- 7.1.4 The documents listed in Section 6 are provided in support of this Change Request. The Applicant trusts that this Report provides the Examining Authority with a clear overview of the scope and nature of the Proposed Changes, and of the consultation undertaken to support the Change Request.
- 7.1.5 The Applicant welcomes confirmation from the Examining Authority that the Change Request can be accepted.



## References

Ref.1 Planning Inspectorate, 'Guidance: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination', 24 March 2025 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-changes-to-an-application-after-it-has-been-accepted-for-examination>) ('PINS Change Guidance')

Ref.2 Guidance: Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, April 2024 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-examination-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>) ('Examination Guidance')

Ref.3 Planning Act 2008 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>) ('Planning Act 2008')

Ref.4 The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ksi/2009/2264/contents/made>) ('APFP')

Ref.5 Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ksi/2010/104/contents/made>) ('CA Regulations')

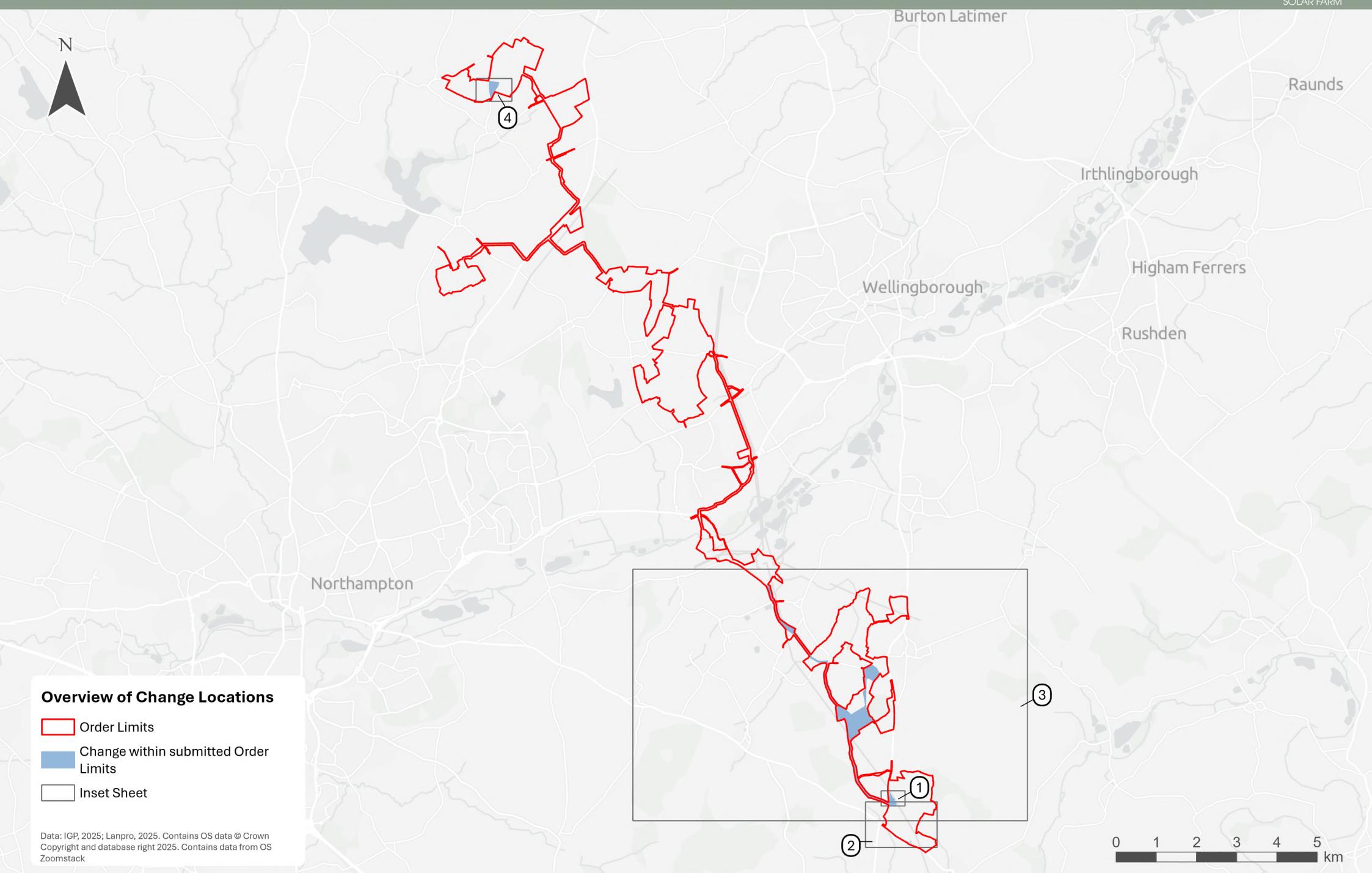
Ref.6 The Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 as amended (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ksi/2011/2055/contents>)

Ref.7 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ksi/2017/572/contents/made>) ('EIA Regulations')



## **Appendix A: Plan of Proposed Changes**

# Change Application 2



# Change Application 2

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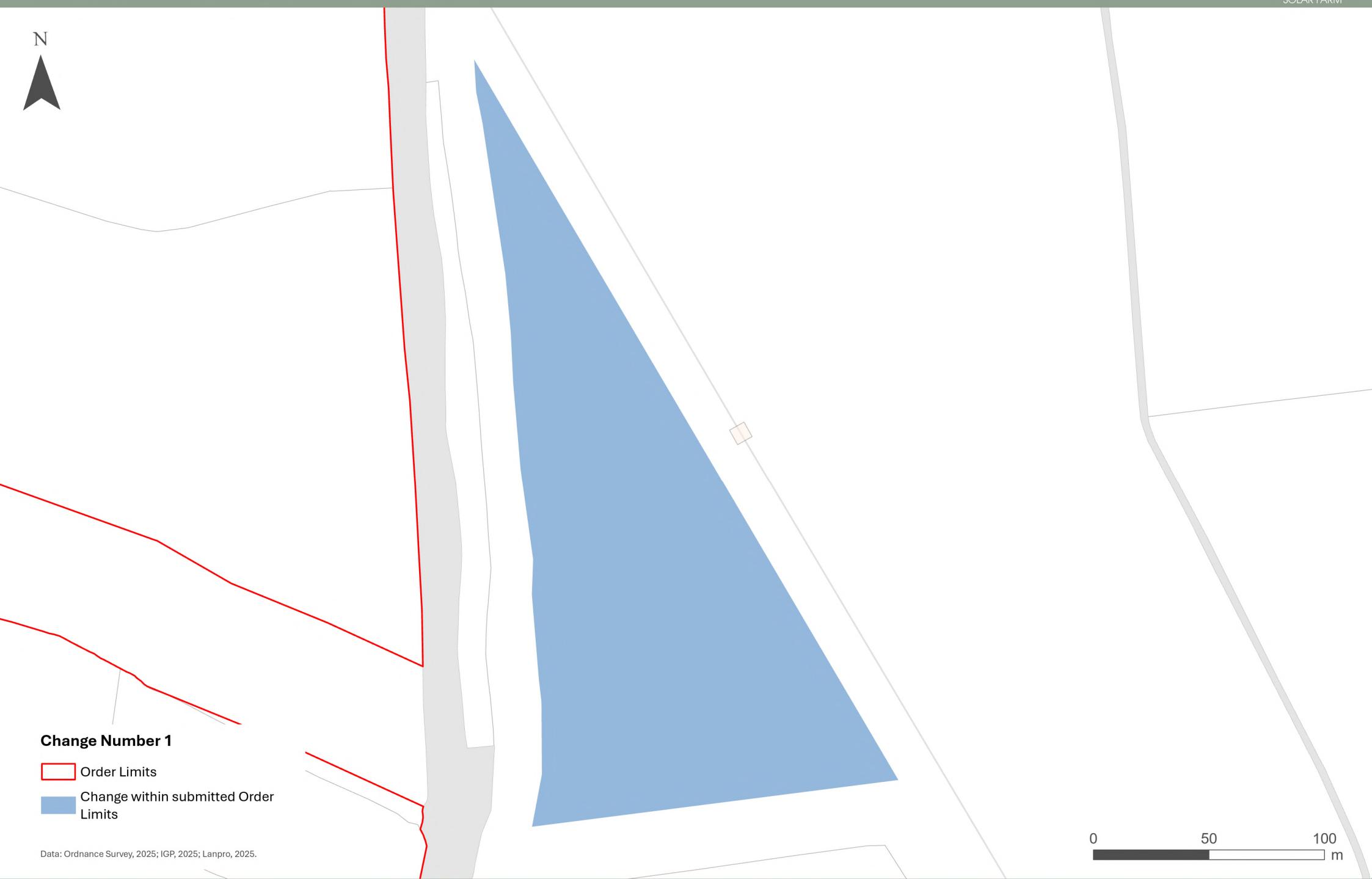
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Order Limits

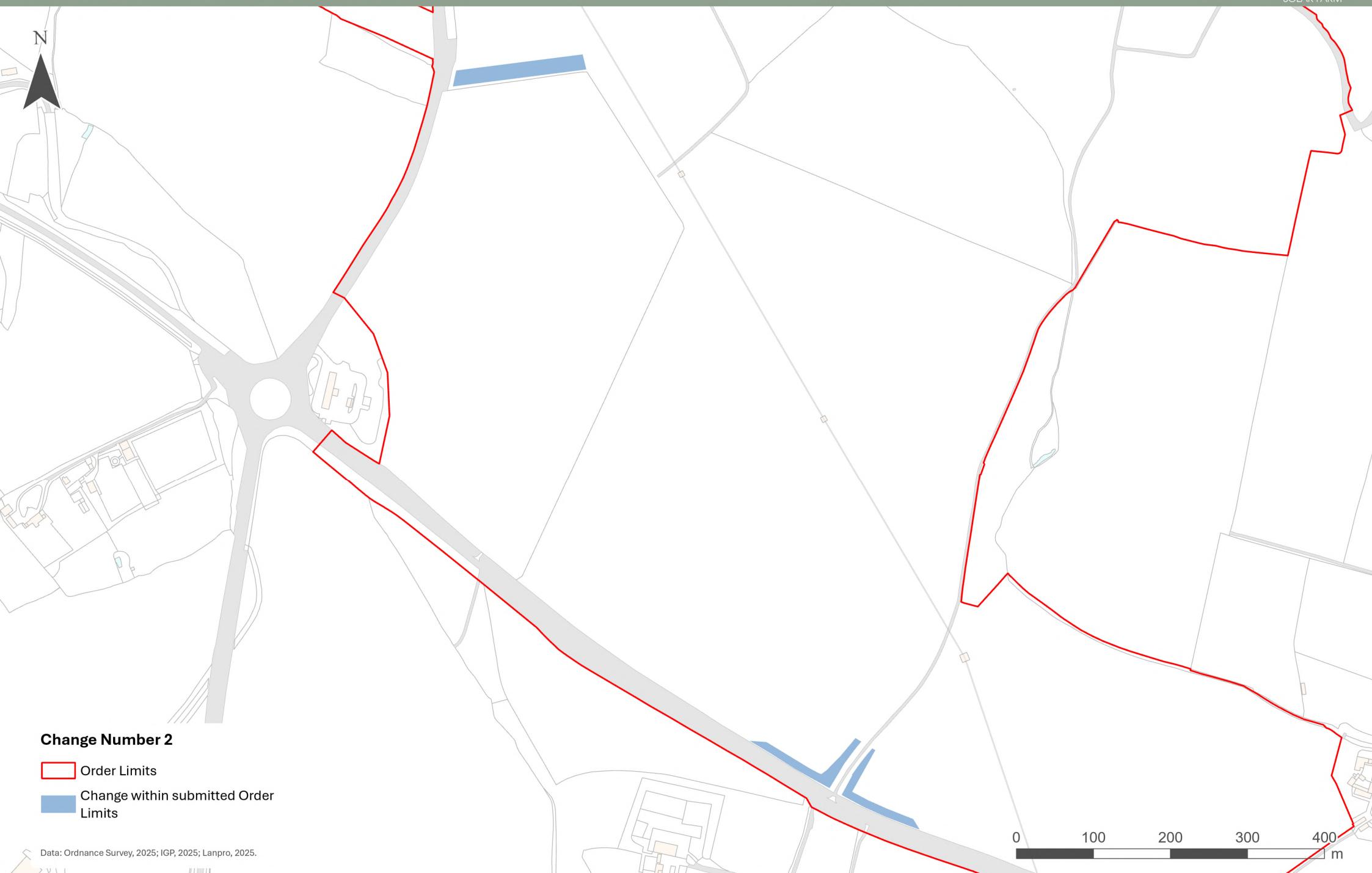
Change within submitted Order  
Limits

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

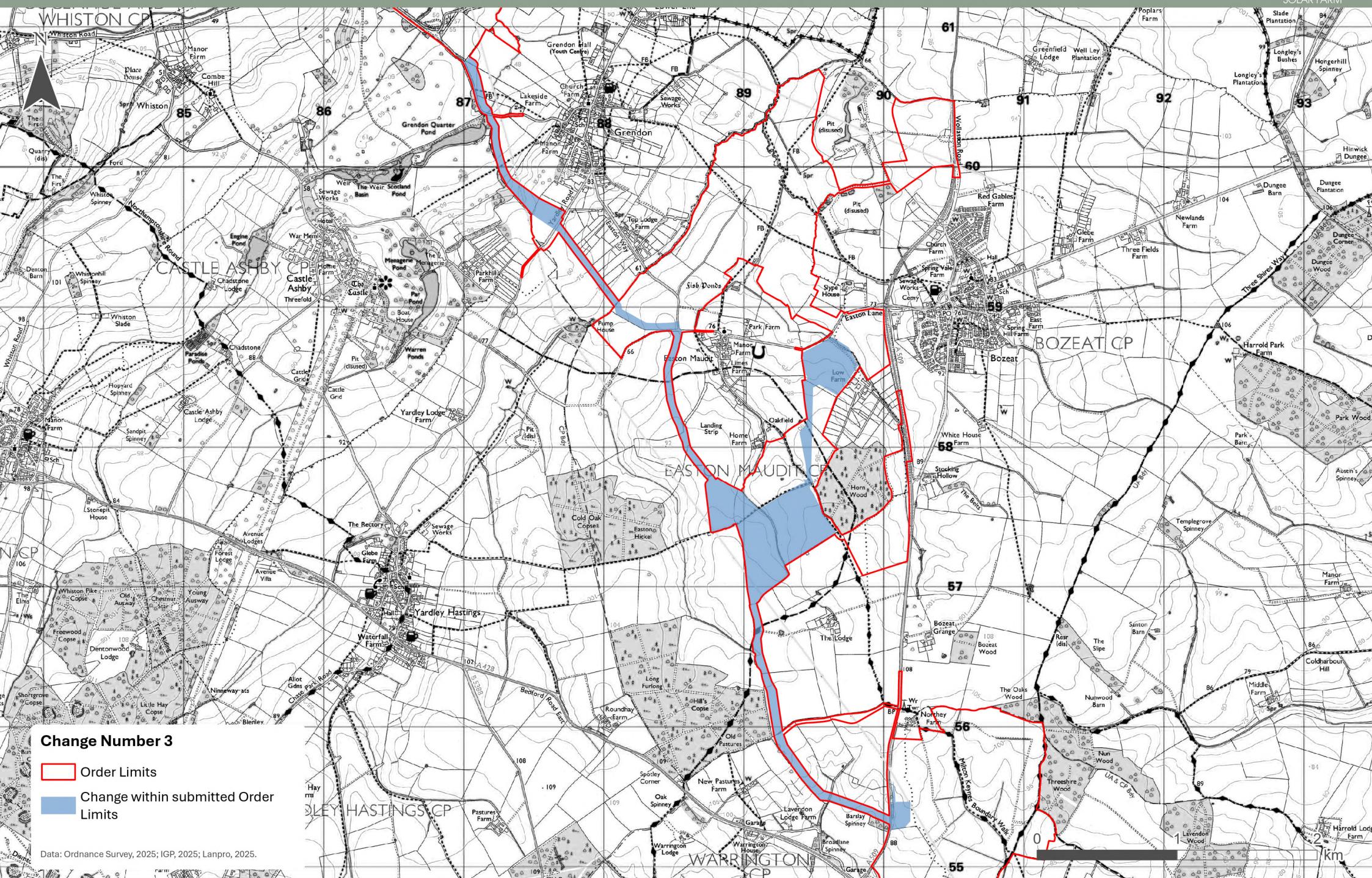
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# Change Application 2



# Change Application 2



# Change Application 2

