



**East Pye Solar
Environmental Statement
Volume 3: Appendix 10.2 – Archaeological Desk-
Based Assessment**

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**APPENDIX 10.2
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

**EAST PYE SOLAR PROJECT
NORFOLK**

**PREPARED FOR
EAST PYE SOLAR LTD**

March 2026

Project Reference: GHC/1227/02/S1
 Document Prepared by: Louise Ford BSc (Hons) PhD ACIfA and Camilla Collins BSc
 Document Reviewed by: Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc MCIfA
 Approved by: Paul Gajos BA MA MCIfA
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Non-Technical Summary

GHC Archaeology & Heritage was commissioned by East Pye Solar Ltd to produce an archaeological desk-based assessment of land proposed for East Pye Solar Project, Norfolk. The desk-based assessment addresses the information requirements set out in the Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1) and for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3, EN-5) and provides the proportionate response sought by the NPS. It draws together the available archaeological, historical, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the significance and archaeological potential of the Site.

The following (Appendix 10.2) outlines the overarching Scheme description, planning background and methodology employed for the assessment. It is preceded by individual assessments for each of the ten sites and the cable route corridor included within the Order Limits of the Scheme and the conclusions of the assessment. Geophysical and aerial surveys and have been conducted on all Sites, the results of which will be summarised here on a site-by-site basis. Initial trial trenching has also been undertaken, although the results of this are forthcoming and will be presented in a separate report (PCA forthcoming), summarised in the ES.

Groundworks associated with the Scheme including excavation for cable routes and associated infrastructure will have the potential to have impacts upon any archaeological deposits which may survive within the Order Limits. A mitigation strategy is currently being agreed with the Norfolk County Council Planning Archaeologist and will be presented in the ES, to accompany the DCO application.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by GHC Archaeology & Heritage Limited on behalf of East Pye Solar Ltd to assess land proposed for the East Pye Solar Project, Norfolk. Due to the overall size of the Site, it is deemed a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and the proposed application will therefore be submitted for a Development Consent Order (DCO) accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES). This assessment was produced to inform the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the Scheme in May 2025 and was updated in February 2026 prior to the preparation of the ES.
- 1.2 This document provides an assessment of the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the Order Limits and assesses the potential impacts that the Scheme could have on these. The assessment has been informed by the results of a geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2024) and an aerial investigation mapping survey (Headland Archaeology 2024) for the DCO Application. Preliminary trial trench evaluation has been undertaken, the results of which are presented in a separate report (PCA Forthcoming).
- 1.3 The assessment has been undertaken to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Statements (NPS) for Energy (EN-1, DESNZ 2025a) and for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3, DESNZ 2025b; and EN-5, DESNZ 2025C) and is in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA 2020).
- 1.4 The Scheme is situated entirely within the administrative boundaries of Norfolk County Council (NCC) and South Norfolk Council (SNC), and is located approximately 9km south of Norwich. It covers an area of 1,420ha.

The Scheme

- 1.5 The Scheme comprises the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station with a total capacity exceeding 100 megawatts (MW) and associated development including a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), up to three 132 kV Project Substations and up to three 400kV Project Substations, Grid Connection Infrastructure and a new National Grid Substation.
- 1.6 The Solar PV electricity generating stations will be located across Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10, with Site 6 being retained as open land for habitat management. The BESS is within the BESS Site.
- 1.7 Highway Works are sections of the highway network that will contain localised improvements, such as improvements to deteriorated road edges or temporary highway and traffic works required to safely accommodate the Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) deliveries to construct the Scheme.

- 1.8 In addition, and external to the above Sites, the Order Limits include a linear Cable Route Corridor (CRC). This covers a total area of approximately 158 ha and connects the ten Sites to the new National Grid Substation proposed in Site 1. There are also isolated areas allocated for transport of abnormal loads within the Order Limits but these have no potential for archaeological impacts.

2 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 2.1 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by current legislation, the policy framework set by government planning policy, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

Current Legislation

- 2.2 The applicable legislative framework is summarised as follows:

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (AMAAA) 1979
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997

- 2.3 The AMAAA largely relates to Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and designated archaeological areas, detailing in particular what can and cannot be undertaken on archaeological grounds.

- 2.4 The Hedgerow Regulations 1997, made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995, set out criteria that must be used in determining which hedgerows are important. These regulations apply to any hedgerow growing in, or adjacent to, any common land, protected land, or land used for agriculture, forestry or the breeding of horses, ponies or donkeys, if –
- i) it has a continuous length of, or exceeding, 20 metres; or
 - ii) it has a continuous length of less than 20 metres and, at each end, meets (whether by intersection or junction) another hedgerow

- 2.5 The regulations do not apply to hedgerows which mark the boundary of the curtilage of a dwelling-house even though the land on the other side may be used for one of the purposes set out above. For example, where the hedgerow marks the boundary line between agricultural and residential land, such as the edge of town, the regulations do not apply.

- 2.6 Regulation 8(4) indicates that a hedgerow is ‘important’ if:

- iii) it has been in existence for 30 years or more, and
- iv) it satisfies at least one of the criteria set out in Part II of Schedule 1 to the Regulations.

- 2.7 Hedgerows of archaeological and historic importance are identified by the criteria in paragraphs 1 to 5 of Part II, Criterion 1 states:

Schedule 1

Additional Criteria for Determining ‘Important’ Hedgerows

Part II: Criteria Archaeology and History

Paragraph 1. The hedgerow marks the boundary, or part of the boundary, of at least one historic parish or township; and for this purpose 'historic' means existing before 1850.

Paragraph 2. The hedgerow incorporates an archaeological feature which is:

(a) included in the schedule of monuments compiled by the Secretary of State under section 1 (schedule of monuments) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; or

(b) recorded at the relevant date in a Sites and Monuments Record.

Paragraph 3. The hedgerow:

(a) is situated wholly or partly within an archaeological site included or recorded as mentioned in paragraph 2 or on land adjacent to and associated with such a site; and

(b) is associated with any monument or feature on that site.

Paragraph 4. The hedgerow:

(a) marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor recorded at the relevant date in a Sites and Monuments Record or in a document held at that date at a Record Office; or

(b) is visibly related to any building or feature of such an estate or manor.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts; or

(b) is part of, or visibly related to, any building or other feature associated with such a system, and that system:

(i) is substantially complete; or

(ii) is of a pattern which is recorded in a document prepared before the relevant date by a local planning authority, within the meaning of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act, for the purposes of development control within the authority's area, as a key landscape characteristic.

2.8 Several of the criteria refer to records made before 'the relevant date', that is before the Regulations were made on 24th March 1997.

2.9 Further detail and guidance relating to the identification and documentation of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows is provided by 'The Hedgerow Regulations 1997: A Guide to the Law and Good Practice' (DoE). Additionally, the interpretation of Schedule 1 Part II, Paragraph 5 has been defined by a Judicial Review case (Flintshire County Council v NAW & Mr J T Morris), with a subsequent amendment to the guide issued by DEFRA in 2002.

- 2.10 The Hedgerow Regulations 1997: A Guide to the Law and Good Practice (DoE) clarifies that the phrase ‘pre-dating the Inclosure Acts’ should be taken to mean before 1845 (whether or not Inclosure Acts exist for the area in question).
- 2.11 Several of the criteria refer to the ‘Sites and Monuments Record’ (SMR). The SMR has been retitled the Historic Environment Record (HER), however, its role remains identical.

National Policy Statements

- 2.12 The Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1) (2025) sets out the government’s policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure and, in conjunction with relevant technology-specific National Policy Statements, forms the primary policy for Secretary of State decision making for such developments. Part 5 of EN-1 details the policies on the assessment of common impacts across the range of energy technologies, with Section 5.9, entitled ‘Historic Environment’, specifying the predominant policy concerning impacts of major energy infrastructure on the historic environment, including guidance on the assessment and mitigation of these impacts. This section requires applicants to assess the significance of any heritage assets with the potential to be affected and provides advice on the means of reducing any impact, which should be considered throughout the design process.
- 2.13 EN-1 further recognises that the Secretary of State should take into account the positive role that large-scale renewable projects play in the mitigation of climate change, the delivery of energy security and the urgency of meeting the net zero target, stating that this public benefit must be weighed against any loss or harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset (Section 5.9.32 to 5.9.33).
- 2.14 The relevant technology-specific NPS for the Scheme comprises the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3, 2025). Paragraphs 2.10.99-111 of EN-3 details government policy on developments for Solar Photovoltaic Generation and incorporates specific considerations in regard to cultural heritage:

“The impacts of solar PV developments on the historic environment will require expert assessment in most cases and may have effect both above and below ground. Above ground impacts may include the effects on the setting of Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets as well as on Historic Landscape Character. Below ground impacts, although generally limited, may include direct impacts on archaeological deposits through ground disturbance associated with trenching, cabling, foundations, fencing, temporary haul routes etc. Equally, solar PV developments may have a positive effect, for example archaeological assets may be protected by a solar PV farm as the site is removed from regular ploughing and shoes or low-level piling is stipulated.”

- 2.15 National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5, 2025) [Ref 8-3] details government policy on electricity infrastructure. With regards to cultural heritage the document largely refers to policies set out in EN-1 and EN3 but recognises the potential

impacts upon the setting of designated heritage assets from overhead cables and direct impacts from undergrounding (paragraph 2.9.26).

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.16 Section 16 of the NPPF (revised December 2024), entitled Conserving and enhancing the historic environment provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets.
- 2.17 Overall, the objectives of Section 16 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:
- Delivery of sustainable development;
 - Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment; and
 - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.
- 2.18 Section 16 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 212 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 2.19 A Heritage Asset is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: *'A building, monument, site, place, area, or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).'*
- 2.20 A Designated Heritage Asset comprises a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.
- 2.21 Significance is defined as: *'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.'*
- 2.22 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets.
 - Protects the settings of such designations.

Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.23 The Planning Practice Guidance (DLUHC 2024) is a web-based resource which is to be used in conjunction with the NPPF. It is aimed at planning professionals and prescribes best practice within the planning sector. The relevant section is entitled 'Historic Environment'. The guidance given in this section sets out the best practice to applying government policy in the NPPF.
- 2.24 Key elements of the guidance relate to assessing harm. It states that substantial harm is a high bar that may not arise in many cases and that while the level of harm will be at the discretion of the decision maker, generally, substantial harm is a high test that will only arise where a development seriously affects a key element of an asset's special interest. It is the degree of harm, rather than the scale of development, that is to be assessed.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.25 The Greater Norwich Local Plan (adopted March 2024) comprises policies to support development in Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk district councils working in partnership with Norfolk County Council and the Broads Authority. It contains one policy relevant to this desk-based assessment:

POLICY 3 – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT

The Built and Historic Environment

The development strategy of the plan and the sites proposed for development reflect the area's settlement structure of the city, towns and villages, retaining the separate identities of individual settlements.

Development proposals should enhance the built and historic environment through:

- Being designed to create a distinct sense of place and enhance local character, taking account of local guidance such as conservation area appraisals and historic landscape character assessments.*
- Avoiding harm to designated and non-designated heritage assets, including their setting, having regard to their level of significance in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF and relevant policies in other Development Plan Documents and Neighbourhood Plans.*
- Providing a continued or new use for heritage assets whilst retaining their historic significance.*
- Undertaking a heritage impact assessment if significant impacts to a heritage asset might arise.*
- Where relevant, heritage interpretation measures should be provided to enhance the appreciation and understanding of local heritage assets.*

- 2.26 Site 1 falls within the parish of Great Moulton, whilst Sub-Site 2A, the BESS and National Grid Substation and POC lie within Tivetshall parish. Sub-Site 2B falls partly within Great Moulton, Tivetshall and Wacton parishes and Sub-Site 2C lies within Wacton parish. There is no Neighbourhood Plan for Great Moulton, although there is one for Tivetshall (adopted 2022). Whilst there are nine non-designated heritage assets listed within this document, none of these lies within 1km of the boundary of the Site. Within Wacton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, there are 14 unlisted buildings of townscape significance. The vast majority of these lie beyond the 1km Study Area with only outbuildings to Wacton Hall that just fall within 1km. Due to their association with Wacton Hall and their locations within the Conservation Area, these fall within those designations for assessment.
- 2.27 Sites 3 and 6 in addition to the majority of Sub-Sites 7B-7C fall within the parish of Hempnall for which there is no Neighbourhood Plan. Within Hempnall Conservation Area Character and Management Guidelines, there are 34 unlisted buildings of townscape significance. These all fall within the Hempnall Conservation Area boundary, which lies over 1km from Site 3 and c.750m to the north-west of Site 6..
- 2.28 Site 4 falls within the parish of Long Stratton for which there is a Neighbourhood Plan and a Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan. There is no mention of non-designated heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan. Within the Long Stratton Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan, there are 18 unlisted buildings of townscape significance. These all fall within the Long Stratton Conservation Area boundary, the northern tip of which lies c.900m from the south-eastern end of the Site with no views to or from the Site.
- 2.29 Site 5 falls within the parish of Morningthorpe and Fritton for which there is no Neighbourhood Plan. Fritton Conservation Area lies to the immediate south of the Site, and within the Fritton Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Guidelines, there are three unlisted buildings of townscape significance. These fall within the Fritton Conservation Area boundary, which will be assessed in a separate report.
- 2.30 Sub-Site 7A and the western tip of Sub-Site 7C lie within Tasburgh parish. There is a Neighbourhood Plan for Tasburgh, which identifies 13 non-designated heritage assets all of which are located within Tasburgh, c.300m to the west of Sub-Site 7A.
- 2.31 Sub-Site 7D and the northern part of Sub-Site 7F lie within Saxlingham Nethergate parish, whilst the rest of the Site lies within Hempnall parish. There is no Neighbourhood Plan for either parish. Saxlingham Green Conservation Area lies to the immediate north of Sub-Sites 7D and 7F and within its Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Guidelines, there are nine unlisted buildings of townscape significance. These fall within the Saxlingham Green Conservation Area boundary and will be assessed in a separate report. Saxlingham Nethergate Conservation Area lies c.500m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D and

- contains 22 unlisted buildings of townscape significance. These are fall within the boundary of the Conservation Area and will be assessed within a separate report. Within the Hempnall Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Guidelines, there are 34 unlisted buildings of townscape significance. These fall within the Hempnall Conservation Area boundary, which lies c.750m to the south of Sub-Site 7E and will be assessed in a separate report.
- 2.32 Sub-Sites 7I, 7J and 7K lie within Shotesham parish for which there is an Emerging Neighbourhood Plan, although there is no document available to consult. Site 7L lies within Woodton parish for which there is no Neighbourhood Plan. There are no Conservation Areas within 1km of the Site.
- 2.33 Sites 8 lies within Shotesham parish for which there is an Emerging Neighbourhood Plan, although there is no document available to consult. The Conservation Areas for Shotesham and Saxlingham Green both lie within 1km of the Site. Whilst there are 56 unlisted buildings within Shotesham Conservation Area of townscape significance, only four lie within 1km of the Site. These will be assessed in a separate report. Within the Saxlingham Green Conservation Area, nine unlisted buildings have townscape significance, although only one lies within 1km of the Site. This will be assessed in a separate report.
- 2.34 Sites 9 lies within the parish of Brooke for which there is no Neighbourhood Plan. The Conservation Area lies c.100m to the north and c.350m to the east of the Site. The Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Guidelines were adopted in May 2025. The Conservation Area contains 142 unlisted buildings of townscape and local significance.
- 2.35 Site 10 is divided between three parishes with 10A, the western part of 10B and 10C within Woodton parish, the middle part of 10B, 10D and 10E within Seething parish and the eastern section of 10B within Hedenham parish. There are no Neighbourhood Plans for any of these parishes. Only the southern tip of Seething Conservation Area falls within 1km of the Site. Within the Seething Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan, there are 34 unlisted buildings of townscape significance, although only one of these falls within 1km of the Site. This will be assessed as part of the Conservation Area in a separate report.
- 2.36 The Cable Route Corridor (CRC) extends across the following parishes: CRC1 and CRC2 are within Great Moulton and Tivetshall; CRC3 is within Tivetshall; CRC4 is within Long Stratton, Pulham Market and Morningthorpe and Fritton; CRC5, CRC10 and CRC12 are within Saxlingham Nethergate; CRC6 and CRC7 are within Hempnall and Morningthorpe and Fritton; CRC8 is within Hempnall and Woodton; CRC9 is within Woddton; CRC11 is within Tasburgh and Hempnall; CRC13 is within Shotesham and Brooke; and CRC14 is within Seething.

Professional Guidance

- 2.37 This document has been prepared in accordance with a series of documents all of which are considered current best practice guidance.
- 2.38 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2020) provides guidelines and recommendations for best practice in undertaking archaeological desk-based research and assessment.
- 2.39 The Historic England publication *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment* (2015) outlines a seven-stage process for the assembly and analysis of relevant information relating to heritage assets potentially affected by a proposed development:
- Understand the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment;
 - Understand the significance of the affected assets;
 - Understand the impact of the proposal on that significance;
 - Avoid, minimise and mitigate impact in a way that meets the objectives of the NPPF;
 - Look for opportunities to better reveal or enhance significance;
 - Justify any harmful impacts in terms of the sustainable development objective of conserving significance and the need for change; and
 - Offset negative impacts on aspects of significance by enhancing others through recording, disseminating and archiving archaeological and historical interest of the important elements of the heritage assets affected.
- 2.40 In order to understand the nature, extent and level of significance the note advocates considering the four types of heritage value an asset may hold, as identified in Conservation Principles (English Heritage 2008): aesthetic, communal, historic and evidential. Significance results from a combination of any, some or all of the values.
- 2.41 The Historic England publication *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition): The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2017) recognises that whilst setting is not a heritage asset, elements of a setting 'may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral' (para. 4). Setting is described as being distinct to curtilage, character and context. This guidance also notes that the contribution of setting to the significance of a heritage asset is often expressed by reference to views, although the importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset, and this can be influenced by a number of other factors.

- 2.42 In order to assess the contribution made by setting to the significance of a heritage asset, and the implications of new developments, the guidance recommends that a systematic and staged '5-step process' to assessment should be adopted, namely:
- i) identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
 - ii) assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
 - iii) assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
 - iv) explore the way to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm;
 - v) make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.
- 2.43 This report therefore follows steps (i) and (ii) to identify the local heritage assets and their settings and then makes an assessment of the potential impact of the Scheme having regard to steps (iii) and (iv).
- 2.44 The Historic England advice note, *Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets. Historic England Advice Note 12* (2019), brings together all of the above guidance in an analysis of an appropriate approach for applicants for heritage and other consents in providing an understanding of the significance of heritage assets in line with NPS. This is aimed at providing assistance for owners, applicants, local planning authorities, planning and other consultants in the implementation of not only the guidance but also historic environment legislation and policy. It emphasises the level of detail required in support of both planning and listed building consent applications, which should be no more than is necessary, i.e. proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected, to reach an informed decision.
- 2.45 Regionally specific guidance is provided by the Norfolk County Council Standards For Development-Led Archaeological Projects In Norfolk (2018).

3 METHODOLOGY

Information Sources

- 3.1 The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (HER) has been consulted for records concerning the Site and its immediate environs. A gazetteer of all records held on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for within a 1km Study Area is provided in Annex 1.
- 3.2 The Norfolk Record Office and online repositories were consulted for historical maps, plans and relevant documentary sources, including published and unpublished documentary sources, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the ClfA (2020).
- 3.3 The assessment has also been informed by the results of a geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2024) and Aerial Photography and LiDAR mapping assessment (Headland

Archaeology 2024). These reports should be consulted for full details, although the results have been summarised where appropriate.

- 3.4 The Regional Archaeological Research Framework for Norfolk includes the East of England Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment 2021 (East of England Regional Research Framework - East of England Research Framework), which was also consulted.
- 3.5 Site visits were also undertaken in Summer 2024 to provide an initial assessment of the character of the Site and its surroundings and appraise the potential impact of the proposals on any heritage assets (see Plates 1 to 84).

Assessment Criteria

- 3.6 Paragraph 5.9.12 of the NPS EN-1 (DESNZ 2025a) states that the applicant should provide a description of the significance of the heritage asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 3.7 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 5.9.13, NPS EN-1, DESNZ 2025a) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.
- 3.8 Assessment of significance has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's *Statements of Heritage Significance. Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (2019).

4 SITES 1, 2 AND BESS ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 4.1 Sites 1, 2 and the BESS Site incorporate five Sub-Sites (named respectively 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2A, 2B, 2C) equating to c. 196.4ha of land, c.200m from the southern edge of Great Moulton to the northernmost tip of Sub-Site 1B (Figure 1). The Sites are currently in use as arable land situated on relatively flat land with Sub-Site 2A at the southern end at a height of approximately 50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), whilst the rest of the Sites lies at c.55m aOD.
- 4.2 Sub-Site 1A comprises a single field (centred at NGR TM 1668 8914), with four fields in Sub-Site 1B (centred at NGR TM 1708 8916). The southern part of Sub-Site 1B is divided by a ditch. The proposed BESS location is situated to the immediate south of Sub-Site 1B within one field (centred at NGR TM 1723 8851). The National Grid Substation and POC is located within the northern part of Sub-Site 1B (centred at NGR TM 1696 8944).
- 4.3 Sub-Sites 2A, 2B and 2C lie c.600m to the east of Sub-Site 1B and the BESS. Sub-Site 2A is at the southern end of Site 2 and consists of whole or parts of four fields (centred at NGR TM 1832 8783). Sub-Site 2B is located c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 2A and is divided into an eastern and western section by a ditch (centred at NGR TM 1856 8891). Sub-Site 2C lies c.200m to the north-east of the northernmost point of Sub-Site 2B and consists of three fields (centred at NGR TM 1897 8948).
- 4.4 The Sites are bounded by Great Moulton to the north, Broadgate Lane to the west, the Pye Roman Road (Ipswich Road) to the east and Station Road to the south. Dispersed farms and farmland surround the Sites.
- 4.5 The solid geology within the BESS, the National Grid Substation and POC, the southern part of Sub-Site 1B and Sub-Site 2A comprise sand of the Norwich Crag Formation. Sub-Sites 1A, the northern part of 1B (including the National Grid Substation Option 2 and POC), 2B and 2C comprise chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk, Culver Chalk and Portsdown Chalk. All are overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2025).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 4.6 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.7 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider surroundings are assessed separately.

Non-designated Heritage Assets***Recorded Archaeology and potential***

- 4.8 Two heritage assets have been identified within Sub-Site 1B of the Site comprising medieval and post-medieval pottery (MNF14411) and the site of a former medieval church (All Saints) that was demolished in 1540 (MNF10969). A Roman harness fitting was also recorded in Sub-Site 2A (MNF54819).
- 4.9 The HER contains 151 records within the Study Area, consisting of 136 ‘monument’ records, 15 ‘event’ records. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figures 1 - 2.
- 4.10 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
Prehistoric	0	14
Roman	1	33
Saxon	0	6
Medieval	2	40
Post-medieval	1	86
Modern	0	59
Unknown	0	0

Previous investigations***Aerial Investigation Mapping***

- 4.11 One archaeological investigation has been undertaken within the Site (ENF156794) comprising an aerial photograph mapping investigation, which forms part of the assessment for the current project (Headland Archaeology 2024). The aerial investigation mapping shows the presence of a building in Sub-Site 1B, which tallies with the Ordnance Survey mapping indicating a late 19th century origin for the structure. The structure was removed sometime between the 1953 and 1979 Ordnance Survey mapping.

Geophysical Survey

- 4.12 A geophysical survey was conducted of Sites 1 and 2, the BESS and the National Grid Substation areas as part of the current project (Magnitude Surveys 2024). In Sub-Site 1B, there is an area of disturbance in the location of the former 19th century building. In Sub-Site 2B, there are several areas of disturbance that relate to ponds.

HER Data

- 4.13 Fourteen investigations have been undertaken in the wider Study Area, the most significant of which included a series of investigations relating to a Roman roadside settlement. This comprised trial trenching (ENF138130), a geophysical survey (ENF142535), field survey and trial trenching (ENF148195, ENF148196). The results of these interventions are detailed in the relevant period summaries below.
- 4.14 A geophysical survey was carried out to the immediate west of the National Grid Substation and POC area, although a report of the findings has yet to be produced (MNF154920NOT IN HER DATA). A watching brief at Hall Farm c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 2B revealed two undated linear features (ENF14124) and a fieldwalking and metal detecting survey c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 2C uncovered a few sherds of Roman pottery (ENF99641).
- 4.15 Six building recordings were undertaken within the Study Area, which do not add to our understanding of the archaeological background (ENF121563, ENF154727, ENF135960, ENF135961, ENF135962, ENF142958).

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 4.16 No prehistoric assets have been recorded within the Site.
- 4.17 The earliest evidence for prehistoric activity includes the recovery of flint artefacts dating to the Neolithic period. Three polished axeheads have been recorded c.800m to the west of Sub-Site 1A (MNF10945, c.820m west of Sub-Site 1A; MNF19147, c.600m west of Sub-Site 1A; MNF10946, c.680m west of Sub-Site 1C). A fourth Neolithic polished axehead has been recovered c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 2A (MNF10955; c.920m south of 2A), whilst a late Neolithic axehead has been found c.20m to the east of Sub-Site 2C (MNF58190; c.20m east of 2C).
- 4.18 The Bronze Age is represented by chance finds only with no evidence for settlement or funerary activity. Bronze Age finds comprise an early Bronze Age flat axehead fragment, an early to mid Bronze Age flanged axehead and a mid Bronze Age palstave to the immediate west of Sub-Site 2C (MNF70668). A mid Bronze Age rapier blade and a late Bronze Age socketed axehead were found in between the BESS site and Sub-Site 2B (MNF66024; 130m east of 2B). In the northern part of the Study Area, a mid Bronze Age spearhead and a late Bronze Age Ewart Park sword were recorded (MNF70673; 470m north of 1B). An early Bronze Age copper alloy flat axehead and a late Bronze Age spearhead fragment were recovered c.400m north of site 1D (MNF24955), whilst a Bronze Age spear and knife were recorded c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 2C (MNF25916).

- 4.19 A pebble hammer/macehead was recorded c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 2B, which cannot be closely dated and may be of Mesolithic or Bronze Age date (MNF62684).
- 4.20 The Iron Age is also represented by chance finds, mainly of Late Iron Age coins, which have been recorded c.130m to the west of Sub-Site 2B (MNF54164, MNF14412), c.760m to the south of the National Grid Substation and POC (MNF66607) and c.750m to the north of Sub-Site 2C (MNF25916).
- 4.21 Based on the above evidence, the findspots are representative of a general level of prehistoric activity within the area, with little indication of any settlements. The geophysics, LiDAR and aerial mapping has also not identified any areas of potential prehistoric activity and, as such, it is considered that there is a low potential for any significant prehistoric evidence within the Site.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 4.22 One Roman find has been recorded within Sub-Site 2A of the Site comprising a harness fitting (MNF54819).
- 4.23 The majority of Roman activity is centred on the Pye Roman Road (MNF7947), which runs along the eastern edge of the Site (Sub-Sites 2A - 2C), along the course of the modern-day Ipswich Road, as part of its route from Scole to Caistor St Edmund (*Venta Icenorum*). A Roman roadside settlement has been identified along the eastern edge of the road c.670m to the north of Sub-Site 2C (MNF49692). First excavated in 2003 as part of the A140 bypass scheme, deposits of 'dark earth' were encountered suggestive of occupation. These deposits contained the remains of roof and floor tile, brick fragments and worked stone, along with midden-like deposits of animal bone, shell, and pottery dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. The animal bone assemblage included cut horn cores suggesting the presence of workshops to produce combs, cups and spoons. Smithing slags were also present indicative of blacksmithing. A metallised surface running to the east was interpreted as a second Roman road leading to a probable further settlement. To the east of the roadside settlement, concentrations of features were noted comprising pits, gullies and ditches representing 'backyards' to the settlement as well as rubbish pits and small stock enclosures (ENF138130, NAU 2003).
- 4.24 In 2020, the area was re-visited by NPS Archaeology (2022), who conducted a fieldwalking and metal detecting survey, and informative trial trenching in advance of a bypass. Pits, ditches and the Roman 'dark earth' occupation deposits were excavated as a continuation of the earlier trenching in 2003 (ENF148195, ENF148196). In the vicinity of these excavations and to the south (c.100-900m to the north of Sub-Site 2C), there have been numerous finds uncovered of Roman date, most of which likely relates to the settlement. These include coins, pottery, brooches and bracelets (MNF12513, MNF12511, MNF12510, MNF40071, MNF10057, MNF41185, MNF38569, MNF20950, MNF10947, MNF33188, MNF46681, MNF54997, MNF69191, MNF25916).

- 4.25 Other chance finds include a Roman cosmetic pestle and mortar set found just to the east of Sub-Site 2C (MNF70668) and coins and brooches c.350m to the west of Sub-Site 2C (MNF62703). Two finger rings were recorded c.20m to the east of Sub-Site 2C (MNF58190) and a coin c.1km to the south-east of Sub-Site 2C (MNF60088).
- 4.26 In the vicinity of Sub-Site 2A, pottery, coins and tesserae were uncovered c.5m to the east (MNF54696), a patera handle to the immediate west (MNF57350) and a quern c.20m to the north (MNF20098).
- 4.27 Further chance finds include a coin to the immediate east of Field 1B (MNF61191), pottery c.270m to the west of Sub-Site 1A (MNF77366) and pottery, coins and brooches c.670m to the south of the BESS (MNF15625, MNF66607). A brooch was identified c.600m to the north-west of Sub-Site 1A (MNF70297) and several coins c.500-900m to the north of Sub-Site 1B (MNF43611; 210m north of 1D, MNF45173; 700m north of 1D, MNF24955; 440m north of 1D). A copper alloy pinhead was found c.1km to the north-east of Sub-Site 1B (MNF39471; 800m northeast of 1D).
- 4.28 The close proximity of the Roman road, together with evidence of a roadside settlement and multiple finds suggest the surrounding landscape was exploited during Roman period. However, settlement appears to have been concentrated further to the north and there is no evidence on the LiDAR, aerial mapping or geophysics to suggest occupational activity of Roman date. As such, it is considered that these fields have a low potential for archaeological remains, although chance finds cannot be entirely discounted.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 4.29 The site of the Roman roadside settlement may have continued to be occupied during the Saxon period with finds of Late Saxon pottery and metal objects, c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 2C (MNF49692, MNF12513, MNF25916).
- 4.30 Chance finds of further Saxon objects include a late Saxon silver coin brooch and a strap end, c.350m to the west of Sub-Site 2C (MNF62703) and a mid/late Saxon harness stud, c.50m to the west of Sub-Site 2A (MNF57350), with a late Saxon/medieval openwork mount c.1km to the east of Sub-Site 2B (MNF60089).
- 4.31 Moulton St Michael is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as having a population of 72.3 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. The land comprised ploughlands, meadows and woodlands indicating a mixed agricultural economy. A mill and church are also mentioned suggesting it was a place of some importance. The name 'Moulton' is derived from the Old English meaning 'farmstead of a man called Mula, or where mules are kept' (Mills 2011).
- 4.32 The former Church of All Saints was allegedly located within the southern part Sub-Site 1B as depicted on historic Ordnance Survey mapping, although it was demolished in 1570 (MNF10969). No evidence for any remains of this church have been identified on the LiDAR,

- aerial mapping or geophysics in this area. The Norman piscina is now in St Michael's Church in Great Moulton. Around 1900, the site was known as 'The Sanctuary'. Medieval pottery has also been found within Sub-Site 1B during fieldwalking including a fragment of beard from a Grimston face jug (MNF1411).
- 4.33 Medieval occupation may have continued at the site of the former Roman and possibly Saxon settlement c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 2C, as indicated by finds of pottery recovered from two pits (MNF49692) as well as pottery (MNF12511, MNF69191, MNF25916, MNF41185), coins (MNF12513), a buckle (MNF69191) and a horse harness pendant (MNF40071) in the vicinity.
- 4.34 The site of a medieval building was also discovered just to the south of the former Roman settlement on the eastern side of the A140, c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 2C (MNF10067). Pottery dating to the 12th to 14th centuries was also recovered associated with the building. Copper alloy dress and furniture fittings were found close-by (MNF33188).
- 4.35 Several moated sites have been identified within the northern and western parts of the Study Area. Such sites were at their peak from around the mid-13th to the mid-14th centuries. Wacton Hall, which comprises a rectangular moat with two inner possible fishponds, is located c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 2B (MNF10063). It has been suggested that this is also the location of Little Wacton deserted medieval village, although this has not been verified archaeologically. A causeway abuts the enclosure to the east at an angle (MNF10064). Further examples of moated sites include one c.1km to the west of the National Grid Substation and POC (MNF10964), a second c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 1B (MNF24039) and a third c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 1B (MNF10073). It is reported that the latter site may have formed part of a medieval deer park, although there is no evidence to substantiate this.
- 4.36 Metal detecting c.100m to the north-east of Sub-Site 2C, along the eastern side of the A140, identified a possible mount depicting a mythical beast and a cast lead pilgrim souvenir head of Christ (MNF46681). A medieval coin was found opposite on the western side of the road (MNF54998). Other chance finds to the east of the Site include a medieval swivel, c.50m to the east of Sub-Site 2C (MNF58190), a brooch and Boy Bishop token c.1km to the east of Sub-Site 2B (MNF60088), pottery, coins, ampulla and seal matrix, c.50m to the east of Sub-Site 2A (MNF54696) and medieval pottery c.700m to the south-east of Sub-Site 2A (MNF22465). To the south, coins were found c.200m and c.500m to the south of Sub-Site 2A (MNF58132, MNF74610). To the west, a harness pendant was recorded c.300m to the west of Sub-Site 2A and a buckle, coin and harness fitting c.50m to the west of Sub-Site 2A (MNF57350). A coin, a papal bulla and sword/dagger pommel were recovered c.500m to the west of Sub-Site 2B (MNF66024) and pottery and a ring were recorded c.50m and c.200m west of Sub-Site 1A (MNF77366; MNF40765). To the north, a buckle frame was found c.600m to the north of Sub-Site 1B (MNF61243), whilst pottery, coins and dress accessories were identified c.440m to the north of Sub-Site 1D (MNF24955).

- 4.37 Occupation during the medieval period is evidenced with the settlements of Moulton St Michael (Great Moulton) to the north-west, as well as moated sites and the roadside settlement along the A140. A former church was sited within Sub-Site 1B and it is highly likely that there are below ground remains relating to this. It is possible that some medieval settlement associated with the church also survives in this area as suggested by a scatter of medieval pottery just to the north of the Church site. Whilst this may represent a manuring scatter, it may also be indicative of settlement activity given the proximity of the church. The remaining fields within the Site were likely in use as agricultural land and, as such, it is considered that Sub-Sites 1A, Site 2, the BESS and both National Grid Substation areas have a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 4.38 Post-medieval pottery has been found during fieldwalking in Sub-Site 1B (MNF14411).
- 4.39 The Norwich to London railway line lies c.360m to the west of Sub-Site 1A and was constructed in 1849 with a station at Tivetshall (MNF13578). This was later closed in 1966.
- 4.40 A WWII pillbox was recorded on the HER c.400m to the east of Sub-Site 2A (MNF32716). This was also identified by a survey of unexploded ordnance and constraints (Zetica 2024). Whilst this pillbox is no longer extant, it would have contained stores of munitions and would have been manned by the 3rd Norfolk Battalion Home Guard. Further WWII activity has not been recorded on the HER, but includes a bombing incident and an aircraft crash. The bombing involved 16 high explosive bombs jettisoned on open ground near Sneath Common approximately 400m to the west of the National Grid Substation and POC. These were recorded on 30th May 1944 as unexploded bombs and taken to RAF Tibbenham for disposal. A Lightning P-38J aircraft crashed c.250m to the south of the BESS in March 1944.
- 4.41 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 145 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).
- 4.42 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 4.43 The earliest available mapping is Faden's map of Norfolk from 1797 (not reproduced), which shows the parish boundary between Tivetshall and Great Moulton (Hundred Lane) and from this, there is a road running north through Sub-Site 1B.
- 4.44 Bryant's map of Norfolk from 1826 (not reproduced) annotates the parish boundary between Tivetshall and Great Moulton as 'Hundred Lane' referring to the former Saxon system of dividing the land for taxation and governance.

- 4.45 The fields within Sites 1 and 2 cover three modern parishes – Great Moulton, Tivetshall and Wacton. The BESS and National Grid Substation and POC, Sub-Site 2A and the south-eastern part of Sub-Site 2B lie within Tivetshall parish. Site 1 and the western section of Sub-Site 2B and lie within Great Moulton parish. Sub-Site 2B and a small part of the north-eastern section of Sub-Site 2B falls within Wacton parish. The Moulton St Michael enclosure map (1820) shows Sub-Site 1B with remnants of the medieval strip fields with various owners as well as an area of woodland (Figure 3). Tivetshall enclosure map (no date) shows that the National Grid Substation and BESS area were fields owned by the Reverend R. Norris, whilst Sub-Sites 2A and 2B were owned by the Late Thomas Temple and the Earl of Oxford (Figure 4). No enclosure map exists for Wacton.
- 4.46 There are three tithe maps for the fields within Sites 1 and 2 with no parish boundary changes – Moulton St Michael, Tivetshall St Margaret and Stratton St Mary (Figures 5 - 7). On the Moulton St Michael map, dating to 1837, the former strip fields in Sub-Site 1B have been divided into smaller parcels. They are aligned in a north/south direction from Hundred Lane at the southern end of the Site. No structures are present within any of the fields, although there is a road running through the centre of the Site in a roughly north/south direction from Hundred Lane (now a field boundary). The Moulton St Michael tithe map has a parcel of land (Plot 345) labelled as ‘Sanctuary Field’ in the apportionment in reference to the former Church of All Saints. It is in use as an arable field at the time of this map.
- 4.47 On the Tivetshall tithe map dated to 1839, in Sub-Site 2B, Plot 3 is annotated as ‘cottage and garden’, although no structure is visible on the map. To the immediate south of this (Plot 4) is labelled as ‘Brick Kiln wood’ that may indicate the production of bricks at some point. Plot 6 is labelled as ‘Premises’ and to the south of this, Plot 11 is ‘allotments’, again indicating habitation without any visible structures. Plots 13, 14, 15 at the southern end of Sub-Site 2B refer to ‘Church Close’ and ‘Churchyard’, although it uncertain to which church these refer. In Sub-Site 2A, remnant strip fields are visible on the Tivetshall tithe map aligned in an east/west direction from the main turnpike road, now Ipswich Road (Roman Pye Road). These have been used for settlement along the street frontage, and whilst no structures are visible on the map, the apportionment provides detail of the usage of these plots at this time. Plot 31 refers to a ‘House and Garden’ and the adjacent Plot 32 is a ‘Paddock’. Plot 48 is also ‘House and Yards’ and Plot 53 is ‘House and Premises’. All these plots front onto the main turnpike road. To the west, behind the street frontage are further houses with Plot 50 as ‘Cottage and Garden’, Plot 51 as ‘House and Garden’, Plots 55 and 60 as ‘Cottage and Land’. Allotments are also present in Plots 56 and 57. The northern part of Plot 67 just extends into the south-western part Sub-Site 2A and represents a ‘Rectory House and Gardens’. Again, it is uncertain to which church this refers. As part of the rectory land are lawns and plantations in Plots 69 and 70.

- 4.48 In Sub-Site 2C, only the eastern half of the Site is shown on the map. All the plots are arable fields lying within the parish of Stratton St Mary (now Wacton parish) as indicated by the tithe map dating to 1839.
- 4.49 The first edition Ordnance Survey mapping from 1883 shows few changes to the fields, although some field boundaries have been removed to create larger fields, such as in the BESS site and Sub-Site 2B. The site of All Saints' Church is annotated within Sub-Site 1B and to the north of this, a building is shown (Figure 8).
- 4.50 The second edition Ordnance Survey mapping from 1904-1906 does not show any significant changes with just the removal and addition of the occasional field boundary in Sub-Sites 1B and 2A. The structure in Sub-Site 1B is still extant on this map.
- 4.51 There are no apparent changes on the subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping, apart from the removal of the structure in Sub-Site 1B and field boundaries in the late 20th century.
- 4.52 The LiDAR does not show any features of significance (Figure 9).
- 4.53 The historic landscape characterisation of the majority of the Site is described as 20th century agriculture with boundary loss, some of which has relict elements, especially in Sub-Site 1A. In Sub-Sites 2B and 2C, there is 18th and 19th century piecemeal enclosure by agreement (Figure 10).
- 4.54 During the post-medieval and modern periods, the Site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to Great Moulton and Tivetshall St Margaret. The LiDAR and geophysics show former field boundaries that are identifiable on the historic Ordnance Survey mapping in all Sites. The geophysics also shows an area of disturbance in Sub-Site 1B in the area of a 19th century structure depicted on the historic Ordnance survey mapping, although this is not visible on the LiDAR. As such, the Site is considered to have a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence.

Hedgerows

- 4.55 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.
- 4.56 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to 7 sections of hedgerow within Sites 1 and 2.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

- 4.57 The tithe maps and subsequent 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figure 11 shows the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the

Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as 'important' in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 4.58 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 4.59 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.60 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 4.61 The Site has been assessed as having a generally low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although there is high potential for medieval remains in Sub-Site 1B. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that if the purported medieval church and associated settlement recorded by the HER within Sub-Site 1B is present, these would likely be of regional importance. Other surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

Hedgerows

- 4.62 Although the hedgerows shown on Figure 11 are considered to be 'important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 they are not considered to be a designated heritage asset as defined by the NPS.
- 4.63 The hedgerows themselves contain no evidential value or archaeological interest, i.e. they do not hold any evidence for past human activity worthy of archaeological investigation. The significance of the 'important' hedgerow is therefore vested in its historic value in relation

to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern, i.e. the pattern of land division and allocation established by the enclosure of the township in the 19th century.

- 4.64 It is clear that when originally drafted the regulations were designed to give some protection to the survival of field patterns that had been in place prior to enclosure (i.e. parts of the open field system), however, the later ruling that any boundary known to be in existence in 1845 (the date of the last enclosure act) or earlier has resulted in a large number of boundaries falling under the regulations that were created by enclosure, not in existence before enclosure. The result is that the regulations now provide some protection to hedgerows of a certain age, rather than relating to hedgerows/boundaries that were in existence before the enclosure of the open fields of a certain township or parish. It stands to reason, therefore, that hedgerows which mark the boundary of a field that were in existence before the enclosure of the land would be of greater significance and historic interest than those which are a product of enclosure.
- 4.65 The hedgerows within the Site are clearly related to enclosure rather than a preexisting open field system and are considered to be of very limited potential to add to regional or national research objectives and as such are considered to be of no more than local significance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 4.66 Site 1 will encompass a National Grid Substation and one 400kv substation; new infrastructure connections including new pylons; and solar PV arrays; whilst Site 2 will be wholly used for solar PV arrays under the Scheme. The BESS Site will contain the BESS with noise barriers surrounding components; and a 400kv Project Substation. There are landscaping initiatives proposed as part of the embedded mitigation of the Scheme, including tree planting at the southern side of the BESS/Client Substation area (to the south of Sub-Site 1B) and enhanced hedgerow and tree planting at the eastern side of Sub-Site 2A bordering Norwich Road. There will also be five temporary construction compounds during the Construction Phase of the Scheme situated across Sites 1 and 2.
- 4.67 Solar farm construction (and decommissioning) results in a very low level of below ground disturbance, depending upon the exact layout and amount of cabling required (typically in the region of 5%-7% of Site area) and extent of substation and battery storage facilities. In many cases, depending on their nature and significance, archaeological remains are capable of absorbing such impact without compromising their integrity or reducing the legibility of the remains for future investigation.
- 4.68 Site 1 will encompass a National Grid Substation and one 400kv substation; -new infrastructure connections including new pylons; and solar PV arrays; whilst Site 2 will be wholly used for solar PV arrays under the Scheme. The BESS Site will incorporate

the BESS with noise barriers surrounding components; and a 400kv Project Substation. There are landscaping initiatives proposed as part of the embedded mitigation of the Scheme, including tree planting at the southern side of the BESS/Project Substation area (to the south of Sub-Site 1B) and enhanced hedgerow and tree planting at the eastern side of Sub-Site 2A bordering Norwich Road. There will also be five temporary construction compounds during the Construction Phase of the Scheme situated across Sites 1 and 2.

Previous Impacts

- 4.69 Agricultural activity through the medieval and post-medieval and modern periods is likely to have adversely impacted or truncated potential below-ground archaeological remains across the Site, in particular where these survive at a shallow depth. The presence of cropmarks visible in aerial photographs and geophysical anomalies relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.70 The Scheme will have no direct impact upon any designated heritage asset. Potential impacts upon the settings of designated heritage assets are addressed within a separate report (Environmental Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1 Heritage Statement).

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 4.71 Impacts to archaeological assets within the Order limits would largely occur during the Construction Phase through activities such as the installation of Solar PV Arrays, BESS, Customer Substation, National Grid, Cabling, Access Tracks, and Temporary Construction Compounds all have the potential to have an adverse, permanent, and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.
- 4.72 The Project Substations, National Grid Substation, and the BESS will likely result in total destruction of archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 4.73 Impacts from piling for the Ground Mounted PV Modules will be at a very low level, typically ranging between 0.1% and 0.05% by area, depending upon the separation between rows.
- 4.74 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low.. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 4.75 Other elements of the Scheme, such as construction of Access Tracks, Conversion Units, Grid Connection Infrastructure, and Temporary Construction Compounds, will have further localised impacts.
- 4.76 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains

present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

Hedgerows

- 4.77 Limited hedgerow removal is proposed during the construction phase of the Scheme (no more than 10m). The significance of the hedgerows is vested in the historic value in relation to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern. The removal proposed is sufficiently small enough that the boundary denoted by hedgerows and their contribution to understanding the pre-1845 field pattern will remain legible despite a small section being lost. As such, it is not considered that there will be any impact to understanding their significance.

CONCLUSIONS

- 4.78 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that Sites 1 and 2 have a generally low potential for archaeological evidence dating from the prehistoric to medieval periods to be present, although there is a high potential for medieval remains in Sub-Site 1B. There is no evidence at present to suggest that Sites 1 and 2 contain, or have the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.

Plates



Plate 1: View of project substation and POC area from the north-eastern end, facing south-west



Plate 2: View of the BESS area from the north-east corner, facing south-west



Plate 3: View of Field 1A from the north-east corner, facing south-west



Plate 4: View of Field 1B from the north end, facing south



Plate 5: View of Sub-Site 2A from the south-west corner, facing north-east



Plate 6: View of the eastern part of Sub-Site 2B from the centre, facing south-west



Plate 7: View of the western part of Sub-Site 2B from the south-west corner, facing south-east



Plate 8: View of Sub-Site 2C from the western edge, facing east

5 SITE 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 5.1 The Site for this assessment comprises two fields of a combined c.58ha in size (centred at NGR TM 2444 9187), c.300m to the south of Hempnall Green. They are situated on relatively flat land at a height of approximately 50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 5.2 The Site comprises arable fields and is surrounded by predominantly agricultural land interspersed with farms, woodland and residential housing. It is bounded by several roads including Barondale road and Spring Lane to the east, Lundy Green to the north, Stepping Lane to the west and Shelton Green to the south.
- 5.3 The solid geology within Site 3 comprises sand of the Norwich Crag Formation overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2025).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 5.4 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider surroundings are assessed separately.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Recorded Archaeology and potential

- 5.6 Three heritage assets have been identified within the Site comprising fieldwalking and metal detecting, which recovered prehistoric burnt flints, Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins and metal objects (MNF24356). Neolithic and Neolithic/Early Bronze Age polished flint handaxes were found by chance (MNF68782). Part of the southern extent of the Site was once part of RAF Hardwick, a WWII airfield (MNF21992).
- 5.7 The HER contains 59 records within the Study Area, consisting of 56 'monument' records and three 'event' records. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figures 12-13.

- 5.8 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
Prehistoric	2	14
Roman	1	12
Saxon	0	6
Medieval	2	20
Post-medieval	1	33
Modern	1	21
Unknown	0	2

Previous investigations

Aerial Investigation mapping

- 5.9 An aerial investigation mapping survey has been undertaken within the Site (ENF156794), which forms part of the assessment for the current project (Headland Archaeology 2024). The aerial mapping and LiDAR have identified the remains access roads for RAF Hardwick within the Site. The remains of a post-medieval/modern building have also been detected, which is also shown on the LiDAR, historic mapping and the geophysics. A depression in that may relate to 'clay pit piece' is also visible on the LiDAR.
- 5.10 Possible enclosures, pits and a trackway have been identified, with some traces of these in the geophysics, although they have not shown up on the LiDAR. The origin and dating of these features are uncertain.

Geophysical Survey

- 5.11 A geophysical survey was conducted in Site 3 (Magnitude Surveys 2024) revealing disturbance in the location of former structures as well as possible blacksmithing and quarrying activities. There is also disturbance that relates access roads to the former WWII airfield.

HER Data

- 5.12 Two further archaeological investigations have been carried out within the study area comprising a field survey by Norfolk Archaeological Unit in 1992-1993 (ENF136766, MNF24356) and a fieldwalking survey in 1988 followed by a metal detecting survey in 2018 (MNF24356).
- 5.13 The field survey was conducted along the route of the Hardwick Landfill site and access road, which did not record any artefacts. This former landfill site lies just outside the Site within

Spring Wood (ENF136766, MNF24356). Fieldwalking in the western part of the Site recovered a concentration of prehistoric burnt flints, (MNF24356). The HER records the flints as potential burnt mounds, although no corresponding responses were noted in the geophysical survey and it is likely that the burnt flints only survive as surface deposits. Metal detecting in 2018 in the same area recorded Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins and metal objects including a Roman coin and key handle, which may relate to the possible site of a Roman building recorded to the immediate north (MNF29408; 75m west of 3).

- 5.14 Further Fieldwalking in 1988, c.600m to the north-west of the Site, recorded a concentration of prehistoric burnt flints that have also been interpreted as burnt mounds and may have been used in the preparation of food (MNF24357; 520m northwest of 3).
- 5.15 Trial trenching c.700m to the north-east of the Site recorded an isolated pit containing dumps of charcoal and fired clay, which were radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age. This may represent the remains of a fired clay structure, but cannot be confirmed due to the poor survival of archaeological remains. More recent cultivation ditches were also discovered as well as four undated postholes or pits (ENF152457, Pre-Construct Archaeology 2022).

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 5.16 Two prehistoric assets have been recorded within the Site comprising a concentration of burnt flints that were possibly used for the preparation of food (MNF24356) as well as Neolithic and Neolithic/early Bronze Age handaxes (MNF68782).
- 5.17 The majority of the prehistoric assets have been recorded to the north of the Site, although this may be a reflection of the fieldwalking and metal detecting undertaken in this area.
- 5.18 The earliest evidence for prehistoric activity includes the recovery of a Mesolithic tranchet axehead c.50m to the north of the Site, along with other prehistoric flints (MNF29409; 0m west of 3).
- 5.19 A Neolithic axehead was found c.1km to the south-west of the Site (MNF33892; 1200m south of 3).
- 5.20 Bronze Age activity is better attested with two palstave moulds recovered c.800m to the north-east of the Site (MNF57054; 700m north of 3, MNF64592; 520m northeast of 3). One of these comprised one half of a mould, whilst the second half and a complete mould were found in the adjacent field. The recovery of two complete moulds in this area suggests that palstaves were potentially made here. A Bronze Age flint was found c.400m to the north of the Site (MNF29172; 300m north of 3). Burnt flints suggestive of a Bronze Age date are more profuse with finds recorded c.50m north (MNF29407; 0m north of 3), c.500m north (MNF21991; 390m north of 3) and c.800m to the north-west (MNF24357; 520m northwest of 3). The latter find was recorded in conjunction with pot boilers indicating that this was a possible site of a burnt mound.

- 5.21 Generic prehistoric flints were uncovered c.500-900m to the north-west of the Site (MNF25677; 560m northwest of 3, MNF29410; 630m northwest of 3, MNF29411; 780m northwest of 3).
- 5.22 Iron Age occupation is indicated by pits containing charcoal that have been radiocarbon dated to this period, c.700m to the north-east of the Site (MNF77480; 410m northeast of 3, ENF152457).
- 5.23 The water courses and generally flat topography make this a relatively conducive area for habitation during the prehistoric periods, although this is not particularly well reflected in the HER. Evidence for settlement in the area begins in the Bronze Age, although it appears that resources were exploited from an earlier period, particularly to the north of the Site. As such, occupation within the Site cannot be discounted and it is considered that there is a low to moderate potential for prehistoric evidence.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 5.24 Metal detecting within the Site recovered Roman coins and a key handle (MNF24356).
- 5.25 The vast majority of the Roman assets lie to the north of the Site as this area has been investigated more extensively with fieldwalking and metal detecting. Of interest is the discovery of a potential Roman building c.300m to the north-west of the Site (MNF29409; 0m west of 3). Fieldwalking recovered finds of glass, querns and tiles from the site of a rectangular enclosure identified on aerial photographs.
- 5.26 The remaining assets include chance finds to the north of the Site, such as pottery c.50m to the north (MNF29409; 0m west of 3), c.600m north (MNF25677; 560m northwest of 3) and c.900m north (MNF22240; 900m north of 3), and coins c.50m to the west (MNF69517; 120m west of 3), c.800m to the north-west (MNF24357; 520m northwest of 3), c.800m north-east (MNF60840; 770m northeast of 3) as well c.500m east of the Site (MNF54928; 400m east of 3). Other finds comprise brooches c.500m to the west of the Site (MNF25183; 440m west of 3) and c.800m north-east of the Site (MNF60840; 770m northeast of 3), a ring c.800m north-east of the Site (MNF60840; 770m northeast of 3), a copper alloy key c.800m to the east of the Site (MNF21859; 730m east of 3) and a cosmetic pestle and mortar c.500m east of the Site (MNF54928; 400m east of 3). A possible Roman metal object was found c.1km to the south of the Site (MNF33892; 1200m south of 3).
- 5.27 The close proximity of a potential Roman building as well as multiple finds suggests that the landscape was exploited during Roman times, although the nature and extent of this is unclear. As such, it is considered that the Site has a low to moderate potential for archaeological remains.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 5.28 Several Saxon objects have been recovered from the northern part of the Study Area. Late Saxon pottery c.1km to the north of the Site indicates possible settlement around the Silver

- Green area (MNF25260; 900m north of 3). The remaining finds include metal work, such as an early Saxon long brooch c. 600m to the north of the Site (MNF25677; 560m northwest of 3), an early/middle Saxon pendant c.1km to the east of the Site (MNF47367; 780m east of 3), a late Saxon stirrup fragment c.500m to the east of the Site (MNF47732; 470m east of 3), a possible late Saxon strap end c.1km to the north-east of the Site (MNF54980; 840m northeast of 3) and a late Saxon/medieval lead spindle whorl c.800m to the north-west of the Site (MNF24357; 520m northwest of 3).
- 5.29 Hempnall is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as having a population of 57.1 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. The land comprised ploughlands, meadows and woodlands indicating a mixed agricultural economy. Two churches and two mills are also mentioned suggesting it was a place of some importance. Hempnall is derived from the Old English meaning 'nook of land of a man called Hemma' (Mills 2011).
- 5.30 Within the Site, medieval coins, dress accessories and a thimble were found during metal detecting (MNF24356).
- 5.31 There is circumstantial evidence that a medieval deer park lay to the east of the Site (MNF21992).
- 5.32 Settlement appears to have been dispersed, most likely around greens with multiple place names referring to these with Silver Green, Lundy Green, Hempnall Green and Road Green all close by. A late medieval Hall house with a moat nearby are located c.1km to the north-east of the Site (MNF17803; 920m northeast of 3).
- 5.33 The remaining assets are chance finds from fieldwalking and metal detecting and, like in earlier periods, there is a bias in the northern part of the Study Area. These include a rare halfpenny of Henry I, writing leads and pottery c.500m to the north-west of the Site (MNF25677; 560m northwest of 3, MNF21990; 710 northwest of 3, MNF21028; 570m northwest of 3). Pottery, coins, a buckle and a seal matrix were found c.50m to the north of the Site (MNF25183; 440m west of 3, MNF29409; 0m west of 3, MNF29408; 75m west of 3, MNF69517; 120m west of 3) and further finds of pottery c.800m-1km to the north of the Site (MNF22238; 620m north of 3, MNF25260; 900m north of 3) and c.800m to the east of the Site (MNF20933; 560m east of 3). Coins have been recorded c.600m to the east (MNF54928; 390m east of 3, MNF47732; 470m east of 3) and c.1km to the north-east (MNF54980; 840m northeast of 3) of the Site. Other metalwork includes seal matrices, strap ends, a pot mend and a key, c.1km to the north-east of the Site (MNF60840; 770m northeast of 3, MNF47367; 780m east of 3, MNF21860; 940m east of 3).
- 5.34 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods was dispersed with small settlements around greens as well as moated sites and halls. The Site was likely in use as agricultural land and, as such, it is considered that the Site has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 5.35 Post-medieval coins, a jetton, harness mounts and a spur were found during metal detecting in the Site (MNF24356).
- 5.36 Access roads leading to RAF Hardwick, a WWII airfield lie within the Site (MNF21992). The airfield was constructed in 1941-42 with three main runways and three T-2 hangars grouped together on the eastern side of the airfield, along with temporary accommodation. The bomb dump was situated off the north-west corner of the airfield in and adjacent to Spring Wood. In September 1942, it was designated USAAF Station 104 and used by the 310th Bombardment Group flying the North American B-25 Mitchell medium bomber aircraft. By December 1942, the 93rd Bombardment Group arrived, who flew the Consolidated B-24 Liberator heavy bomber aircraft. In November 1943, Station 104 became the Headquarters for the 20th Combat Bombardment Wing of the 2nd Bomb Division. Following the end of the war, the airfield was returned to the RAF and placed into care and maintenance status. RAF Hardwick closed in 1962 and the main airfield buildings and hangars were demolished, although some of the smaller buildings are extant and used for commercial purposes. The bomb stores and aircraft dispersal areas lie within the Site and provide potential UXO hazards (Zetica 2024).
- 5.37 An aircraft crash has also been identified by a desk study and constraints assessment (Zetica 2024) c.600m to the west of the Site in December 1944. Some WWII crashes may have had live munitions on board, which could have scattered across a wide area. This would typically have included small arms ammunition for machine guns and cannon shells for aircraft within cannons.
- 5.38 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 54 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).
- 5.39 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 5.40 Bryant's map from 1826 (not reproduced) shows two structures in the southern part of the Site.
- 5.41 The Hempnall tithe map from 1842 (Figure 14) shows a structure depicted in Plot 878 in the western part of the field, which is detailed as cottage, barn and yard in the apportionment. This likely relates to the structures that were present on Bryant's map. Whilst no other structures are present, field names indicate occupation and industrial activity with 'Blacksmiths pightle' (Plot 778), 'Work House pightle' (Plot 798), 'Home pightle' (Plot 796),

'Home Meadow' (Plot 777a), and 'clay pit piece' (Plot 782). The remaining plot names refer to agricultural usage.

- 5.42 The first edition Ordnance Survey mapping from 1883 shows the structure is still present in the Site. This comprises a property with three elevations as well as two outbuildings to the south set within a square enclosure (Figure 15). To the north-west of the Site is a road labelled 'Workhouse Lane', which runs along the western side of a plot that was annotated 'Work House pigtle' on the tithe map suggesting that this parcel was owned and, perhaps, utilised by inhabitants of the workhouse
- 5.43 No changes are visible on the second edition Ordnance Survey mapping from 1906-1907 or 1951 (not reproduced).
- 5.44 By the time of the 1979 Ordnance Survey mapping, the structure has been removed and the airfield is depicted. Much of the former field boundaries have been removed, presumably during the construction of the airfield (not reproduced).
- 5.45 The remains of a post-medieval/modern building are visible on the LiDAR and a depression in that may relate to 'clay pit piece' is also visible (Figure 16)
- 5.46 The historic landscape characterisation is described as 20th century agriculture (Figure 17).
- 5.47 During the post-medieval period, the Site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to Hempnall Green and other dispersed settlements. There appears to have been several small-scale industrial activities including clay extraction, brick production and blacksmithing within the Site as well as at least two 19th century residential structures. Evidence for some of this activity is likely to have been destroyed during the 20th century with the establishment of RAF Hardwick, whilst the rest remained in agricultural use. As such, the Site is considered to have a low to moderate potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence.

Hedgerows

- 5.48 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.
- 5.49 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to two sections of hedgerow within Site 3.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

- 5.50 The enclosure, tithe and subsequent 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figure 18 shows the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the

Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as 'important' in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.51 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 5.52 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.53 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 5.54 Site 3 has been assessed as having a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 5.55 Site 3 of the Scheme is allocated for solar PV arrays. Landscaping is proposed along the field boundaries to include new grassland areas. Access to Site 3 during all construction and decommissioning works will be via Spring Lane to the east. The existing access from Lundy Green to the north will only be used during operation and/or for farm access to the northern field which is being retained as agricultural land. The Order Limits include Highway Works for the latter access point. Access/egress otherwise will be internal to the Site itself.

Previous Impacts

- 5.56 The access roads for the WWII airfield will have impacted any archaeological remains. A structure was identified on the historic maps and confirmed by the geophysics and aerial photograph survey. Various small-scale industries, such as clay extraction, brick production and blacksmithing are likely to have taken place as well as occupation. Agricultural activity may have had a low-level impact across the Site, although the presence of cropmarks visible in aerial photographs and geophysical anomalies relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.57 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. An assessment of the Scheme's impact on designated heritage assets is provided in the Environmental Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 5.58 Impacts to archaeological assets within the Order limits would largely occur during the Construction Phase through activities such as the installation of Solar PV Arrays, BESS, Customer Substation, National Grid, Cabling, Access Tracks, and Temporary Construction Compounds all have the potential to have an adverse, permanent, and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.
- 5.59 The Project Substations, National Grid Substation, and the BESS will likely result in total destruction of archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 5.60 Impacts from piling for the Ground Mounted PV Modules will be at a very low level, typically ranging between 0.1% and 0.05% by area, depending upon the separation between rows.
- 5.61 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low.. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 5.62 Other elements of the Scheme, such as construction of Access Tracks, Conversion Units, Grid Connection Infrastructure, and Temporary Construction Compounds, will have further localised impacts.
- 5.63 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

Hedgerows

- 5.64 Limited hedgerow removal is proposed during the construction phase of the Scheme (no more than 10m). The significance of the hedgerows is vested in the historic value in relation

to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern. The removal proposed is sufficiently small enough that the boundary denoted by hedgerows and their contribution to understanding the pre-1845 field pattern will remain legible despite a small section being lost. As such, it is not considered that there will be any impact to understanding their significance.

CONCLUSIONS

- 5.65 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show Site 3 has a low to moderate potential for archaeological evidence dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods to be present. There is no evidence at present to suggest that Site 3, or have the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.

Plates



Plate 9: View of the Site from the northern edge, facing south-west



Plate 10: View of the Site from the south-east corner, facing north-west



Plate 11: View of the Site from the southern edge, facing north



Plate 12: View of the Site from Spring Lane in the south-east corner, facing north-west



Plate 13: Copy of the plan of RAF Hardwick, 1950

6 SITE 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 6.1 The Site for this assessment comprises Sub-Sites 4A and 4B that include approximately 101ha of arable land within Stratton St Michael. Sub-Site 4A includes six fields and the northern part lies at a height of approximately 30m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), which rises to c.35m aOD to the south and west (centred at NGR TM 2014 9465). There are six fields in Sub-Site 4B with the northern part lying at c.30m aOD rising to c.35m aOD in the centre and raising to c.40m aOD at the southern end (centred at NGR TM 2061 9420).
- 6.2 The Site is bisected by the Pye Roman Road (Ipswich Road) dividing Sub-Site 4A and Sub-Site 4B. The northern side is bounded by the B1527, fields and Norwich Road lie to the east, and fields containing solar panels and woodland lie to the west. The south-eastern section is bounded by Church Lane that runs through the centre of Stratton St Michael, whilst the south-western section is bounded by fields and Brand's Lane. The newly constructed Long Stratton Bypass is situated to the south and a new roundabout is situated to the south-west.
- 6.3 The solid geology within Site 4 comprises chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk, Culver Chalk and Portsdown Chalk. The majority of both Sub-Sites are overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation, although the northern tip of Sub-Site 4A includes sand and gravel of the Lowestoft Formation. The northern part of Sub-Site 4B is also sand and gravel, but of the Leet Hill Sand and Gravel Member (BGS 2024).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 6.4 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider surroundings are assessed separately.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Recorded Archaeology and potential

- 6.6 Fourteen heritage assets have been identified within the Site predominantly comprising finds from fieldwalking and metal detecting. These include multiperiod finds in Sub-Site 4A (MNF25691, MNF16110), prehistoric flints in Sub-Site 4A (MNF16112), Roman pottery in Sub-Site 4B (MNF10163), medieval and post-medieval pottery in Sub-Site 4B (MNF15042), multiperiod finds in Sub-Site 4B (MNF14110), prehistoric flint and medieval and post-medieval pottery in Sub-Site 4B (MNF14860) and multiperiod finds in Sub-Site 4B (MNF16109, MNF17182). In addition to this, medieval earthworks extend slightly into the southern edge of Sub-Site 4A (MNF14107) and cropmarks of a ring ditch and possible Roman field system have been identified in Sub-Site 4B (MNF40593). Trial trenches excavated along the northern edge of Sub-Site 4B revealed no archaeologically significant material (MNF77485), whilst trial trenches in the north-eastern edge of Sub-Site 4A exposed poorly-dated pits and ditches with finds of flints and post-medieval brick and tile, largely from unstratified contexts (MNF77481).
- 6.7 The HER contains 194 records within the Study Area, consisting of 166 'monument' records and 28 'event' records. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figures 19-20.
- 6.8 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
Prehistoric	6	25
Roman	7	33
Saxon	1	18
Medieval	8	66
Post-medieval	8	96
Modern	0	51
Unknown	0	7

Previous investigations

Geophysical Survey

- 6.9 A geophysical survey was conducted of Sub-Sites 4A and 4B (Magnitude Surveys 2024). A structure was identified in Sub-Site 4A that was also identified by the aerial and historic mapping and a linear feature in the same area that tallies with the LiDAR that may be a trackway. Areas of disturbance were detected along the northern edges of both Sub-Sites, which relate to excavations that were undertaken in 2018. Some of the disturbance in Sub-Site 4B may relate to the gravel pit that was annotated on the Ordnance Survey maps. A circular feature has been identified in Sub-Site 4B that correlates with the HER data of a

possible ring ditch. Potential roadside settlements of uncertain date are identifiable in Sub-Site 4B as well as linear features.

Aerial Investigation Mapping

- 6.10 A building has been identified in Sub-Site 4A (Headland Archaeology 2024), which is listed on the tithe map apportionment as 'In Mill Stone Close' and 'In Gt Friday Res' (Plots 26 and 27), respectively. These are under the ownership of Francis Bloy and Richard Gwyn, Churchwarden and occupied by Richard Gwyn. The tithe map also annotates this area as 'Town'. This structure is also present on the geophysics. Within the same field, a linear feature has been identified running in a roughly north-west/south-east direction of uncertain date and origin. This has also been detected by the geophysics and the LiDAR. Neither of these features tally with any HER records. However, it runs in alignment with field boundaries on the opposite side of the Pye Roman Road to the south-east and could have potentially been a track leading to the deserted medieval settlement within Stratton St Michael.
- 6.11 In Sub-Site 4B, two features have been identified, one of which relates to quarrying activity along the northern edge. This is also noted on the tithe and Ordnance Survey mapping suggesting it has its origins from at least the early 19th century. It is also annotated as a 'Gravel Pit' on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. A second circular feature in the same field is of unknown origin or date. A depression is visible on the LiDAR and an area of disturbance has been detected on the geophysics in the same area, although nothing is marked on the historic mapping or the HER records.
- 6.12 In Sub-Site 4B, a ring ditch has been identified that is also visible on the geophysics and faintly on the LiDAR. It is also listed on the HER (MNF40593) in conjunction with a possible Roman field system, although this latter element has not been detected within this study.

HER Data

- 6.13 Within the Site, trial trenching has been undertaken in the north-east corner of Sub-Site 4A and along the northern edge of Sub-Site 4B. Ditches and pits were uncovered in trenches in Sub-Site 4A, although they were largely undatable. However, one pit contained three pieces of struck flint providing a prehistoric date for this feature (ENF145568, ENF145974, MNF77481). As part of the wider excavations just to the north of the Site, a possible prehistoric pot boiler spread was identified, reiterating the potential prehistoric nature of these features (MNF77484, Broadland Archaeology 2019). Fieldwalking within the northern part of Sub-Site 4A in the vicinity of the trial trenches recorded flint flakes as well as Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery (MNF16110). A late Saxon openwork mount and a medieval eagle head, possibly from a handle, were found during metal detecting in the northern part of Sub-Site 4A (MNF25691). Just to the south of this, further flint flakes were found during fieldwalking (MNF16112). No significant archaeology was uncovered in the

- northern part of Sub-Site 4B (MNF77485), although just to the south of the trial trenches, a fragment of Roman pottery was found in a gravel pit in 1948 (MNF10163).
- 6.14 Fieldwalking has been undertaken in multiple fields within the Sub-Site 4B, most of which comprise medieval and post-medieval pottery, likely due to manuring activity, demonstrating the agricultural use of these fields from at least the medieval period (MNF14110, MNF14861, MNF14860, MNF16109, MNF17182, MNF15042). Flint flakes (MNF14860, MNF17182) and Roman pottery (MNF14110, MNF17182) have also been recorded, whilst post-medieval tiles and nails are potentially indicative of a structure (MNF14110).
- 6.15 In the field to the immediate north of Sub-Site 4B, metal detecting recorded an early Saxon wrist clasp and a fragment of an early Saxon brooch (MNF25467, ENF121925, NAU 2008). To the east of this, c.250m to the north-east of Sub-Site 4B, fieldwalking and metal detecting recovered Roman building material, coins and brooches suggestive of a Roman settlement. This is complemented by aerial photography data displaying former field boundaries relating to the settlement. Part of the site has now been quarried away, however (MNF10178, ENF122436, NAU 2009).
- 6.16 A geophysical survey was undertaken in fields adjacent to the northern part of Sub-Site 4A that revealed evidence of enclosures that align with the Roman road (ENF134917, ASWYAS 2014). Cropmarks to the immediate north-west of the survey area have revealed at least three potential ring ditches and fieldwalking has recovered an Iron Age terret, Roman coins, Saxon brooches and pottery, medieval pottery and coins and post-medieval coins indicating continued use of this land over the centuries (MNF16838).
- 6.17 A community project was undertaken close to Tasburgh Hillfort Scheduled Monument in which 15 trenches were excavated, c.900m to the north of Sub-Site 4A. One trench at Preston Primary School, c.800m to the north, revealed evidence of a narrow gully containing two sherds of prehistoric pottery within a charcoal-flecked fill of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date (ENF142205, Norvic Archaeology 2017). At the Chestnut Road test pit, a concentration of late prehistoric flint potentially included Iron Age flint knapping activity (ENF142191, Norvic Archaeology 2017), c.600m north of Sub-Site 4A.
- 6.18 Approximately 1km to the south of the southern part of Sub-Site 4A at Swan Lane in Long Stratton, archaeological interventions have uncovered features and finds of interest. The site is located next to a former sand and gravel quarry, where, in 1773, a possible Roman hearth was identified along with urns and coins. Archaeological observations in the 1970s revealed pits and ditches of Roman to post-medieval date. The site at Swan Lane was first evaluated in 2013 revealing a prehistoric pit, an undated large, possible quarry pit, a flint surface and a post-medieval field drain (ENF132088, NPS Archaeology 2013). Subsequent evaluation in 2015 uncovered three pits of probable early Neolithic date, two ditches and a pit of possible Roman date and a post-medieval mineral extraction pit (ENF138822, NPS 2015).

- 6.19 A series of archaeological investigations have been undertaken as part of the A140 bypass scheme to the west and south of the south-western part of Sub-Site 4B. These have included fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial trenching resulting in the recovery of significant archaeology. This is detailed in the relevant period descriptions below.

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 6.20 Six prehistoric assets have been recorded within the Site comprising predominantly flint flakes found during fieldwalking. These were found in the northern part of Sub-Site 4A (MNF16110, MNF16112) and the south-eastern part of Sub-Site 4B (MNF14860, MNF17182). Further flints were found within a pit during excavations in the northern part of Sub-Site 4A (ENF145568, ENF145974, MNF77481). In the eastern part of Sub-Site 4B, cropmarks of a ring ditch have been identified (MNF40593) and this feature has also been detected by the geophysical survey undertaken for this project (Magnitude Surveys 2024). Linear features have also been indicated by the aerial photography data that have been interpreted as a possible Roman field system (Headland Archaeology 2024).
- 6.21 In the surrounding 1km Study Area, prehistoric activity is clustered to the north and the south of the Site. The earliest evidence is of some possible Palaeolithic flints found c.900m to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A, although it is uncertain whether these are natural or archaeological examples (MNF10049).
- 6.22 Mesolithic microliths have been recorded c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 4A (MNF19006) and to the south of these, around 600m to the north of Sub-Site 4A, Mesolithic/early Neolithic flints have also been found (MNF69938).
- 6.23 The Neolithic is better represented with excavations at Swan Lane, c.1km to the south of the south-western part of Sub-Site 4A revealing three pits of probable early Neolithic date (ENF138822, MNF7937, NPS Archaeology 2015) as well as pits and early Neolithic pottery, c.700m to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF69140, ENF132524, NPS Archaeology 2013). At Preston Primary School, c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 4A, a narrow gully containing two sherds of prehistoric pottery within a charcoal-flecked fill of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date was excavated (ENF142205, Norvic Archaeology 2017). A Neolithic axehead or adze was recorded c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 4B (MNF19379), not far from a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (MNF62518), c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 4A. A Neolithic scraper was found c.400m to the south of the south-eastern end of Sub-Site 4B (MNF14115). Neolithic/Bronze Age flints were also recorded c.900m to the south-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF71948) and c.250m to the east of Sub-Site 4B (MNF69208).
- 6.24 In the Bronze Age, possible ring ditches have been identified by cropmarks c.500m to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF26838) and c.400m to the south of Sub-Site 4A (MNF73468). Further potential funerary activity is recorded c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 4A, where an early Bronze Age beaker was discovered (MNF1135). Evidence for settlement activity is indicated by the presence of pot boilers c.400m to the north of Sub-Site 4A (MNF10109) and

a possible pot boiler spread found during excavations c.100m to the north of Sub-Site 4B (MNF77484). Burnt flints, also suggestive of cooking, have been recovered c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF67721, MNF68460) and c.600m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF67720). Other prehistoric flints have been recorded in this general area with flakes c.250m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF16111) and flints c.900m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF18273).

- 6.25 The hillfort at Tasburgh is considered to have Iron Age origins, although interpretations are speculative and the remains may be interpreted as a Saxon *burh* (MNF2258), c.900m to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A. Not far from the hillfort in Tasburgh, test pitting at Chestnut Road uncovered a concentration of late prehistoric flint, which potentially included Iron Age flint knapping activity (ENF142191, Norvic Archaeology 2017), c.600m north of Sub-Site 4A. Iron Age finds in the surrounding area include coins c.1km to the north-east of Sub-Site 4B (MNF66247), an Iron Age terret c.500m to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF16838) and a late Iron Age/Roman brooch c.800m to the west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF66814).
- 6.26 The water courses and generally flat topography make this a relatively conducive area for habitation during the prehistoric periods and there is certainly evidence from every period to indicate that the landscape was exploited with settlement from the Neolithic period onwards. Bronze Age evidence is particularly compelling with a potential ring ditch within the Site identified by both cropmark and geophysical data sets with further ring ditches in the wider area. As such, it is considered that there is a high potential for Bronze Age activity within the north-eastern part of Sub-Site 4B, although a low to moderate potential for prehistoric evidence within the rest of the Site. The possibility of further finds of prehistoric date cannot be entirely discounted, however.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 6.27 Within the Site, cropmarks of linear features in the eastern part of Sub-Site 4B have been identified by aerial photography and interpreted as a possible Roman field system (MNF40593). Roman pottery has also been found in the northern part of Sub-Site 4A (MNF16110), northern part of Sub-Site 4B (MNF10163), the southern part of Sub-Site 4B (MNF14110, MNF17182). Roman coins have also been recorded in the south-eastern part of Sub-Site 4A close to the Roman road (MNF14107).
- 6.28 A Roman road bisects the Site in a roughly north-east/south-west direction that is now the A140 Ipswich Road (MNF79047). The Pye Road runs between Scole and the Roman town of *Venta Icenorum* at Caistor St Edmund, near Norwich.
- 6.29 In the wider Study Area, a possible Roman settlement has been identified by fieldwalking c.250m to the east of Sub-Site 4B (MNF10178). The evidence for this is finds of building materials, coins and brooches as well as cropmarks of a field system. Within the vicinity of this site are further cropmarks including a rectangular enclosure and pottery c.1km to the east of Sub-Site 4B (MNF10176) and cropmarks of enclosures to the west, c.100m to the

- north of Sub-Site 4B (MNF40591). A coin has also been found just to the south, c.100m to the east of Sub-Site 4B (MNF33205). A geophysical survey was undertaken in fields adjacent to the northern part of Sub-Site 4A that revealed evidence of enclosures that align with the Roman road (ENF134917, ASWYAS 2014).
- 6.30 Excavations c.600m to the south of Sub-Site 4B revealed two ditches containing Roman pottery (MNF73469). These form part of a series of archaeological investigations associated with the A140 bypass scheme. Further Roman evidence has been excavated to the south of the Study Area, c.1.5km south of Sub-Site 4B, that includes a preserved 'dark earth' occupation soil as well as pits and ditches suggestive of a Roman town that was previously excavated in 2003 (NAU 2003, NPS Archaeology 2020). The remains found within the Study Area are likely to be part of an agricultural hinterland to this settlement.
- 6.31 There is a suggestion of Roman funerary activity with possible urns c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 4A (MNF7937), but these were found in 1773 and the remains were later interpreted as a Roman pottery kiln. Excavations at the site in the 1970s revealed several pits of probable Roman date, although more recent excavations between 2013-2015 identified a single pit and two ditches of tentative Roman date. Possible Roman inhumations were discovered c.1km to the north-east of Sub-Site 4A (MNF9976), although these were found in the late 19th/early 20th century accompanied by Roman amphorae and medieval pottery.
- 6.32 Chance finds of Roman date are scattered throughout the rest of the Study Area with brooches found c.600-800m to the west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF65986, MNF66814) and c.200-600m to the south-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF65773, MNF65981). Pottery finds are clustered in the south-east and north-western parts of the Study Area. Those to the south-east include c.50m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF69207, MNF64157, MNF33332), c.250m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF14113) and c.200m to the east of Sub-Site 4B (MNF69208). In the north-west, pottery has been found at Tasburgh hillfort (MNF2258), c.900m to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A, with further fragments of pottery c.1km to the north-west (MNF20484, MNF9977). Coins have been recorded c.900m to the south-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF71948, MNF69337), c.1km to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF9982) and c.800m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF14114).
- 6.33 The close proximity of the Roman road as well as a settlement and multiple finds, some of which extend into the Site, indicate that the landscape was exploited during Roman times. The cropmarks of a Roman field system in the north-eastern part of Sub-Site 3B likely relate to the probable settlement that lies c.250m to the east and whilst there is high potential for evidence within this field, it is likely to be of an agricultural nature rather than a settlement. As such, it is considered that there is a high potential for Roman remains in Sub-Site 4B, whilst the rest of the Site has a low to moderate potential for archaeological remains.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 6.34 There is one Saxon find within the northern part of Sub-Site 4A of the Site that comprises a late Saxon openwork mount found during metal detecting (MNF25691).
- 6.35 In the wider area, Saxon occupation appears to have been concentrated in the existing settlements of Stratton St Michael, Tasburgh and Tharston. At Stratton St Michael, late Saxon pottery has been recorded south of Church Lane (MNF14108), c.50m to the south-west of Sub-Site 4B and c.200m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF16111). Further late Saxon finds are clustered c.50-800m to the south of Sub-Site 4B including pottery (MNF14115, MNF14117), a disc brooch and lead trade weight (MNF64157) and a stirrup terminal and spindle whorl (MNF14114).
- 6.36 In Tasburgh, there is clear evidence for a Saxon settlement at the hillfort (MNF2258) with pottery, hearths and metal working areas identified, c.900m to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A. Saxon pottery was also found in the graveyard of St Mary's Church in Tasburgh, which also has Saxon origins (NHLE LB 1302231, MNF10104). Saxon pottery has also been found to the west of the hillfort and church (MNF18272) and to the east, c.900m to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF14867).
- 6.37 In Tharston, Saxon pottery has been found c.900m to the west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF32094). In the surrounding fields, chance finds include a middle Saxon hooked tag, c.700m to the west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF66814), an early Saxon brooch and a middle Saxon mount, c.800m to the west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF65986), Saxon brooches c.400-600m to the south-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF65773, MNF65990) and a mid to late Saxon strap end, c.500m to the south-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF65981).
- 6.38 Other chance finds include an early Saxon wrist clasp and brooch c.50m to the north of Sub-Site 4B (MNF25467) and a late Saxon bridle bit link and spindle whorl, c.400m to the east of Sub-Site 4B (MNF73373).
- 6.39 Stratton St Mary and St Michael is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as having a population of 127 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. The land comprised ploughlands, meadows and woodlands indicating a mixed agricultural economy. A church and a mill are also mentioned suggesting it was a place of some importance. The name 'Stratton' is derived from the Old English meaning 'farmstead or village on a Roman road' (Mills 2011).
- 6.40 Within the Site, there are eight assets dating to the medieval period. These comprise mostly medieval pottery recorded in the northern part of Sub-Site 4A (MNF16110), and in Sub-Site 4B (MNF15042, MNF14861, MNF14860, MNF16109, MNF17182). At the southern tip of Sub-Site 4A, pottery has also been recorded, along with earthworks of four medieval tofts and a coin (MNF14107). A medieval eagle head, possibly from a handle, was found in the northern part of Sub-Site 4A during metal detecting (MNF25691).
- 6.41 Evidence for medieval settlement activity is clearly demonstrated to the west and south of Sub-Site 4B in the vicinity of St Michael's Church. Excavations associated with the A140

bypass scheme in 2003 revealed a series of gullies and shallow pits dating from the 11th to 14th centuries. A known hollow way lies to the north of this and a second probable hollow way was also identified, c.50m to the west of Sub-Site 4B (MNF49693, ENF13830, NAU 2003). A geophysical survey in 2018, followed by further trial trenching in 2020 uncovered further evidence for medieval settlement activity. Along the southern edge of Church Lane in Stratton St Michael, pits, ditches and possible structural features relating to the former medieval settlement were excavated, c.100m to the south-west of Sub-Site 4B (ENF148196, MNF67734, NPS Archaeology 2020). This also extended onto the west side of the A140 with boundaries defining a series of narrow plots extending back from the road. A hearth or kiln-type feature was also excavated, along with pits and pottery dating from the 12th century (MNF73468). Further medieval settlement evidence was excavated c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF73478). The remains include a rectangular enclosure with several internal divisions, the form of which appears to respect the road. The pottery recovered indicates a peak date during the 13th and 14th centuries with little evidence beyond that. A possible medieval manor was also identified by geophysics and limited trial trenching and include an encircling moat or ditch as well as two pits of probable 11th century date, c.600m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF73479).

- 6.42 These investigations lie within an area of known medieval activity with earthwork remains to the immediate west of St Michael's Church, c.50m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF14583). A medieval building, a possible ramp-like causeway and part of a ditch or toft boundary are visible. This has been interpreted as the possible medieval manor of Sayes. These remains are associated with two other sets of earthworks, one of which slightly extends into the southern part of Sub-Site 4A of the Site and lies just to the south of this field (MNF14107). This includes the remains of four tofts. The third area lies to the immediate north of Church Lane, c.50m to the west of Sub-Site 4B and to the east of the A140 (MNF14118) and includes a medieval hollow way and at least three tofts. Medieval pottery and a piece of a medieval window tracery were found on the site. A possible medieval manor has been identified by fieldwalking and has been interpreted as the manor of Rhees or Rees, c.700m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF14117). The remains of a former Church, St Peter, are located just to the east of St Michael's Church, c.50m to the south of Sub-Site 4B (MNF10180). The church was demolished in 1520.
- 6.43 Further settlement is known in Tasburgh with a potential moated site c.900m to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A in which a number of building platforms and medieval pottery were found (MNF9977). Medieval ditches and pits have also been excavated at Tasburgh hillfort as well as pottery, c.900m to the north-west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF2258).
- 6.44 Chance finds have been found throughout the Site and are prominent to the south and west of the Site, probably due to the amount of fieldwalking and metal detecting events in these areas. Some examples include harness pendants, mounts and fittings, dress accessories, buckles and seal matrices c.50-500m to the west of Sub-Site 4A (MNF66865, MNF66864,

MNF65986, MNF65773, MNF65990, MNF65981). Pottery, coins, jettons and dress accessories have been recorded c.500m to the south and south-east of Sub-Site 4B (MNF18273, MNF67720, MNF14112, MNF14138, MNF14115, MNF69243, MNF64157, MNF69208).

- 6.45 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods was dispersed within the settlements of Stratton St Michael, Tasburgh and Tharston with occasional moated manorial sites dotted within the landscape. Whilst medieval pottery and finds have been recorded within the Site, their presence is most likely due to manuring activity associated with agricultural practices. Archaeological investigations demonstrate that the focus of settlement lies to the south of the Site and to the west of Sub-Site 4B, although it is possible that some settlement may extend into adjacent fields. Indeed, the geophysical survey has shown the presence of linear features in the south-western part of Sub-Site 3B that may be medieval in date and, as such, it is considered that this field has a high potential for remains. The rest of the Site has a low to moderate potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 6.46 Within the Site, there are eight assets relating to the post-medieval period, the majority of which are finds of pottery. These have been recorded in the northern part of Sub-Site 4A (MNF16110) and Sub-Site 4B (MNF15042, MNF14110, MNF14861, MNF14860, MNF16109, MNF17182). The final asset comprises post-medieval brick and tile recovered from unstratified contexts in the northern part of Sub-Site 4A (MNF77481).
- 6.47 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 147 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).
- 6.48 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 6.49 The earliest available detailed mapping is the Stratton St Michael tithe map from 1838 (Figure 21). The majority of the fields appear to have been in agricultural use, although a pit is annotated in Sub-Site 4A (Plot 24), a plantation in Sub-Site 4B (Plot 164) and in Sub-Site 4A, Great Hall Bayes (Plot 47).
- 6.50 A structure is visible on the Ordnance Survey map from 1883 (Figure 22) within the centre of Sub-Site 4A. This tallies with the identification of a structure in the aerial mapping survey. A gravel pit is also depicted at the northern edge of Field 4B.

- 6.51 The structure in Sub-Site 4A is no longer extant by the 1907 Ordnance Survey map. The only changes in the subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping comprises the removal/addition of field boundaries.
- 6.52 There are a number of features visible on the LiDAR, which are described in the Aerial Mapping section above and are shown on Figure 23.
- 6.53 The historic landscape characterisation of the Site comprises three descriptions. The majority of Sub-Site 4A and the western part of Sub-Site 4B fall within 18th-19th century enclosure with piecemeal enclosure by agreement. The south-eastern part of Sub-Site 4A and parts of Sub-Site 4B are 20th century agriculture with boundary loss. The remaining Fields are 20th century enclosure (Figure 24).
- 6.54 During the post-medieval period, the Site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to Stratton St Michael and dispersed farmsteads. As such, the Site is considered to have a generally low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence, although a former building of 19th century date has been identified in Sub-Site 4A by the aerial mapping survey.

Hedgerows

- 6.55 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.
- 6.56 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to 27 sections of hedgerow within Site 4.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

- 6.57 The enclosure, tithe and subsequent 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figure 25 shows the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as 'important' in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.58 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon

the significance of that asset.

- 6.59 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.60 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 6.61 Site 4 has been assessed as having high potential for prehistoric to medieval remains in Sub-Site 4B and a low to moderate potential for the rest of the Site to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 6.62 Site 4 is primarily allocated for solar PV arrays, with an 132kv substation within Sub-Site 4B and a primary construction compound (measuring c.2ha in area) at the northern side of Sub-Site 4A. The plantation within Sub-Site 4B and the two southern-most fields of this Sub-Site will not contain any built elements. The latter is proposed for new neutral grassland under the Scheme and will remain as open space. Further landscaping is planned along the field boundaries and borders of Site 4.

Previous Impacts

- 6.63 Quarrying activity is noted in the northern edge of Sub-Site 4B, a building was potentially formerly located within Sub-Site 4A, all of which will have the potential to impact below ground features. Agricultural activity may have had a low-level impact across the Site.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.64 Designated Heritage Assets are assessed under a separate report (Environmental Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1)

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 6.65 Impacts to archaeological assets within the Order limits would largely occur during the Construction Phase through activities such as the installation of Solar PV Arrays, BESS, Customer Substation, National Grid, Cabling, Access Tracks, and Temporary Construction Compounds all have the potential to have an adverse, permanent, and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.
- 6.66 The Project Substations, National Grid Substation, and the BESS will likely result in total destruction of archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 6.67 Impacts from piling for the Ground Mounted PV Modules will be at a very low level, typically ranging between 0.1% and 0.05% by area, depending upon the separation between rows.
- 6.68 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low.. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 6.69 Other elements of the Scheme, such as construction of Access Tracks, Conversion Units, Grid Connection Infrastructure, and Temporary Construction Compounds, will have further localised impacts.
- 6.70 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

Hedgerows

- 6.71 Limited hedgerow removal is proposed during the construction phase of the Scheme (no more than 10m). The significance of the hedgerows is vested in the historic value in relation to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern. The removal proposed is sufficiently small enough that the boundary denoted by hedgerows and their contribution to understanding the pre-1845 field pattern will remain legible despite a small section being lost. As such, it is not considered that there will be any impact to understanding their significance.

CONCLUSIONS

- 6.72 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that Site 4 has a high potential for prehistoric to medieval remains in Sub-Site 4B and a low to moderate potential for the rest of Site 4 to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods.

Plates



Plate 14: View of the south-western part of Sub-Site 4A from the south-east end, facing north-west



Plate 15: View of the south-west part of Sub-Site 4A from the west end, facing south-east



Plate 16: View of the northern part of Sub-Site 4A from the eastern edge, facing west



Plate 17: View of centre of Sub-Site 4A from the eastern edge, facing west



Plate 18: View of the central part of Sub-Site 4A from the north-eastern edge, facing south-west



Plate 19: View of the south-eastern part of Sub-Site 4A from the southern edge, facing north



Plate 20: View of the northern part of Sub-Site 4B from the south-east corner, facing north-west



Plate 21: View of western part of Sub-Site 4B from the northern end of the central field, facing south-west



Plate 22: View of the central area of Sub-Site 4B, facing west



Plate 23: View of the north-eastern part of Sub-Site 4B from the south-western edge, facing north-east



Plate 24: View of the south-western part of Sub-Site 4B from the eastern edge, facing west



Plate 25: View of the southern part of Sub-Site 4B from the northern edge, facing south



Plate 26: View of central eastern part of Sub-Site 4B from the north-western edge, facing south-east



Plate 27: View of south-eastern part of Sub-Site 4B from the western edge, facing east

7 SITE 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 7.1 The Site for this assessment comprises five arable fields within Sub-Site 5A (centred at NGR TM 2247 9388) and two arable fields within Sub-Site 5B (centred at NGR TM 2295 9363) that include approximately 91ha of land c.400m to the south-west of Hempnall. It is situated on relatively flat land at a height of approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), which slopes down to c.35m aOD to the north. The southern part of Sub-Site 5A rises to c.45m aOD.
- 7.2 The Site is bounded on the north by the B1527, The Street to the east, Boylandhall Lane to the west and farmland to the south.
- 7.3 The solid geology within the Site comprises sand of the Norwich Crag Formation overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation. There are some deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel of Head along the western edge of Sub-Site 5A and in the north-eastern tip of Sub-Site 5B (BGS 2024).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 7.4 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 7.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider landscape are assessed separately.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Recorded Archaeology and potential

- 7.6 There are five heritage assets recorded within the Site comprising a possible site of a medieval building in Sub-Site 5A (MNF14318), prehistoric flint and medieval pottery finds in Sub-Site 5A (MNF14316), late Saxon/medieval and post-medieval finds in Sub-Site 5B (MNF73099) and multi-period finds in Sub-Site 5B (MNF14864). The southern tip of Boyland deserted medieval village and Hall extends into the northern part of Sub-Site 5A (MNF10168).

- 7.7 The HER contains 151 records within the Study Area, consisting of 146 'monument' records and five 'event' records. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figures 26-27.
- 7.8 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
Prehistoric	2	26
Roman	1	22
Saxon	2	28
Medieval	5	60
Post-medieval	2	111
Modern	0	63
Unknown	0	2

Previous investigations

Aerial Investigation Mapping

- 7.9 The aerial mapping has identified a spoil heap at the northern end of Sub-Site 5A that likely relates to the construction of the road to the north (Headland Archaeology 2024). This is also visible on the geophysics and the LiDAR. On the HER, this is also the location of a possible medieval building (MNF14318).
- 7.10 Two areas of ponds/pits have been interpreted in Sub-Site 5B that are also recognised on the geophysics and the LiDAR. Two areas of historic plantations have been identified in Field 5A, which tally with the historic mapping.

Geophysical Survey

- 7.11 A geophysical survey was conducted of Site 5 (Magnitude Surveys 2024). Anomalies were detected in the area of the site of a possible medieval house at the northern end of Sub-Site 5A as well as circular and linear anomalies just to the south of this. A pipeline/cable route runs through the centre of the Site in a roughly north-east/south-west direction. The south-eastern part of Sub-Site 5B contains a number of circular features that were also identified by the LiDAR as well as rectilinear enclosures, which continue to the north.

HER Data

- 7.12 Five events were undertaken within the 1km Study Area comprising a fieldwalking and metal detecting survey c.1km to the north-west (ENF122436), which recorded Roman building materials, coins and brooches suggestive of a settlement (MNF10178; 560m west of 5A). A

field survey c.50m-1km to the east (ENF136766) recovered multiperiod finds (MNF29410; 760m east of 5B, MNF29411; 720m east of 5B, MNF19362; 570m east of 5B, MNF19363; 400m east of 5B, MNF67378; 50m east of 5B, MNF69760; 15m east of 5B, MNF20432; 20m southeast of 5B). Trial trenching was undertaken c.100m to the north of Sub-Site 5A (ENF96076, MNF43647; 0m north of 5A), which uncovered evidence of post-medieval walls and foundations of an earlier Boyland Hall. However, the trenches revealed a substantial amount of truncation during the levelling of the Hall in c.1947 (NAU 2003). Two building surveys were undertaken c.800m to the north-east and south of the Site (ENF138434, ENF126026).

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 7.13 Two prehistoric assets have been recorded within the Site comprising prehistoric flint flakes and a blade in the northern part of Sub-Site 5A (MNF14316) and a Neolithic flint core, a Neolithic/Bronze Age scraper and a Neolithic/Bronze Age possible arrowhead roughout in Sub-Site 5B (MNF14864). The geophysics has detected a circular and linear feature in the northern part of Sub-Site 5A.
- 7.14 The majority of prehistoric evidence is located to the east of the Site and activity is apparent from all periods. The earliest evidence for prehistoric activity is a Lower Palaeolithic axe c.800m to the east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF15909; 690m east of 5B).
- 7.15 The Mesolithic is also sparsely represented with only flint blades found c.100m to the east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF29412; 10m east of 5B).
- 7.16 Scatters of Neolithic flint finds have been recorded c.100m to the east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF29412; 10m east of 5B), c.500m to the east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF19363; 400m east of 5B), an axehead c.20m to the west of Sub-Site 5A (MNF20573; 10m west of 5A), a scraper (MNF14115; 870m west of 5A) and Neolithic/Bronze Age flakes (MNF69208; 950m west of 5A) c.1km to the west of Sub-Site 5A.
- 7.17 Evidence for funerary activity is attested in the Bronze Age with a cremation burial and pottery found c.100m to the north-west of Sub-Site 5A (MNF1120; 100m northwest of 5A) with a potential ring ditch just to the north of this, c.200m to the north-west of Sub-Site 5A (MNF10179; 190m northwest of 5A), although this has since been destroyed by quarrying. A further ring ditch was identified by aerial photography c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 5A (MNF10184; 720m north of 5A). There also appears to be occupational activity c.50m to the east of the Site in which a possible Late Neolithic/Bronze Age flint working site has been discovered (MNF29412; 10m east of 5B). Beaker pottery has also been found at this location. To the east and south-east of this site, multiple finds of prehistoric flints have been recovered including burnt flints and prehistoric pottery c.1km to the east of the Site (MNF19361; 790m east of 5B, MNF19362; 570m east of 5B) and c.500m to the east (MNF15909; 680m northeast of 5B) as well as pot boilers and a possible burnt mound c.1km to the south-east (MNF24357; 780m southeast of 5B).

- 7.18 More generic prehistoric flints have been recovered to the east and south-east (MNF19364; c.500m east of 5B, MNF19365; c.600m east of 5B, MNF22241; c.620m east of 5B, MNF29411; c.720m east of 5B, MNF29410; c.760m east of 5B, MNF15473; c.10m east of 5B), several to the south of the Site (MNF16611, MNF16775; c.290m south of 5B, MNF16774; c.370m south of 5B) as well as to the north (MNF14650; c.10m north of 5A, MNF22239; 500m north of c.5B).
- 7.19 Iron Age activity is evidenced by finds of pottery c.10m (MNF29412) and c.820m to the east of the Sub-Site 5B (MNF28811) as well as late Iron Age coins c.1km to the north-west of the Sub-Site 5A (MNF66247).
- 7.20 The water courses and generally flat topography make this a relatively conducive area for habitation during the prehistoric periods. Whilst activity is noted in all the prehistoric periods, particularly to the east of the Site, the most notable evidence for settlement appears in the Late Neolithic/Bronze Age with a clear exploitation of the local flint resources as well as funerary evidence. The close proximity of these sites to the Site as well as the recovery of flints within the Site indicate that there is a high potential for prehistoric activity in the northern part of Sub-Site 5A where a circular feature and linear features have been detected by geophysics. There is considered to be a low to moderate potential for the rest of the Site.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 7.21 Roman finds including pottery, coins and a brooch fragment have been recovered in Sub-Site 5B during fieldwalking and metal detecting (MNF14864).
- 7.22 Two areas of settlement are indicated within the Study Area to the east and west of the Site. Finds of building material, coins and brooches, along with cropmarks of field boundaries are indicative of a former field system associated with this settlement c.560m to the north-west of Sub-Site 5A (MNF10178). The second site includes tile fragments, pottery and oyster shells c.790m to the east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF19361). Black soil has also been excavated at this site suggestive of occupation.
- 7.23 Other more ephemeral evidence for settlement includes finds of Roman pottery in the vicinity of cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure c.130m to the west of Sub-Site 5A (MNF10176). Roof tiles and pottery have also been found c.600m to the east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF15909).
- 7.24 Other Roman finds are scattered throughout the Study Area with coins recorded c.10m to the east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF29412), c.50m to the east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF67378), c.780m to the south-east (MNF29410, MNF24357), c.680m to the south (MNF40742), c.1km to the southwest (MNF14114, MNF14115) and c.1km to the north-west of the Sub-Site 5A (MNF66247). Pottery has also been found in several locations, such as c.170m to the north (MNF13955, MNF14650), c.400m to the north-east (MNF19225), c.400m to the east (MNF19363), and c.20m to the east of the Sub-Site 5B (MNF20432). Brooches have also been

recovered c.50m-1km to the east (MNF69760, MNF67378, MNF28811) as well as c.1km to the west (MNF14115) and c.1km to the north-west of both Sub-Sites (MNF66247).

- 7.25 Two Roman roads lie within 2km of the Site 5 to the east and west running in a roughly north/south direction (MNF7947, MNF10199).
- 7.26 The close proximity of at least two potential Roman settlements as well as a moderate corpus of finds within a relatively close distance of two Roman roads suggest that the landscape was exploited during Roman times. Some of these finds have been recovered within Sub-Site 5B, along with rectangular enclosures identified by the geophysical survey. Whilst these enclosures are of an unknown date, there is high to moderate potential for settlement activity within Sub-Site 5B. The rest of the Site is considered to have a low potential for archaeological remains dating to the Roman period.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 7.27 Metal detecting recovered a late Saxon/medieval stirrup mount (MNF73099) in Sub-Site 5B and fieldwalking and metal detecting recorded a middle Saxon brooch, a middle/late Saxon hooked tag, two late Saxon disc brooches and possible late Saxon pottery in Sub-Site 5B (MNF14864).
- 7.28 In the wider Study Area, the most significant Saxon site is a cemetery in which 365 inhumations and nine cremations were excavated c.200m to the north-west of Sub-Site 5A (MNF1120). Whilst bone preservation was poor, the rich array of grave goods included beads, rings, iron spearheads, shield bosses, knives, buckles, bucket fragments and the possible remains of a lyre. Just to the east of this cemetery, Saxon pottery was found c.170m to the north of Sub-Site 5A (MNF13955).
- 7.29 Saxon activity is dispersed throughout the Study Area, although there are distinct clusters of Saxon pottery finds c.500m-1km to the east of Sub-Site 5B within the settlement of Hempnall (MNF46731, MNF58626, MNF15909, MNF22242, MNF16113, MNF50089). A cluster of further Saxon pottery has also been found during fieldwalking c.700-900m to the north and northeast of Sub-Site 5B (MNF22234, MNF22235, MNF22236, MNF22239). A third cluster lies in fields opposite the south and south-eastern edge of Sub-Site 5B (MNF16611, MNF20432, MNF15473) as well as a late Saxon spindle whorl (MNF69760).
- 7.30 Further Saxon finds include an early Saxon Frankish brooch and late Saxon spindle whorl c.700m-1km to the south-east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF66250, MNF24357) and to the west, a late Saxon stirrup terminal (MNF14114), middle Saxon coins and late Saxon pottery (MNF14115) c.1km to the south-west of Sub-Site 5A and a late Saxon spindle whorl c.1km to the west of Sub-Site 5A (MNF73373).
- 7.31 Fritton is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as having a population of 62.4 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. The land comprised ploughlands, meadows and woodlands indicating a mixed agricultural economy. A church and a mill are

also mentioned suggesting it was a place of some importance. The name 'Fritton' is derived from either the Old English meaning 'farmstead offering protection' or from Old Scandinavian meaning 'farmstead of a man called Frithi' (Mills 2011).

- 7.32 Medieval activity is represented within the Site with a possible medieval building (MNF14318), medieval pottery (MNF14316) and the southern tip of Boyland deserted medieval village extending into the northern part of Sub-Site 5A. The village was associated with several successive Boyland Halls, the last of which was built in 1571 and was demolished in 1947. This evidence is supported by the geophysics in which rectilinear enclosures and areas of disturbance have been identified in this area. In Sub-Site 5B, fieldwalking and metal detecting have recovered medieval pottery, coins, dress accessories, horse accessories, a thimble, a copper alloy pilgrim badge and a lead seal matrix (MNF14864).
- 7.33 In the wider Study Area, occupation is noted within Hempnall, c.680m to the east of Sub-Site 5B with the discovery of medieval clay-lined storage pits and a possible quay (MNF15909). A moated site has been identified c.900m to the south of the Site (MNF3995).
- 7.34 Chance finds have been recovered mainly due to fieldwalking and metal detecting with pottery found most frequently. In and around Hempnall, these include MNF58626, MNF46731; MNF22242; MNF16113; MNF50089; MNF18378, MNF41179, MNF46728. Approximately c.800m to 1km to the north are MNF22237; MNF22236; MNF22235; MNF22234; MNF22239; MNF15041 with further pottery c.800m-1km to the east (MNF22241; MNF19361; MNF19362; MNF19363). In the fields adjacent to the southern and south-eastern edges of Sub-Site 5B include MNF14863, MNF16611; MNF14862, MNF15473; MNF20432; MNF14317. Pottery has also been recovered near the northern edge of Sub-Site 5A (MNF15472, MNF15471), as well as finds of coins and a gold ring set (MNF30038). Other finds of interest include lead pot mends, coins, and horse harness pendants c.1km to the west of the Site (MNF73373, MNF69208, MNF14115).
- 7.35 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods was dispersed with the settlements of Hempnall to the east and Fritton to the south as well as moated sites and halls. Parts of the Site were in use for settlement, such as the northern part of Sub-Site 5A and possibly in parts of Sub-Site 5B, although it is likely that the rest of the Site was in use as agricultural land. As such, it is considered that the northern part of Sub-Site 5A and the south and eastern parts of Sub-Site 5B have a high potential for medieval remains, whilst the rest of the Site has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 7.36 Within the Site, metal detecting has recorded a post-medieval cloth seal in the eastern part of Sub-Site 5B (MNF73099). Fieldwalking and metal detecting in the southern part of Sub-Site 5B has resulted in finds of post-medieval pottery, clay pipe stems, coins, jetton, token, harness mounts and a crotal bell fragment (MNF14864).

- 7.37 Rural industrial activities are noted in the wider Study Area with a forge and smithy in Hempnall, c.700m to the east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF14697), a saw pit in Fritton, c.900m to the south-west of Sub-Site 5A (MNF14702), a brick kiln c.50m to the west of Sub-Site 5A (MNF15555) with a brickworks c.1km to west of Sub-Site 5A (MNF10183). A workhouse was once sited just outside Hempnall, c.400m to the east of Sub-Site 5B (MNF15977).
- 7.38 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 174 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).
- 7.39 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 7.40 Historically, Site 5 fell over two parishes – Fritton and Morningthorpe. The western side of Sub-Site 5A lay within Morningthorpe, whilst the eastern part of Sub-Site 5A and Sub-Site 5B lay within Fritton parish.
- 7.41 The Morningthorpe tithe map from 1809 (Figure 28) shows that the fields within this parish belong to the Honourable Frederick Paul Irby, who owns and occupies Boyland Hall just to the north of the Site. These lands include plantations in the northern part of Sub-Site 5A. The rest of the land is meadows as part of the estate.
- 7.42 The Fritton tithe map from 1839 (Figure 29) shows the rest of the fields, which appear to have been predominantly in use for agricultural purposes. One of the plots in the eastern part of Sub-Site 5A (Plot 32) is annotated as 'Cottage close' and is likely to be associated with the structure that is just to the north of this parcel, next to the road.
- 7.43 There are no changes on the Ordnance Survey mapping apart from the removal of field boundaries in both Sub-Sites creating fewer, yet larger fields.
- 7.44 There are several features visible on the LiDAR, which are described in the Aerial Mapping section above and are shown on Figure 30.
- 7.45 The historic landscape characterisation of the Site is described as 20th century agriculture (Figure 31).
- 7.46 During the post-medieval period, the western part of the Site (Morningthorpe parish) formed part of the estate of Boyland Hall and contained woodland and plantations. The eastern section (Fritton parish) appears to have been part of the agricultural hinterland to several dispersed settlements including Fritton, Morningthorpe and Hempnall. As such, the Site is considered to have a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence.

Hedgerows

7.47 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.

7.48 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to nine sections of hedgerow within Site 5.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

7.49 The enclosure, tithe and subsequent 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figure 32 shows the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as ‘important’ in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

7.50 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.

7.51 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset’s significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

7.52 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

7.53 Site 5 has been assessed as having a moderate to high potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods in the northern part of Sub-Site 5A and the south-eastern part of Sub-Site 5B, but low potential for the rest of the Site. The significance of any such remains

would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 7.54 Under the Scheme, Sub-Site 5A will contain a 400kv substation within the central field, which will be surrounded by solar PV arrays. Sub-Site 5B will also include solar PV arrays but the two southernmost fields will remain as open land, intended as a set back of the development proposals from the heritage assets.

Previous Impacts

- 7.55 A pipeline/cable route runs through the centre of the Site in a roughly north-east/south-west direction. Disturbance is noted in the northern part of Sub-Site 5A that may relate to a former structure of possible medieval date or a spoil heap. Agricultural activity through the medieval to modern periods is likely to have adversely impacted or truncated potential below-ground archaeological remains across the Site, in particular where these survive at a shallow depth. The presence of cropmarks visible in aerial photographs and geophysical anomalies relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 7.56 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. An assessment of the Scheme's impact on designated heritage assets is provided in the Environmental Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 7.57 Impacts to archaeological assets within the Order limits would largely occur during the Construction Phase through activities such as the installation of Solar PV Arrays, BESS, Customer Substation, National Grid, Cabling, Access Tracks, and Temporary Construction Compounds all have the potential to have an adverse, permanent, and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.
- 7.58 The Project Substations, National Grid Substation, and the BESS will likely result in total destruction of archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 7.59 Impacts from piling for the Ground Mounted PV Modules will be at a very low level, typically ranging between 0.1% and 0.05% by area, depending upon the separation between rows.

- 7.60 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low.. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 7.61 Other elements of the Scheme, such as construction of Access Tracks, Conversion Units, Grid Connection Infrastructure, and Temporary Construction Compounds, will have further localised impacts.
- 7.62 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

Hedgerows

- 7.63 Limited hedgerow removal is proposed during the construction phase of the Scheme (no more than 10m). The significance of the hedgerows is vested in the historic value in relation to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern. The removal proposed is sufficiently small enough that the boundary denoted by hedgerows and their contribution to understanding the pre-1845 field pattern will remain legible despite a small section being lost. As such, it is not considered that there will be any impact to understanding their significance.

CONCLUSIONS

- 7.64 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that Site 5 has a moderate to high potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods in the northern part of Sub-Site 5A and the south-eastern part of Sub-Site 5B, but low potential for the rest Site 5.

Plates



Plate 28: General view of the northern part of Sub-Site 5A from the north-west corner, facing south-east



Plate 29: General view of Sub-Site 5A from the eastern edge, facing south-west



Plate 30: General view of eastern part of Sub-Site 5A from the north-western corner, facing south-east



Plate 31: General view of the south-western part of Sub-Site 5A from the western edge, facing north-east



Plate 32: General view of the north-eastern part of Sub-Site 5B from the eastern edge, facing south-west



Plate 33: General view of the eastern part of Sub-Site 5B from the footpath in the centre of the field, facing west



Plate 34: General view of the south-eastern end of Sub-Site 5B from the footpath in the centre of the field, facing south-west

8 SITE 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 8.1 The Site for this assessment comprises one field that includes approximately 18ha of land c.600m to the south-east of Hempnall (centred at NGR TM 2532 9378). It is situated on relatively flat land at a height of approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 8.2 The Site comprises one arable field on the northern edge of the village of Silver Green, set within a largely agricultural landscape dotted with dispersed housing and farmsteads. It is bounded on all sides by roads with Bungay Road to the north, Alburgh Road to the west and Silver Green to the south and east.
- 8.3 The solid geology within the Site comprises sand of the Norwich Crag Formation overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2024).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 8.4 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 8.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider surroundings are assessed separately.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Recorded Archaeology and potential

- 8.6 One heritage asset has been identified within the Site comprising metal detecting, which recovered medieval and post-medieval coins and metal objects (MNF69023).
- 8.7 The HER contains 65 records within the Study Area, consisting of 64 'monument' records and one 'event' record. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figures 33-34.
- 8.8 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
Prehistoric	0	13
Roman	0	8
Saxon	1	8
Medieval	1	21
Post-medieval	1	38
Modern	0	27
Unknown	0	2

Previous investigations

Aerial Investigation Mapping

- 8.9 The aerial mapping and LiDAR have identified a possible pit in the eastern part of the Site (Headland Archaeology 2024).

Geophysical Survey

- 8.10 A geophysical survey was conducted of Site 6 in which a linear feature has been detected running in a roughly east-west direction through the centre of the Site (Magnitude Surveys 2024). The eastern part of this appears to tally with field boundaries on the historic mapping, although there is no trace of it on the western side. This may suggest that the trackway is pre-tithe in date. A possible pit has been identified in the eastern part of the Site that tallies with the LiDAR and the tithe mapping that annotates this plot as 'Clay Pit Close' (Plot 599).

HER Data

- 8.11 Metal detecting within the Site has recorded medieval and post-medieval coins and metal objects (MNF69023).
- 8.12 Approximately 900m to the south of the Site, an archaeological evaluation recorded several scattered pits with charcoal-rich fills. Although these features contained no datable finds, one with a particularly dense layer of charcoal at its base produced a later Iron Age radiocarbon date. Various ditches were also recorded, some of which likely relate to post-medieval field boundaries. Several others may be related to an earlier field system due to their alignments. A pond or water-filled feature contained post-medieval to modern evidence (MNF77480, ENF152457).

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 8.13 No prehistoric assets have been recorded within the Site.
- 8.14 A number of flints of uncertain date have been recovered within the northern and western parts of the Study Area. This includes flint flakes c.600m to the north-west (MNF10172) and

- flints c.1km to the west (MNF22241). There is also a concentration of burnt flint scatters within the same area with three scatters c.800m-1km to the north-west (MNF21994, MNF21993, MNF19366), a scatter c.800m to the north-east (MNF10190) as well as c.800m to the west (MNF19361). The latter site has also recorded prehistoric pottery of uncertain date indicating occupation at the site.
- 8.15 Cropmarks of a possible ring ditch have been identified c.500m to the north of the Site (MNF56912). This feature has not been investigated archaeologically and may just be a pond, but it is located within an area of flint finds.
- 8.16 Bronze Age finds have also been recorded in the southern part of the Study Area and include an incomplete bronze valve from a two-piece looped palstave mould of middle Bronze Age date c.500m to the south of the Site (MNF57054). The other half of this mould was found in a field to the south of this, c.700m to the south of the Site, along with two halves of a second mould (MNF64592). It has been suggested that the recovery of two complete moulds in the vicinity of each other indicates that palstaves were potentially produced here. Other Bronze Age finds include flint c.900m to the south-west of the Site (MNF29172) and a copper alloy axehead c.500m to the north-east of the Site (MNF30189).
- 8.17 Iron Age pits were found during an evaluation c.900m to the south of the Site (MNF77480, ENF152457). Whilst no datable evidence was available, charcoal from the basal layers of one of the pits indicated a late Iron Age date. Ditches were also uncovered that may have related to a field system of the same date, although no dating evidence was recorded. Iron Age pottery has been recovered c.900m to the west of the Site (MNF28811).
- 8.18 Cropmarks of enclosures and a linear feature have been identified c.600m to the west of the Site (MNF40594). These are probably field and settlement divisions and are likely to be of late prehistoric date, although they have not been investigated archaeologically.
- 8.19 The water courses and generally flat topography make this a relatively conducive area for habitation during the prehistoric periods, although this is not particularly reflected in the HER. Evidence for early prehistoric activity is scant and demonstrates the temporary utilisation of the landscape in these periods. The later prehistoric is better represented and occupation during the Bronze Age is suggested by the palstave moulds and potential ring ditch as well as potential settlement during the Iron Age with cropmark evidence and Iron Age pottery. As such, it is considered that there is a low to moderate potential for prehistoric evidence within the Site.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 8.20 No Roman assets have been recorded within the Site.
- 8.21 A possible Roman road runs through the northern part of the Study Area in a roughly north/south direction leading to the northern edge of Bungay Road c.100m to the west of

- the Site (MNF10199). The projected line may run through the western edge of the Site, although there is no evidence of this in the geophysics or LiDAR and it may just skirt the edge.
- 8.22 A potential settlement site has been identified c.800m to the west of the Site with finds of Roman pottery, tile fragments and oyster shells indicating occupation (MNF19361).
- 8.23 Further Roman finds include pottery c.900m to the south-west (MNF22240) and c.100m to the north-east (MNF28812), coins c.100m to the east (MNF66553) and c.700m to the south-east (MNF60840) as well as a brooch c.800m to the west of the Site (MNF28811). Brooches and a ring were found c.700m to the south-east (MNF60840) and a possible ring c.600m to the north-west of the Site (MNF29683).
- 8.24 The close proximity of a Roman road as well as a possible settlement site and multiple finds suggest the landscape was exploited during Roman times. None of these appear to encroach into the Site, however, and it is considered that the Site has a low potential for archaeological remains.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 8.25 A middle Saxon pin and a late Saxon/medieval spindle whorl were found within the Site during metal detecting (MNF72683).
- 8.26 Saxon settlement is apparent in nearby Hempnall c.800m to the north-west of the Site in which lies the Church of St Margaret (NHLE 1050328, MNF10185) as well as finds of Saxon pottery (MNF22242, MNF16113). Saxon pottery has also been found c.800m to the west of the Site (MNF19361) as well as c.100m to the east of the Site (MNF28813) indicating occupation.
- 8.27 Two further Saxon finds include an early/middle Saxon pendant c.1km to the south (MNF47367) and a late Saxon strap end c.600m to the south of the Site (MNF54980).
- 8.28 Hempnall is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as having a population of 57.1 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. The land comprised ploughlands, meadows and woodlands indicating a mixed agricultural economy. Two mills and two churches are also mentioned suggesting it was a place of some importance. Hempnall is derived from the Old English meaning 'nook of land of a man called Hemma' (Mills 2011). Topcroft lies c.1km to the south-east of the Site and is listed in Domesday with a population of 102 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. Topcroft is thought to be a hybrid of Old Norse and Old English meaning 'Topi's small enclosed field' (Mills 2011).
- 8.29 Occupation is clear in Hempnall, c.800m to the north-west as well as dispersed moated sites c.500m to the east (MNF10209) and c.500m to the south (MNF17803).
- 8.30 Medieval finds are scattered throughout the Study Area with pottery found in and around Hempnall c.500-800m to the north-west (MNF22242, MNF16113, MNF10172) as well as c.100-900m to the west (MNF25259, MNF25258, MNF25260, MNF22241, MNF19361),

c.1km to the south-west (MNF22238) and c.100-300m to the east (MNF28813, MNF28814). Coins have been recorded c.700m-1km to the south (MNF54980, MNF60840, MNF47367) as well as c.500m to the north-east (MNF66552). Other finds include pot mends c.500m to the east (MNF66553) and c.1km to the south (MNF47367). Seal matrices, strap ends and a key have been found c.700m-1km to the south (MNF60840, MNF47367).

- 8.31 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods was dispersed with the settlements of Hempnall to the north-west and Topcroft to the south-east. The Site was likely in use as agricultural land as indicated by the names 'Silver Green', 'Road Green' and 'Hempnall Green' suggesting this was an area of common land. A possible trackway ran through the Site as indicated by the geophysics that may have medieval origins. As such, it is considered that the Site has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 8.32 A post-medieval token was found during metal detecting within the Site (MNF72683).
- 8.33 The only evidence for industrial activity associated with the agricultural landscape is a long waterfilled pond that was used for soaking flax to soften it for textile manufacture, which has been identified c.600m to the east of the Site (MNF10210).
- 8.34 An UXO desk study and constraints assessment (Zetica 2024) has identified the site of an aircraft crash c.700m to the east of Site 6. The aircraft was a Mosquito BIV that crashed in November 1943. Some WWII crashes may have had live munitions on board, which could have scattered across a wide area. This would typically have included small arms ammunition for machine guns and cannon shells for aircraft within cannons.
- 8.35 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 65 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).
- 8.36 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 8.37 The earliest detailed mapping is the Hempnall tithe map from 1842 (Figure 35), which shows the Site as 11 plots of land. There is a suggestion that extraction may have been undertaken at the eastern end of the Site with 'Clay Pit Close' (Plot 599), 'Great Pitts Meadow' (Plot 597) and 'Little Pitts Meadow' (Plot 596) annotated. There is an indication of a small pit in the area of Plot 599 on the LiDAR and geophysics, although nothing is recorded on the British Geological Survey. An allotment was sited in the south-eastern corner (Plot 595).

- 8.38 The Ordnance Survey mapping shows the removal of field boundaries from the late 19th century to the late 20th century with none left by the 1970s.
- 8.39 There are several features visible on the LiDAR, which are described in the Aerial Mapping section above and are shown on Figure 36.
- 8.40 The historic landscape characterisation of the Site is described as 20th century agriculture (Figure 37).
- 8.41 During the post-medieval and modern periods, the Site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to several settlements including Hempnall and Topcroft as well as dispersed smaller settlements of Silver Green, Road Green and Hempnall Green. A linear feature identified by the geophysics may represent a former trackway, some of which tallies with historic mapping, but may have earlier origins. As such, the Site is considered to have a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 8.42 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 8.43 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 8.44 Designated Heritage Assets have been subject to a separate assessment (Environment Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1).

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 8.45 Site 6 has been assessed as having a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric period and a low potential for the Roman to medieval periods. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 8.4 Site 6 will be retained for habitat management under the Scheme resulting in neutral change. It was removed from the built parameters of the Scheme.

Previous Impacts

- 8.46 It appears there may have been some extraction of clay resources within the Site that may have impacted any below ground remains. Agricultural activity through the medieval to modern periods is likely to have adversely impacted or truncated potential below-ground archaeological remains across the Site, in particular where these survive at a shallow depth. The presence of cropmarks visible in aerial photographs and geophysical anomalies relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 8.47 Designated Heritage Assets have been subject to a separate assessment (Environment Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1).

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 8.48 This assessment has concluded that there is a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric period and a low potential for the Roman to medieval periods to be present within the Site. As Site 6 has been removed from the built parameters of the Scheme, it is not considered that there will be any impact to the archaeological resource.

CONCLUSIONS

- 8.49 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that Site 6 has a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric period and a low potential for the Roman to medieval periods to be present within the Site. Site 6 will be retained as farmland and, therefore, there will be no impacts to the archaeological resource arising from the Scheme.

Plates



Plate 35: View of Site 6 from the south edge, facing north



Plate 36: View of Site 6 from the south edge, facing north-east



Plate 37: View of Site 6 from the south edge, facing north-west

9 SUB-SITES 7A TO 7C DESK ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 9.1 The Site comprises three Sub-Sites (7A - 7C). Sub-Site 7A (centred at NGR TM 2128 9567) is an arable field, Sub-Site 7B (centred at NGR TM 2278 9486) includes two fields, one of which is arable and the second is wetland. Sub-Site 7C (centred at NGR TM 2274 9567) comprises four arable fields. In total, they include approximately 103ha of land c.100m to the east of Tasburgh and c.500m to the north-west of Hempnall. Sub-Site 7A is situated on sloping ground at a height of approximately 25m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the west rising to 35m aOD in the east. Sub-Site 7B lies at c.30m aOD, whilst Sub-Site 7C lies at a height of approximately 40m aOD.
- 9.2 The Site is surrounded by fields and interspersed with woodland. Fairstead Lane runs along the southern edge of Sub-Site 7A and divides Sub-Site B and Sub-Site C.
- 9.3 The solid geology within Sub-Site 7A comprises chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk, Culver Chalk and Portsdown Chalk Formations overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation. Sub-Sites 7B and 7C comprise sand of the Norwich Crag Formation. These are overlain by diamiction of the Lowestoft Formation in most of Sub-Site 7C, although the southern tip and Sub-Site 7B include sand and gravel of the Leet Hill Sand and Gravel Member (BGS 2025).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 9.4 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 9.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider surroundings are assessed separately.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 9.6 Four heritage assets have been identified within the Site comprising the edge of a medieval moated site in Sub-Site 7C (MNF10117), a post-medieval coin found by metal detecting in

Sub-Site 7A (MNF43667), and fieldwalking in Sub-Sites 7B and 7C recovered medieval and post-medieval pottery (MNF17052, MNF15043).

- 9.7 The HER contains 171 records within the Study Area, consisting of 150 'monument' records and 21 'event' records. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figures 39-40.
- 9.8 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
Prehistoric	0	33
Roman	0	25
Saxon	0	18
Medieval	3	55
Post-medieval	3	88
Modern	1	45
Unknown	0	8

Previous investigations

Aerial Investigation Mapping

- 9.9 In Sub-Site 7A, a pond or pit feature has been identified (Headland Archaeology 2024). This correlates with the LiDAR in which a circular depression is noted, although it is not marked on any of the historic mapping.
- 9.10 In Sub-Site 7C, a field system or trackway has been interpreted, which tallies with the LiDAR. There does not appear to be any correlation with the geophysics. Whilst there are also no linkages with the historic mapping, the east/west boundary aligns with a field boundary to the east.

Geophysical Survey

- 9.11 The pond/pit circular feature identified by the aerial mapping in Sub-Site 7A has also been detected by the geophysics.
- 9.12 A circular feature was detected in Sub-Site 7B of uncertain date, but it may have prehistoric origins.

HER Data

- 9.13 Metal detecting in Sub-Site 7A recovered a post-medieval coin (MNF43667) and fieldwalking in Sub-Sites 7B and 7C recorded medieval and post-medieval pottery recorded (MNF17052, MNF15043).
- 9.14 A total of 21 archaeological events have been undertaken within the 1km Study Area comprising six test pitting sites, five watching briefs, three trial trenching events, three metal detecting/fieldwalking surveys, two building surveys, one geophysical survey and one field survey.
- 9.15 Very little archaeology has been recorded during the excavations with the most significant found at Hempnall crossroads, c.800m to the south-west of Sub-Site 7A (ENF145568, ENF145974). Undated features included a possible pit, a posthole and two ditches were uncovered containing dark fills. Similar material was also identified beneath deep, possibly colluvial deposits in two adjacent trenches, one of which exposed a more discrete patch of a potential prehistoric burnt flint pot boiler spread.
- 9.16 A community project was also undertaken close to Tasburgh Hillfort Scheduled Monument in which 15 trenches were excavated. One trench at Preston Primary School, c.800m to the west of Sub-Site 7A revealed evidence of narrow gully containing two sherds of prehistoric pottery within a charcoal-flecked fill of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date (ENF142205). At the Chestnut Road test pit, a concentration of late prehistoric flint potentially included Iron Age flint knapping activity (ENF142191), c.400m to the west of Sub-Site 7A.

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 9.17 No prehistoric assets have been recorded within the Site.
- 9.18 The earliest evidence for prehistoric activity includes the recovery of flint artefacts dating to the Palaeolithic period including a handaxe c.900m to the south-east (MNF15909), flints c.1km to the south (MNF1120) and a middle Palaeolithic handaxe c.600m to the north of the Site (MNF21753). Further potential Palaeolithic handaxes found c.1km to the north-east of the Site are likely to have been Neolithic axeheads (MNF66015).
- 9.19 The Mesolithic period is represented by a macehead recorded c.500m to the north (MNF10097), along with flints c.1km to the south of the Site (MNF1120), c.1km to the south-east of Sub-Site 7B (MNF29412) and flints and burnt flints c.700m to the west of Sub-Site 7A (MNF69938).
- 9.20 Several flint finds dating to the Neolithic period have been recovered in the northern part of the Study Area with an axe, an unusual sickle and scraper c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF21802), a scraper c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF24251), blades c.600m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF17049) and a scraper and flakes c.900m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF19309). To the west of Sub-Site 7A, an axehead or adze was recorded c.200m (MNF19379) as well as a late Neolithic barbed and tanged arrowhead c.700m (MNF62518). Further Neolithic flints were found c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 7C (MNF1120). In the late

Neolithic/early Bronze Age period, a possible lithic working site or occupation site has been identified c.1km to the south-east of Sub-Site 7B (MNF29412) in which numerous flints of this date were recovered.

- 9.21 Bronze Age activity is prevalent throughout the Study Area with clear evidence for funerary activity. Beaker pottery was found c.1km to the south-east of Sub-Site 7B (MNF29412) and a Bronze Age cremation burial excavated c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 7C (MNF1120). This latter site was uncovered in the location of a cropmark of a ring ditch (MNF10179). A further ring ditch has been identified relatively close-by, c.800m to the south of Sub-Site 7A (MNF40593). An additional example of Beaker pottery has been recorded c.800m to the west of Sub-Site 7A, along with flints (MNF1135). A circular feature has been identified in Sub-Site 7B by the geophysical survey and may have prehistoric origins. Occupational activity is represented by the late Neolithic/Bronze Age lithic working/occupation site, c.1km to the south-east of Sub-Site 7B (MNF29412). Pot boilers have also been recorded suggestive of settlement c.500m to the west of Sub-Site 7A (MNF10109), which were dredged from the River Tas as well as a pot boiler spread uncovered during excavations c.800m to the south-west of Sub-Site 7A (MNF77484). Chance finds include a middle Bronze Age palstave c.900m to the east of Sub-Site 7C (MNF74462), a palstave chisel c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF39918), a rapier c.700m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF17049), and a palstave axe c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF39956).
- 9.22 Further flints of uncertain date have been recorded throughout the Study Area, such as c.300m to the south of Sub-Site 7B (MNF14650), c.900m to the south-west of Sub-Site 7A (MNF77481, MNF16110, MNF16112), c.1km to the north-west of Sub-Site 7A (MNF13931), c.50m north of Sub-Site 7A (MNF17856) and c.700m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF19310).
- 9.23 Settlement evidence is indicated during the Iron Age with Tasburgh hillfort c.1km to the west of Sub-Site 7A (NHLE Scheduled Monument 1003984, MNF2258). Whilst the earthworks are considered to be of Iron Age date, the remains may represent a Saxon *burh*. Despite this uncertainty, excavations have found prehistoric pits and postholes. Other Iron Age evidence includes pottery found c.1km to the south-east of Sub-Site 7B (MNF29412) and c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 7C (MNF1120) and late Iron Age coins have been recorded c.250m to the south-east of Sub-Site 7A (MNF66247).
- 9.24 The water courses and generally flat topography make this a relatively conducive area for habitation during the prehistoric periods and this is reflected in the HER with clear evidence for occupation from the late Neolithic period onwards. The areas of occupation and funerary evidence are located to the south and south-east of the Site and further west within Tasburgh, although a circular feature has been detected by the geophysical survey in Sub-Site 7B, which may be prehistoric in origin. As such, it is considered that there is a low potential for prehistoric evidence within the Site, although there is a moderate to high potential for prehistoric remains in Sub-Site 7B.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 9.25 Two Roman settlements have been identified within the Study Area, one of which lies c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 7A (MNF10178) and the second is c.900m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF29778). Both have revealed evidence relating to habitation, such as building materials, coins as well as personal items. To the west of the former settlement, cropmarks of field systems have been identified c.900m (MNF40593) and c.700m (MNF40591) to the south of Sub-Site 7A leading up to the Roman Road. The Pye Roman Road lies c.300m to the west of the Site (MNF7947). Within this landscape, finds of pottery (MNF10163) and a coin (MNF33205) have been recorded. The field system likely extended to the east with cropmarks of rectangular enclosures and Roman pottery c.900m to the south of Sub-Site 7C (MNF10176).
- 9.26 In the vicinity of the second settlement, Roman coins have been recorded c.700m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF17049), along with a dolphin-type brooch (MNF29682) and a decorated object (MNF60353), c.1km to the north-east of Sub-Site 7C.
- 9.27 Chance finds of Roman objects have been recorded throughout the Study Area including pottery c.500m to the south of Sub-Site 7B (MNF13955, MNF14650). A cluster of finds have been recovered c.500m-1km to the south-east of Sub-Site 7B comprising pottery (MNF19225), pottery and a roof tile (MNF15909), and coins (MNF29412, MNF67378). In the vicinity of Sub-Site 7A, a finger ring (MNF32279) and coins and a brooch (MNF66247) were found c.200m to the south-east and pottery was found c.50m to the north (MNF17050). To the west of the Roman Road, pottery has been recorded c.1km to the south-west of Sub-Site 7A (MNF16110), c.500m to the west (MNF10105) and c.1km to the west (MNF2258) at Tasburgh hillfort. Coins have been recovered c.1km to the north-west of Sub-Site 7A (MNF74301). A Roman key has been found c.1km to the east of Sub-Site 7C (MNF74461).
- 9.28 The close proximity of two settlements, a Roman road as well as multiple finds suggests that the landscape was exploited during Roman times. However, the areas of settlement are concentrated at some distance from the Site to the north-east and south-west and it is considered that the Site itself has a low potential for archaeological remains dating to this period.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 9.29 Saxon settlement is known at Tasburgh hillfort in which pottery, hearths and evidence for metalworking have been identified, c.1km to the west of Sub-Site 7A (NHLE Scheduled Monument 1003984, MNF2258). This lies in close proximity to St Mary's Church, which has a late Saxon round tower, and sherds of Saxon pottery have been found in the churchyard (NHLE LB 1302231, MNF10104). Another area of Saxon settlement lies c.900m to the north-east of Sub-Site 7C centred on the remains of St Mary's Church in Saxlingham Thorpe (NHLE LB 1152354, MNF10115). Just to the north of the ruins, three possible house sites have been

- identified along with Saxon pottery (MNF19309), whilst just to the south, a late Saxon strap end has been found (MNF17049).
- 9.30 A Saxon cemetery has been excavated c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 7C containing 365 inhumations and nine cremations (MNF1120). Whilst the bone preservation was poor, the grave goods included beads, finger rings, iron spearheads, shield bosses, knives, buckles, bucket fragments and the possible remains of a lyre.
- 9.31 Saxon pottery has also been recorded c.50-900m to the east of Sub-Site 7C during fieldwalking (MNF22236, MNF22235, MNF22234, MNF22239), which may be indicative of a settlement, and probably relates to Hempnall just to the south. Indeed, Saxon pottery has also been found within Hempnall c.900m to the south-east of Sub-Site 7B (MNF46731, MNF58626, MNF15909). A Saxon brooch and wrist clasp were recorded c.600m south of Sub-Site 7A (MNF25467).
- 9.32 The Site lies within the parishes of Tasburgh and Hempnall. Tasburgh is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as having a population of 22.2 households putting it in the largest 40% of settlements recorded. The land comprised ploughlands and meadows, along with a mill. The name 'Tasburgh' is derived from the Old English meaning 'stronghold of a man called Taesa' (Mills 2011). Hempnall is listed in Domesday as having a population of 57.1 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. The land comprised ploughlands, meadows and woodlands indicating a mixed agricultural economy. Two churches and two mills are also mentioned suggesting it was a place of some importance. Hempnall is derived from the Old English meaning 'nook of land of a man called Hemma' (Mills 2011).
- 9.33 Within the Site, three medieval heritage assets have been recorded including the edge of a moated site that extends into the southern part of Sub-Site 7C (MNF10117). Fieldwalking in Sub-Site 7B and 7C have recovered medieval pottery (MNF17052, MNF15043).
- 9.34 In the wider Study Area, the settlements of Tasburgh and Hempnall were established by the medieval period, along with dispersed settlements. At Tasburgh hillfort, ditches and pits of medieval date were excavated (MNF2258), which lies close to the medieval manorial site at Old Hall Farm (MNF17241), c.1km to the west of Sub-Site 7A. Within Hempnall, a potential medieval quay has been interpreted following excavations in which clay-lined storage pits were uncovered as well as pottery and a possible malting tile (MNF15909), c.1km to the south-east of Sub-Site 7B. Boyland Hall and deserted medieval village are located c.700m to the south of Sub-Site 7B (MNF10168, MNF43647). Finds of medieval pottery are scattered in the fields surrounding this area, likely due to manuring practices (MNF14316, MNF15472, MNF13955), as well as brick and tile indicating the presence of a former building (MNF14318). A moated site that was possibly the site of Thorpe Manor has been located c.900m to the north of Sub-Site 7C (MNF17737). This is in close proximity to the former Church of St Mary in Saxlingham Thorpe (MNF10115), which was in use during the medieval period. Finds of pottery and coins have been recorded close to this, c.700m to the north of

Sub-Site 7C (MNF17049). Further medieval finds have been recorded within Saxlingham Nethergate c.1km to the north-east of Sub-Site 7C with the former 13th century church font from the Church of St Mary built into a 19th century wall (MNF22186), pottery (MNF19310, MNF22193, MNF22194), a key and coin (MNF60353).

- 9.35 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods was concentrated within the known dispersed settlements of Tasburgh, Hempnall, Saxlingham Thorpe, Saxlingham Nethergate and Boyland, some of which remain as villages today. Whilst none of these settlements are close to the Site, a medieval moated site extends slightly into the southern part of Sub-Site 7C and there is a moderate to high potential that evidence associated with this structure lies within this area. The remaining fields were likely in use as agricultural land and it is considered that the rest of the Site has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 9.36 Three assets of post-medieval and modern date have been recorded within the Site comprising a post-medieval coin in Sub-Site 7A (MNF43667), post-medieval pottery and clay pipe stems as well as modern glass and pottery in Sub-Site 7C (MNF17052) and post-medieval glazed pottery in Sub-Site 7B (MNF15043).
- 9.37 During WWII, seven 1000lb high explosive bombs were jettisoned on open ground near Limetree Farm within the extents of the cable connection route, c.150m to the south of Sub-Site 7A. They were recorded as unexploded bombs and were taken to RAF Hardwick for disposal (Zetica 2024).
- 9.38 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 133 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).
- 9.39 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 9.40 The Site includes two parishes – Tasburgh and Hempnall. Sub-Site 7A and the western tip of Sub-Site 7C in the former and the rest of the Site in the latter.
- 9.41 The earliest map is Faden's from 1797 (not reproduced) that shows a farm next to Sub-Site 7C that is likely to be the 17th century Grove Farmhouse (NHLE LB 1050330, MNF48367).
- 9.42 The enclosure map for Tasburgh from 1818 (Figure 41) shows Sub-Site 7A as seven parcels of land in agricultural use. No enclosure map exists for the rest of the Site.

- 9.43 The Tasburgh tithe map from 1841 (Figure 42) shows Sub-Site 7A does not show any changes to the previous map. One of the parcels is annotated 'House Close' (Plot 338) and may indicate that a structure was once on this land.
- 9.44 The Hempnall tithe map from 1842 (Figure 43) depicts the rest of the Site. The majority of the fields were in agricultural use, although some were woodland in the north-eastern and north-western parts of Sub-Site 7C (Plots 65, 69, 71, 4) and an orchard in Sub-Site 7C (Plot 17). Clay pits are indicated in Sub-Site 7C with Plots 73 and 74 and an 'Ash Yard' is annotated in Sub-Site 7C (Plot 5).
- 9.45 The Ordnance Survey mapping does not show any significant changes apart from the removal of field boundaries.
- 9.46 There are several features visible on the LiDAR, which are described in the Aerial Mapping section above and are shown on Figure 44.
- 9.47 The historic landscape characterisation of the Site is described as 20th century agriculture for the majority of the fields. Sub-Sites 7A and the western part of Sub-Site 7C are typified by boundary loss with relict element, whilst Fields the eastern part of Sub-Site 7C are boundary loss. Sub-Site 7B comprises 20th century enclosure and inland managed wetland represented by an enclosed meadow (Figure 45).
- 9.48 During the post-medieval period, the Site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to Grove Farm and other dispersed farms and settlements including Tasburgh and Hempnall. The geophysics and aerial mapping also indicate an agricultural function of this land. As such, the Site is considered to have a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence.

Hedgerows

- 9.49 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.
- 9.50 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to 13 sections of hedgerow within Sub-Sites 7B and 7C.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

- 9.51 The enclosure, tithe and subsequent 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figure 46 shows the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as 'important' in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 9.52 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 9.53 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 9.54 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. An assessment of the Scheme's impact on designated heritage assets is provided in the Environmental Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 9.55 The Site has been assessed as having a low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although there is a moderate to high potential for prehistoric remains in Sub-Site 7B as indicated by the geophysical survey and moderate to high potential for medieval remains associated with the moated site next to Sub-Site 2C. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 9.56 The Scheme will include solar PV arrays within Sub-Sites 7A-7C, and there will be retained area of farmland within the latter. Proposed planting initiatives will include new woodland, trees, enhanced hedgerows and grassland.

Previous Impacts

- 9.57 Agricultural activity through the medieval and post-medieval and modern periods is likely to have adversely impacted or truncated potential below-ground archaeological remains across

the Site, in particular where these survive at a shallow depth. The presence of cropmarks visible in aerial photographs and geophysical anomalies relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 9.58 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. An assessment of the Scheme's impact on designated heritage assets is provided in the Environmental Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 9.59 This assessment has concluded that there is a low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although there is a moderate to high potential for prehistoric remains in Sub-Site 7B as indicated by the geophysical survey and moderate to high potential for medieval remains associated with the moated site next to Sub-Site 2C.
- 9.60 Impacts to archaeological assets within the Order limits would largely occur during the Construction Phase through activities such as the installation of Solar PV Arrays, BESS, Customer Substation, National Grid, Cabling, Access Tracks, and Temporary Construction Compounds all have the potential to have an adverse, permanent, and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.
- 9.61 The Project Substations, National Grid Substation, and the BESS will likely result in total destruction of archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 9.62 Impacts from piling for the Ground Mounted PV Modules will be at a very low level, typically ranging between 0.1% and 0.05% by area, depending upon the separation between rows.
- 9.63 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 9.64 Other elements of the Scheme, such as construction of Access Tracks, Conversion Units, Grid Connection Infrastructure, and Temporary Construction Compounds, will have further localised impacts.
- 9.65 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

Hedgerows

- 9.66 Limited hedgerow removal is proposed during the construction phase of the Scheme (no more than 10m). The significance of the hedgerows is vested in the historic value in relation

to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern. The removal proposed is sufficiently small enough that the boundary denoted by hedgerows and their contribution to understanding the pre-1845 field pattern will remain legible despite a small section being lost. As such, it is not considered that there will be any impact to understanding their significance.

CONCLUSIONS

- 9.67 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that the Site has a low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although there is a moderate to high potential for prehistoric remains in Sub-Site 7B as indicated by the geophysical survey and moderate to high potential for medieval remains associated with the moated site next to Sub-Site 7C. There is no evidence at present to suggest that Sub-Sites 7A to 7C contain, or have the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.

Plates



Plate 38: View of Sub-Site 7A from the south-western edge, facing north-east



Plate 39: View of the western part of Sub-Site 7C from the north-eastern edge, facing south-west



Plate 40: View of the central part of Sub-Site 7C from the north-western edge, facing south-east



Plate 41: View of the north-eastern part of Sub-Site 7C from the western edge, facing east



Plate 42: View of the south-eastern part of Sub-Site 7C from the western edge, facing east



Plate 43: View of the western part of Sub-Site 7B from the northern edge, facing south-east



Plate 44: View of the eastern part of Sub-Site 7B from the northern edge, facing south

10 SUB-SITES 7D TO 7H ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 10.1 The Site comprises five Sub-Sites (7D – 7H), all of which are arable fields. Sub-Site 7D (centred at NGR TM 2354 9617) includes three fields, Sub-Site 7E (centred at NGR TM 2429 9560) has four fields, Sub-Site 7F (centred at NGR TM 2432 9605) has six fields, Sub-Site 7G (centred at NGR TM 2522 9531) and Sub-Site 7H (centred at NGR TM 2580 9514) have one field each that include approximately 152ha of land c.600m to the south-west of Saxlingham Nethergate and c.250m to the south of Saxlingham Green. The majority of the Site is relatively flat at a height of approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and rises to c.45m aOD in Sub-Sites 7G and 7H.
- 10.2 The Site is set within an agricultural landscape surrounded by fields and divided by several roads. To the north is The Green, which runs through the small settlement of Saxlingham Green and to the south is Busseys Loke. The Site is divided by Broaden Lane separating Sub-Site 7D from Sub-Sites 7E and 7F and Bussey's Loke divides Sub-Sites 7G and 7H. Several areas of woodland are also present, particularly along the northern edge as well as dispersed farms.
- 10.3 The solid geology within the Site comprises sand and gravel of the Crag Group overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2025).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 10.4 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 10.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider surroundings separately are assessed.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 10.6 Six heritage assets have been identified within the Site comprising the site of medieval/post-medieval house in Sub-Site 7D (MNF22194), a middle Bronze Age palstave (MNF74462) in Sub-Site 7E, a Roman key (MNF74461) in Sub-Site 7E, a possible medieval moated site

(MNF28810) in Sub-Sites 7E and 7F that has also recovered Roman and medieval pottery, and a WWII decoy airfield in Sub-Site 7H (MNF32723). In between Sub-Sites 7D and 7F, a medieval horse pendant (MNF70596) was found during metal detecting.

- 10.7 The HER contains 159 ‘monument’ records and no ‘event’ records within the Study Area. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figures 47-48.
- 10.8 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
Prehistoric	1	26
Roman	2	19
Saxon	0	22
Medieval	3	56
Post-medieval	1	91
Modern	1	62
Unknown	0	3

Previous investigations

Aerial Investigation Mapping

- 10.9 Geological marks have been detected within Sub-Site 7E, which tally with the geophysical survey. A pond or pit feature has been identified within the north-eastern part of Sub-Site Field 7F. The geophysics and the LiDAR also show a depression in this area, although it is not noted on the historic mapping. The LiDAR shows the structure associated with ‘Mudhole’ in the south-western corner of Sub-Site 7D, although there are no signs of structures in the northern part of Sub-Site 7D or in the southern part of Sub-Site 7F (Headland Archaeology 2024).

Geophysical Survey

- 10.10 A geophysical survey was conducted revealing anomalies of rectangular enclosures in the northern part of Sub-Site 7D, which is likely to related to the house that is mentioned on the HER dating to the medieval/post-medieval period (MNF22194). An area of disturbance has been detected in Sub-Site 7E, which is likely to be of natural origin. A pipeline/cable route runs through the Site in a roughly north-east/south-west direction through Sub-Sites 7E and 7F as well as through Sub-Sites 7G and 7H (Magnitude Surveys 2024).

HER Data

- 10.11 No archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the Site and only four are recorded within the Study Area.
- 10.12 Within the Study Area, excavations were undertaken c.1km to the north-west of the Site, which revealed an infilled water channel relating to the Old Hall and the clay base of an outbuilding, both of which are likely to be of late 15th to early 17th century date (MNF13174, ENF87085). A watching brief in the same area recorded no significant archaeology (ENF95610).
- 10.13 Excavations c.1km to the south of the Site identified two gravel surfaces and a number of medieval clay-lined possible storage pits. It has been suggested that the Site may have been used as a quay during the medieval period (MNF15909).
- 10.14 Two building recordings were also undertaken within the Site, although these bear little relevance to understanding the archaeological potential of the Site (ENF135791, ENF138434).

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 10.15 One prehistoric asset has been recorded within the Site comprising a middle Bronze Age palstave recovered during metal detecting in Sub-Site 7E (MNF74462).
- 10.16 The earliest evidence for prehistoric activity in the wider Study Area includes the recovery of a lower Palaeolithic handaxe c.1km to the south of the Site (MNF15909) and potential Palaeolithic flint artefacts, c.1km to the north-west of the Site (MNF13174).
- 10.17 Potential Mesolithic flints have been identified c.900m to the north-east of the Site (MNF24537) and a potential Mesolithic perforated quartzite pebble macehead was found c.1km to the west of the Site (MNF10097).
- 10.18 Numerous flint artefacts dating to the Neolithic period have been recorded to the north of the Site including flints c.900m to the north (MNF17697), c.200m to the north-west (MNF19309) and c.900m to the north-east of the Site (MNF24537). Several flint axeheads were found in the garden of Hill House, c.400m to the north of Sub-Site 7D that were originally interpreted as Palaeolithic, but are more likely to have been Neolithic (MNF66015). A Late Neolithic rod was recovered from allotments c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 7D (MNF59056). In other parts of the Study Area, a Neolithic axehead has been recorded c.1km to the north-east of the Site (MNF68449) and a Neolithic scraper c.200m to the west of Sub-Site 7D (MNF24251).
- 10.19 Prehistoric flints have been recorded close to the north-western tip of Sub-Site 7D (MNF19310) and c.900m to the south of Sub-Site 7D (MNF22239). Two prehistoric flint scrapers were found c.600m to the north-west of the Site (MNF21486). A late prehistoric blade was found in allotments c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 7D (MNF59056).
- 10.20 Potential archaeology relating to the Bronze Age includes cropmarks that have identified a large hengiform monument and a number of ring ditches, c.800m to the north of Sub-Site

7D (MNF40647). The size of the ring ditches suggest they are early barrows, possibly part of a barrow cemetery with the henge forming the central focus. Cropmarks of three circular features have been interpreted as possible Bronze Age ring ditches and a barrow, just c.50m to the east of the possible barrow cemetery and may have formed part of it (MNF17697). Further cropmarks c.100m to the north of the barrow cemetery have recorded a ring ditch and two linear ditches and it is likely that these features also relate to the cemetery (MNF40595).

- 10.21 Artefacts of Bronze Age date have been recorded in the southern part of the Study Area as indicated by clusters of prehistoric burnt flints c.400-500m to the south of the Site (MNF19366, MNF21993, MNF21994) as well as c.200m to the south of Sub-Site 7H (MNF10190). It is thought that these were used for the preparation of food. A Bronze Age copper alloy flanged axehead was found c.800m to the south of Sub-Site 4H (MNF30189) and a Bronze Age palstave c.200m to the west of Sub-Site 7D (MNF39918). A middle Bronze Age/early Iron Age cauldron was found during metal detecting c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 7F (MNF67514).
- 10.22 Iron Age pottery has been recorded c.900m-1km to the north of Sub-Site 7D (MNF22184, MNF70815) and potential Iron Age pottery c.300m to the south of the Site (MNF25182).
- 10.23 The water courses and generally flat topography make this a relatively conducive area for habitation during the prehistoric periods and the cropmarks and numerous finds indicate that the landscape was exploited, particularly during the Bronze Age. The cropmark evidence suggests the landscape, particularly to the north, was utilised for funerary purposes during the Bronze Age with a potential barrow cemetery and henge monument, although none of these have been verified through excavation. Occupation during the Bronze Age appears to have been concentrated to the south of the Site. Whilst little evidence is indicated within the Site, the landscape appears to have been settled during the Bronze Age and it is considered that there is a low to moderate potential for Bronze Age evidence, although low potential for other prehistoric periods within the Site.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 10.24 Metal detecting in Sub-Site 7E recovered a Roman key (MNF74461) and two sherds of Roman pottery are reported to have been found along the southern edges of Sub-Sites 7E and 7F (MNF28810).
- 10.25 Settlement activity is indicated c.900m to the north of Sub-Site 7D in which fieldwalking, metal detecting and aerial photography have identified traces of Roman buildings as well as numerous finds including coins, tesserae, tiles, jewellery, dress fittings, metal working debris and pottery (MNF10099). A second Roman settlement is indicated by metal detecting and fieldwalking that recorded coins, a flue tile fragment, an armlet and pottery, c.400m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D (MNF29778).

- 10.26 A possible Roman settlement has been identified following metal detecting c.1km to the north-east of the Site (MNF24537). The objects include pottery, roof tiles and bricks, coins, brooches, steelyard weights, along with various strap, furniture and harness fittings. The artefacts indicate a peak in activity around the 3rd to 4th centuries. A potential Roman road runs in a roughly north/south direction c.150m to the south of Sub-Site 7G (MNF10199) and the projected line of this would run through Sub-Site 7G and close to the eastern side of this settlement.
- 10.27 Roman finds have been identified throughout the Study Area with a cluster to the north of Sub-Site 7D close to the two settlements. This includes pottery c.900m (MNF13174), coins c.900m (MNF22184, MNF10100), a dolphin-type brooch and a mortar terminal in the shape of an ox head c.300m (MNF29682), coins and a fragment of brooch c.1km (MNF70815), a sherd of Roman grey ware c.600m (MNF21486), and a decorated metal object c.200m (MNF60353).
- 10.28 To the north-east and in the vicinity of a Roman coin (MNF31567) and potential Roman road (MNF10199), a Roman brooch was discovered just to the north of Sub-Site 7G (MNF73369). Roman pottery was found c.900m to the north-east (MNF10148) and a Roman cosmetic set c.1km to the east of the Site (MNF68449).
- 10.29 In the southern part of the Site and close to the potential Roman road, numerous finds include pottery and a coin c.400m (MNF25182), pottery c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 7H (MNF28812), a coin c.1km to south of Sub-Site 7H (MNF66553), pottery and a roof tile c.1km (MNF15909), and a possible finger ring or the drop handle from a Roman box was found c.1km to the south (MNF29683).
- 10.30 The evidence indicates that there were three Roman settlements, a possible Roman road as well as numerous finds within the vicinity of the Site suggesting that the landscape was exploited during Roman times. The focus of activity appears to lie to the north-west and north-east of the Site, although a potential Roman road runs through Sub-Site 7G and as such, it is considered that the Site has a low to moderate potential for archaeological remains.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 10.31 A number of Saxon finds have been found in the vicinity of the Site with two distinct clusters to the north and the south. Both areas have recovered pottery as well as the presence of churches indicating clear evidence for settlement. Approximately 400m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D lies the ruins of the late Saxon Church of St Mary in Saxlingham Thorpe (NHLE LB 1152354, MNF10115), which was disused by the late 17th century. Some of the material from this church was used to make repairs to St Mary's Church in Saxlingham Nethergate. Close to the ruins, c.250m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D, sherds of Saxon Ipswich and Thetford Ware were discovered during fieldwalking (MNF19309) indicating settlement. Further pottery has been found c.500m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D (MNF63522). The church at

- Saxlingham Nethergate (St Mary) also originated in the late Saxon period and lies c.700m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D (NHLE LB 1050666, MNF10124). Saxon buckles and pottery have been found close-by, c.800m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D (MNF13174) and coins and other metalwork c.700m-1km to the north and north-east of Sub-Site 7D (MNF33202, MNF70098, MNF70481).
- 10.32 To the south of the Site, the late Saxon Church of St Margaret (NHLE LB 1050328, MNF10185) lies within the settlement of Hempnall. Pottery has been found within the settlement, c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 7E (MNF58626, MNF15909, MNF16113, MNF46731) as well as a strap end (MNF50089). To the north of Hempnall, fieldwalking has produced further Saxon pottery c.400m to the south of the Site (MNF22234, MNF22235, MNF22236, MNF22239) as well as a coin c.400m to the south of Sub-Site 7F (MNF25182).
- 10.33 Scattered Saxon period finds include a middle Saxon pin and late Saxon spindle whorl at Road Green, c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 7H (MNF72683), a late Saxon suspension unit for a censer or balance c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 7H (MNF61407) and early Saxon tweezers c.900m to the north of Sub-Site 7H (MNF24537).
- 10.34 Saxlingham (Nethergate and Thorpe) is listed in the Domesday Book (1086), but has no recorded population indicating that it was either a large town or an abandoned settlement. The name 'Saxlingham' is derived from the Old English meaning 'homestead of the family or followers of a man called Seaxel or Seaxhelm' (Mills 2011). Hempnall is listed in Domesday as having a population of 57.1 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. Alongside the arable land, meadows and woodland, two mills and two churches are also mentioned suggesting it was a place of some importance. Hempnall is derived from the Old English meaning 'nook of land of a man called Hemma' (Mills 2011).
- 10.35 Within the Site, in the northern part of Sub-Site 7D, the site of a medieval/post-medieval house is recorded, which has been confirmed by geophysics although no trace of this remains today. Six sherds of medieval pottery were found here as well (MNF22194). Irregular ditches noted on maps along the southern edge of Sub-Sites 7E and 7F have been interpreted as a possible medieval moated site (MNF28810), although no trace of this has been detected by the geophysical survey or aerial mapping. Whilst large quantities of medieval pottery have also been reported from the area, any remaining traces of a moat have been destroyed by agricultural activities. In between Sub-Sites 7D and 7F, a medieval harness pendant was found (MNF70596).
- 10.36 Several dispersed moated sites have been recorded within the Study Area including one c.800m to the south-west of Sub-Site 7D (MNF10117). The moat is still visible and fragments of medieval pottery and brick have been found on the central island. The timber-framed mansion of Old Hall in Saxlingham Nethergate was built on a 13th century moated site, c. 500m to the north of Sub-Site 7D (MNF11917). The remains of a moated enclosure have been identified c.800m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D and may have been the site of Thorpe Manor (MNF17737). Just c.50m to the east of this, medieval pottery and buckles

- have been identified (MNF17857). A possible moated site is located c.900m to the south of Sub-Site 7H in the Road Green area (MNF10209). An earthwork of a possible moated site has been recorded c.20m to the north-east of Sub-Site 7D (MNF3996).
- 10.37 Excavations c.1km to the south of the Site in Hempnall recorded evidence of a possible medieval quay with the discovery of two gravel surfaces and clay-lined storage pits. Medieval pottery and a possible malting tile were also discovered at the site (MNF15909).
- 10.38 Evidence for medieval strip fields is noted c.800m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D (MNF10108) indicating the agricultural nature of the landscape.
- 10.39 Medieval finds are clustered to the north/north-west of the Site in and around the Saxlingham Thorpe area. Just to the immediate north-west and north of Sub-Site 7D, sherds of coarse medieval pottery were found (MNF19310, MNF22193). Medieval buckles and pottery have been found c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 7D (MNF13174), pottery c.400m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D (MNF19309) and a medieval key and coin c.100m to the north of Sub-Site 7D (MNF60353). Buckles were recovered from c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 7F (MNF70481, MNF70815), pottery has been reported c.300m to the north of Sub-Site 7F (MNF16365, MNF22190, MNF22191, MNF22197, MNF22198), and coins c.100-500m to the north of Sub-Site 7F (MNF69387, MNF67833, MNF67514, MNF76520). A belt mount has been discovered c.900m to the north-west (MNF33230) and a lead weight c.600m to the north of Sub-Site 7D (MNF67346).
- 10.40 A cluster of medieval pottery has been found to the south of the Site, c.500m-1km to the south of Sub-Site 7E in and around Hempnall (MNF22234, MNF22235, MNF22237, MNF22239, MNF25182, MNF46731, MNF58626, MNF17052, MNF18378, MNF41179, MNF46728, MNF50089). Medieval pottery has been recovered during fieldwalking c.800m to the south of Sub-Site 7G (MNF10172), c.900m to the south of Sub-Site 7F, c.800m to the south of Sub-Site 7E near Hempnall (MNF15041) and c.1km to the south-west of Sub-Site 7D.
- 10.41 Approximately 1km to the north-east of the Site, medieval pottery, coins and a copper alloy chrismatory (container for holy oils) (MNF24537) were found, along with further coins and a jetton, c.500m north of Sub-Site 7H (MNF69023). A seal matrix was discovered c.900m to the north of Sub-Site 7G (MNF28629).
- 10.42 Approximately 1km to the south-east of the Site, medieval coins (MNF66552) and a pot mend (MNF66553) were found in the area of Road Green.
- 10.43 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods was dispersed with the settlements of Saxlingham Thorpe and Nethergate to the north-west and Hempnall to south. Some settlement extended into the Site with a former property in the northern part of Sub-Site 7D, along with a potential moated site in Sub-Sites 7E and 7F. Whilst much of the Site was likely in use as agricultural land, parts of it were occupied, although the extent and nature of this settlement is uncertain. It is considered that the Site has a high potential for remains in

the northern part of Sub-Site 7D and low to moderate potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains for the rest of the Site.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 10.44 Within the Site, the site of a medieval/post-medieval house is recorded on the HER in Sub-Site 7D, although there are no visible remains of this today (MNF22194). This is confirmed through the geophysics in which rectangular enclosures have been identified (Magnitude Surveys 2024).
- 10.45 A WWII decoy airfield is recorded within Sub-Site 7H (MNF32723). This was used at nighttime and consisted of rows of electrical lighting made to look like flightpaths to divert attention from the real airfields at RAF Seething and RAF Hardwick. The 'Q-Type' decoy was designated as Q172a and was active between 18th June 1942 and 12th August 1942. Whilst bombing decoys can provide a high unexploded ordnance hazard, no records have been found to indicate whether the decoy had been successful (Zetica 2024).
- 10.46 Three aircraft crashes have also been identified by a UXO desk study and constraints assessment (Zetica 2024). These were located c.250m north of Sub-Site 7D, c.780m to the south of Sub-Site Group 7E and c.70m north of Sub-Site 7F. The first two were B-24 Liberators that crashed in April and February 1944, respectively. Some WWII crashes may have had live munitions on board, which could have scattered across a wide area. This would typically have included small arms ammunition for machine guns and cannon shells for aircraft within cannons. The third air crash occurred post-WWII in January 1948 and was a Mosquito NF36M. This crash site was probably more thoroughly cleared and less likely to have munitions on board that could remain undetected in the ground.
- 10.47 Excavations c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 7D have revealed evidence for an infilled water channel relating to the Old Hall and a clay base for an outbuilding of probable late 15th to early 17th century date (MNF13174).
- 10.48 Several post-medieval industries are noted within the Study Area that are associated with a rural landscape and are typical of the period. A flax pit used for soaking flax to soften it prior to textile manufacture was identified c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 7H (MNF10210). A brick works/kiln has been identified c.200m to the west of Sub-Site 7D (MNF11301) and a second one c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 7F (MNF10121). A large number of pottery wasters were found c.900m to the north-west of Sub-Site 7D is suggestive of a kiln in the vicinity (MNF13174). A forge and smithy are also recorded in Hempnall, c.1km to the south of the Site (MNF14697).
- 10.49 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 153 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).

- 10.50 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 10.51 The Saxlingham parish map of 1806 (Figure 49) shows Sub-Site 7D and 7F with the remaining fields located within Hempnall parish. The northern part of Sub-Site 7D is annotated as 'House Close' indicating that there was a property in this area, although no structure is visible on the map. This likely relates to the one identified by the geophysics and recorded in the HER (MNF22194). In Sub-Site 7F, one of the enclosures is labelled 'The Grove' suggesting woodland is present in this area. An orchard is listed in the north-eastern part of Sub-Site 7D. The rest of the Site appears to be in use as arable or pasture.
- 10.52 There are few changes on the Saxlingham tithe map from 1841 (Figure 50), although more detail is provided in the apportionment. Sub-Site 7D contains four cottages with associated gardens and outbuildings in the south-west corner (Plots 129-132). Whilst no other structures are present within the north-western part of Sub-Site 7D, the northern two plots are annotated as 'Home Close' (Plot 93) and 'First House Close' (Plot 83). Rectangular enclosures have been detected by geophysics indicating the presence of former structures here. To the south of these are two plots labelled 'First Mill Three Acres' and 'Second Mill Three Acres' (Plots 91 and 92). In the north-eastern section of Sub-Site 7D, 'Second House Close' and 'Third House Close' are listed in the north-western part (Plots 84 and 85). An orchard is present in the north-east corner (Plot 72). The plots in the rest of the fields relate to agricultural purposes.
- 10.53 The Hempnall tithe map from 1842 (Figure 51) does not show any structures within the Site. The majority of the plots relate to agricultural activity, although there are a few plot names of interest. In the south-eastern part of Sub-Site 7F, there is a 'moat meadow' (Plot 149), which tallies with the HER data in which irregular ditches associated with a moat have been identified (MNF28810). A 'plantation' (Plot 148) and 'Grove Piece' (Plot 154) indicate wooded areas to the west and north-east of moat meadow. In Sub-Site 7G, there are two parcels annotated as 'Barrow Field Pasture' (Plots 167, 168) as well as 'First Barrow' (Plot 164) and 'Lower Barrow' (Plot 165) suggestive of earlier burials. However, no trace of these has been identified by the geophysical survey. Plot 161 is 'Brick Kiln Entry' and Plot 166 is 'Brick Kiln Close' indicating there may have been a brickworks here, although no evidence has been detected by the geophysical survey. 'Wood Close' and 'Grove Pightle' suggest areas of woodland in Plots 162 and 163, respectively.
- 10.54 The first edition Ordnance Survey mapping from 1881 shows a structure annotated as 'Mudhole' in the south-western corner of Sub-Site 7D, which is also visible on the LiDAR (Figure 52). This area was previously occupied by four cottages on the tithe map. A structure is also present within the northern part of the south-eastern section of Sub-Site 7F and has been identified as an area of disturbance by the geophysical survey.

- 10.55 No changes are visible on the subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping, apart from the removal of the structure in Sub-Site 7F by the time of the 1977-179 map as well as the removal of some field boundaries.
- 10.56 There are several features visible on the LiDAR, which are described in the Aerial Mapping section above and are shown on Figure 53.
- 10.57 The historic landscape characterisation of the western part of Sub-Site 7D described as 20th century agriculture with boundary loss and some relict element. The eastern section of Sub-Site 7D and the western part of Sub-Site 7F have not been characterised. Sub-Sites 7E, the southern part of 7F and 7G are 20th century agriculture with some boundary loss (Figure 54).
- 10.58 During the post-medieval period, the Site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to several settlements including Saxlingham Nethergate and Hempnall. There does appear to be some encroachment within the Site with the former structure in the northern part and the south-west corner of Sub-Site 7D with the demolition of the four cottages and replacement of 'Mudhole' in the 19th century. As such, the Site is considered to have a moderate potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence within Sub-Site 7D, although a low potential for the rest of the Site.

Hedgerows

- 10.59 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.
- 10.60 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to 19 sections of hedgerow within Sub-Sites 7D - 7H.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

- 10.61 The tithe and subsequent 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figure 55 shows the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as 'important' in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 10.62 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset

and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.

- 10.63 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 10.64 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 10.65 The Site has been assessed as having a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 10.66 The Scheme will include solar PV arrays within Sub-Sites 7D-7H with a 132kv substation situated within Sub-Site 7F. Proposed planting initiatives will include trees, enhanced hedgerows and grassland.

Previous Impacts

- 10.67 A former property and associated enclosures once stood in the northern part of Sub-Site 7D, which has impacted this area as well as the former cottages and later structure at Mudhole in the south-western corner of the same field. A structure was also present in the southern part of Sub-Site 7F of mid-19th century date. A decoy airfield was constructed in the 1940s in Sub-Site 7H, which may have impacted this area, although there is no evidence for this in the geophysics. A pipeline/cable route runs through the Site in a roughly north-east/south-west direction through Sub-Sites 7E and 7F and Sub-Sites 7G and 7H, which will have impacted any below ground remains. Agricultural activity from the medieval to modern periods is likely to have adversely impacted or truncated potential below-ground archaeological remains across the Site, in particular where these survive at a shallow depth. The presence of

cropmarks visible in aerial photographs and geophysical anomalies relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 10.68 Potential impacts upon the settings of designated heritage assets are addressed within a separate report.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 10.69 This assessment has concluded that there is a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods.
- 10.70 Impacts to archaeological assets within the Order limits would largely occur during the Construction Phase through activities such as the installation of Solar PV Arrays, BESS, Customer Substation, National Grid, Cabling, Access Tracks, and Temporary Construction Compounds all have the potential to have an adverse, permanent, and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.
- 10.71 The Project Substations, National Grid Substation, and the BESS will likely result in total destruction of archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 10.72 Impacts from piling for the Ground Mounted PV Modules will be at a very low level, typically ranging between 0.1% and 0.05% by area, depending upon the separation between rows.
- 10.73 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low.. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 10.74 Other elements of the Scheme, such as construction of Access Tracks, Conversion Units, Grid Connection Infrastructure, and Temporary Construction Compounds, will have further localised impacts.
- 10.75 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

Hedgerows

- 10.76 Limited hedgerow removal is proposed during the construction phase of the Scheme (no more than 10m). The significance of the hedgerows is vested in the historic value in relation to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern. The removal proposed is sufficiently small enough that the boundary denoted by hedgerows and their contribution to understanding the pre-1845 field pattern will remain legible despite a small section being

lost. As such, it is not considered that there will be any impact to understanding their significance.

CONCLUSIONS

- 10.77 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that the Site has a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods. There is no evidence at present to suggest that Sub-Sites 7D to 7H contain, or have the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.

Plates



Plate 45: View of the western part of Sub-Site 7D from the southern edge, facing north



Plate 46: View of the eastern part of Sub-Site 7D from the south-east edge, facing north



Plate 47: View of the south-eastern edge of Sub-Site 7D, facing south



Plate 48: View of the western edge of Sub-Site 7E from Broaden Lane on the west side, facing east



Plate 49: The southern part of Sub-Site 7E from the south-east edge, facing north



Plate 50: The northern part of Sub-Site 7E from the east edge, facing west



Plate 51: View of the western edge of Sub-Site 7F from the south edge, facing north-east



Plate 52: View of Sub-Site 7F from the south edge, facing east



Plate 53: View of the eastern edge of Sub-Site 7F from the south edge, facing east



Plate 54: The south-eastern part of Sub-Site 7F from the north edge, facing south

11 SUB-SITES 7I TO 7L ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 11.1 The Site for this assessment comprises four Sub-Sites (7I - 7L) with one field each in Sub-Sites 7I (centred on NGR TM 2594 9568) and 7J (centred on NGR TM 2624 9534). Sub-Site 7K (centred on NGR TM 2701 9558) is divided into three fields and there are two fields in Sub-Site 7L (centred on NGR TM 2723 9547). They are all arable fields that include approximately 72ha of land c.1km to the south-west of Saxlingham Green. It is situated on relatively flat land at a height of approximately 45m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to the west of the Site (Sub-Sites 7I and 7J) and dropping to c.40m to the east of the Site (Sub-Sites 7K and 7L).
- 11.2 It is bounded on the west by The Green and by Woodton Road on the east. Dispersed farms, fields and pockets of woodland lie to the north and south.
- 11.3 The solid geology within the Site comprises sand and gravel of the Crag Group overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2025).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 11.4 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 11.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider surroundings are assessed separately.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 11.6 One heritage asset has been identified within the Site comprising metal detecting in Field 45, which recovered medieval and post-medieval coins and metal objects (MNF69023).
- 11.7 The HER contains 27 'monument' records and no 'event' records within the Study Area. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figure 56.
- 11.8 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
Prehistoric	0	3
Roman	0	10
Saxon	0	5
Medieval	1	13
Post-medieval	1	10
Modern	0	3
Unknown	0	1

Previous investigations

Aerial Investigation Mapping

- 11.9 The LiDAR does not show any features of significance, apart from modern ploughing and field boundaries (Headland Archaeology 2024).

Geophysical Survey

- 11.10 A geophysical survey was conducted, which does not show any features of archaeological significance (Magnitude Surveys 2024).

HER Data

- 11.11 The only archaeological investigations that have been undertaken within the Site comprises a metal detecting survey in Sub-Site 7I that recorded medieval and post-medieval finds. Further metal detecting has been carried out in the Study Area, the details of which are provided in the period descriptions below.

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 11.12 No prehistoric assets have been recorded within the Site.
- 11.13 The earliest evidence for prehistoric activity includes the recovery of Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flints during metal detecting, c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 7I (MNF24537). Further metal detecting c.400m to the north-east of Sub-Site 7I recovered a Neolithic flint axehead (MNF68449).
- 11.14 Within Little Wood, c.600m to the south of Sub-Site 7I, a concentration of burnt flints were found that had possibly been used in the preparation of food during the Bronze Age (MNF10190).
- 11.15 The water courses and generally flat topography make this a relatively conducive area for habitation during the prehistoric periods, although this is not particularly reflected in the HER. Whilst there is a suggestion of potential settlement in Little Wood during the Bronze Age, the extent and nature of this is unclear and may reflect communities passing through

the landscape. As such, it is considered that there is a low potential for prehistoric evidence within the Site.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 11.16 No Roman assets have been recorded within the Site.
- 11.17 Metal detecting throughout the Study Area has revealed evidence for Roman activity including a potential settlement, c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 7I (MNF24537). The finds include pottery, coins, roof tiles and bricks, brooches, steelyard weights, a copper alloy bracelet and various strap, furniture and harness fittings. The pottery finds and metal objects point to a peak in activity during the 3rd to 4th centuries.
- 11.18 Two potential Roman roads run through the Study Area, one of which is located c.700m to the south-west of the Site (MNF10199) and the second lies along the eastern edge of the Site (MNF10160). The projected line of the former would have run along the eastern edge of the potential Roman settlement, c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 7I (MNF24537). Metal detecting close to this projected line has also recorded a Roman brooch (MNF73369) and a Roman coin (MNF31567), c.100-200m to the west of Sub-Site 7I. Close to the second Roman road, metal detecting has found coins, brooches, a ring, bracelet, a key and a knife c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 7K (MNF67521).
- 11.19 Further metal detecting has uncovered a Roman cosmetic set, c.400m to the north-east of Sub-Site 7I (MNF68449) as well as a cluster of finds c.1km to the south-east of the Site. These comprise a brooch (MNF58547), coins and a brooch (MNF55054) and coins and a steelyard weight (MNF10156).
- 11.20 The close proximity of two potential Roman roads, a potential settlement as well as multiple finds suggests that the landscape was exploited during Roman times. As such, it is considered that the Site has a moderate potential for archaeological remains.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 11.21 Metal detecting throughout the Study Area has recovered Saxon finds including late Saxon pottery that is suggestive of settlement, c.1km to the south-east of the Site (MNF61340). Other finds include early Saxon tweezers, c.800m to the north-west (MNF24537), an early Saxon brooch, c.1km to the north (MNF67521), and a middle/late Saxon strap end and a late Saxon stirrup strap mount, c.1km to the south-east of the Site (MNF10156).
- 11.22 Shotesham is listed in Domesday as having a population of 131.5 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. The land comprised ploughlands, meadows and woodlands indicating a mixed agricultural economy. A church is also mentioned suggesting it was a place of some importance. The name 'Shotesham' is derived from the Old English meaning 'homestead of a man called Scot of Sceot' (Mills 2011). The village of Woodton was a larger settlement of 69.3 households at the time of Domesday putting it in the largest 20%

of settlements recorded. 'Woodton' is also derived from the Old English meaning 'farmstead in or near a wood' (Mills 2011).

- 11.23 Within the Site, a medieval jetton has been recorded in Sub-Site 7I during metal detecting (MNF69023).
- 11.24 Two medieval moated sites have been recorded in the south-eastern part of the Study Area. MNF29782 is a soilmark located c.500m to the south of Sub-Site 7L and MNF74763 possibly represents the location of the former Woodton Hall, c.1km to the south-east of the Site.
- 11.25 Metal detecting throughout the Study Area has identified a number of medieval finds with the most profuse to the south-east of the Site. This is likely due in part to more extensive metal detecting in this area as well as settlement activity identified by the two moated sites within the vicinity. The finds predominantly include pottery, coins and buckles (MNF61340, MNF58547, MNF10156, MNF55053). A 13th century papal bulla was also found c.800m to the east of the Site (MNF74300), along with coins c.1km to the north of the Site (MNF67521). Pottery has also been found c.500-800m to the north-west of the Site (MNF22200, MNF2201, MNF24537).
- 11.26 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods was dispersed with the settlements of Saxlingham (Nethergate and Thorpe) to the north-west, Woodton to the south-east and Hempnall to the south-west interspersed with moated sites and farmsteads. The Site was likely in use as agricultural land and, as such, it is considered that the Site has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 11.27 Post-medieval coins, tokens and an unidentified gold object were found during metal detecting within Sub-Site 7I of the Site (MNF69023).
- 11.28 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 13 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).
- 11.29 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 11.30 The Site falls within two parishes with the dividing line running in a roughly north-east/south-west direction separating Shotesham parish to the north and Woodton parish to the south.
- 11.31 Sub-Site 7J is visible on the parish map of Saxlingham from 1806, which is divided into four fields (Figure 57).

- 11.32 The Shotesham tithe map from 1841 (Figure 58) includes Sub-Sites 7I-7K and shows Sub-Site 7I with four fields, Sub-Site 7J as three fields, Sub-Site 7K as eight. No structures are present within any of the fields. One of the plots in Sub-Site 7I is annotated as 'smiths pightle' (Plot 279), which may suggest that blacksmithing or other smithing work was undertaken here. The rest of the field names indicate an agricultural function.
- 11.33 Sub-Site 7L lies within the Woodton tithe map from 1841 (Figure 58) and comprises five fields. No structures are present within any of the fields and the field names indicate an agricultural function.
- 11.34 The only changes on the subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping are the removal of field boundaries.
- 11.35 Features visible on LiDAR are discussed above in the Aerial Mapping section and are shown on Figure 59.
- 11.36 The historic landscape characterisation of the Site is described as 20th century agriculture with boundary loss for most of the fields. The central section of Sub-Site 7K is described as coaxial enclosure dating to pre-18th century (Figure 60).
- 11.37 During the post-medieval period, the Site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to several settlements including Saxlingham, Woodton and Hempnall. As such, the Site is considered to have a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence.

Hedgerows

- 11.38 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.
- 11.39 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to 13 sections of hedgerow within Sub-Sites 7I - 7L.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

- 11.40 The tithe and subsequent 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figure 61 shows the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as 'important' in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 11.41 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 11.42 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 11.43 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. An assessment of the Scheme's impact on designated heritage assets is provided in the Environmental Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 11.44 The Site has been assessed as having a generally low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although there is a moderate potential for Roman remains. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 11.45 The Scheme will include solar PV arrays within Sub-Sites 7I-7L. Setbacks are included in the design of the Scheme from Woodton Road and the south-eastern corner of Sub-Site 7L. Proposed planting initiatives will include trees, enhanced hedgerows and grassland.

Previous Impacts

- 11.46 Agricultural activity through the medieval and post-medieval and modern periods is likely to have adversely impacted or truncated potential below-ground archaeological remains across the Site, in particular where these survive at a shallow depth. The presence of cropmarks

visible in aerial photographs and geophysical anomalies relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 11.47 Potential impacts upon the settings of designated heritage assets are addressed within a separate report.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 11.48 This assessment has concluded that there is a generally low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although there is a moderate potential for Roman remains.
- 11.49 Impacts to archaeological assets within the Order limits would largely occur during the Construction Phase through activities such as the installation of Solar PV Arrays, BESS, Customer Substation, National Grid, Cabling, Access Tracks, and Temporary Construction Compounds all have the potential to have an adverse, permanent, and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.
- 11.50 The Project Substations, National Grid Substation, and the BESS will likely result in total destruction of archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 11.51 Impacts from piling for the Ground Mounted PV Modules will be at a very low level, typically ranging between 0.1% and 0.05% by area, depending upon the separation between rows.
- 11.52 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low.. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 11.53 Other elements of the Scheme, such as construction of Access Tracks, Conversion Units, Grid Connection Infrastructure, and Temporary Construction Compounds, will have further localised impacts.
- 11.54 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

CONCLUSIONS

- 11.55 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that the Site has a generally low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although there is a moderate potential for Roman remains. There is no evidence at

present to suggest that Sub-Sites 7I to 7L, or have the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.

Plates



Plate 55: Sub-Site 7I from the south-eastern corner, facing north



Plate 56: Sub-Site 7J from the south-east corner, facing north-west



Plate 57: The southern part of Sub-Site 7K from the south-west corner, facing east



Plate 58: The northern part of Sub-Site 7K from the north-east corner, facing south



Plate 59: The southern part of Sub-Site 7L from the south-eastern edge, facing north-west



Plate 60: The northern part of Sub-Site 7L from the north-east corner, facing south

12 SITE 8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 12.1 The Site for this assessment comprises Sub-Sites 8A (centred at NGR TM 2609 9671) and 8B (centred at NGR TM 2607 9752) that includes approximately 56ha of land c.800m to the south-east of Shotesham. There are four arable fields in Sub-Site 8A and three arable fields in Sub-Site 8B. Sub-Site 8A lies at c.40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the southern end, which drops to c.30m aOD at the northern end. Sub-Site 8B rises from c.30m aOD in the south-west rising to c.40m aOD in the north-east.
- 12.2 It is bounded to the east by Baxter's Lane, to the west by Market Lane and by fields and dispersed farms to the north and south.
- 12.3 The solid geology within the Site comprises sand and gravel of the Crag Group overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2025).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 12.4 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 12.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider surroundings are assessed separately.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 12.6 One heritage asset has been identified within the Site comprising metal detecting in Sub-Site 8B, which recovered Palaeolithic flint flakes (MNF11658).
- 12.7 The HER contains 54 'monument' records and no 'event' records within the Study Area. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figure 62.
- 12.8 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
Prehistoric	1	18
Roman	0	19
Saxon	0	9
Medieval	0	25
Post-medieval	0	30
Modern	0	6
Unknown	0	1

Previous investigations

Aerial Investigation Mapping

- 12.9 A pond/pit has been interpreted in the northern part of Sub-Site 8B by Headland Archaeology (2024), which tallies with the historic mapping. Data from the British Geological Survey indicates that this area was used for quarrying. There are also two linear features that run parallel to each other within the same field in the vicinity of the pits. One of these is likely to be a field boundary as indicated by the historic mapping. The geophysics shows a pipeline running through this area and it may be associated with this.

Geophysical Survey

- 12.10 A geophysical survey was conducted within the Site (Magnitude Surveys 2024), which has shown a low potential for archaeological remains. A linear feature runs through the northern part of Sub-Site 8B in a north-east/south-west direction that is likely to be a modern pipeline (Magnitude Surveys 2024). This cuts through the pond/pit feature identified by the aerial and historic mapping.

HER Data

- 12.11 No archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the Site or 1km Study Area.

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 12.12 One prehistoric asset has been recorded within Sub-Site 8B of the Site comprising five palaeolithic flint flakes recovered from the ploughed surface. Some showed signs of retouching and they were identified as Acheulian or Clactonian in type (MNF11658).
- 12.13 Mesolithic flints have been found c.1km to the north of the Site (MNF66394, MNF19510) and potential Mesolithic or Neolithic flints were recorded c.100m to the west of Sub-Site 8A (MNF24537).
- 12.14 Neolithic flint finds are more profuse, particularly to the north of the Site where metal detecting and fieldwalking has been undertaken. These include axeheads (MNF17177,

- MNF62154), an arrowhead (MNF31684), a scraper (MNF66394), and other flints (MNF25613, MNF20100, MNF19510). Further Neolithic flints have been recovered c.100m to the west of the Site (MNF17178, MNF17175, MNF11659, MNF24537) as well as an axehead c.500m to the south of the Site (MNF68449).
- 12.15 Bronze Age finds comprise a scraper and flake c.1km to the north of the Site (MNF66394), an axehead and palstave c.200m to the east of the Site (MNF55145) and a copper alloy axe fragment c.100m to the west of Sub-Site 8A (MNF24537).
- 12.16 Iron Age finds are also concentrated c.800m to 1km to the north of the Site including pottery (MNF66394, MNF25613), coins (MNF68454, MNF66602) and brooches (MNF20100) as well as brooches c.400m to the east (MNF68255) and c.100m to the west (MNF68697).
- 12.17 Numerous metal detecting and fieldwalking as well as chance finds have uncovered a fair amount of prehistoric artefacts, particularly to the north of the Site, including flints within the Site itself. Whilst the flints of the early prehistoric periods reflect mobile communities utilising resources as they passed through the landscape, the Bronze and Iron Age evidence may point to habitation in the wider area. Certainly, the water courses and generally flat topography make this a relatively conducive area for habitation during the prehistoric periods. As such, it is considered that there is a low to moderate potential for prehistoric evidence within the Site.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 12.18 No Roman assets have been recorded within the Site, although Roman coins have been found c.50m to the north-west of Sub-Site 8B (MNF67375).
- 12.19 A potential Roman settlement site has been identified c.100m to the west of Sub-Site 8A (MNF24537). Metal detecting recovered a range of Roman objects including pottery, roof tiles and bricks, coins, brooches as well as furniture and harness fittings. Many of the artefacts were 3rd to 4th century in date indicating a peak in the late Roman period.
- 12.20 A Roman road lies c.800m to the east of the Site in a roughly north/south direction leading to Caistor St Edmund (*Venta Icenorum*), which runs along the current Norwich Road. Close to the Roman road, metal detecting has revealed finds of pottery, coins, brooches, bracelets and a ring (MNF68255, MNF67521), c.700m to the east of the Site.
- 12.21 In the surrounding Study Area, Roman finds are concentrated in areas where metal detecting and fieldwalking have been undertaken with an emphasis c.500m-1km to the north of the Site. These include pottery (MNF66394, MNF20100, MNF25613), coins (MNF20100, MNF10125, MNF25613, MNF54903, MNF75255), brooches and buckles (MNF25613, MNF66605, MNF75255) and a finger ring (MNF62139).
- 12.22 Further finds include a Roman cosmetic set, c.500m to the south of the Site (MNF68449), coins (MNF31567) and a brooch (MNF73369), c.900m-1km to the south of the Site and pottery (MNF10148), c.500m to the west of the Site.

- 12.23 The close proximity of the Roman road, a potential settlement as well as multiple finds suggests that the landscape was exploited during Roman times. Whilst no evidence has been recovered within the Site, the widespread nature of the finds and proximity of the road and the settlement indicates that there is a low to moderate potential for archaeological remains.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 12.24 Saxon evidence has been recorded throughout the Study Area comprising finds from metal detecting and fieldwalking. Of interest is the late Saxon pottery found in two locations to the north of the Site c.700m (MNF66793) and c.1km (MNF66394) and is suggestive of settlement. Further finds in the northern part of the Study Area include a mid Saxon coin and stirrup mount c.700m (MNF66793), a spindle whorl c.700m (MNF66601), a brooch, furniture fittings and buckle and dress component c.800m (MNF20100) and a stirrup mount and lead weights c.500m (MNF25613). Close to the Roman road, an early Saxon brooch (MNF67521) and early Saxon bracelet fragment (MNF68255) were found c.500m to the east of the Site. In the vicinity of Sub-Site 8A, a late Saxon suspension unit for a censer or balance was recorded c.500m to the south (MNF61047) and a pair of early Saxon tweezers c.100m to the west (MNF24537).
- 12.25 Shotesham is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as having a population of 131.5 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. The land comprised ploughlands, meadows and woodlands indicating a mixed agricultural economy. A church is also mentioned suggesting it was a place of some importance. The name 'Shotesham' is derived from the Old English meaning 'homestead of a man called Scot of Sceot' (Mills 2011).
- 12.26 As in earlier periods, the majority of medieval finds have been recorded through metal detecting and fieldwalking largely in the northern part of the Study Area (c.50m-1km) where coins and pottery dominate the assemblages (MNF66394, MNF20100, MNF66602, MNF62139, MNF54903, MNF69017, MNF25613, MNF68454, MNF67374, MNF69321, MNF67375, MNF67375). Close to the Roman road, medieval coins, a stud and a seal matrix have been recorded c.600m to the east of the Site (MNF55145, MNF68255, MNF67521). Around Sub-Site 8A in the southern part of the Site, coins and a jetton were found c.300m to the south (MNF69023) and pottery identified c.600m to the south-west (MNF22200, MNF22201). To the west of the Site, the finds include a seal matrix c.500m (MNF28629) and coins and harness mount c.200m (MNF17175),
- 12.27 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods appears to be further north in Shotesham, although there may have been dispersed settlements and farmsteads across the landscape with the suggestion of a Saxon settlement to the north of the Site. The majority of the finds identified through metal detecting and fieldwalking were likely to be as a result of manuring practices, however. The Site was likely in use as agricultural land and, as such,

it is considered that it has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 12.28 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 36 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).
- 12.29 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 12.30 The earliest detailed mapping is the Shotesham tithe map from 1841 (Figure 63) comprising 24 plots of land, one of which is woodland. No structures are present within the Site and the plot names suggest agricultural use.
- 12.31 No changes are apparent on the subsequent Ordnance Survey maps, apart from the removal or addition of field boundaries. Historic mapping and aerial mapping data suggest small-scale quarrying in the northern part of Sub-Site 8B.
- 12.32 Features visible on LiDAR are discussed above in the Aerial Mapping section and are shown on Figure 64.
- 12.33 The historic landscape characterisation of the Site is described as 18th-19th century agriculture in the western part of the Site and the rest is 20th century agriculture (Figure 65).
- 12.34 During the post-medieval and modern periods, the Site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to Shotesham. As such, the Site is considered to have a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence.

Hedgerows

- 12.35 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.
- 12.36 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to eight sections of hedgerow within Site 8.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

- 12.37 The tithe and subsequent 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figure 66 shows the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow

Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as 'important' in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 12.38 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 12.39 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 12.40 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. An assessment of the Scheme's impact on designated heritage assets is provided in the Environmental Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 12.41 The Site has been assessed as having a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to Roman periods and a low potential for medieval evidence. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 12.42 Site 8 will incorporate several areas of solar PV arrays with landscaping proposals including new woodland areas and Tussocky grassland. Due to the identified sensitivity of the two designated heritage assets at Uppate Green, in the main due to the rising topography that

would elevate any proposed development above the assts, the northern section of Sub-Site 8B has been removed from the built parameters of the Scheme, which will be instead limited to the south of the footpath that bisects the Sub-Site. The hedgerow lining the footpath is substantial for the most part but will also be enhanced under the landscape proposals of the Scheme to offer further screening.

Previous Impacts

- 12.43 Agricultural activity through the medieval and post-medieval and modern periods is likely to have adversely impacted or truncated potential below-ground archaeological remains across the Site, in particular where these survive at a shallow depth. The presence of cropmarks visible in aerial photographs and geophysical anomalies relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 12.44 Potential impacts upon designated heritage assets are addressed within a separate report.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 12.45 This assessment has concluded that there is a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to Roman periods and a low potential for medieval evidence. Impacts to archaeological assets within the Order limits would largely occur during the Construction Phase through activities such as the installation of Solar PV Arrays, BESS, Customer Substation, National Grid, Cabling, Access Tracks, and Temporary Construction Compounds all have the potential to have an adverse, permanent, and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.
- 12.46 The Project Substations, National Grid Substation, and the BESS will likely result in total destruction of archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 12.47 Impacts from piling for the Ground Mounted PV Modules will be at a very low level, typically ranging between 0.1% and 0.05% by area, depending upon the separation between rows.
- 12.48 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low.. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 12.49 Other elements of the Scheme, such as construction of Access Tracks, Conversion Units, Grid Connection Infrastructure, and Temporary Construction Compounds, will have further localised impacts.
- 12.50 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

Hedgerows

- 12.51 Limited hedgerow removal is proposed during the construction phase of the Scheme (no more than 10m). The significance of the hedgerows is vested in the historic value in relation to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern. The removal proposed is sufficiently small enough that the boundary denoted by hedgerows and their contribution to understanding the pre-1845 field pattern will remain legible despite a small section being lost. As such, it is not considered that there will be any impact to understanding their significance.

CONCLUSIONS

- 12.52 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that the Site has a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to Roman periods and a low potential for medieval evidence. There is no evidence at present to suggest that Site 8 contains, or has the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.

Plates



Plate 61: The northern part of Sub-Site 8B from Brooke Road on the eastern edge, facing west



Plate 62: The eastern part of Sub-Site 8B from Baxter's Lane on the eastern edge, facing west



Plate 63: The western part of Sub-Site 8B from Market Lane on the south-western edge, facing north



Plate 64: The northern part of Sub-Site 8A from Market Lane on the western edge, facing east



Plate 65: The western part of Sub-Site 8A from Market Lane on the north-western edge, facing south-east



Plate 66: The southern part of Sub-Site 8A from Wash Lane on the south-western edge, facing north

13 SITE 9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 13.1 The Site for this assessment comprises six arable fields within Site 9 that include approximately 58ha of land c.800m to the south-west of Brooke (centred at NGR TM 2809 9808). It is situated on relatively flat land at a height of approximately 35m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 13.2 The Site is bounded on the south by Littlebeck Lane, residential housing and fields to the north and east and fields and woodland to the west.
- 13.3 The solid geology within the Site comprises sand and gravel of the Crag Group overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2025).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 13.4 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 13.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider surroundings are assessed separately.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 13.6 One heritage asset has been identified within the Site comprising metal detecting, which recovered a medieval coin and a medieval/post-medieval copper alloy vessel fragment (MNF69327).
- 13.7 The HER contains 59 records within the Study Area consisting of 54 'monument' records and five 'event' records within the Study Area. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figures 67-68.
- 13.8 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
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Prehistoric	0	3
Roman	0	8
Saxon	0	5
Medieval	1	13
Post-medieval	1	35
Modern	0	51
Unknown	0	1

Previous investigations

Aerial Investigation Mapping

- 13.9 Circular features of uncertain function or date have been identified in the north-western part of the Site (Headland Archaeology 2024). Curvilinear features have also been interpreted in the eastern part of the Site, again of uncertain origin or function. Neither of these have been detected in the geophysics, LiDAR or historic mapping.

Geophysical Survey

- 13.10 A geophysical survey was conducted of the Site revealing rectangular enclosures of uncertain date in the north-eastern part (Magnitude Surveys 2024). These may be related to settlement activity or stock enclosures, which align with the former field boundary visible on the enclosure and tithe maps suggestive of a medieval to post-medieval date.

HER Data

- 13.11 A metal detecting survey was undertaken within the Site, which recorded a medieval coin and a medieval/post-medieval copper alloy vessel fragment.
- 13.12 Five events undertaken within the Study Area were historic building surveys that provide little information on the archaeological development of the Site and its Study Area.

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 13.13 No prehistoric assets have been recorded within the Site.
- 13.14 The earliest evidence for prehistoric activity includes the recovery of flint artefacts c.900m to the north-east of the Site (MNF10134).
- 13.15 No further evidence is apparent until the Iron Age in which metalwork has been found at two locations. A brooch was found c.1km to the south-west of the Site (MNF68255), and a coin c.1km to the north of the Site (MNF69346).
- 13.16 The water courses and generally flat topography make this a relatively conducive area for habitation during the prehistoric periods, although this is not particularly reflected in the HER. It is considered that there is a low potential for prehistoric evidence within the Site.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 13.17 No Roman assets have been recorded within the Site.
- 13.18 Metal detecting in various locations has recovered a range of Roman finds in the eastern and western parts of the Study Area. These comprise coins c.500m-1km to the north of the Site (MNF58445, MNF69346), c.1km to the north-east (MNF68250), c.600m to the east of (MNF32923, MNF56184) and c.1km to the south-west (MNF67521). At this latter location, other finds include Roman brooches, a bracelet, knife and ring as well as a brooch (MNF68255). These artefacts were discovered in close proximity to a possible Roman road that runs in a roughly north/south direction (MNF10160). A further Roman road is also postulated c.500m to the north of the Site (MNF58887).
- 13.19 The geophysical survey has detected rectangular enclosures in the northern parts of Site 9 of uncertain date (Magnitude Surveys 2024). As these align with field boundaries on the historic mapping, it is likely that these are of medieval to post-medieval date, but a Roman origin cannot be discounted.
- 13.20 The close proximity of two potential Roman roads as well as multiple finds suggest the landscape was exploited during Roman times, although evidence for settlement activity is lacking. As such, it is considered that the Site has a low potential for archaeological remains dating to the Roman period.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 13.21 Metal detecting within the Study Area has recovered several Saxon finds including a coin (MNF28444) and a pin (MNF28863) c.100-200m to the south of the Site. Saxon bracelets and brooches have been recorded c.1km to the south-west (MNF68255, MNF67521) as well as further Saxon coins, c.1km to the north-east (MNF31420) and a pin c.1km to the north (MNF69346).
- 13.22 Brooke is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as having a population of 41 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. The land was owned by the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds and comprised ploughlands, meadows and woodlands indicating a mixed agricultural economy. A church is also mentioned suggesting it was a place of some importance. The name 'Brook' is derived from the Old English meaning '(place at) the brook' (Mills 2011). Kirstead lies to the east of the Site and is also listed in Domesday with a population of 20 households and a church. The name also derives from Old English meaning 'site of a church' (Mills 2011).
- 13.23 Metal detecting within the Site recorded a medieval coin and a medieval/post-medieval copper alloy vessel fragment (MNF69327). Further finds include coins and dress accessories c.100m to the north (MNF69519), coins and a seal matrix c.1km to the south-west (MNF68255, MNF67521), coins and a key c.1km to the north (MNF69346, MNF68250), a

brooch c.1km to the north-east (MNF31420) and coins c.800m to the east of the Site (MNF56184).

- 13.24 Settlement activity is also attested to the east of the Site with remains of earthworks relating to the former settlement at Kirstead. The first comprises an enclosure, possibly a moat, and a trackway c.800m to the east of the Site (MNF29784) and the second is the remains of the medieval Little Green, a toft, c.200m to the east of the Site (MNF29781). These lie in relatively close proximity to the site of a medieval church, c.800m to the east of the Site (MNF10146). It is uncertain whether this church was dedicated to St Stephen or St Andrew, but its location close to the earthworks suggests a former settlement here.
- 13.25 The results of the geophysical survey indicate the presence of rectangular enclosures in the north-eastern part of the Site (Magnitude Surveys 2024). Whilst the dating of these features is uncertain at this stage, it is possible that these have medieval origins and functioned as settlement or stock enclosures with some alignment of field boundaries visible on the enclosure and tithe maps.
- 13.26 An early 17th century timber-framed house, Waterfield Cottage (MNF10154), c.100m to the north of the Site is surrounded by a medieval moat suggesting an earlier structure may have been present on the site.
- 13.27 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods appears to have been dispersed across the landscape with the settlements of Brooke to the north and Kirstead to the east as well as moated sites. There appears to have been medieval to post-medieval activity in the north-eastern part of the Site as indicated by the geophysical survey, which may relate to settlement activity and/or stock enclosures. There is high potential for archaeological remains of these periods to be present in this area, although the rest of the Site was likely in use as agricultural land. As such, it is considered that the rest of the Site has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 13.28 Apart from a medieval/post-medieval copper alloy vessel repair fragment (MNF69327), no other finds of post-medieval or modern date were found within the Site.
- 13.29 The rectangular enclosures identified by the geophysics in the north-eastern part of the Site (Magnitude Surveys 2024) may be post-medieval in date as indicated by some alignment with field boundaries on the enclosure and tithe maps.
- 13.30 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 86 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).

- 13.31 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 13.32 The enclosure map from 1801 also shows the land as four fields (Figure 69).
- 13.33 The Brooke tithe map from c.1840 (Figure 70) shows the Site divided into 24 fields, all of which were used for agricultural purposes.
- 13.34 The only changes on the subsequent Ordnance Survey maps are the removal of field boundaries.
- 13.35 Features visible on LiDAR are discussed above in the Aerial Mapping section and are shown on Figure 71.
- 13.36 The historic landscape characterisation of the Site is described as 20th century agriculture (Figure 72).
- 13.37 During the post-medieval period, the Site largely formed part of the agricultural hinterland to several settlements including Brooke and Kirstead. The rectangular enclosures detected in the north-eastern part of the Site are of possible post-medieval date and this part of the Site is considered to have high potential for archaeological remains. The rest of the Site is considered to have a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence.

Hedgerows

- 13.38 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.
- 13.39 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to eight sections of hedgerow within Site 9.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

- 13.40 The enclosure, tithe and subsequent 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figure 73 shows the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as 'important' in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 13.41 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 13.42 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 13.43 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. An assessment of the Scheme's impact on designated heritage assets is provided in the Environmental Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 13.44 Whilst the Site has been assessed as having a generally low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to Roman periods, there is moderately high potential for medieval to post-medieval remains as indicated by the potential settlement and field system identified by geophysical survey in the north-eastern part of the Site. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 13.45 Mitigation embedded into the design of the Scheme will result in the majority of Site 9 being retained as farmland and grassland, with two fields allocated for solar PV arrays.

Previous Impacts

- 13.46 Agricultural activity through the medieval and post-medieval and modern periods is likely to have adversely impacted or truncated potential below-ground archaeological remains across the Site, in particular where these survive at a shallow depth. The presence of cropmarks

visible in aerial photographs and geophysical anomalies relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 13.47 Potential impacts upon the settings of designated heritage assets are addressed within a separate report.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 13.48 This assessment has concluded that there is a generally low potential for archaeological evidence dating from the prehistoric to Roman periods, although there is a moderately high potential for medieval to post-medieval remains as identified by geophysical survey in the northern part of the Site. Impacts to archaeological assets within the Order limits would largely occur during the Construction Phase through activities such as the installation of Solar PV Arrays, BESS, Customer Substation, National Grid, Cabling, Access Tracks, and Temporary Construction Compounds all have the potential to have an adverse, permanent, and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.
- 13.49 The Project Substations, National Grid Substation, and the BESS will likely result in total destruction of archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 13.50 Impacts from piling for the Ground Mounted PV Modules will be at a very low level, typically ranging between 0.1% and 0.05% by area, depending upon the separation between rows.
- 13.51 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low.. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 13.52 Other elements of the Scheme, such as construction of Access Tracks, Conversion Units, Grid Connection Infrastructure, and Temporary Construction Compounds, will have further localised impacts.
- 13.53 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

Hedgerows

- 13.54 Limited hedgerow removal is proposed during the construction phase of the Scheme (no more than 10m). The significance of the hedgerows is vested in the historic value in relation to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern. The removal proposed is sufficiently small enough that the boundary denoted by hedgerows and their contribution to understanding the pre-1845 field pattern will remain legible despite a small section being

lost. As such, it is not considered that there will be any impact to understanding their significance.

CONCLUSIONS

- 13.55 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that the Site has a generally low potential for archaeological evidence dating from the prehistoric to Roman periods, although there is moderately high potential for medieval to post-medieval remains as identified by geophysical survey in the northern parts of the Site. There is no evidence at present to suggest that Site 9 contains, or has the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.

Plates



Plate 67: View of the north-western part of the Site, facing south-east



Plate 68: From Mill Lane looking towards the south-western part of the Site, facing north-west



Plate 69: The south-western part of the Site from the south-west corner, facing north-east



Plate 70: The central part of the Site from the southern edge, facing north



Plate 71: The central part of the Site from the south-western edge of Littlebeck Lane, facing north



Plate 72: The eastern end of the Site from the southern edge on Littlebeck Lane, facing north



Plate 73: The far eastern end of the Site from Littlebeck Lane, facing north

14 SITE 10 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 14.1 The Site for this assessment comprises five Sub-Sites (10A-10E) covering approximately 146ha of land, c.1km to the north-west of Hedenham. Sub-Site 10A comprises one field centred at NGR TM 3017 9479 with four fields in Sub-Site 10B (centred on NGR TM 3061 9526). There are also four fields within Sub-Site 10C centred on NGR TM 2979 9555 and one field in Sub-Site 10D (centred on NGR TM 3082 9558). Sub-Site 10E is located to the north of these with two fields centred on NGR TM 3108 9628. It is situated on gently rising land at a height of approximately 30m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in Sub-Sites 10A and 10C to the south and west gradually rising to c.40m aOD in Sub-Site 10B and 10D to the east and Sub-Site 10E in the north.
- 14.2 The Site comprises arable fields bisected by Hobb's Lane that runs in a roughly north/south direction through the centre. It is bounded on the west by Norwich Road, fields and dispersed farms to the north and fields and woodland to the east and south.
- 14.3 The solid geology within the Site comprises sand and gravel of the Crag Group overlain by diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2025).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 14.4 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 14.5 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. Designated heritage assets within the wider surroundings are assessed separately.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 14.6 Four heritage assets have been identified within the Site comprising metal detecting in Sub-Site 10C, which recovered a medieval harness pendant, a medieval bronze plaque, a Roman coin and sherds of late Saxon and medieval pottery (MNF33204). Parts of Sub-Sites 10B, 10D and 10E form part of the WWII airfield at Seething (MNF10466). Sub-Site 10E contained a

fragment of a Roman quernstone (MNF19382) and a medieval seal matrix was recorded in Sub-Site 10A (MNF33206).

14.7 The HER contains 89 records within the Study Area consisting of 83 ‘monument’ records and six ‘event’ records within the Study Area. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figures 74-75.

14.8 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site	Within Study Area
Prehistoric	0	10
Roman	2	18
Saxon	1	14
Medieval	2	44
Post-medieval	0	44
Modern	1	25
Unknown	0	2

Previous investigations

Aerial Investigation Mapping

14.9 Aerial mapping has identified a circular feature in Sub-Site 10C that tallies with the geophysics and may be a prehistoric ring ditch. The outlines of the airfield as well as Berry’s Farm are also visible on the aerial mapping (Headland Archaeology 2024).

Geophysical Survey

14.10 A geophysical survey was conducted of Site 10 (Magnitude Surveys 2024). Features of interest include a circular response in the centre of Sub-Site 10C that may be prehistoric in origin as well as a rectangular enclosure and linear features to the south of this that extend further east. The origins of these rectilinear features are uncertain. In Sub-Site 10B, there is an area of disturbance relating to the remains of Berry’s Farm that was previously sited in this area in accordance with the historic mapping and the LiDAR. Several anomalies have been identified in Sub-Sites 10B and 10E that represent part of the former RAF Seething airfield.

HER Data

14.11 An excavation was carried out in 1970 c.800m to the north-west of Sub-Site 10E next to Seething Road (MNF5108, ENF4588), which revealed evidence of a late Saxon or early

medieval pottery kiln. Remains of a late 12th century structure and three medieval ditches were also uncovered. An earthwork ditch runs parallel to the road, which has been interpreted as a probable late Saxon to medieval common boundary.

- 14.12 A geophysical survey (ENF153139, Magnitude Surveys 2022) was undertaken on land c.500m to the south-west of Sub-Site 10A containing cropmarks of circular and rectangular features of possible prehistoric date. Linear features of probable post-medieval date were also identified (MNF31515). Trial trenching (ENF152519, MNF77473, Chris Birks Archaeology 2022) just to the south of this, c.600m to the south-west of Sub-Site 10A, revealed four poorly dated ditches. Unstratified finds include potential Iron Age and Roman pottery, medieval pottery, a post-medieval coin as well as late Saxon and post-medieval metal objects.
- 14.13 Two earthwork surveys were undertaken as part of the Norfolk Ancient Woodland Historic Environment Rapid Identification Survey. One of these was at Hedenham Wood, c.200m to the south-east of Sub-Site 10B, which contains the remains of the medieval moated enclosure of Hedenham Hall (MNF10638, ENF96845). The second was at Long Row, c.1km to the south-east of Sub-Site 10B, which is an area of woodland, but may have originated as a road in the medieval period (ENF96846, MNF43401).

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 14.14 No prehistoric assets have been recorded within the Site, although the geophysical survey and the aerial photograph mapping survey have both detected a circular response in Sub-Site 10C that may be prehistoric in origin (Magnitude Surveys 2024, Headland Archaeology 1024).
- 14.15 The earliest evidence for prehistoric activity includes the recovery of flint artefacts during metal detecting. A Neolithic polished axehead (MNF69644) and a flint flake (MNF72110) were recorded c.1km to the north-east of Sub-Site 10E with further flints c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 10E (MNF28344) and c.500m west of Sub-Site 10E (MNF66486).
- 14.16 Cropmarks of possible Bronze Age ring ditches have been identified in three locations clustered to the south and south-west of the Study Area with two c.800m-1km to the south of Sub-Site 10A (MNF23744, MNF21077) and a third c.500m to the south-west of Sub-Site 10A (MNF31515). A Bronze Age rapier was found c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 10E (MNF10449).
- 14.17 Potential Iron Age pottery was discovered during trial trenching c.500m to the south-west of Sub-Site 10A (MNF77473), although these finds were unstratified. The excavations also revealed four ditches, which could not be definitively dated.
- 14.18 Earthworks of a complex of ditches, banks and hollow ways, along with a number of pits/ponds that may have originally formed enclosures have been identified c.1km to the

south-east of Sub-Site 10B (MNF62638). Whilst these features are of uncertain date, it has been suggested that they are of Iron Age origin as indicated by cropmarks in the vicinity.

- 14.19 The water courses and generally flat topography make this a relatively conducive area for habitation during the prehistoric periods, although this is not particularly reflected in the HER. The cropmark evidence suggests the landscape, particularly to the south and south-west, was utilised for funerary purposes during the Bronze Age with potential ring-ditches, although none of these have been verified through archaeological methods and could be later features. A curvilinear feature has been identified in Sub-Site 10C by a geophysical survey and aerial photograph mapping survey of the Site that may have prehistoric origins. As such, it is considered that there is generally a low potential for prehistoric evidence within the Site, although a moderate to high potential within Sub-Site 10C.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 14.20 Two Roman finds have been recovered within the Site with a coin found in Sub-Site 10C (MNF33204) and a fragment of quernstone in Sub-Site 10E (MNF19382). Indeed, metal detecting throughout the Study Area has recorded a number of Roman finds with a cluster c.500m-1km to the west of Sub-Site 10A comprising pottery, coins (MNF77473, MNF68192, MNF41188, MNF10156), along with a brooch (MNF65806) and a terret or rein ring (MNF55046). Approximately 500m-1km to the north of Sub-Site 10C are further finds including a spindle whorl (MNF33203), a coin (MNF10142) and pottery (MNF29314). Both these clusters of finds lie along the route of a former Roman road, which bounds the western edge of the Site (now the modern B1332 Norwich Road). This ran from Dunwich to Caistor St Edmund (*Venta Icenorum*) passing through Hedenham. The geophysical survey has identified rectilinear anomalies of uncertain origin within Fields Sub-Site 10C.
- 14.21 Further Roman finds include coins (MNF19768) and pottery (MNF10454) c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 10C, pottery and coins (MNF28344, MNF10449) c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 10E, pottery and a brooch (MNF71470, MNF69644) c.1km to the north-east of sub-Site 10E and coins (MNF69885, MNF70999) c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 10B.
- 14.22 The only potential evidence for settlement is cropmarks of linear and rectilinear features c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 10A (MNF21077). However, these lie close to a possible Bronze Age ring ditch and these features may be associated with prehistoric activity.
- 14.23 The close proximity of the Roman road as well as multiple finds may suggest the landscape was exploited during Roman times, although evidence for settlement activity is lacking. Whilst rectilinear features have been detected by geophysical survey in Sub-Site 10C, their origins are uncertain, although a possible Roman date cannot be ruled out. As such, there is moderate to high potential for archaeological remains in the southern parts of Sub-Site 10C and low potential for the rest of the Site.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 14.24 There are two main clusters of Saxon activity within the Study Area with one area to the north of the Site and a second to the south-west on the western side of the Roman road. The area to the north is associated with the dispersed settlement of Langhale, which is mentioned in Domesday as having a population of 29 households putting it in the largest 40% of settlements recorded. A church is also listed indicating that it was a place of importance and part of the lands of the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds. Within this area, a late Saxon or early medieval pottery kiln was discovered c.800m to the north-west of Sub-Site 10E (MNF5108). Excavations at the site in 1970 revealed Thetford-type pottery associated with the kiln remains. Further evidence of Saxon pottery indicating settlement is recorded within the Site in Sub-Site 10C (MNF33204), c.400m to the north-west of Sub-Site 10E (MNF10445) as well as c.500m to the north of Sub-Site 10C (MNF10454) and c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 10E (MNF69055).
- 14.25 The second area of Saxon activity is represented by casual losses or manuring activity, which have been found during metal detecting. The finds comprise a strap end (MNF55046), brooches (MNF41188), a pin (MNF41207), lead weights (MNF68191) as well as other metal objects (MNF77472) scattered c.500m-1km to the west of Sub-Site 10A. Just to the north of this cluster of finds, further metal detecting has recorded a Saxon key c.300m to the north-west of Sub-Site 10C (MNF77215).
- 14.26 A number of dispersed settlements surround the Site with origins in the late Saxon period including Hedenham to the south, Woodton to the south-west, Seething to the north-east and Kirstead Green to the north. Hedenham is listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as having a population of 34 households in 1086 putting it in the largest 40% of settlements recorded. The land had a mixed agricultural economy with ploughlands and meadows. The name 'Hedenham' derives from the Old English meaning 'homestead of a man called Hedena' (Mills 2011). The village of Woodton was a larger settlement of 69.3 households at the time of Domesday putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. 'Woodton' is also derived from the Old English meaning 'farmstead in or near a wood' (Mills 2011). Seething lies c.2km to the north-east of the Site and was also populated at the time of Domesday with 68.3 households putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded. Its name derives from Old English meaning '(settlement of) the family of followers of a man called Sitha' (Mills 2011). Kirstead is listed in the Domesday Book as having a population 20 households, which is an estimate as it is mentioned alongside Langhale. A church is listed, but this is likely to be the same church that is associated with Langhale. Indeed, the name 'Kirstead Green' derives from the Old English meaning 'site of a church' (Mills 2011).
- 14.27 The geophysical survey has detected rectilinear anomalies that may represent medieval activity in the southern parts of Sub-Site 10C, although their origins are uncertain.
- 14.28 Medieval activity is widespread throughout the Study Area including within the Site. In Sub-Site 10C, metal detecting recorded a medieval harness pendant with a dragon motif and a

bronze plaque in the form of a chicken as well as medieval pottery (MNF33204). Further metal detecting in Sub-Site 10A revealed a medieval seal matrix (MNF33206).

- 14.29 Occupation is concentrated in three main areas within the Study Area including the dispersed medieval settlement of Langhale/Kirstead and the moated sites at Woodton and Hedenham. The first lies approximately 800m to the north of Sub-Site 10B with sites of possible churches located c.800m to the north of Sub-Site 10C (MNF10144, MNF14047). It is likely that there was just one church, although its exact location is uncertain and was probably associated with the settlement of Kirstead as suggested by place-name evidence. The associated settlement of Langhale with its pottery production site has also recovered evidence of a 12th century building and three medieval ditches c.800m to the north-west of Sub-Site 10E (MNF5108). Numerous moated sites have also been identified c.400m to the north of Sub-Site 10C (MNF10145, MNF55696) as well as three to the south-west of the Site. All three have been posited as possible locations of the former Woodton Hall, although some of these may be later landscape features as part of the 17th century Hermitage Garden. One is located c.200m to the west of Sub-Site 10C (MNF10157), the second is c.1km to the west of Sub-Site 10C (MNF74763) and the third is c.1km to the south-west of Sub-Site 10C (MNF10207). The moated site of the former Hedenham Hall is situated within woodland c.500m to the south-east of Sub-Site 10B with substantial earthwork remains (MNF10638). Surrounding this area are further earthworks and cropmarks of landscape features of likely medieval origin. These include a fishpond c.800m to the south of Sub-Site 10B (MNF50210) and field boundaries c.500m to the south of Sub-Site 10B (MNF50205) and c.1km to the south of Sub-Site 10B (MNF50209, MNF50212).
- 14.30 Metal detecting throughout the Study Area have recorded a number of finds resulting from chance losses and manuring activity. Around Woodton, multiple finds of horse fittings have been recovered c.800m-1km to the west of Sub-Site 10B (MNF28445, MNF10156, MNF55046) along with buckles, thimbles and seal matrices (MNF41188, MNF68192, MNF68191, MNF41207, MNF65807). Near the former site of Hedenham Hall, finds of coins and a purse were recorded c.800m-1km to the south of Sub-Site 10B (MNF70999, MNF69885). Coins and pottery were found close to the medieval settlement at Langhale c.1km to the north of Sub-Site 10E (MNF28344, MNF10449, MNF10446) as well as several buckles and coins c.1km to the north-east of Sub-Site 10E (MNF72110, MNF69644, MNF50008).
- 14.31 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods was dispersed with the settlements of Langhale and Kirstead to the north, Woodton to the south-west and Hedenham to the south. Potential medieval activity has been detected by the geophysical survey in which rectilinear anomalies have been identified in the southern parts of Sub-Site 10C. Whilst their origins are uncertain, there is a moderate to high potential for archaeological remains in these fields. The rest of the Site was likely in use as agricultural land and, as such, it is considered that the Site has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 14.32 Within Sub-Sites 10B, 10C, 10D and 10E of the Site lies the remains of the WWII airfield at Seething. The airfield was established between 1942 and 1943 and handed to the USAAF in December 1943. It was designated USAAF Station 146 and used by the 448th Bomb Group, who flew Consolidated B-24 Liberator heavy bomber aircraft. It contained a classic 'A'-shaped layout of three interconnecting runways surrounded and linked by a perimeter track, along which numerous dispersal bays were sited. There were 17 bomb and ammunition stores and two T-2 hangars as well as several dispersed administrative areas. Sub-Site 10E was used as an area set aside for butts, where the aircraft tested their guns. Sub-Site 10C appears to have been part of the bomb stores site and Sub-Site 10B formed part of the south-western edge of two of the runways (Plates 12-14). Following the end of the war, Station 146 was handed back to the RAF and in late 1945, it accommodated Nos 53 and 94 Maintenance Units. RAF Seething closed in 1946 with the majority of the airfield reverted to agricultural use. The eastern section, including part of the main runway, became Seething Airfield and is still in use today by the Waveney Flying Group. The WWII control tower is now a museum.
- 14.33 An aircraft crash site has been identified c.1.1km to the east of Sub-Site 10B following a desk study and constraints assessment (Zetica 2024). This comprised a Flying Fortress aircraft that crashed on 17th April 1945. Some WWII crashes may have had live munitions on board, which could have scattered across a wide area. This would typically have included small arms ammunition for machine guns and cannon shells for aircraft within cannons.
- 14.34 Within the surrounding 1km Study Area there are 70 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).
- 14.35 During the post-medieval and modern periods, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 14.36 The enclosure maps provide the earliest detailed mapping as well as information on the parish boundaries. The Site is divided across three parishes (Hedenham, Seething and Woodton) with Sub-Sites 10A, the middle part of 10B, 10D and 10E within Seething parish and the eastern section of 10B within Hedenham parish.
- 14.37 Sub-Site 10E is shown on the Seething enclosure map from 1814 (Figure 76) in which the land has been divided into six plots. The western part is owned by William Crickmore Junior and the eastern part are owned by Robert Grimer. Two footpaths bisect the Site.
- 14.38 The eastern part of Sub-Site 10B and 10D also fall within the Seething enclosure map (Figure 76). The eastern part of Sub-Site 10B is annotated as 'Great Wood' indicating the presence

- of the owned by William Crickmore Junior. The north-western part of Sub-Site 10B contains three structures that form part of the Hon. George Irby's land and likely relates to buildings later known as Berry's Farm. The far north-west tip of Sub-Site 10B is labelled as 'Hall' owned by W. Suckling.
- 14.39 Sub-Site 10C, 10A and the western part of the 10B fall within the Woodton enclosure map from 1814 (Figure 77) and are under the ownership of M.W. Suckling. In the north-east corner of Sub-Site 10B, 'Potter Hall' is annotated indicating that this land was associated with a Hall (as also indicated on the Seething enclosure map).
- 14.40 The parish boundaries have not changed since the enclosure maps and the Site covers three tithe maps including Hedenham, Seething and Woodton (Figure 78). The Seething tithe map from 1838 shows Sub-Site 10E with two ponds marked. The landowners remain the same as the enclosure map. The geophysics shows linear features running through the Site that are associated with the former airfield.
- 14.41 Parts of Sub-Site 10B also fall within this map with a complex of six buildings visible, which relate to the later Berry's Farm, although the apportionment annotates this as 'House, yards and garden' (Plot 429). A stackyard (Plot 430) and a stable (Plot 431) are also listed, all of which belong to Lord Boston and occupied by John Mann. An orchard is present to the west of the property (Plot 428) and a 'cart shed piece' (Plot 432) to the north. To the north-west of the house is Plot 424 that is labelled 'Hall Piece' indicating that this plot belonged to a Hall (likely Potter Hall that was annotated on the enclosure map). The western tip of Sub-Site 10B lies in Woodton parish. The eastern part of Sub-Site 10B is also divided between Seething parish to the west and Hedenham parish to the east. The Great Wood is still annotated in Plot 435, as well as a Little Wood is Plot 440, both under the ownership of William Crickmore as part of Seething parish. Lord Boston owns the lands on the Hedenham tithe map of 1839 with pasture, ploughland and meadow annotated.
- 14.42 Sub-Sites 10C, 10A and the western part of 10B lie within the Woodton tithe map from 1841 and do not show any structures. Plot 425 in the western part of Sub-Site 10B is annotated 'Potter Hall (part of)' under the ownership of Alfred Suckling and occupied by William Franklin (Seething tithe map) and its adjoining piece, Plot 275, (Woodton tithe map) is labelled Potter Hall owned by Robert Fellowes esq. and occupied by William Franklin.
- 14.43 The first edition Ordnance Survey mapping from 1884 shows the farm complex annotated as 'Berry's Farm' within the northern part of Sub-Site 10B as four main structures, along with three further sheds/barns within the courtyard. The surrounding areas comprise farmland with few changes apart from the removal or addition of field boundaries (Figure 79).
- 14.44 There are no significant changes on the subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping other than the removal of some field boundaries until the 1973-1979 Ordnance Survey map, in which the airfield at Seething is marked.

- 14.45 Features visible on LiDAR are discussed above in the Aerial Mapping section and are shown on Figure 80.
- 14.46 The historic landscape characterisation of the Site is described as 20th century agriculture, apart from the southern part of Sub-Site 10A that is 18th-19th century enclosure by piecemeal agreement (Figure 81).
- 14.47 During the post-medieval period, the Site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to several settlements and parishes including Hedenham, Woodton and Seething. A former farm annotated as Berry's Farm was present within Sub-Site 10B, remains of which are visible in the geophysics and shown as a depression on the LiDAR. During the 20th century, Sub-Sites 10B, 10C, 10D and 10E formed part of the Seething WWII airfield, whilst the rest remained in agricultural use. As such, the Site is considered to have a moderate to high potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval and modern evidence in Sub-Sites 10B, 10C, 10D and 10E and low potential for the rest of the Site.

Hedgerows

- 14.48 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.
- 14.49 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to 12 sections of hedgerow within Group 10 of the Site.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

- 14.50 The enclosure, tithe and subsequent 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figure 82 shows the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as 'important' in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 14.51 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 14.52 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance.

In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 14.53 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. A preliminary assessment of setting is provided in the Environmental Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 14.54 Whilst the Site has been assessed as having a generally low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although a circular response detected by the geophysics and aerial mapping may suggest a prehistoric ring ditch in Sub-Site 10C. The remains of the RAF Seething airfield as well as a post-medieval farmstead are buried in Sub-Sites 10B, 10C, 10D and 10E. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 14.55 Four of the five Sub-Sites of Site 10 will contain Solar PV Arrays and there will be a primary construction compound within Sub-Site 10C under the Scheme. A portion on the eastern side of Sub-Site 10B will remain as open land and will not contain any built elements. There will also be new landscaping including a new woodland area at the western boundary of Sub-Site 10C and grassland elsewhere to either side of existing field boundaries, from which there will be setbacks.

Previous Impacts

- 14.56 The construction of the airfield in Sub-Sites 10B, 10C, 10D and 10E will have impacted any below ground remains. The remains of the now demolished Berry's Farm have impacted part of Sub-Site 10B. The former woodland in the eastern part of Sub-Site 10B may have caused some impact to any below ground remains.
- 14.57 Agricultural activity from the medieval to modern periods is likely to have adversely impacted or truncated potential below-ground archaeological remains across the Site, in

particular where these survive at a shallow depth. The presence of cropmarks visible in aerial photographs and geophysical anomalies relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 14.58 Potential impacts upon the settings of designated heritage assets are addressed within a separate report.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 14.59 This assessment has concluded that there is a generally low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although a circular response detected by the geophysics and aerial mapping may suggest a prehistoric ring ditch in Sub-Site 10C. The remains of the RAF Seething airfield as well as a post-medieval farmstead are buried in Sub-Sites 10B, 10C, 10D and 10E.
- 14.60 Impacts to archaeological assets within the Order limits would largely occur during the Construction Phase through activities such as the installation of Solar PV Arrays, BESS, Customer Substation, National Grid, Cabling, Access Tracks, and Temporary Construction Compounds all have the potential to have an adverse, permanent, and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.
- 14.61 The Project Substations, National Grid Substation, and the BESS will likely result in total destruction of archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 14.62 Impacts from piling for the Ground Mounted PV Modules will be at a very low level, typically ranging between 0.1% and 0.05% by area, depending upon the separation between rows.
- 14.63 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low.. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 14.64 Other elements of the Scheme, such as construction of Access Tracks, Conversion Units, Grid Connection Infrastructure, and Temporary Construction Compounds, will have further localised impacts.
- 14.65 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

Hedgerows

- 14.66 Limited hedgerow removal is proposed during the construction phase of the Scheme (no more than 10m). The significance of the hedgerows is vested in the historic value in relation

to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern. The removal proposed is sufficiently small enough that the boundary denoted by hedgerows and their contribution to understanding the pre-1845 field pattern will remain legible despite a small section being lost. As such, it is not considered that there will be any impact to understanding their significance.

CONCLUSIONS

- 14.67 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that the Site has a generally low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although a circular response detected by the geophysics and aerial mapping may suggest a prehistoric ring ditch in Sub-Site 10C. The remains of the RAF Seething airfield as well as a post-medieval farmstead are buried in Sub-Sites 10B, 10C, 10D and 10E. There is no evidence at present to suggest that Site 10 contains, or has the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.

Plates



Plate 74: The northern part of Sub-Site 10E from the south-east corner, facing north-west



Plate 75: The southern part of Sub-Site 10E from the eastern end looking west



Plate 76: The northern part of Sub-Site 10C from Harvey's Lane, facing south-east



Plate 77: The western part of Sub-Site 10C from Norwich Road at the north-west corner, facing south-east



Plate 78: The central part of Sub-Site 10C from the north-west corner, facing south-east



Plate 79: The south-eastern part of Sub-Site 10C from the north-east corner, facing south-east



Plate 80: The western part of Sub-Site 10B from the north-east corner, facing south-west



Plate 81: The western part of Sub-Site 10B from the northern edge, facing south-west



Plate 82: The central part of Sub-Site 10B from the north-west corner, facing south



Plate 83: The eastern part of Sub-Site 10B from Seething Road on the eastern edge, facing west



Plate 84: Sub-Site 10A from the north-western corner, facing south-east

15 CABLE ROUTE CORRIDOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 15.1 The Site for this assessment comprises the CRC, which extends from Site 1 in the south-west to Site 10 in the north-east, and includes 14 parcels (CRC1-CRC14).
- 15.2 The Site comprises fields and is surrounded by predominantly agricultural land interspersed with farms, woodland and residential housing.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 15.3 This section reviews existing archaeological and heritage evidence for the Site and the surrounding area. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the Site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with national policy.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 15.4 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 15.5 The HER contains 26 records within the Study Area, consisting of 25 'monument' records and one 'event' records. Details of all records are listed in a gazetteer in Annex 1 and their positions marked on Figures 83-85.
- 15.6 The HER records relating to archaeological remains, buildings, finds or investigations within the Study Area breakdown by period as follows. Some records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Site
Prehistoric	9
Roman	12
Saxon	5
Medieval	16
Post-medieval	15

Modern	1
Unknown	3

Previous investigations

Aerial Investigation mapping

- 15.7 An aerial investigation mapping survey has been undertaken within the Site (ENF156794), which forms part of the assessment for the current project (Headland Archaeology 2024). Potential remains of archaeological interest and are summarised in the following table:

CRC Number	Possible Feature	Possible Date
CRC4	Ring Ditch	Prehistoric
CRC4	Deserted Medieval Village	Medieval
CRC4	Rectilinear Enclosure	Iron Age/Roman
CRC6	Shrunken Village of Lundy Green	Medieval/Post-Medieval
CRC6	Industrial activity – brick works, saw mill, extraction	Post-Medieval
CRC8	Ring Ditch	Prehistoric
CRC8	Building	Post-Medieval
CRC8	Moated Site	Medieval
CRC9	Deserted Medieval Village related to Woodton Hall	Medieval
CRC9	Building	Medieval
CRC11	Enclosure and Circular Feature	Iron Age/Roman

UXO Mapping

- 15.8 An assessment of unexploded ordnance was also undertaken as part of this project, which has identified the following potential hazards within the CRC.

CRC Number	Possible Feature	Possible Date
CRC4	Bombing	Modern

CRC11	Bombing	Modern
CRC14	Airfield	Modern

Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – AD 43)

- 15.9 The most significant prehistoric assets are of two ring ditches that may indicate burials of potential Bronze Age date. These have been recorded by aerial photograph mapping within CRC4 to the east of Sub-Site 2C and CRC8, the latter is also recorded on the HER, but has also been interpreted as a possible pond (MNF56912; 90m west of CRC8).
- 15.10 Two features were identified by aerial photograph mapping of likely Iron Age/Roman date and include a rectilinear feature in CRC4 to the east of Sub-Site 2B and The Pye Roman Road. A rectilinear enclosure and circular feature were identified in CRC11.
- 15.11 Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery has been found in CRC6, which is likely to indicate settlement. These have been found at MNF29412 at the north-western end of CRC6 in an area that has been interpreted as a late Neolithic/Bronze Age flint working site. Further pottery has been found just to the east of this in the northern part of CRC6 at MNF19362, MNF19361 and MNF28811.
- 15.12 The remaining assets comprise fieldwalking and metal detecting surveys that have recorded prehistoric flints as well as metal work. A Bronze Age rapier blade and a late Bronze Age socket axehead was found in CRC2 (MNF66024), Bronze Age axeheads and a palstave in CRC4 to the south-west of Sub-Site 2C (MNF70668; 360m west of CRC4), a late Neolithic axehead in CRC4 to the east of Sub-Site 2C in the vicinity of the ring ditch (MNF58190), Neolithic/Bronze Age flint flakes at the northern end of CRC4 to the east of Sub-Site 4B (MNF69208) and a Neolithic axehead in the north-eastern part of CRC4 adjacent to Sub-Site 5A (MNF20573; 10m west of CRC4). A possible late Neolithic/Bronze Age flint working site has been identified in the north-western end of CRC6 (MNF29412). Further prehistoric flints, many of which were burnt indicative of their use in cooking were found just to the east of the flint working site in the northern part of CRC6 (MNF19361, MNF19362, MNF19363,, MNF19364; 100m east of CRC6, MNF19365; 210m east of CRC6, MNF22241; 200m east of CRC6) as well as in the southern part of CRC6 to the north-west and west of Sub-Site 3B (MNF21991; 80m east of CRC6, MNF25677; 30m south of CRC6, MNF29407, MNF29409; 50m southwest of CRC6) and in the centre of CRC6 (MNF29411; 0m west of CRC6, MNF29410; 10m west of CRC6). Burnt flints were also discovered in CRC8 to the south of Sub-Site 7H (MNF10190; 130m north of CRC8). Neolithic flints have been recorded in CRC10 to the west of Sub-Site 8A (MNF24537; 220m northwest of CRC10).
- 15.13 The evidence suggests that settlement began in the late Neolithic/Bronze Age period with a flint working site and finds of burnt flints and pottery, particularly in the northern area of

CRC6. Occupation may have continued in this area into the Iron Age. Funerary evidence is also indicated in the Bronze Age in CRC4 and possibly in CRC8. Iron Age activity is also evidenced in CRC4 and CRC11. As such, occupation within the Site cannot be discounted and it is considered that there is a high potential for prehistoric evidence in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8 and CRC11 and low potential in the other areas.

Roman Period (c. AD 43 – c. AD 410)

- 15.14 The most significant evidence for Roman activity comprises a possible settlement located in CRC10 (MNF24537; 220m northwest of CRC10). Metal detecting recovered a range of objects including roof tiles and bricks as well as pottery, coins, brooches, bracelets, weights and horse fittings. The pottery indicates that activity peaked during the 3rd to 4th century. It is possible that this was a roadside settlement as the course of a former Roman road has been identified to the south in CRC8. The extrapolated line would have run along its eastern edge (MNF10199; 110m west of CRC8).
- 15.15 Further evidence for a possible Roman building was found in CRC6 (MNF29408). A rectangular enclosure was identified on aerial photographs and subsequent fieldwalking in 1992 recovered pottery, glass, querns and tiles. Again, it is possible that this structure was also sited along the Roman road identified in CRC8 (MNF10199; 110m west of CRC8).
- 15.16 Two additional Roman roads have been identified including The Pye Roman Road located at the western edge of the Study Area (MNF7947) and runs through CRC4 as well as a second at the eastern edge. This runs through CRC13 in a north/south direction and is extrapolated to have run through the eastern edge of CRC8 (MNF10160).
- 15.17 The remaining evidence for Roman activity relates to finds recorded during metal detecting and fieldwalking events. These comprise a fragment of puddingstone quern in CRC2 (MNF20098; 10m south of CRC2). In CRC4: a cosmetic pestle and mortar set (MNF70668; 360m west of CRC4), two rings (MNF58190), coins (MNF14114; 10m west of CRC4), a brooch (MNF14115), pottery and coins (MNF64157), pottery (MNF14113; 300m southwest of CRC4, MNF69208), and a steelyard weight (MNF40743). In CRC6: coins (MNF29412, MNF19362, MNF29410; 10m west of CRC6)), coins and brooch (MNF67378), pottery and tile fragments and oyster shells (MNF19361), pottery (MNF25677; 30m south of CRC6, MNF29409; 50m southwest of CRC6) and a brooch (MNF28811). Pottery has been recorded in CRC8 (MNF28812), as well as a brooch (MNF58547; 300m south of CRC8). In CRC9, coins and a steelyard weight (MNF10156) and a terret (MNF55046; 300m south of CRC9) were discovered and in CRC10, a coin (MNF31567; 260m southeast of CRC10) and a brooch (MNF73369) were found.
- 15.18 There is high potential for Roman remains in CRC6 and CRC10 with evidence for potential roadside settlements, which is supported by finds in these areas. The courses of three Roman roads also run through CRC4, CRC8 and CRC13 and there is high potential for activity in these areas.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. 1540)

- 15.19 Whilst no evidence for Saxon structures has been identified, finds of late Saxon pottery do hint at settlement in the area with sherds recorded in CRC4 (MNF14115), CRC6 (MNF19361) and CRC9 (MNF10156).
- 15.20 Other Saxon finds include a late Saxon/medieval spindle whorl in CRC4 (MNF14114; 10m west of CRC4), a late Saxon bridle bit-link and lead spindle whorl in CRC4 (MNF73373; 320m of CRC4), a late Saxon/Scandinavian-style disc brooch and lead trade weight (MNF64157), early Saxon brooch fragments in CRC6 (MNF66074), an unidentified lead object in CRC6 (MNF19363), a middle Saxon brooch in CRC6 (MNF19364), an early Saxon long brooch in CRC6 (MNF25677; 30m south of CRC6), a late Saxon strap end in CRC9 (MNF55046; 300m south of CRC9) and possible early Saxon tweezers in CRC10 (MNF24537; 220m northwest of CRC10).
- 15.21 An area of medieval settlement has been identified in CRC4 at the northern end of the green. It is surrounded by a large, ditched enclosure and fieldwalking has recorded concentrations of medieval and post-medieval pottery within this (MNF17179; 200m south of CRC4, MNF17180; 275m south of CRC4).
- 15.22 At the northern end of CRC4, earthworks of a series of ditched enclosures close to the site of a former church, St Peter's, and are thought to be medieval in date (MNF33332; 5m west of CRC4). Fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery have been recovered from the site.
- 15.23 Soilmarks of a possible medieval moat have been identified in CRC8 (MNF29782; 150m south of CRC8), which is supported by the aerial photograph mapping. The photographs show that it is overlain by later field boundaries and appears to be medieval in date.
- 15.24 There is circumstantial evidence to indicate that part of CRC5 falls within the extents of a medieval deer park (MNF21992; 330m south of CRC6).
- 15.25 The remaining assets within the Study Area comprise finds relating to metal detecting and fieldwalking events. A medieval papal bulla and a sword or dagger pommel were recorded in CRC2 (MNF66024). In CRC4, a harness pendant and knife handle (MNF70668 360m west of CRC4), a swivel (MNF58190), pottery, coins, and horse accessories (MNF14114; 10m west of CRC4, MNF14115, MNF64157, MNF69208), coins (MNF69243), pottery (MNF14113; 300m southwest of CRC4, MNF16610; 180m north of CRC4), coins, lead spindle whorl, lead pot mend, a buckle and pendant (MNF73373; 320m of CRC4) were found. Pottery was found in CRC7 (MNF17858; 130m west of CRC7). In CRC6: pottery, coins, buckles (MNF29412), coins and buckle (MNF67378, MNF29410; 10m west of CRC6), coins and brooch (MNF66074; 150m west of CRC6), pottery and coins (MNF19362, MNF19363, MNF28811), pottery (MNF22241; 200m east of CRC6, MNF19361, MNF25258; 70m south of CRC, MNF21990; 20m south of CRC6, MNF29409; 50m southwest of CRC6) and writing leads (MNF25677; 30m south of CRC6). In CRC8, a copper alloy buckle (MNF55053), a buckle plate and strap end

(MNF58547; 300m south of CRC8) were recorded. In CRC9, pottery, coins, horse harness pendant and dress accessories (MNF10156), furniture fitting, buckle, key and horse harness pendant (MNF55046; 300m south of CRC9), and coins (MNF15037; 120m south of CRC11) were recovered. Pottery (MNF22200; 50m northwest of CRC10, 22201) and pottery and coins (MNF24537; 220m northwest of CRC10) were found in CRC10.

- 15.26 Occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods was dispersed with small settlements around greens as well as moated sites. There appears to be high potential for settlement remains in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8, CRC9, whilst the rest of the Study Area was likely in use as agricultural land and, as such, it is considered that the Site has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon and medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 – Present)

- 15.27 The site of a post-medieval house is postulated in CRC10, which is supplemented by finds of post-medieval pottery (MNF22201).
- 15.28 A late 18th century brickworks has been identified at the northern end of CRC4 that consists of two kilns and a range of partly demolished buildings (MNF10183; 450m north of CRC4). This is shown on the Ordnance Survey first edition map with most of the actual brickworks just to the north of the Site, although it is possible that clay extraction took place within the Site.
- 15.29 More recent activity relates to the World War II Airfields at Seething in CRC14 (MNF10466) and Hardwick in CRC5 (MNF21992; 330m south of CRC6).
- 15.30 Within the surrounding Study Area, there are 43 archaeological assets of post-medieval or modern date recorded in the HER. The majority of these relate to buildings or unstratified finds which are of a well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the Site's archaeological potential. They are recorded in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Annex 1).
- 15.31 During the post-medieval and modern periods, the Site largely formed the agricultural hinterland to dispersed settlements. There is some evidence for occupation and industry within CRC4, CRC5, CRC10 and CRC14 and these areas have high potential for below ground remains, although there is low potential for the rest of the Site.

Hedgerows

- 15.32 The five criteria relating to the identification of archaeologically and historically important hedgerows are outlined in Section 2.4 above.
- 15.33 Of these five criteria, paragraph 5 (a) can be applied to sections of hedgerow within the CRC.

Paragraph 5. The hedgerow:

(a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts

- 15.34 The enclosure and tithe maps show sections of field boundaries, presumably formed by hedgerows, in the Site that survive today. Figures 86 to 87 show the extant sections of hedgerows that fulfil criterion 5 (a) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as it can be demonstrated to form part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts (taken as anything before 1845) and is not currently within the curtilage of, or forming the curtilage boundary of adjacent dwellings. These hedgerows are, therefore, regarded as 'important' in terms of the regulations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 15.35 Paragraph 5.9.10 of EN-1 (2025) and paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2024) states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 15.36 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 203, NPPF 2024) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 15.37 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 15.38 The Site has been assessed as having a high potential to contain remains from the prehistoric period in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8, CRC11, high potential for Roman remains in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8, CRC10 and CRC13, high potential for Saxon and medieval remains in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8 and CRC9 and high potential for post-medieval and modern remains in CRC4, CRC5, CRC10 and CRC14. The rest of the Site has low potential for archaeological remains. The significance of any such remains would be vested in their evidential value and their relative importance linked to their potential to add to national and regional research agendas. Available evidence would suggest that any surviving remains would make only limited contributions to regional research objectives and as such their significance is likely to be of no more than local importance.

Hedgerows

- 15.39 Although sections of the hedgerows have been assessed as 'important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 they are not considered to be a designated heritage asset as defined by

the NPPF, and contain no evidential value or archaeological interest, i.e. they do not hold any evidence for past human activity worthy of archaeological investigation. The significance of the 'important' hedgerows is therefore vested in their historic value in relation to the understanding and survival of the pre-1845 field pattern.

- 15.40 It is clear that when originally drafted the regulations were designed to give some protection to the survival of field patterns that had been in place prior to enclosure (i.e. parts of the open field system), however, the later ruling that any boundary known to be in existence in 1845 (the date of the last enclosure act) or earlier has resulted in a large number of boundaries falling under the regulations that were created by enclosure, not in existence before enclosure. The result is that the regulations now provide some protection to hedgerows of a certain age, rather than relating to hedgerows/boundaries that were in existence before the enclosure of the open fields of a certain township or parish. It stands to reason, therefore, that hedgerows which mark the boundary of a field that were in existence before the enclosure of the land would be of greater significance and historic interest than those which are a product of enclosure.
- 15.41 The hedgerows within the study site are clearly related to enclosure rather than a preexisting open field system and are considered to be of very limited potential to add to regional or national research objectives and as such are considered to be of no more than local significance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Scheme

- 15.42 The Cable Route Corridor (hereafter 'CRC'), which extends from and connects Site 1 in the south-west to Site 10 in the north-east. It includes 14 parcels, labelled CRC1-CRC14.

Previous Impacts

- 15.43 The WWII airfields will have impacted any archaeological remains in CRC5 and CRC14. A brickworks in CRC4 is likely to have impacted any below ground archaeology in this area. Agricultural activity may have had a low-level impact across the Site, although the presence of cropmarks visible in aerial photographs relating to archaeological features demonstrate that deeper buried archaeological features survive.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 15.44 Designated Heritage Assets have been subject to a separate assessment (Environment Statement Volume III Appendix 10.1).

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 15.45 This assessment has concluded that there is a high potential to contain remains from the prehistoric period in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8, CRC11, high potential for Roman remains in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8, CRC10 and CRC13, high potential for Saxon and medieval remains in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8 and CRC9 and high potential for post-medieval and modern remains in CRC4, CRC5, CRC10 and CRC14. The rest of the Site has low potential for archaeological remains.
- 15.46 Cabling within the Solar PV Site and across the Cable Route Corridor, will have a greater impact than piling, yet will still be relatively low. Unlike piles, however, this impact will not be evenly spread and has potential to cause more localised impact.
- 15.47 An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy has been produced to accompany the submission of the Environmental Statement for the Scheme (Appendix 10.6), which details the methods of archaeological mitigation to be employed. This will ensure that archaeological remains present within the Order Limits will be preserved either in situ or in record according to their level of sensitivity and level of potential impact.

Hedgerows

- 15.48 Current proposals allow for the retention of the majority of identified 'important' hedgerows within the Site. There will be some loss of parts of the hedgerows where it is necessary to break through for the cable route corridor and other possible minor removals depending upon access requirements. The heritage significance of the hedgerows is vested not in the hedgerow itself but in the historic value of the boundary that they mark and the ability to understand the enclosure period field system. Whilst the breaking through of the hedgerows will result in a change to the detail of this field pattern, the overall ability to read and understand that field system will not be impacted by the levels of loss proposed.

CONCLUSIONS

- 15.49 Assessment of the available archaeological records, combined with analysis of historical mapping and the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Study Area, show that the Site has a high potential to contain remains from the prehistoric period in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8, CRC11, high potential for Roman remains in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8, CRC10 and CRC13, high potential for Saxon and medieval remains in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8 and CRC9 and high potential for post-medieval and modern remains in CRC4, CRC5, CRC10 and CRC14. There is no evidence at present to suggest that the CRC contains, or has the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.

16 CONCLUSIONS

16.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment draws together the available historic, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the heritage significance of the Site and the potential for the Scheme to impact any below-ground archaeological remains. The assessment addresses the information requirements set out in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) and the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and provides the proportionate response sought by the NPSs.

16.2 Geophysical and aerial surveys and have been conducted on all Sites, the results of which will be summarised here on a site-by-site basis. Initial trial trenching has also been undertaken, although the results of this are forthcoming and will be presented in a separate report, summarised in the ES (PCA forthcoming).

Sites 1 and 2

16.3 The cropmark and geophysical surveys have identified potential remains of a former 19th century building in Sub-Site 1B. The HER records the possible presence of remains of a medieval church within Sub-Site 1B, although there is no evidence on the geophysics and aerial surveys or the LiDAR to support this. Additional areas have been included in Sub-Sites 1C and 1D, which have not been subjected to geophysical or aerial surveys, although no HER data fall within these boundaries. Sites 1 and 2 have a generally low potential for archaeological evidence dating from the prehistoric to medieval periods to be present, although there is a high potential for medieval and post-medieval/modern remains in Sub-Site 1B.

Site 3

16.4 The geophysical and aerial surveys have detected the remains of access roads for RAF Hardwick as well as a post-medieval/modern building and possible blacksmithing and quarrying activities. A low to moderate potential for archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric and Roman periods, a low potential for medieval evidence and a low to moderate potential for post-medieval to modern activity is concluded.

Site 4

16.5 The geophysical and aerial surveys identified a structure in Sub-Site 4A and a linear feature that may have been a trackway. A ring ditch has also been identified in the north-eastern part of Sub-Site 4B, along with quarrying activity. The focus of potential medieval activity is located in the south-western part of Sub-Site 4B. The Site has a high potential for prehistoric to medieval remains in Sub-Site 4B and a low to moderate potential for the rest of the Site to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods. As no solar panels will be placed within the southern part of Sub-Site 4B, this area will not be impacted, apart from any groundworks associated with cabling or other construction work.

Site 5

- 16.6 The geophysical and aerial surveys have identified the remains of a possible medieval house at the northern end of Sub-Site 5A. The south-eastern part of Sub-Site 5B also contained anomalies of circular and rectilinear features. There is moderate to high potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods in the northern part of Sub-Site 5A and the south-eastern part of Sub-Site 5B, but low potential for the rest of the Site. The south-eastern part of Sub-Site 5B will not contain solar panels and this area will not be impacted, apart from any groundworks associated with cabling or other construction work.

Site 6

- 16.7 A possible pit probably relating to localised quarrying of clay has been identified in the eastern part of the Site as detected by geophysical and aerial surveys as well as historic mapping. The geophysical survey has also identified a linear feature running through the centre of the site and may have been a trackway. The Site has a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric period and a low potential for the Roman to medieval periods to be present within the Site. No panels will be placed within this Site and any below-ground remains will not be impacted.

Site 7A-7C

- 16.8 Both the geophysical and aerial surveys identified a pond or pit feature in Sub-Site 7A and the geophysics detected a circular feature in Sub-Site 7B that may have prehistoric origins. In Sub-Site 7C, a field system or trackway was identified by the aerial survey and the LiDAR. The Site has a low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although there is a moderate to high potential for prehistoric remains in Sub-Site 7B as indicated by the geophysical survey and moderate to high potential for medieval remains associated with the moated site next to Sub-Site 7C. No solar panels will be placed in the area to the west of the moated site in Sub-Site 7C and this area will not be impacted, apart from any groundworks associated with cabling or other construction work.

Site 7D-7H

- 16.9 A pond or pit feature has been identified within the north-eastern part of Sub-Site 7F. The geophysics and the LiDAR also show a depression in this area, although it is not noted on the historic mapping. The LiDAR shows the structure associated with 'Mudhole' in the south-western corner of Sub-Site 7D, which tallies with disturbances on the geophysics. The Site has a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods.

Site 7I-7L

- 16.10 No features of archaeological significance were detected by the geophysical and aerial surveys. The Site has a generally low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although there is a moderate potential for Roman remains due to the close proximity of two potential Roman roads, a possible settlement as well as multiple finds.

Site 8

- 16.11 Quarrying activity has been identified from the aerial survey and historic mapping and a modern pipeline has been detected by the geophysical survey in Sub-Site 8B. Multiple prehistoric and Roman finds in the vicinity of the Site as well as a Roman road and a potential settlement indicates that the Site has a low to moderate potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to Roman periods and a low potential for medieval evidence. The solar panels will not be placed on the western side of Sub-Site 8B, thus reducing potential impacts on any below-ground remains.

Site 9

- 16.12 The geophysical survey of Site 9 has detected the presence of rectangular enclosures in the north-eastern part of the site that may relate to settlement and/or stock enclosures of probable medieval to post-medieval date. The Site has a generally low potential for archaeological evidence dating from the prehistoric to Roman periods, although there is moderately high potential for medieval to post-medieval remains as identified by geophysical survey in the northern parts of the Site. The solar panels will not be placed in the western part of the Site, thus reducing potential impacts on any below-ground remains.

Site 10

- 16.13 The geophysics has detected a curvilinear anomaly of potential prehistoric date and rectilinear anomalies of uncertain date in Sub-Site 10C. Remains of a former farm may be present in Sub-Site 10B as well as evidence for the former World War II airfield in Sub-Sites 10B, 10C, 10D and 10E. The Site has a generally low potential to contain remains from the prehistoric to medieval periods, although a circular response detected by the geophysics and aerial mapping may suggest a prehistoric ring ditch in Sub-Site 10C. The remains of the RAF Seething airfield as well as a post-medieval farmstead are buried in Sub-Sites 10B, 10C, 10D and 10E.

Cable Route Corridor

- 16.14 The CRC has a high potential to contain remains from the prehistoric period in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8, CRC11, high potential for Roman remains in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8, CRC10 and CRC13, high potential for Saxon and medieval remains in CRC4, CRC6, CRC8 and CRC9 and high potential for post-medieval and modern remains in CRC4, CRC5, CRC10 and CRC14. The rest of the Site has low potential for archaeological remains.
- 16.15 The construction compounds and electricity substation within Sub-Sites 1B, 2B, 4A, 4B will impact any potential below-ground remains and archaeological mitigation will be required in these areas. New planting in Sub-Sites 7C, 8B, 10A and 10C also has the potential to disturb any archaeological deposits and mitigation may be required.
- 16.16 In summary, groundworks associated with the Scheme including excavation for cable routes and associated infrastructure will have the potential to have impacts upon any

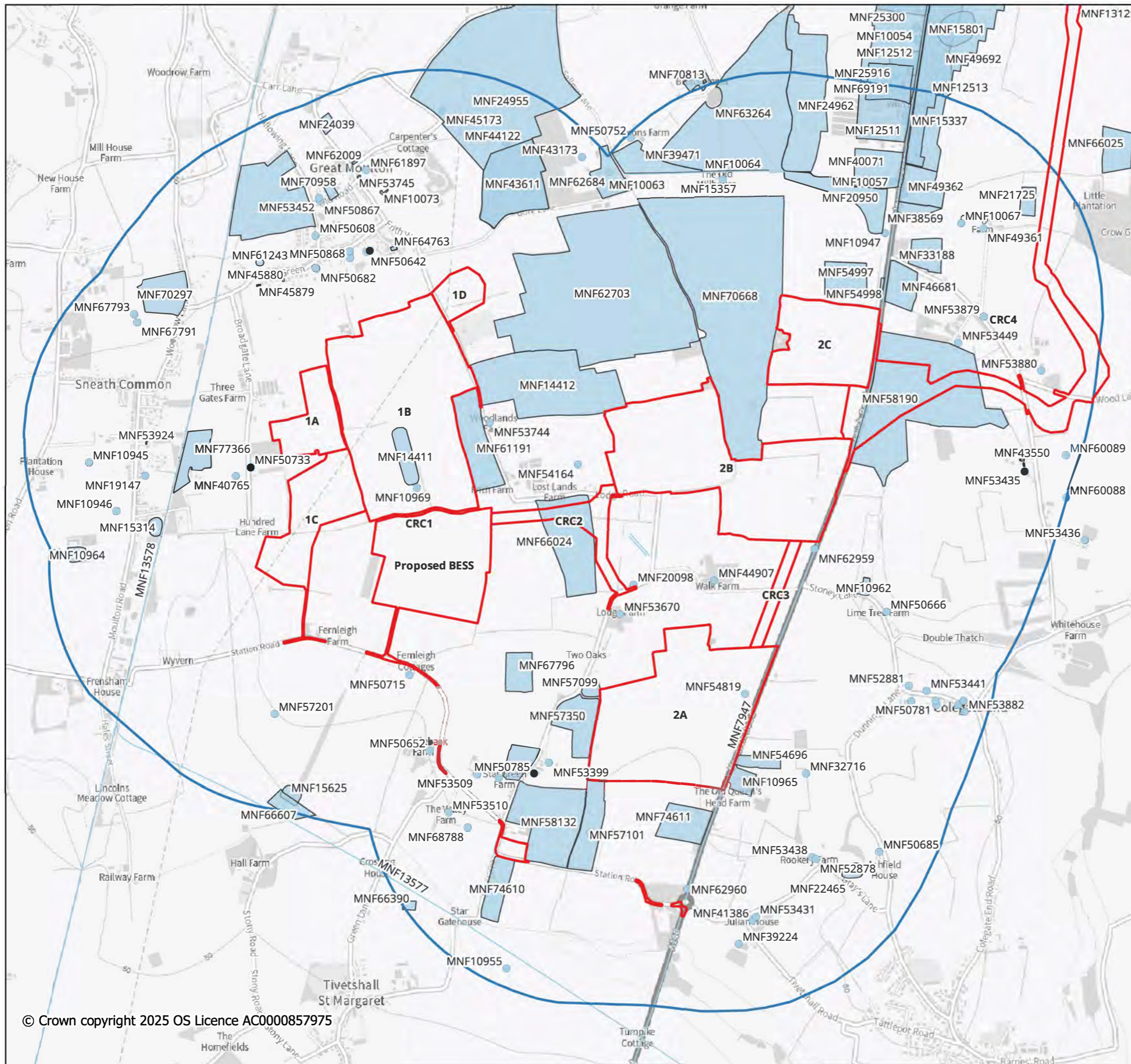
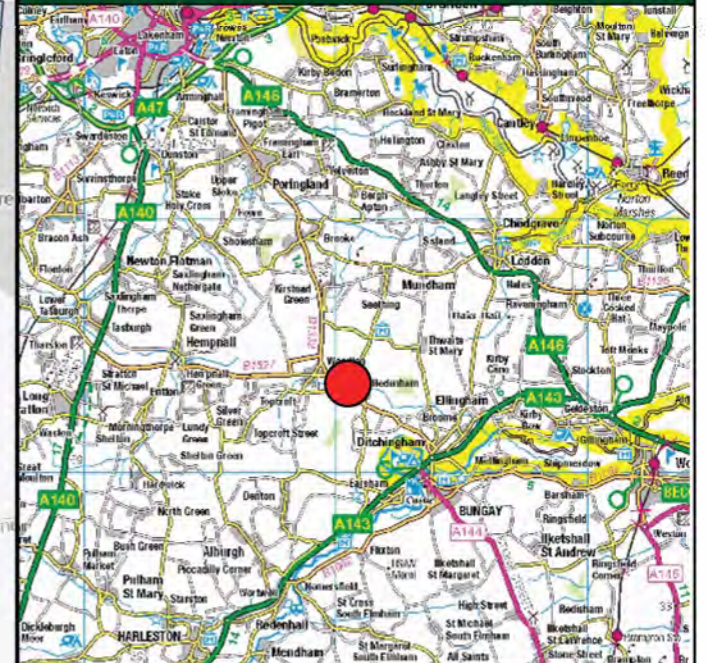
archaeological deposits which may survive within the Site. A mitigation strategy is currently being agreed with the Norfolk County Council Planning Archaeologist and will be presented in the ES, to accompany the DCO application.

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Figures



Key

- Order Limits
- 1km Search Area (Sites 1 and 2)
- HER Monument (Point)
- HER Monument (Line)
- HER Monument (Region)

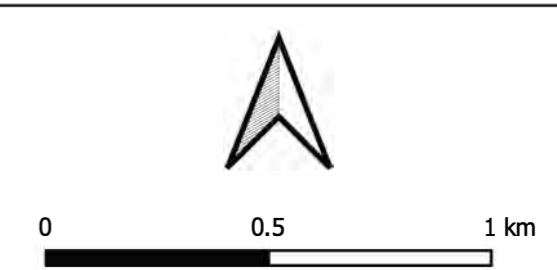
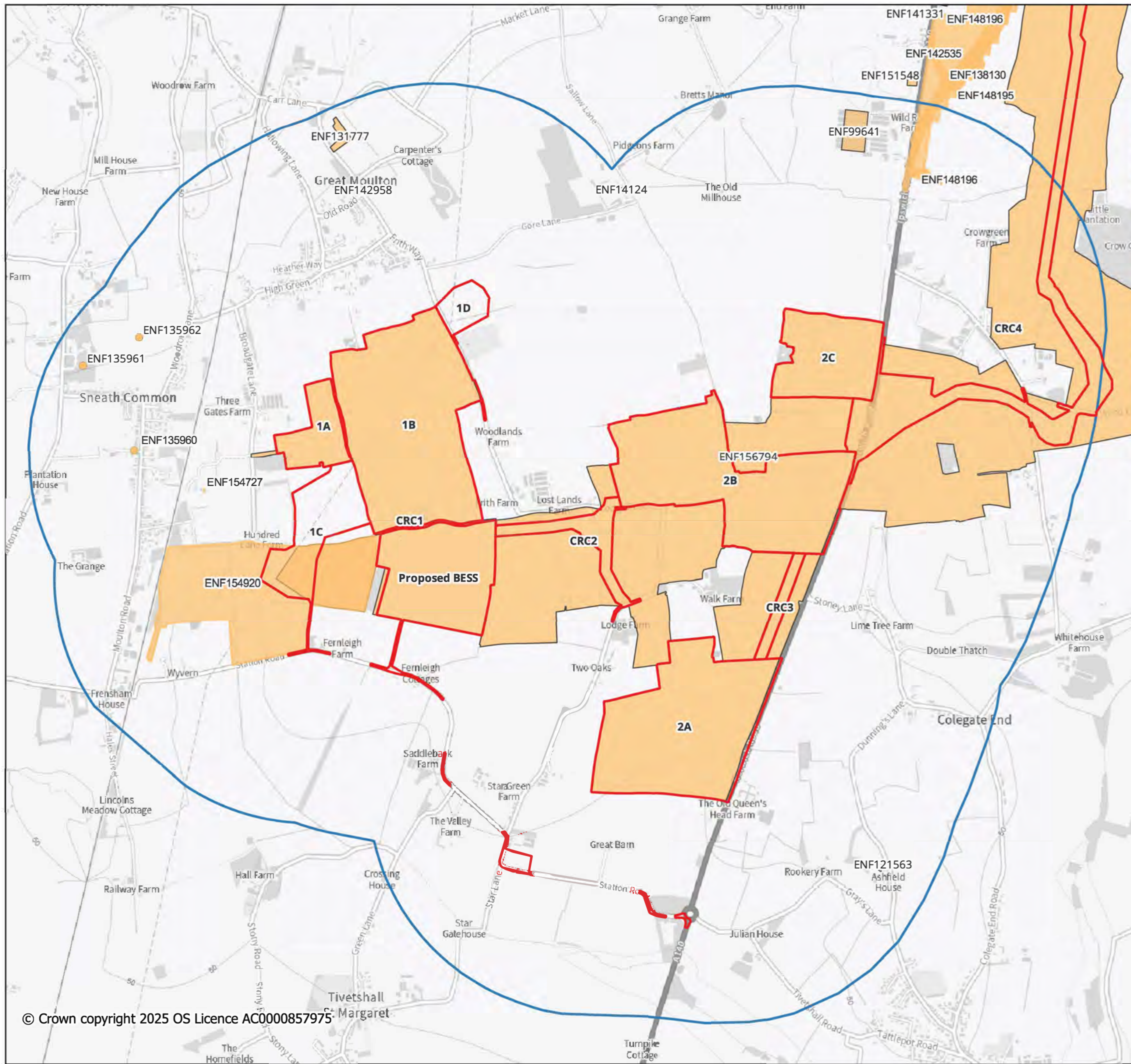
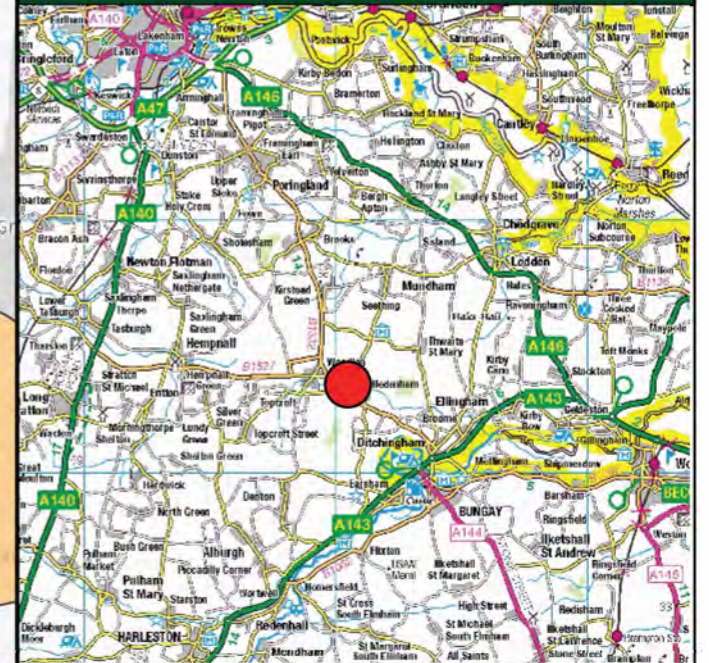


Figure 1. Sites 1, 2 and BESS Order Limits and Search Area showing HER Monument Records



- Key**
- Order Limits
 - 1km Search Area (Sites 1 and 2)
 - HER Event Points
 - HER Event Lines
 - HER Event Regions



0 0.5 1 km

A horizontal scale bar with markings at 0, 0.5, and 1 km, used to provide a sense of distance on the map.

Figure 2. Sites 1, 2 and BESS Order Limits and Search Area showing HER Event Records



Figure 3. Extract from the Moulton St Michael Enclosure map from 1820

Key

 Order limits



Figure 4. Extract from the Tivetshall St Margaret Enclosure map n.d.


Key

 Order limits



Figure 5. Extract from the Moulton St Michael Tithe map from 1837.

Key

 Order Limits



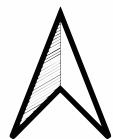
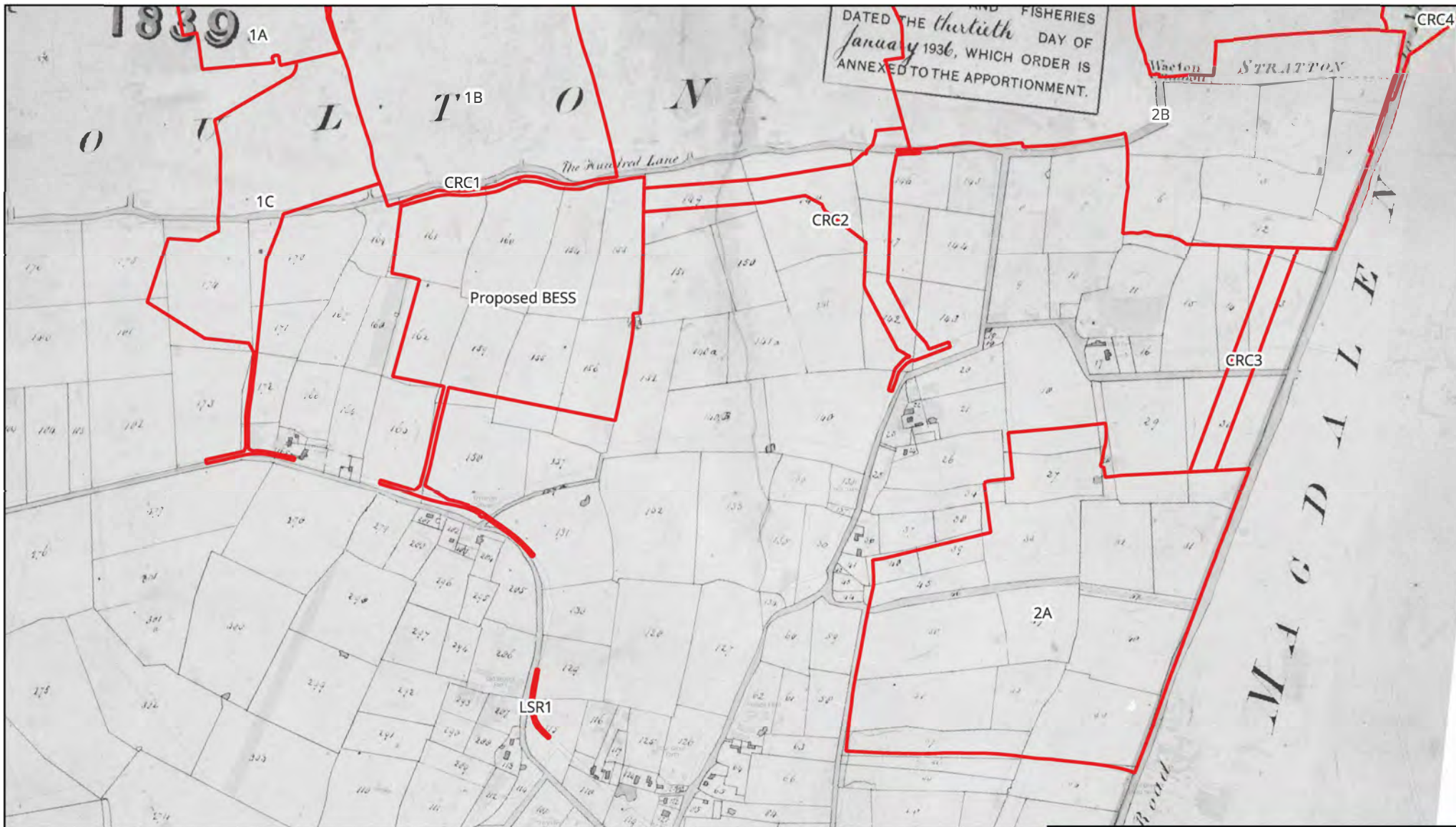


Figure 6. Extract from the Tivetshall St Margaret Tithe map from 1839.


Key

 Order Limits



Figure 7. Extract from the Stratton St Mary Tithe map from 1839.

Key

 Order Limits

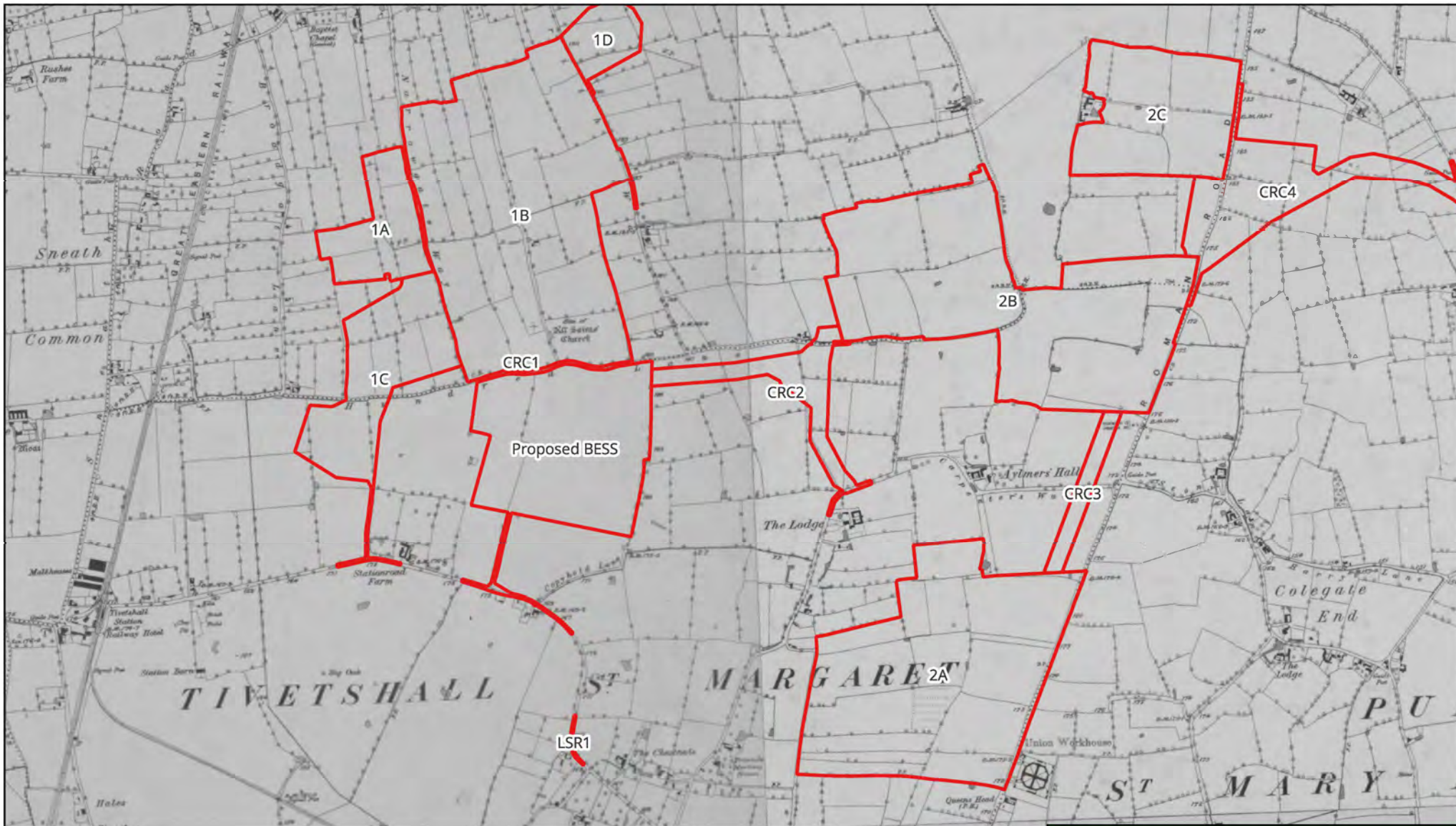



Figure 8. Extract from the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map from 1883.

Key

 Order Limits

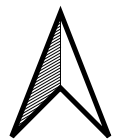
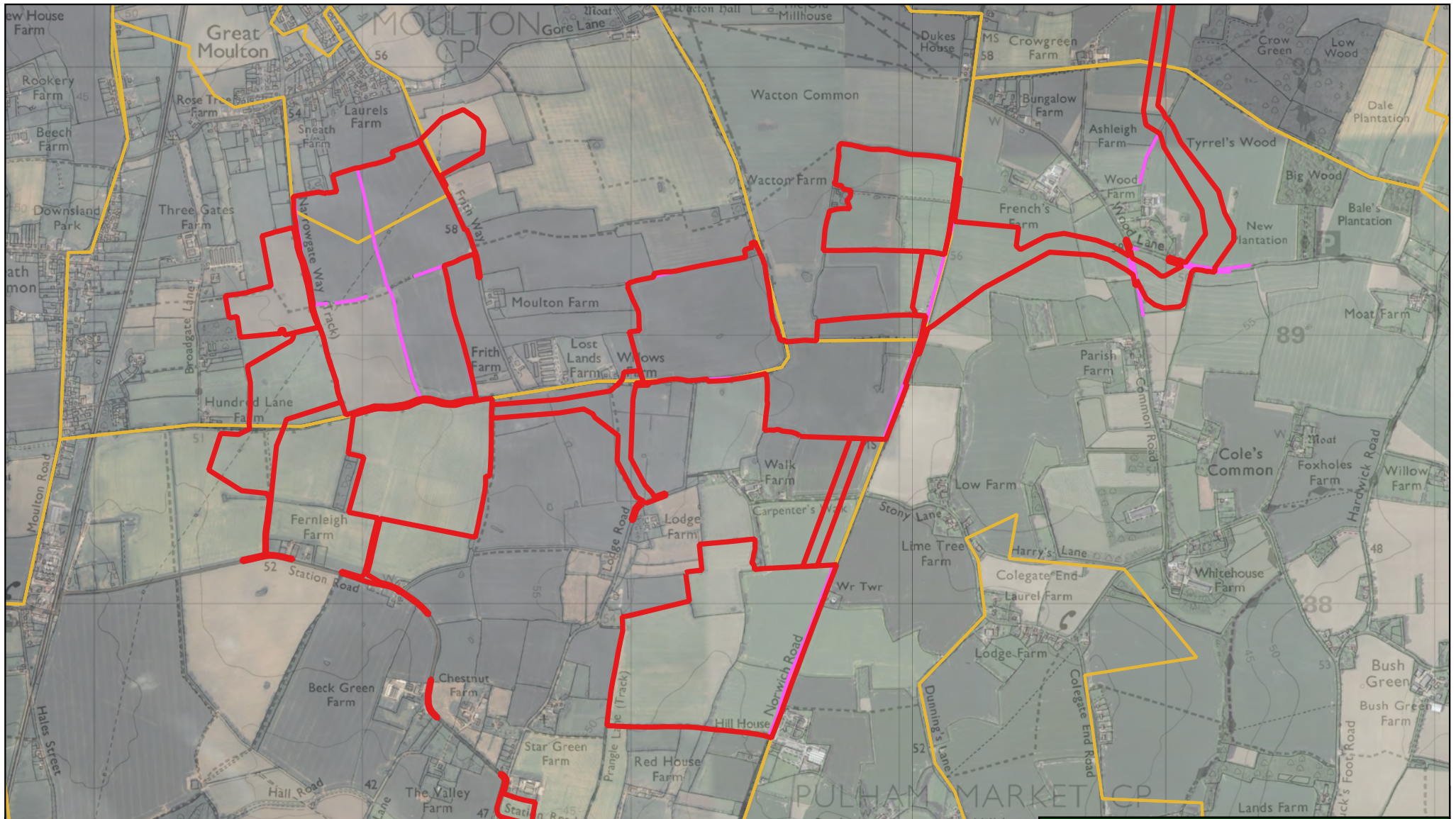


Figure 11. Sites 1, 2 and BESS Order Limit showing historic hedgerows and parish boundaries

Key

- Order Limits
- Important Hedgerows
- Norfolk Parish Boundaries





Figure 14. Extract from the Hempnall Tithe map from 1842

	<p>Key</p> <p> Order Limits</p>	
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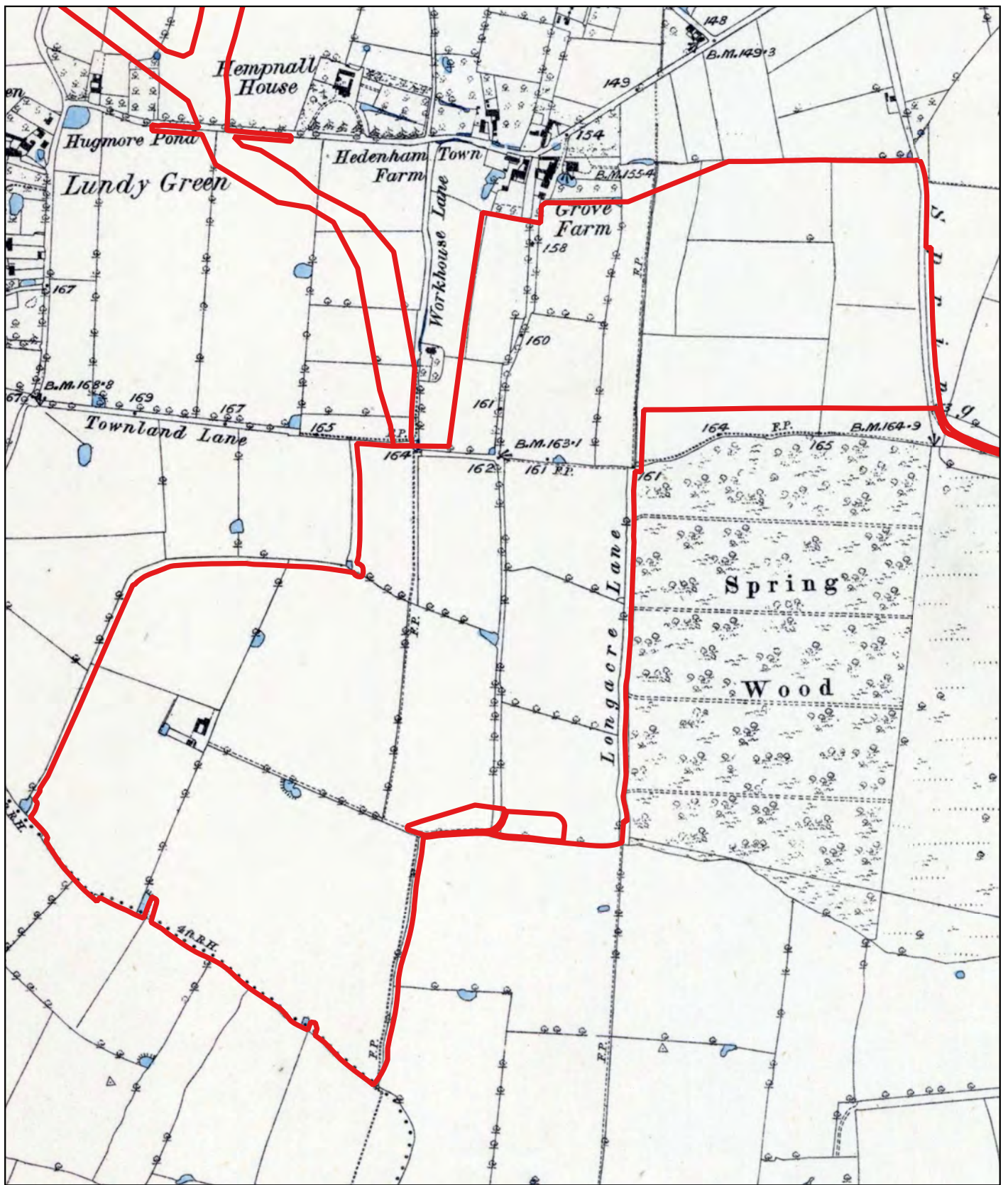


Figure 15. Extract from the 6 inch Ordnance Survey Map from 1883

	<p>Key</p> <p> Order Limits</p>	
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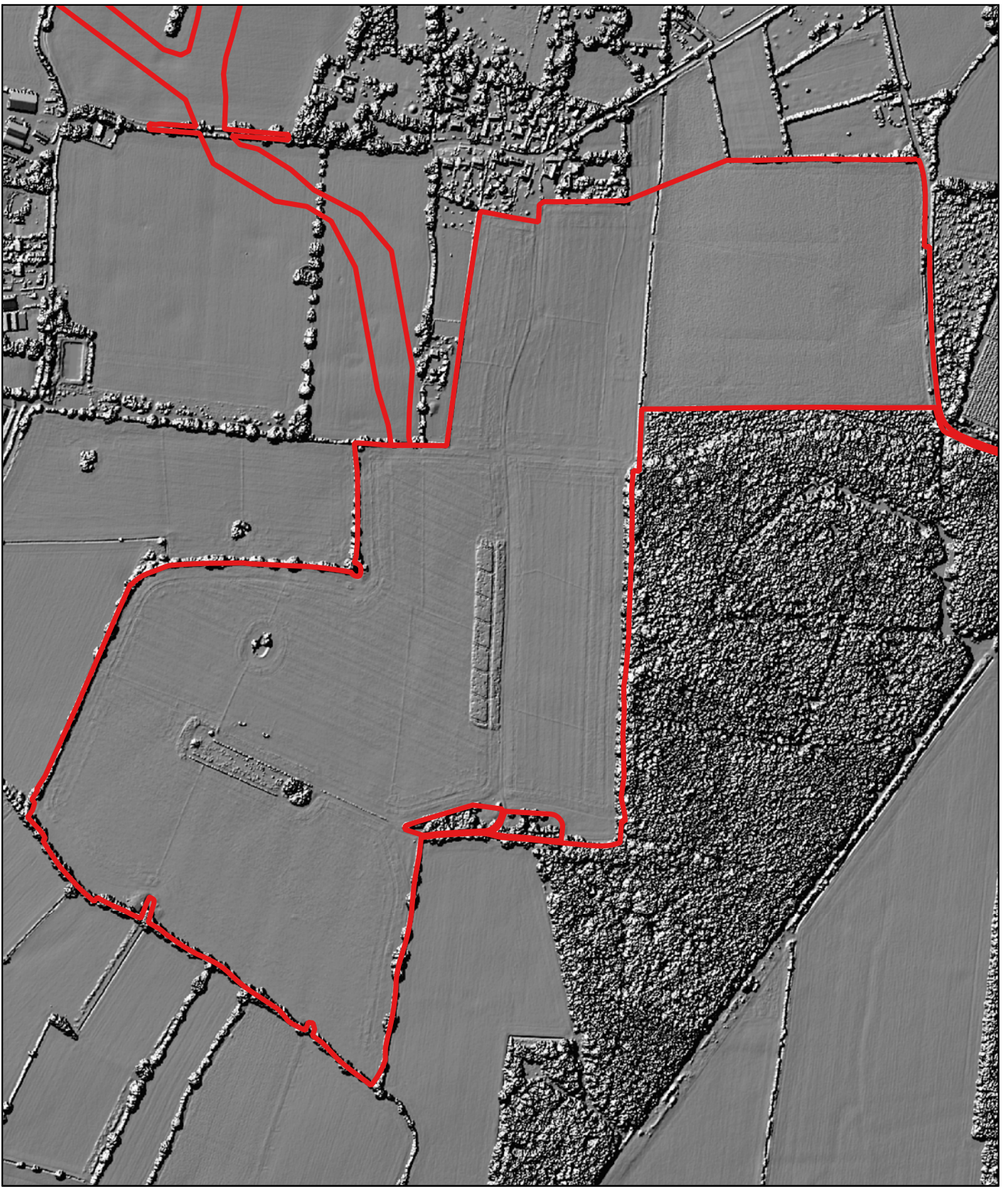


Figure 16. Site 3 Order Limits showing LiDAR 1M DSM



Key

 Order Limits








Figure 18. Site 3 Order Limits showing historic hedgerows and parish boundaries



Key

-  Order Limits
-  Important Hedgerows
-  Norfolk Parish Boundaries

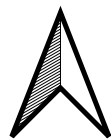
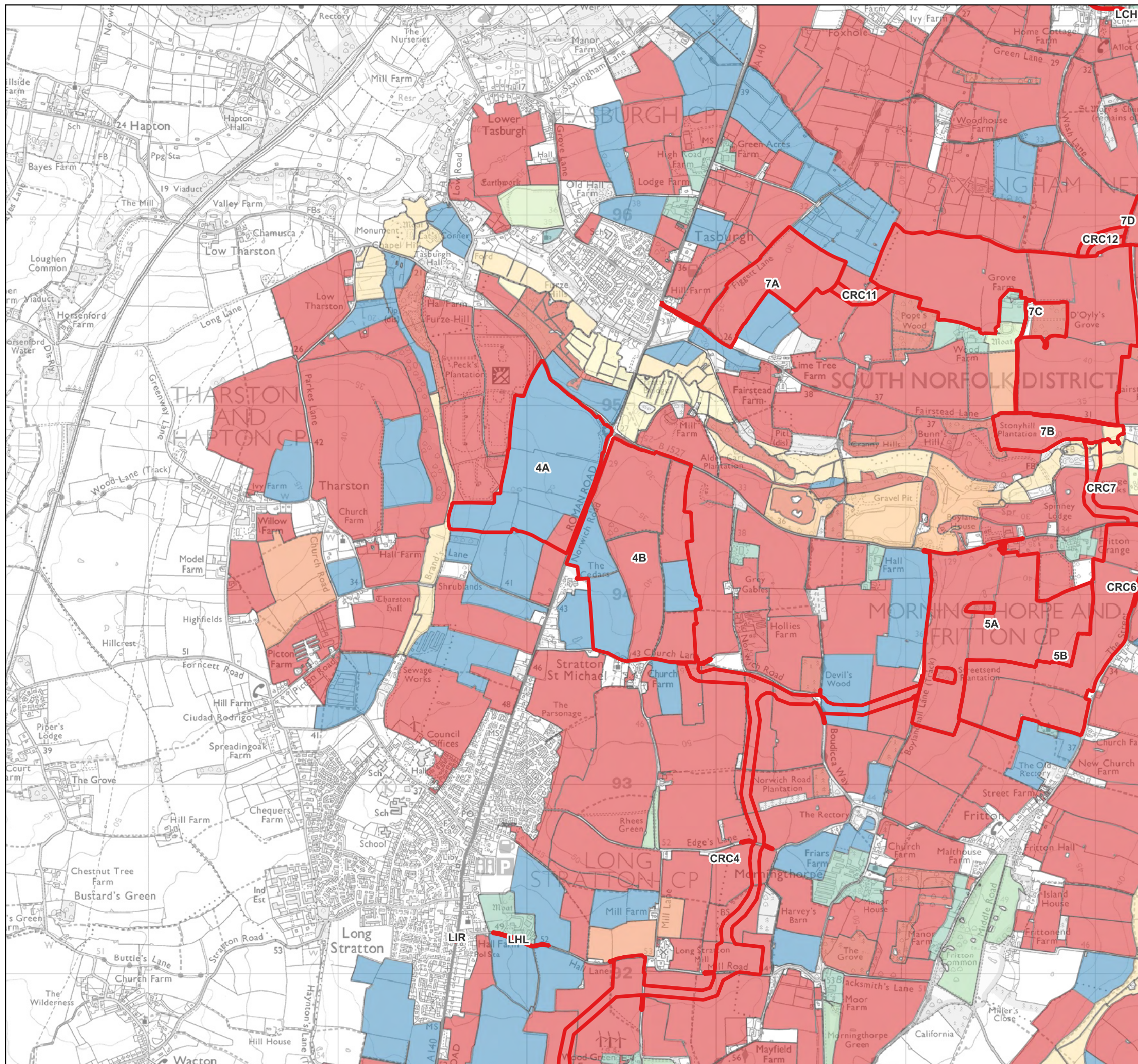


Figure 23. Site 4 Order Limits showing LiDAR 1M DSM

Key

 Order Limits

GHC ARCHAEOLOGY
& HERITAGE



Key

Order Limits

HLC Descriptions

- 20th century agriculture
- 18th-19th century enclosure
- Built up areas - historic
- Built up areas - modern
- Commons, wastes, heaths
- Communications
- Historic earthwork
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Inland - drained enclosure
- Inland - managed wetland
- Military
- Mineral
- Parks, gardens, recreation
- Pre-18th century enclosure
- Water features
- Woodland



0 0.5 1 km

Figure 24. Site 4 Order Limits showing Historic Landscape Characterisation

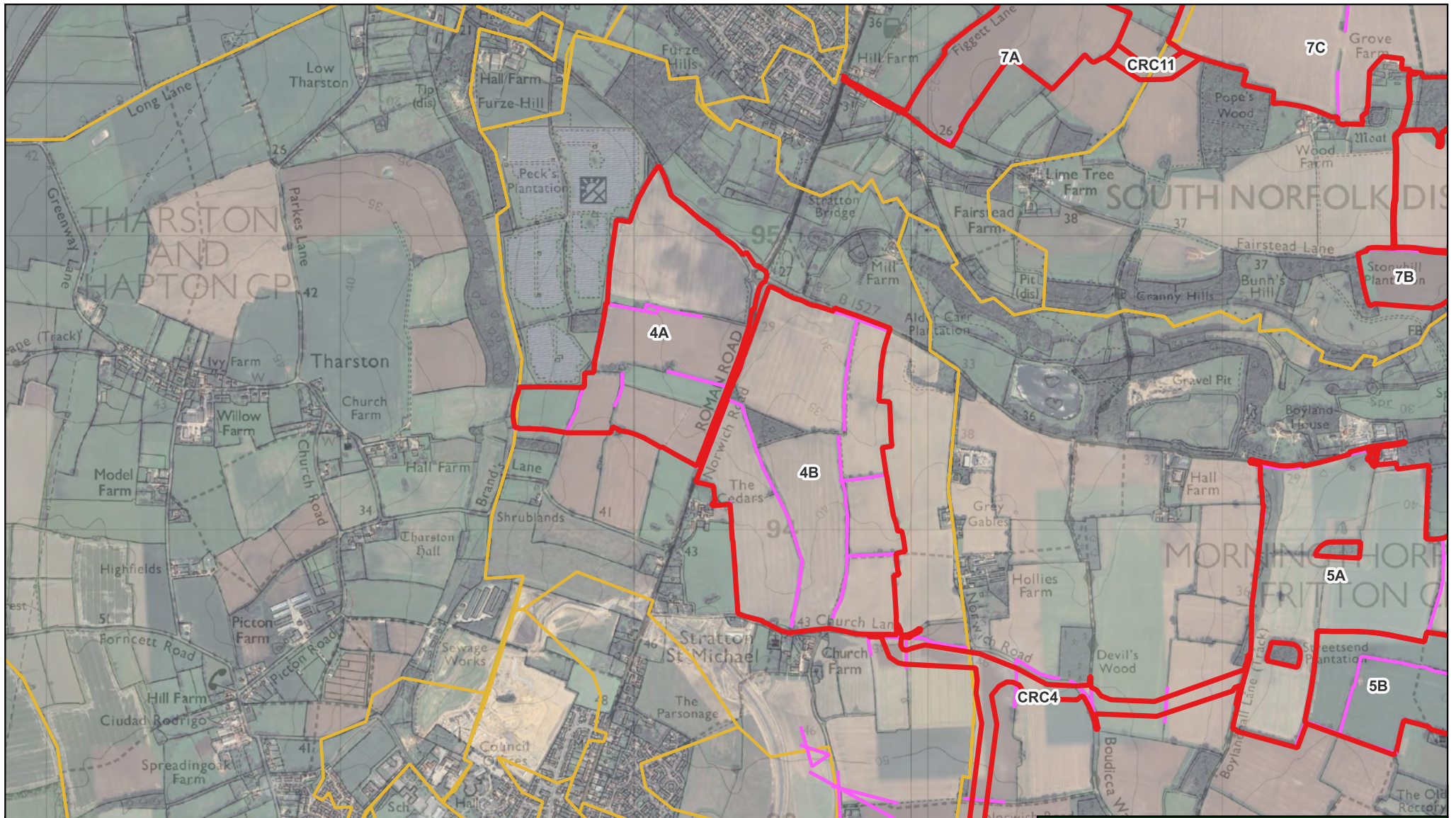


Figure 25. Site 4 Order Limits showing historic hedgerows and parish boundaries

Key

- ▭ Order Limits
- ▭ Important Hedgerows
- ▭ Norfolk Parish Boundaries



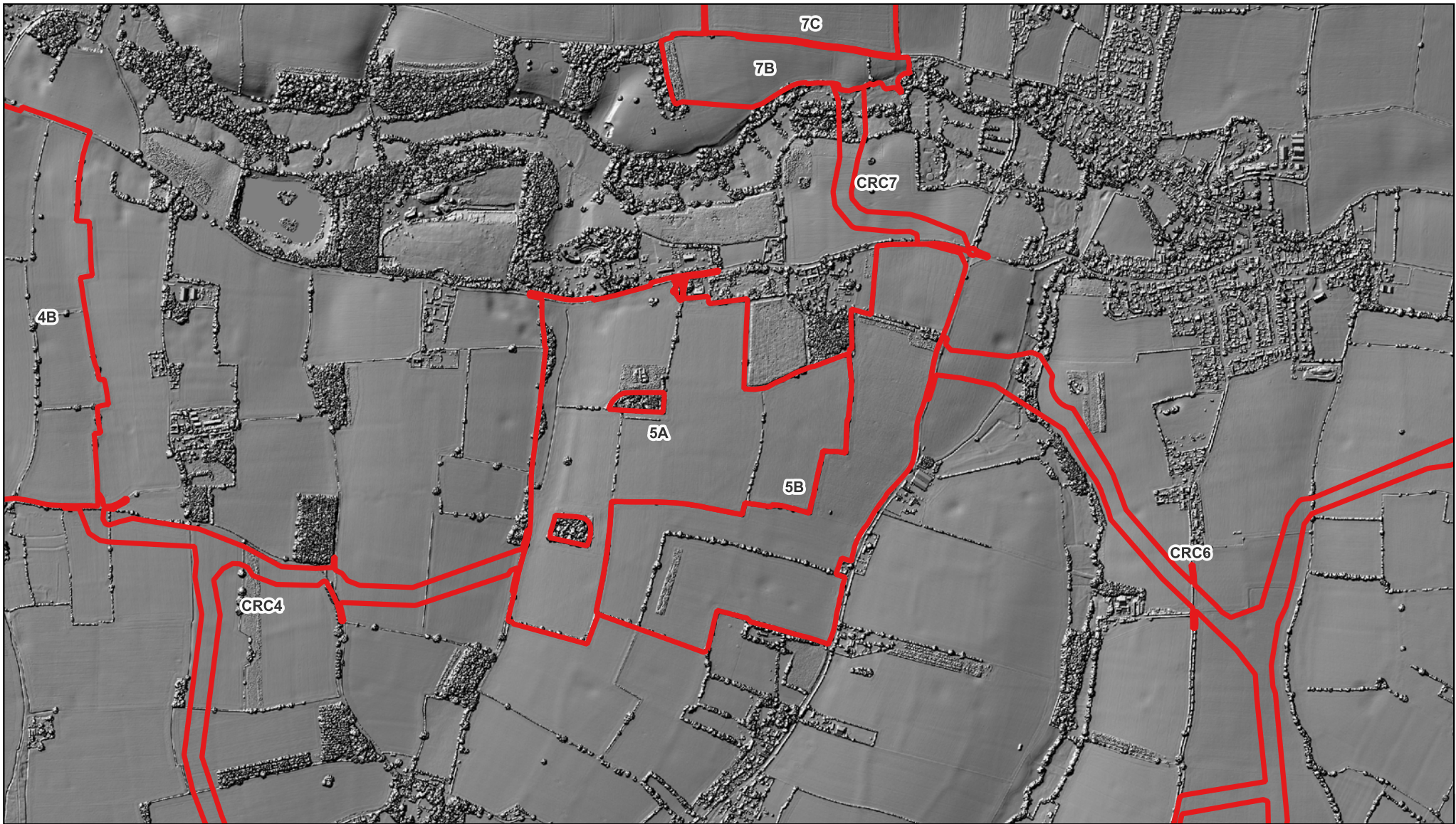
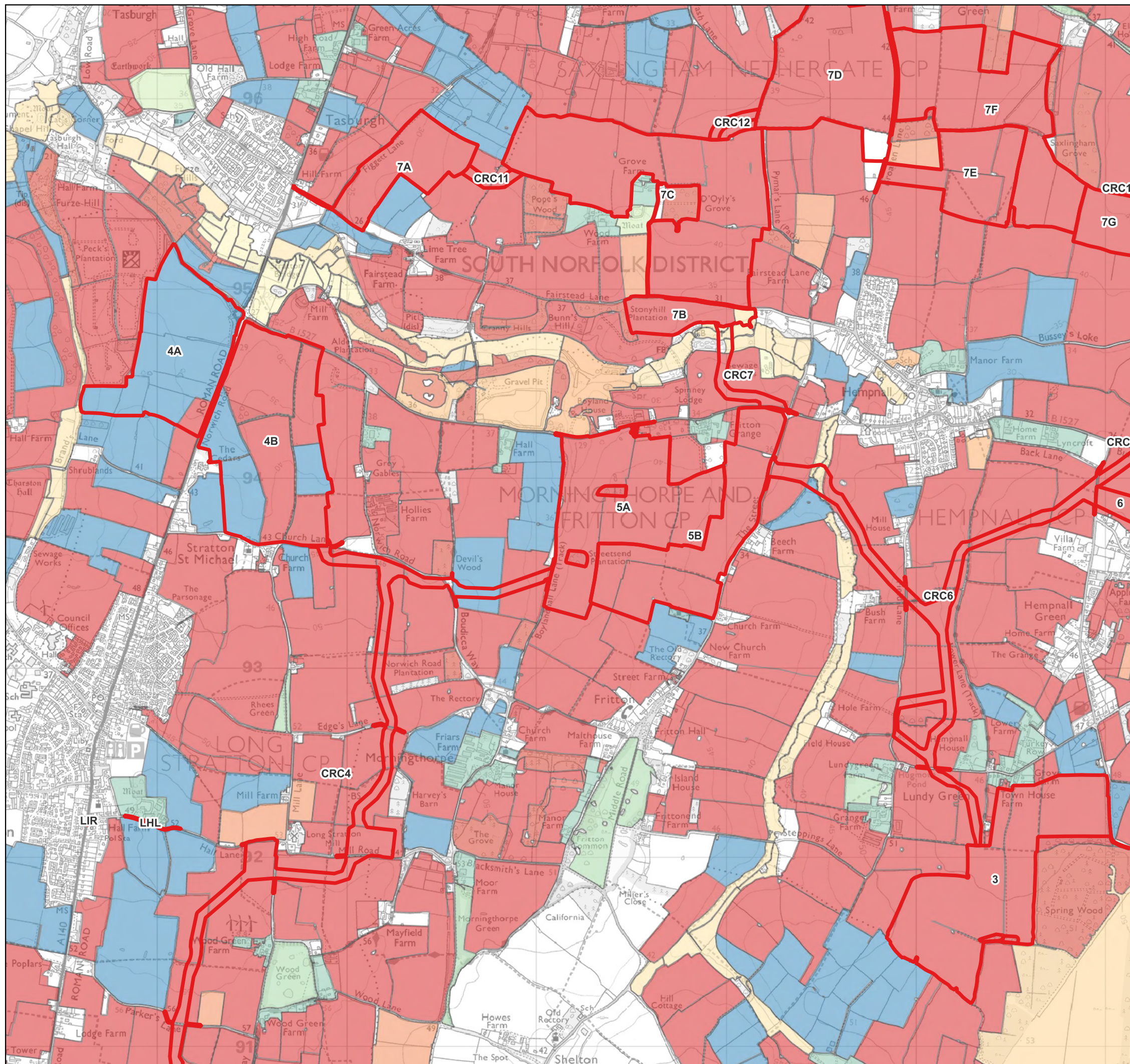


Figure 30. Site 5 Order Limits showing LiDAR 1M DSM

Key

 Order Limits





Key

- Order Limits

HLC Descriptions

- 20th century agriculture
- 18th-19th century enclosure
- Built up areas - historic
- Built up areas - modern
- Commons, wastes, heaths
- Communications
- Historic earthwork
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Inland - drained enclosure
- Inland - managed wetland
- Military
- Mineral
- Parks, gardens, recreation
- Pre-18th century enclosure
- Water features
- Woodland

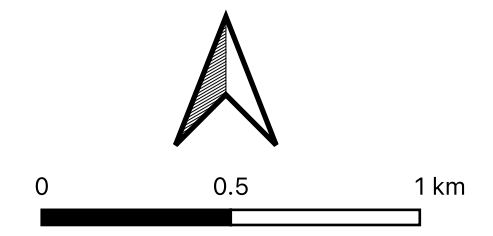


Figure 31. Site 5 Order Limits showing Historic Landscape Characterisation



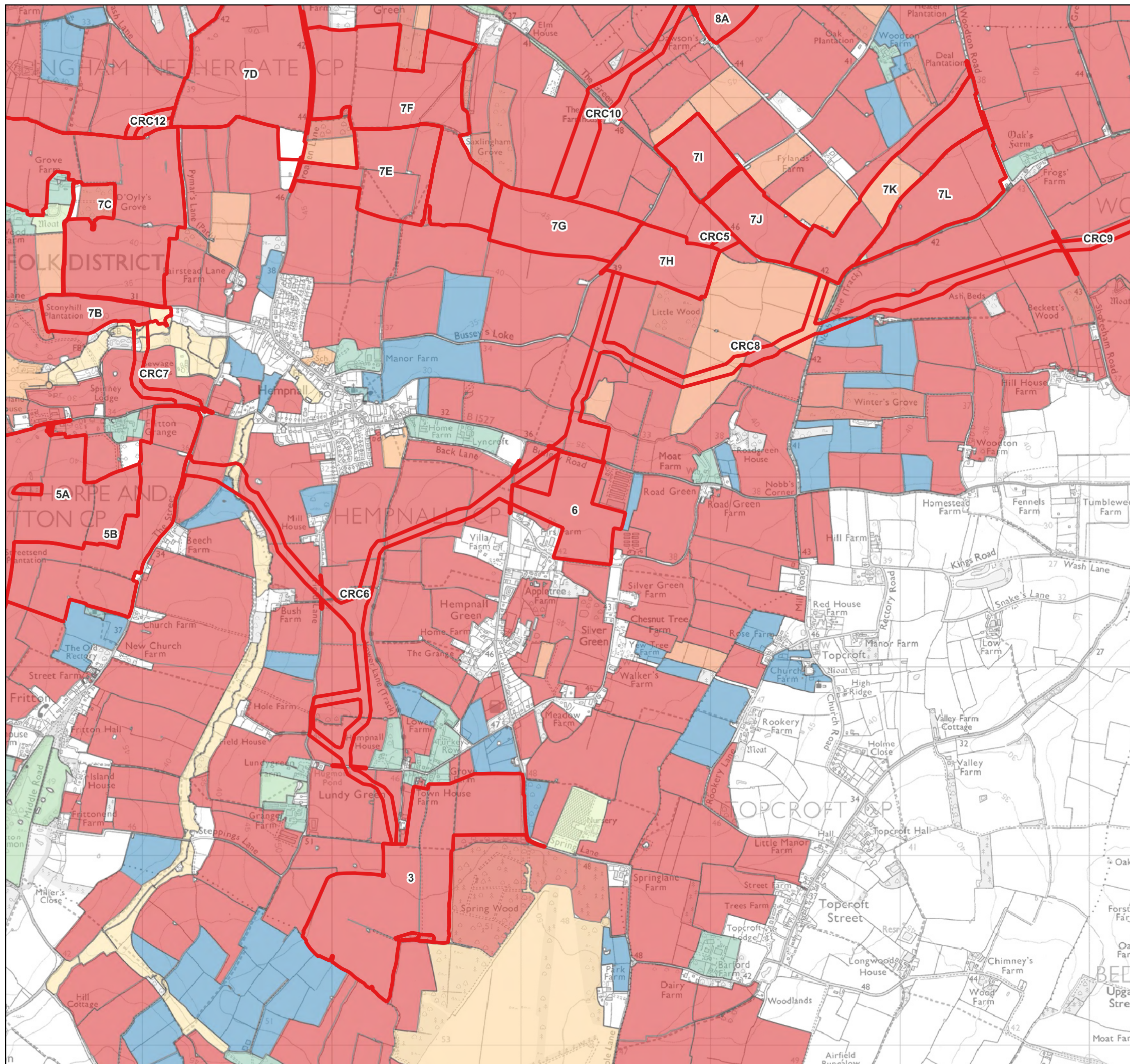
Figure 36. Site 6 Order Limits showing LiDAR 1M DSM



Key

 Order Limits





Key

- Order Limits

HLC Descriptions

- 20th century agriculture
- 18th-19th century enclosure
- Built up areas - historic
- Built up areas - modern
- Commons, wastes, heaths
- Communications
- Historic earthwork
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Inland - drained enclosure
- Inland - managed wetland
- Military
- Mineral
- Parks, gardens, recreation
- Pre-18th century enclosure
- Water features
- Woodland

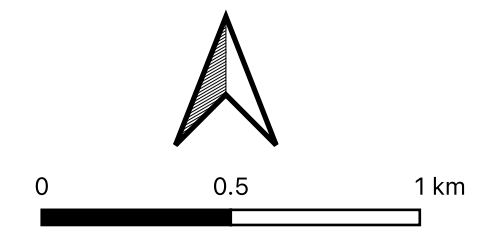


Figure 37. Site 6 Order Limits showing Historic Landscape Characterisation

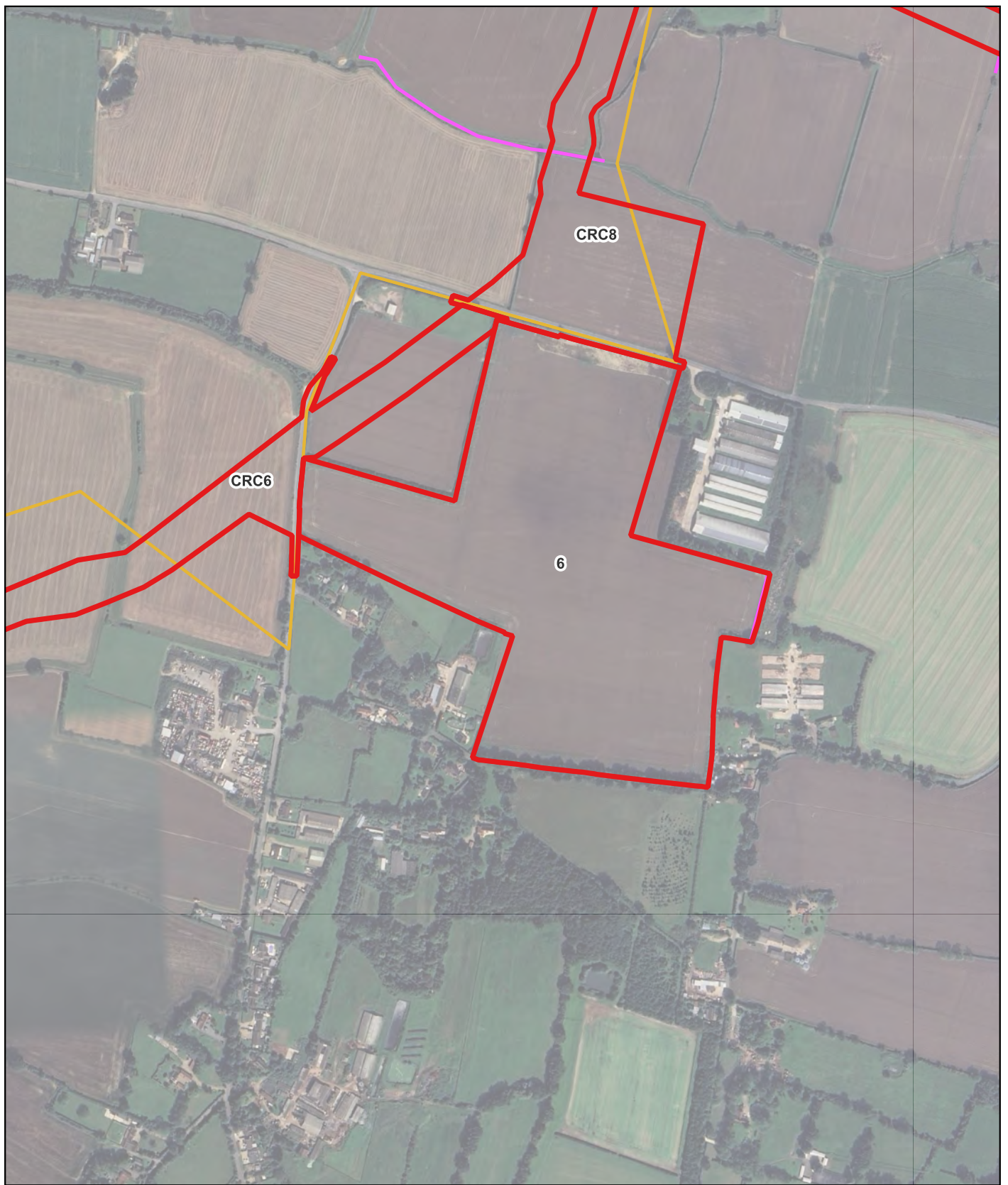


Figure 38. Site 6 Order Limits showing historic hedgerows and parish boundaries

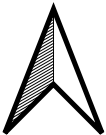

	<p>Key</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Order Limits Final Hedgerows Norfolk Parish Boundaries 	
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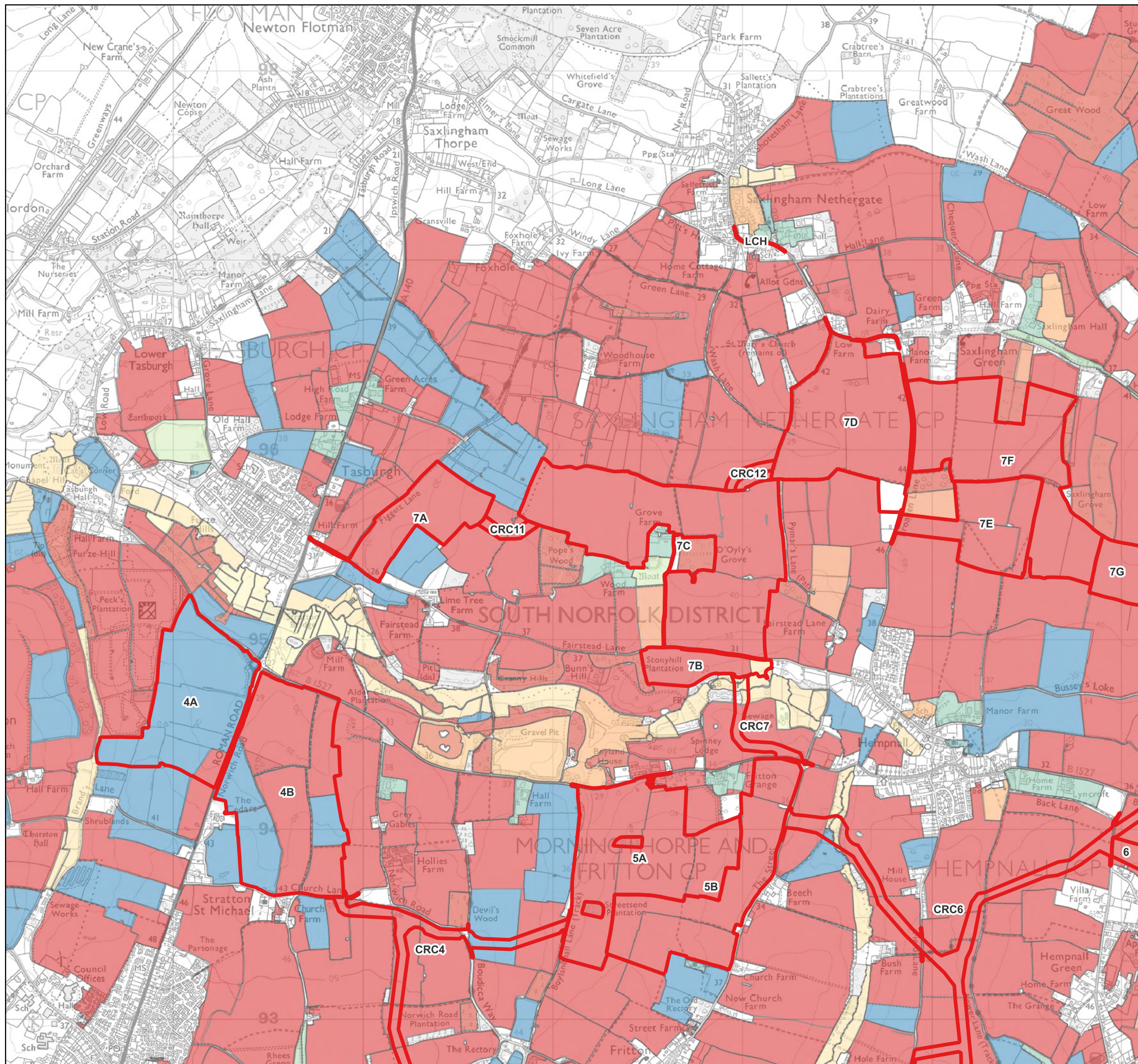


Figure 44. Sub-Sites 7A to 7C Order Limits showing LiDAR 1M DSM

Key

 Order Limits





Key

Order Limits

HLC Descriptions

- 20th century agriculture
- 18th-19th century enclosure
- Built up areas - historic
- Built up areas - modern
- Commons, wastes, heaths
- Communications
- Historic earthwork
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Inland - drained enclosure
- Inland - managed wetland
- Military
- Mineral
- Parks, gardens, recreation
- Pre-18th century enclosure
- Water features
- Woodland



0 0.5 1 km

Figure 45. Sub-Sites 7A to 7C Order Limits showing Historic Landscape Characterisation

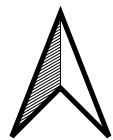
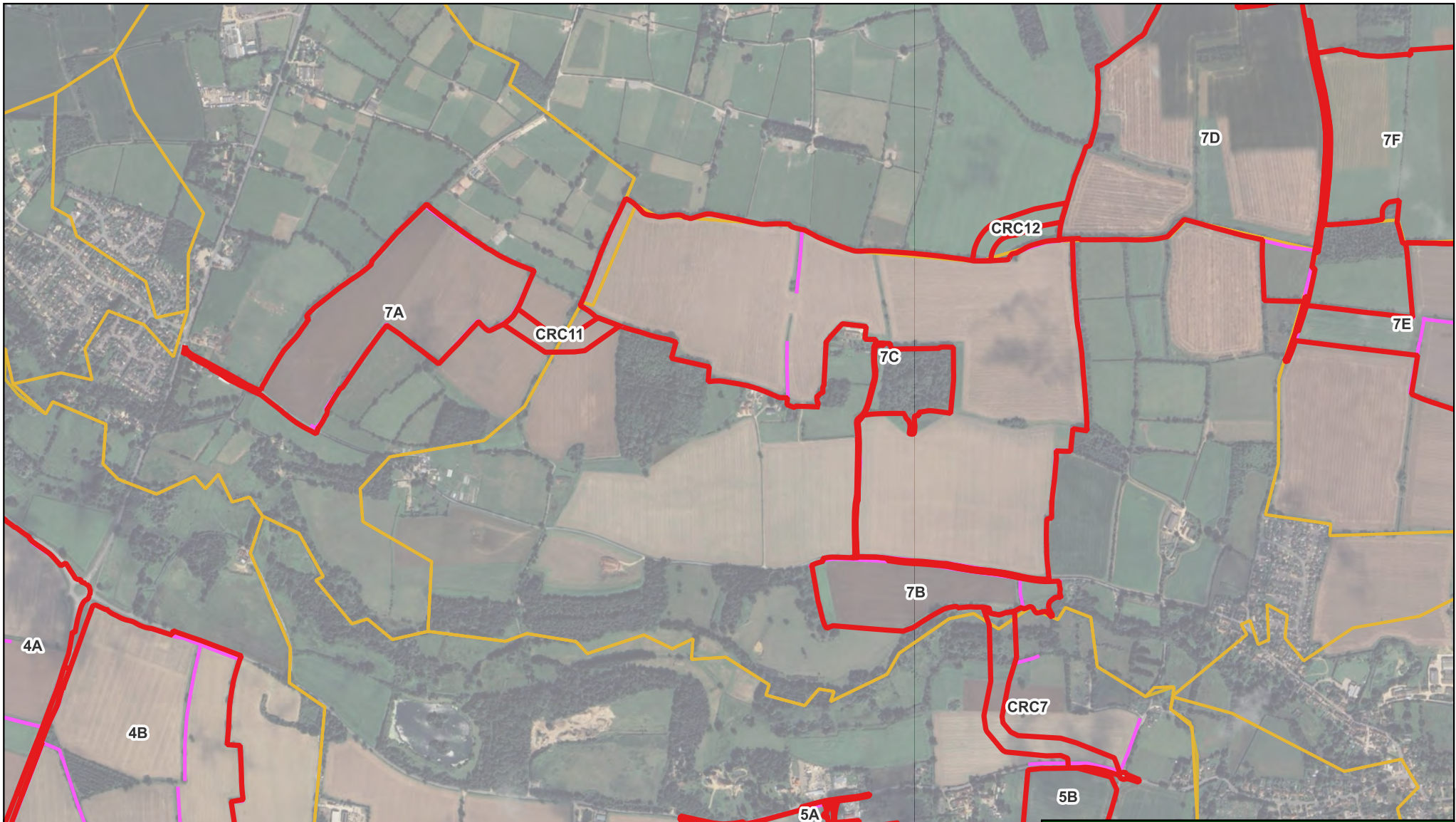


Figure 46. Sub-Sites 7A to 7C Order Limits showing historic hedgerows and parish boundaries

Key

- Order Limits
- Important Hedgerows
- Norfolk Parish Boundaries



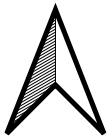
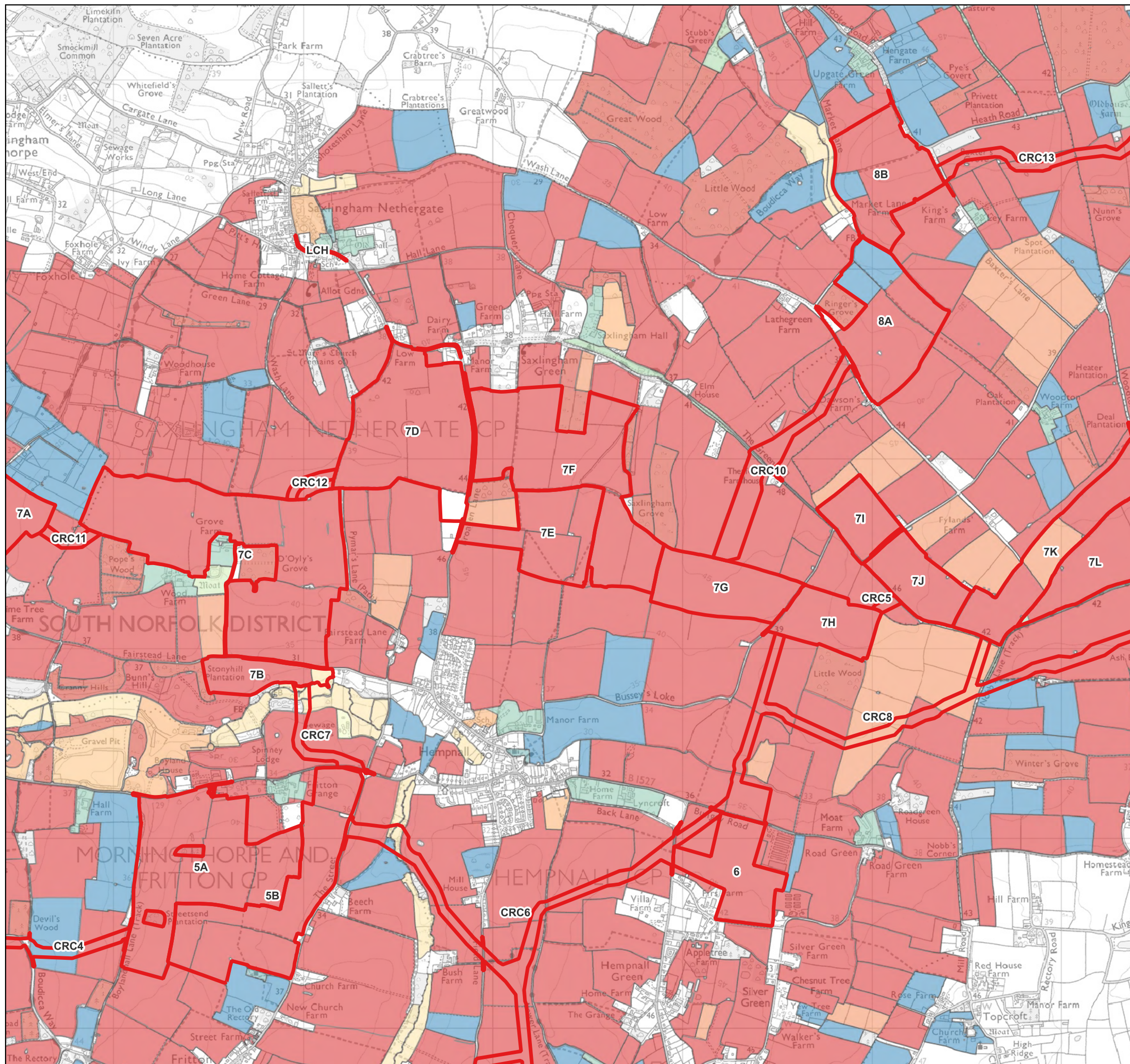


Figure 53. Sub-Sites 7D to 7H Order Limits showing LiDAR 1M DSM

Key

 Order Limits





Key

- Order Limits

HLC Descriptions

- 20th century agriculture
- 18th-19th century enclosure
- Built up areas - historic
- Built up areas - modern
- Commons, wastes, heaths
- Communications
- Historic earthwork
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Inland - drained enclosure
- Inland - managed wetland
- Military
- Mineral
- Parks, gardens, recreation
- Pre-18th century enclosure
- Water features
- Woodland

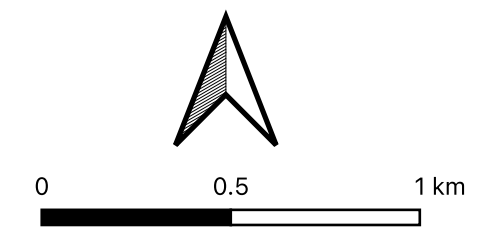


Figure 54. Sub-Sites 7D to 7H Order Limits showing Historic Landscape Characterisation

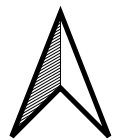
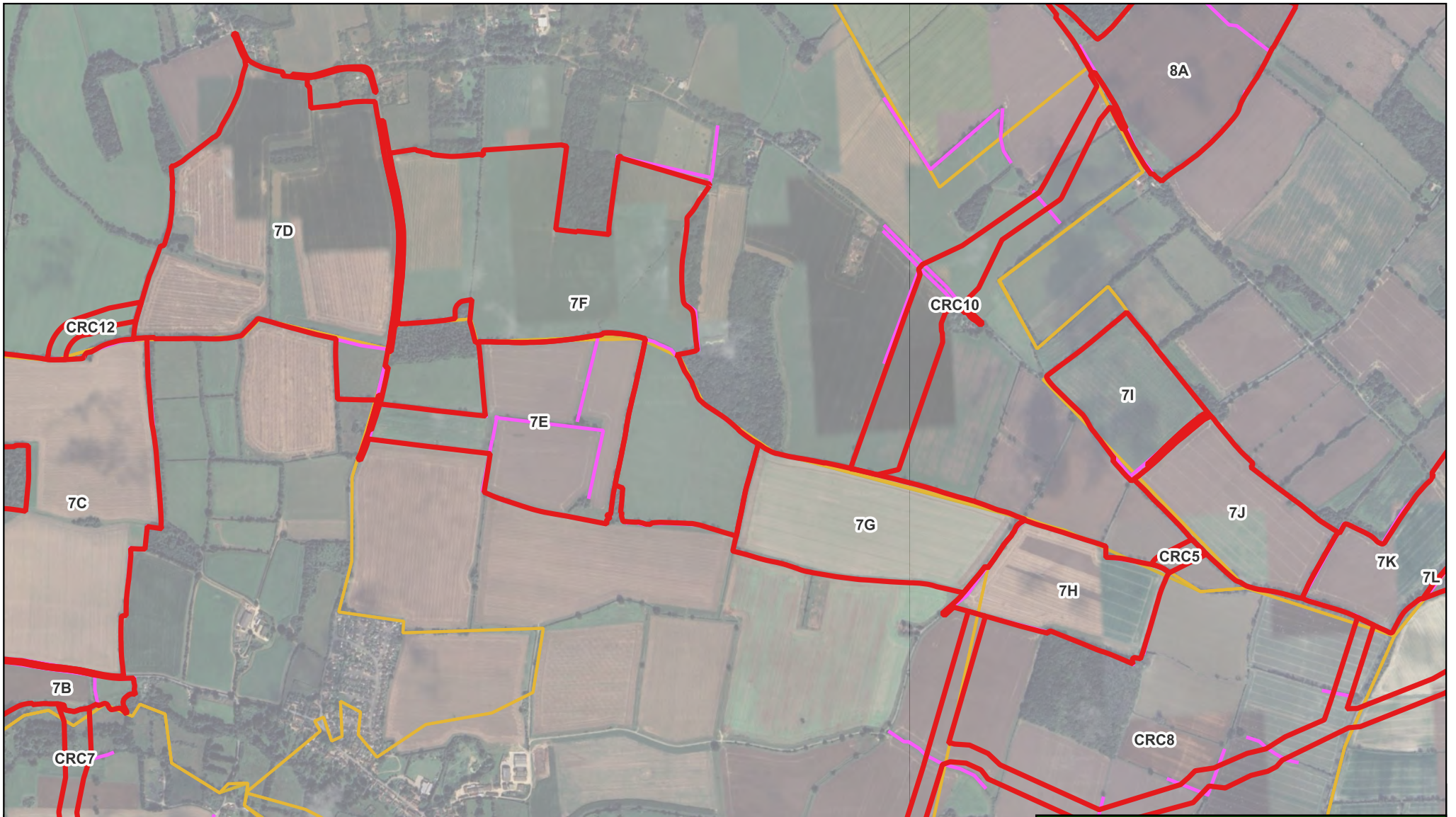


Figure 55. Sub-Sites 7D to 7H Order Limit showing historic hedgerows and parish boundaries

Key

- █ Order Limits
- █ Important Hedgerows
- █ Norfolk Parish Boundaries



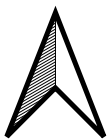
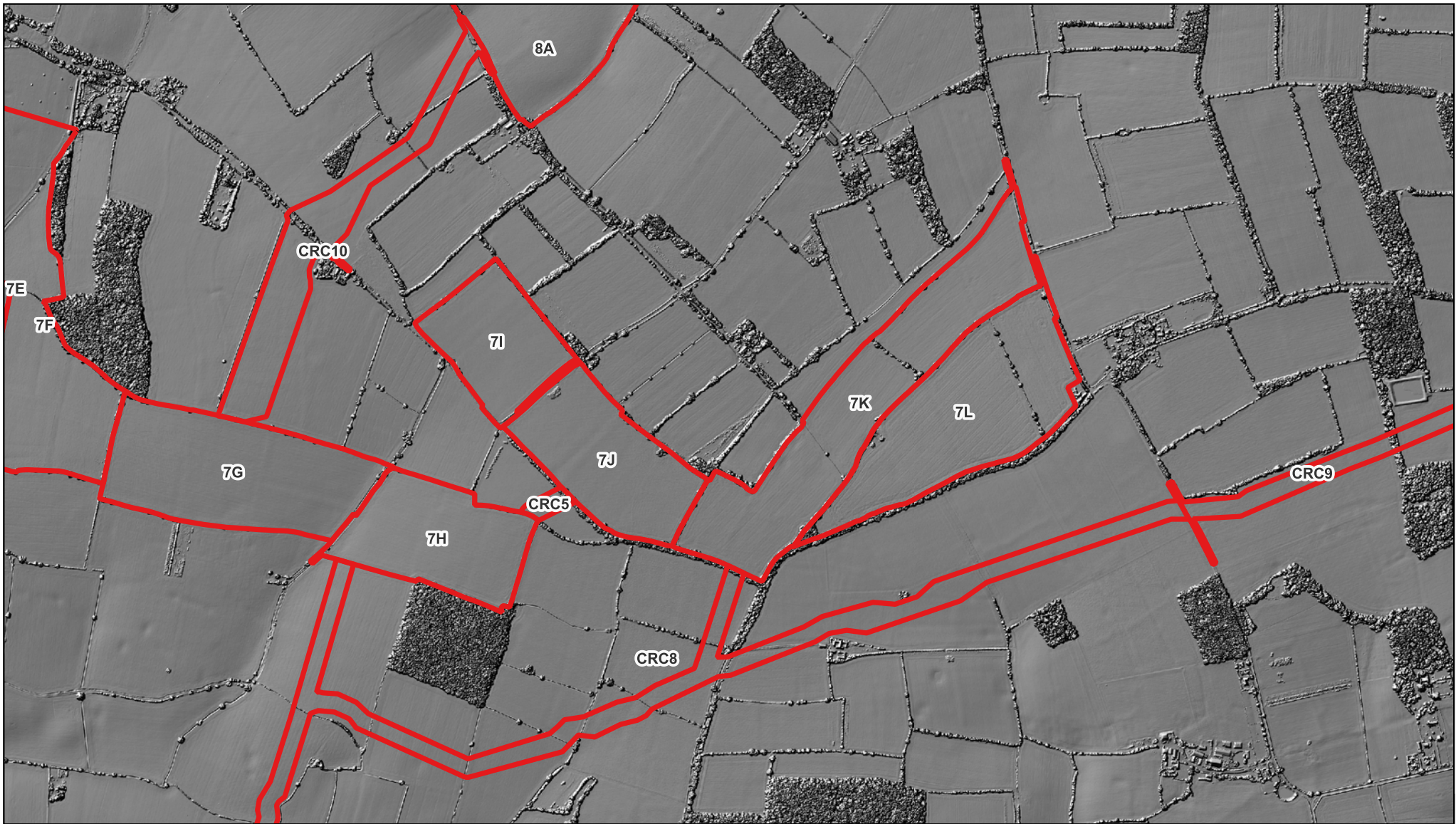
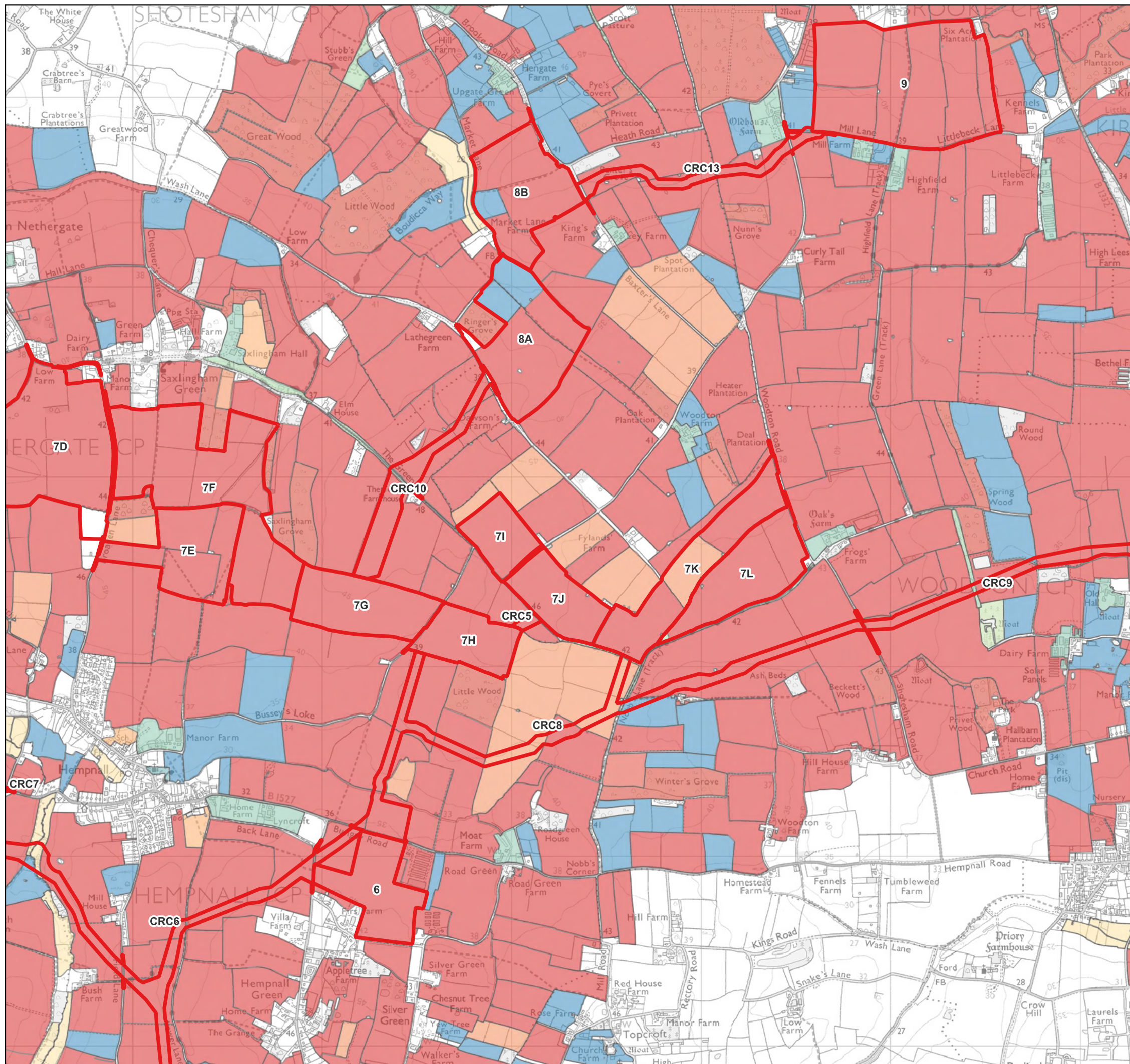


Figure 59. Sub-Sites 7I to 7L Order Limits showing LiDAR 1M DSM

Key

 Order Limits





Key

Order Limits

HLC Descriptions

- 20th century agriculture
- 18th-19th century enclosure
- Built up areas - historic
- Built up areas - modern
- Commons, wastes, heaths
- Communications
- Historic earthwork
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Inland - drained enclosure
- Inland - managed wetland
- Military
- Mineral
- Parks, gardens, recreation
- Pre-18th century enclosure
- Water features
- Woodland

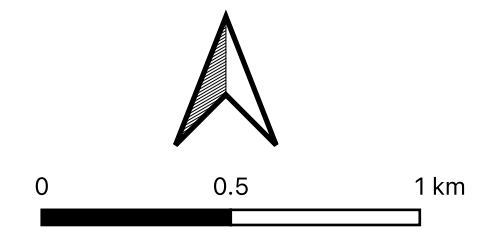


Figure 60. Sub-Sites 71 to 7L Order Limits showing Historic Landscape Characterisation

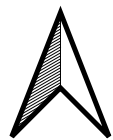
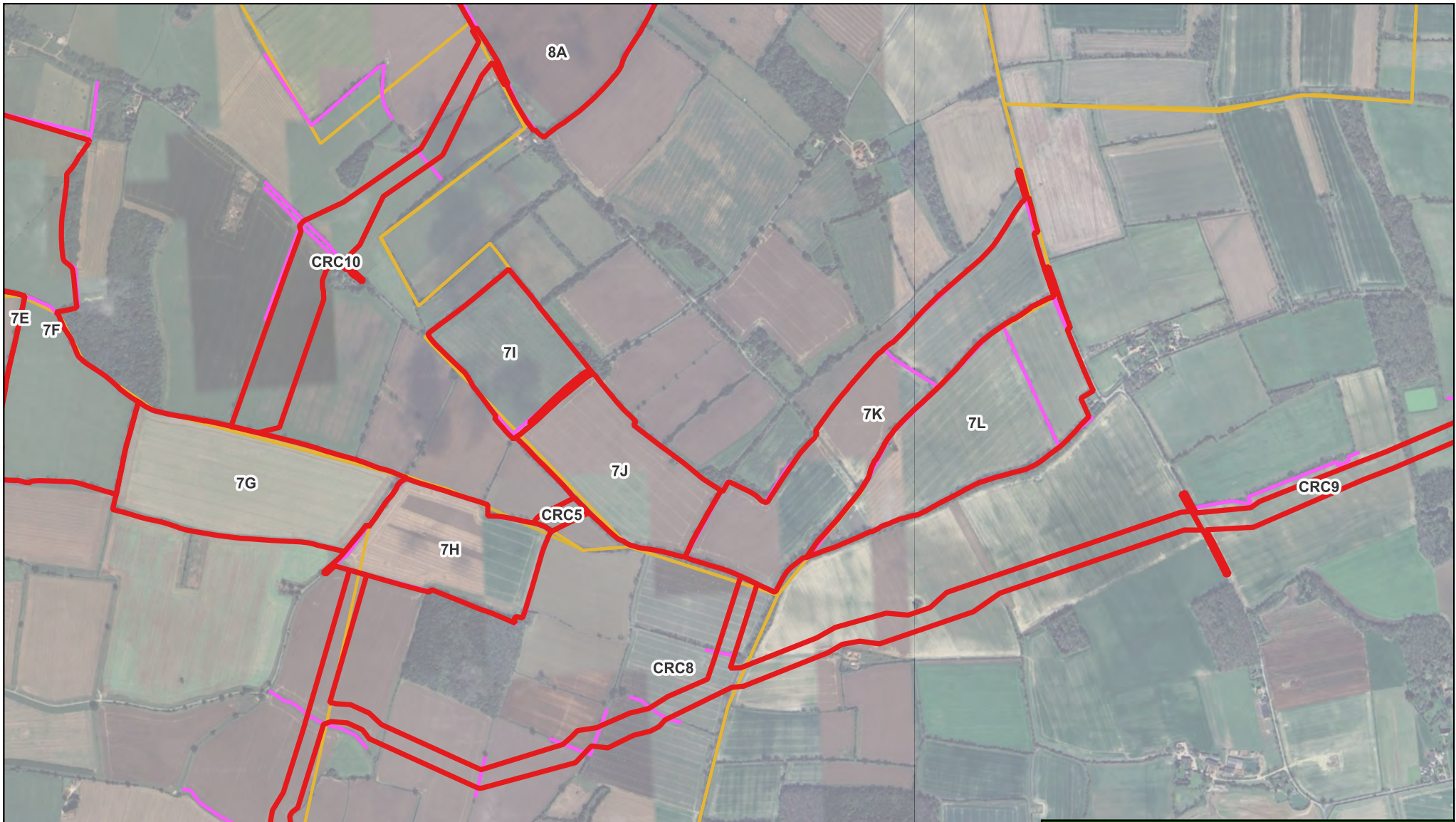


Figure 61. Sub-Sites 7I to 7L Order Limit showing historic hedgerows and parish boundaries

Key




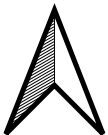
-  Order Limits
-  Important Hedgerows
-  Norfolk Parish Boundaries



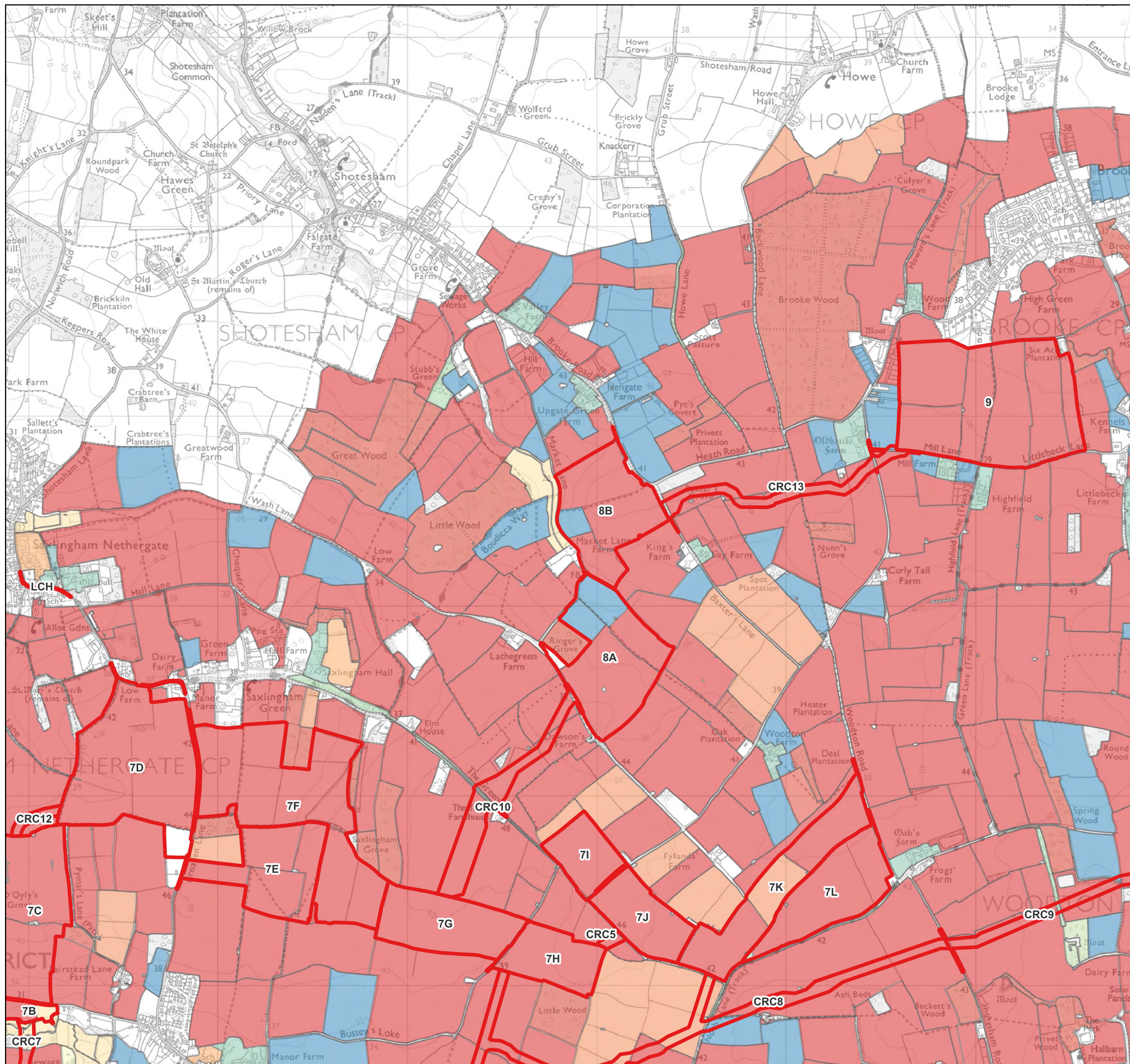
Figure 64. Site 8 Order Limits showing LiDAR 1M DSM



Key

 Order Limits





Key

Order Limits

HLC Descriptions

- 20th century agriculture
- 18th-19th century enclosure
- Built up areas - historic
- Built up areas - modern
- Commons, wastes, heaths
- Communications
- Historic earthwork
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Inland - drained enclosure
- Inland - managed wetland
- Military
- Mineral
- Parks, gardens, recreation
- Pre-18th century enclosure
- Water features
- Woodland



0 0.5 1 km

Figure 65. Site 8 Order Limits showing Historic Landscape Characterisation

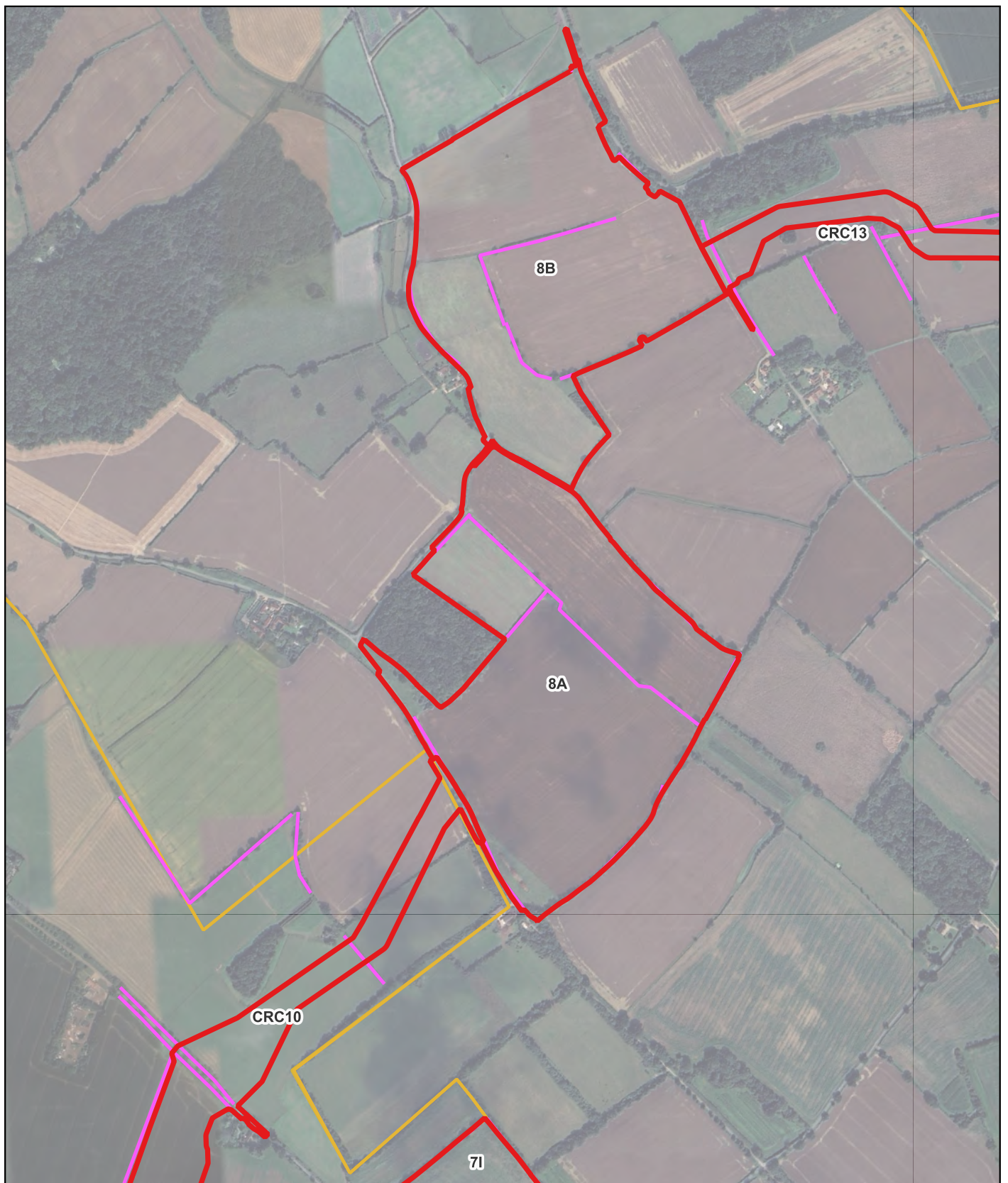
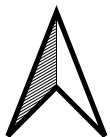


Figure 66. Site 8 Order Limit showing historic hedgerows and parish boundaries



Key

- ▭ Order Limits
- ▭ Final Hedgerows
- ▭ Norfolk Parish Boundaries



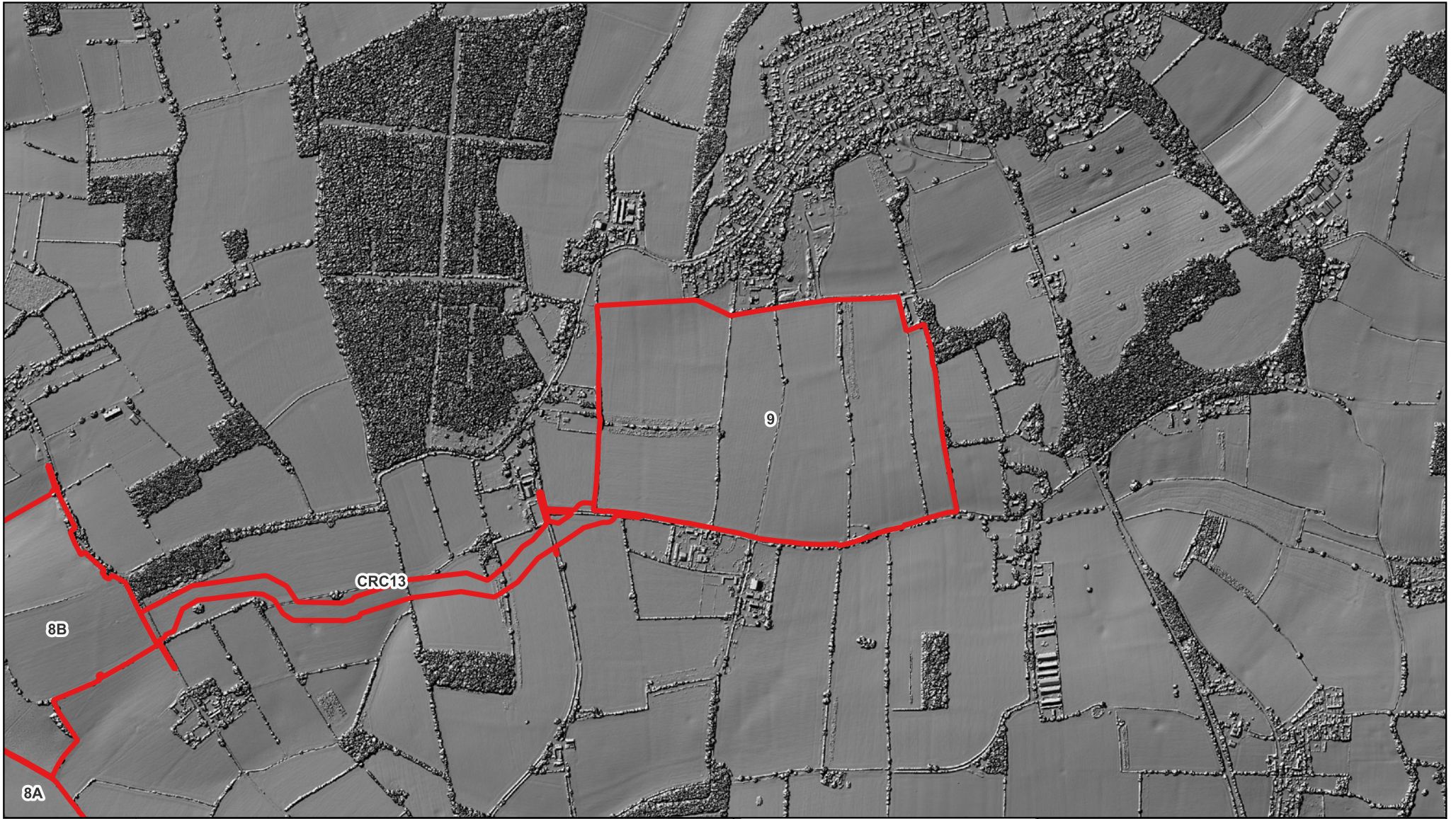
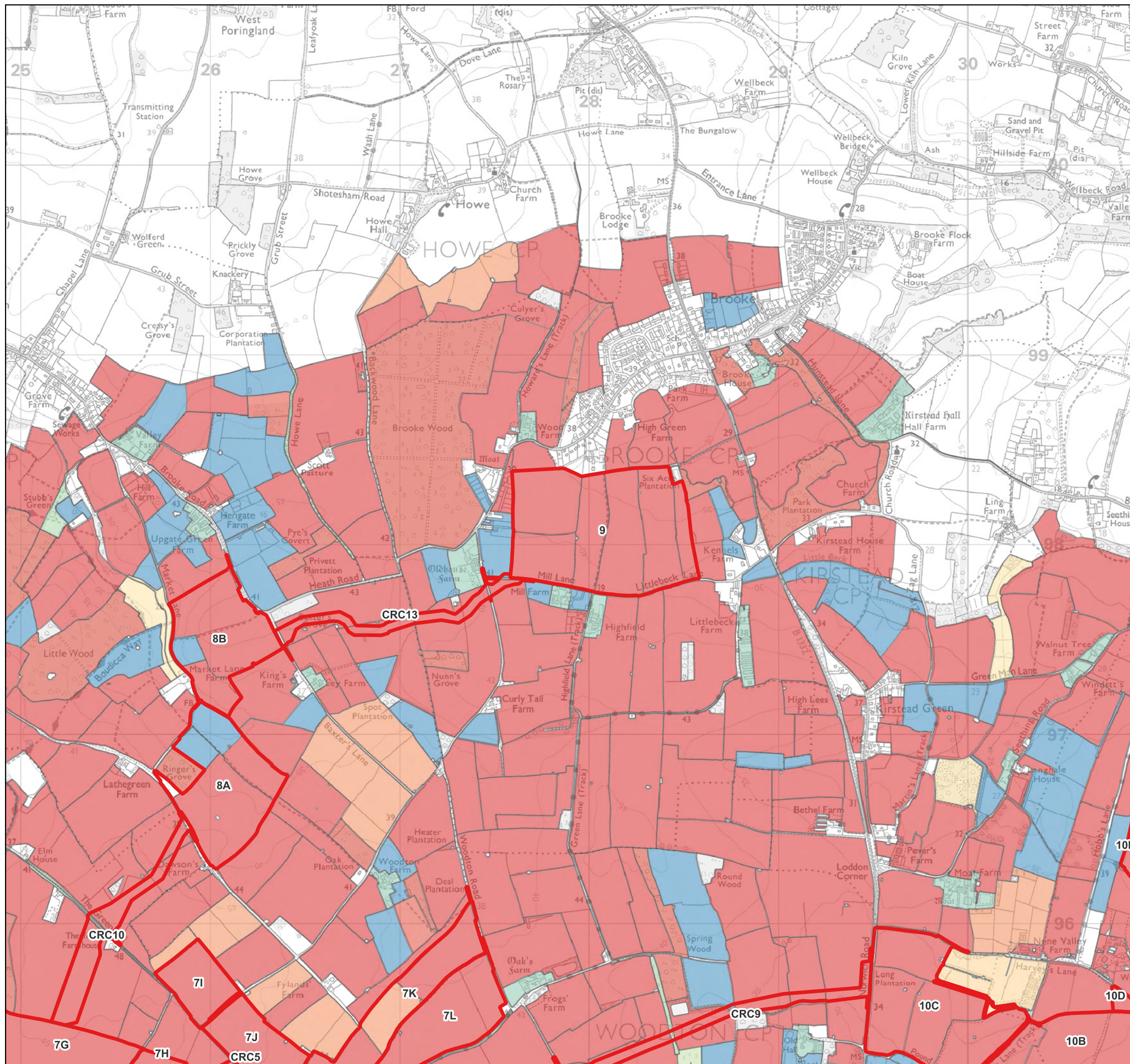


Figure 71. Site 9 Order Limits showing LiDAR 1M DSM

Key

 Order Limits





Key

- Order Limits

HLC Descriptions

- 20th century agriculture
- 18th-19th century enclosure
- Built up areas - historic
- Built up areas - modern
- Commons, wastes, heaths
- Communications
- Historic earthwork
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Inland - drained enclosure
- Inland - managed wetland
- Military
- Mineral
- Parks, gardens, recreation
- Pre-18th century enclosure
- Water features
- Woodland

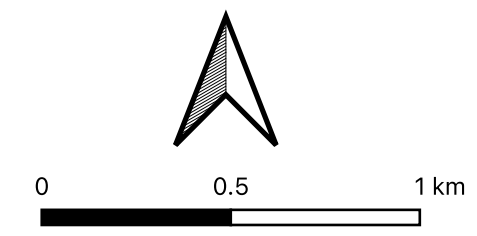


Figure 72. Site 9 Order Limits showing Historic Landscape Characterisation

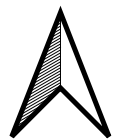
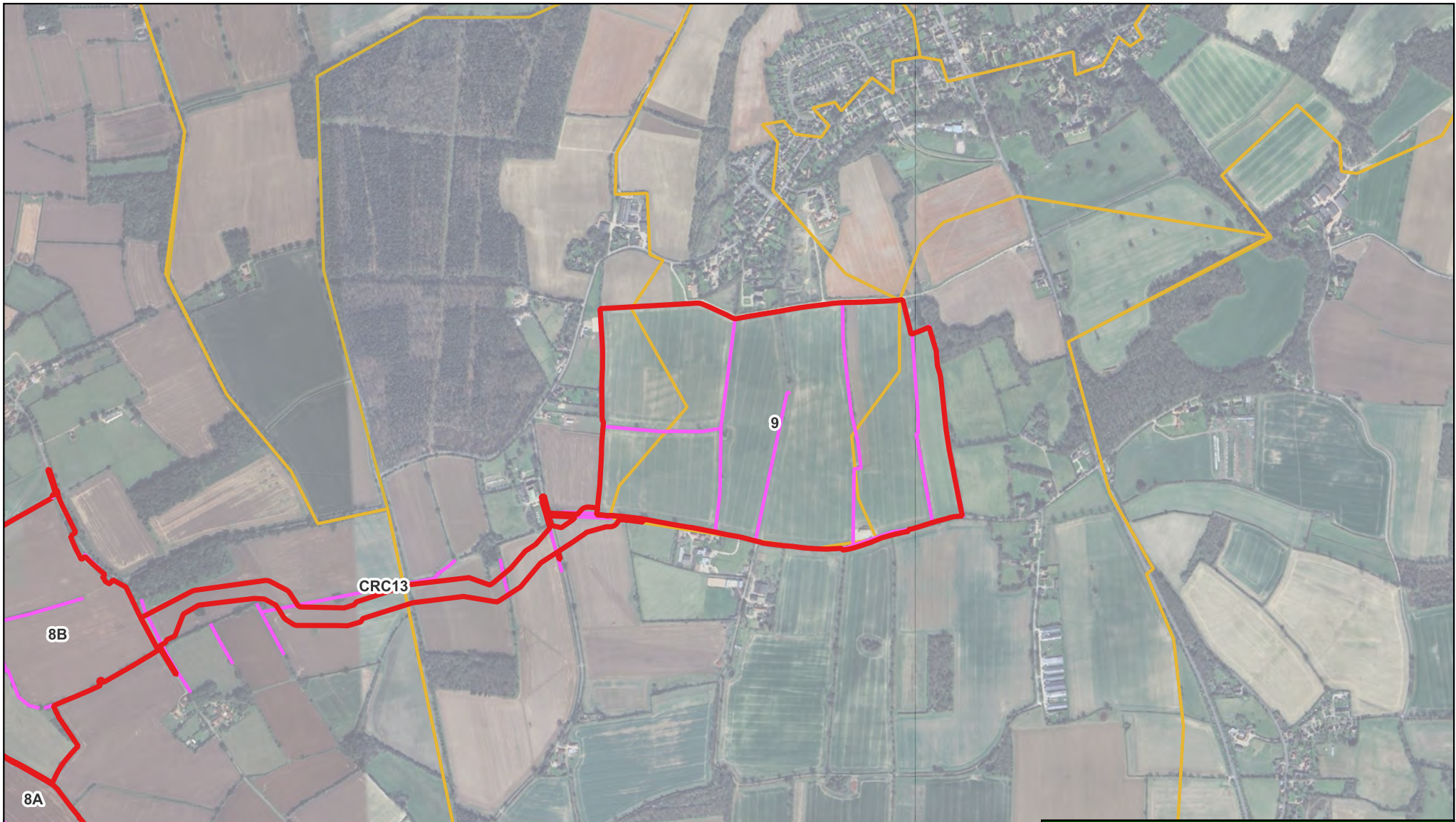





Figure 73. Site 9 Order Limit showing historic hedgerows and parish boundaries

Key

-  Order Limits
-  Important Hedgerows
-  Norfolk Parish Boundaries



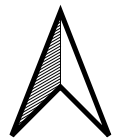
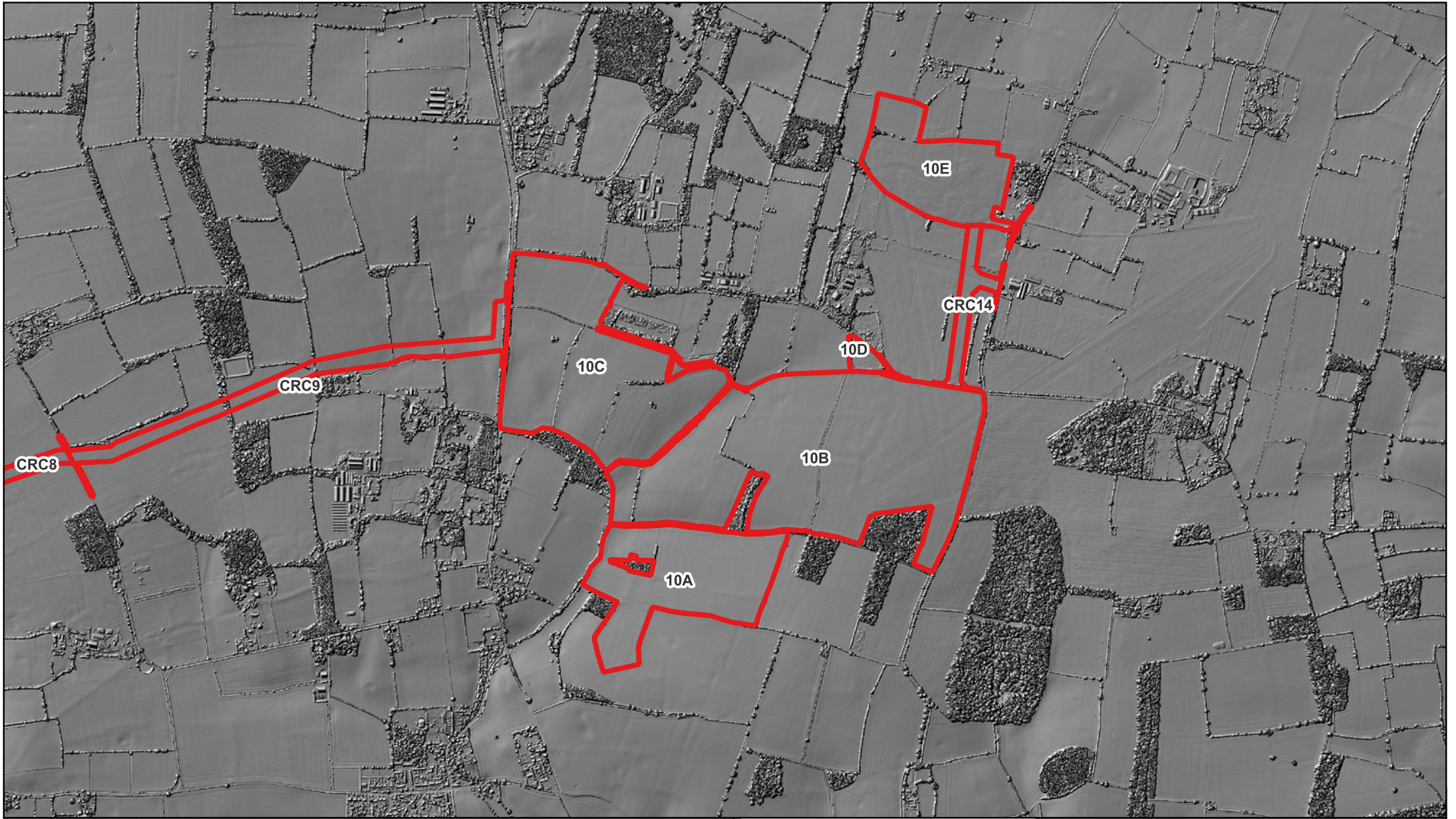
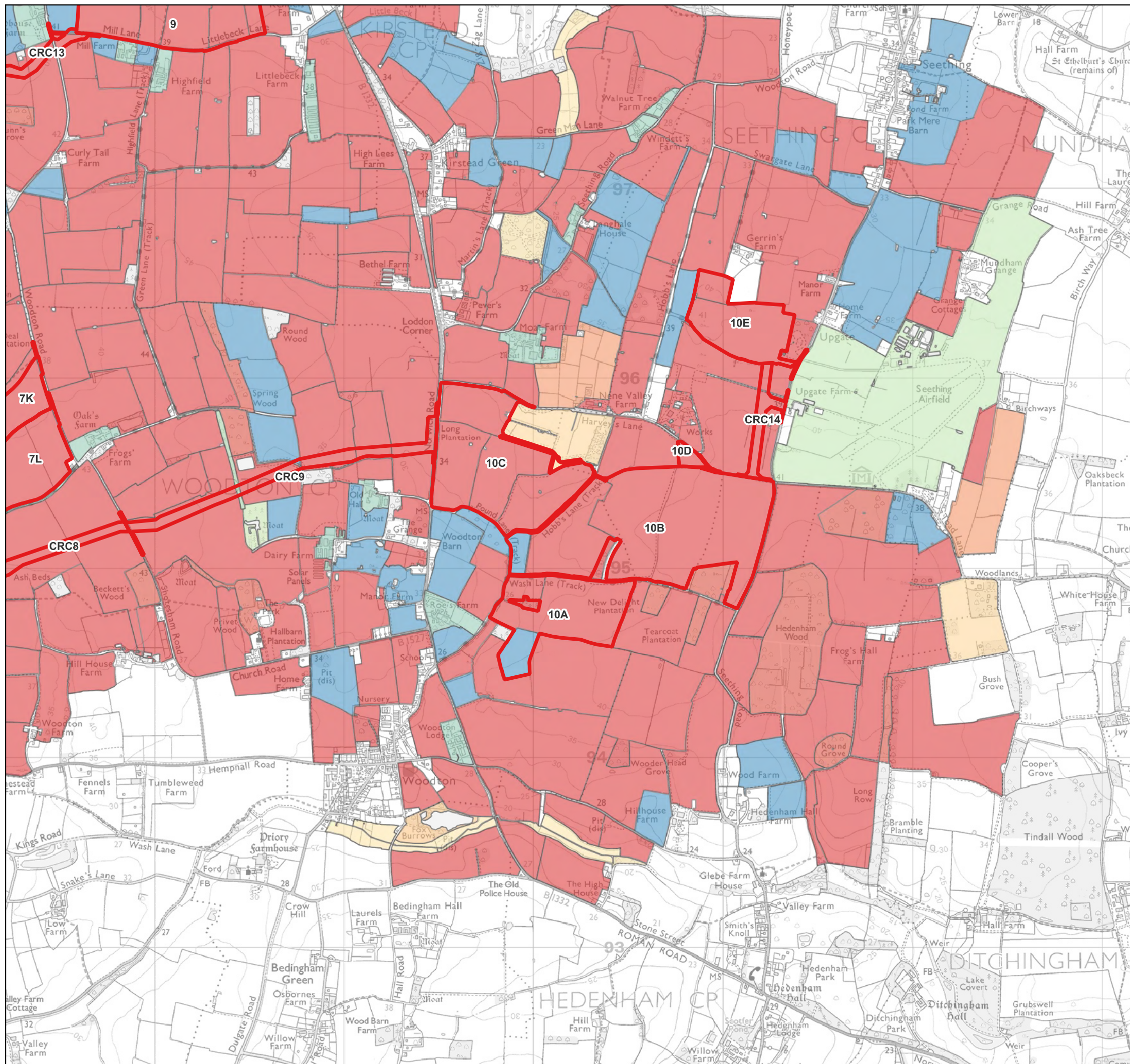


Figure 80. Site 10 Order Limits showing LiDAR 1M DSM

Key

 Order Limits





Key

- Order Limits
- HLC Descriptions**
- 20th century agriculture
- 18th-19th century enclosure
- Built up areas - historic
- Built up areas - modern
- Commons, wastes, heaths
- Communications
- Historic earthwork
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Inland - drained enclosure
- Inland - managed wetland
- Military
- Mineral
- Parks, gardens, recreation
- Pre-18th century enclosure
- Water features
- Woodland



0 0.5 1 km

Figure 81. Site 10 Order Limits showing Historic Landscape Characterisation

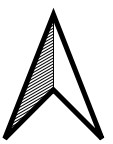
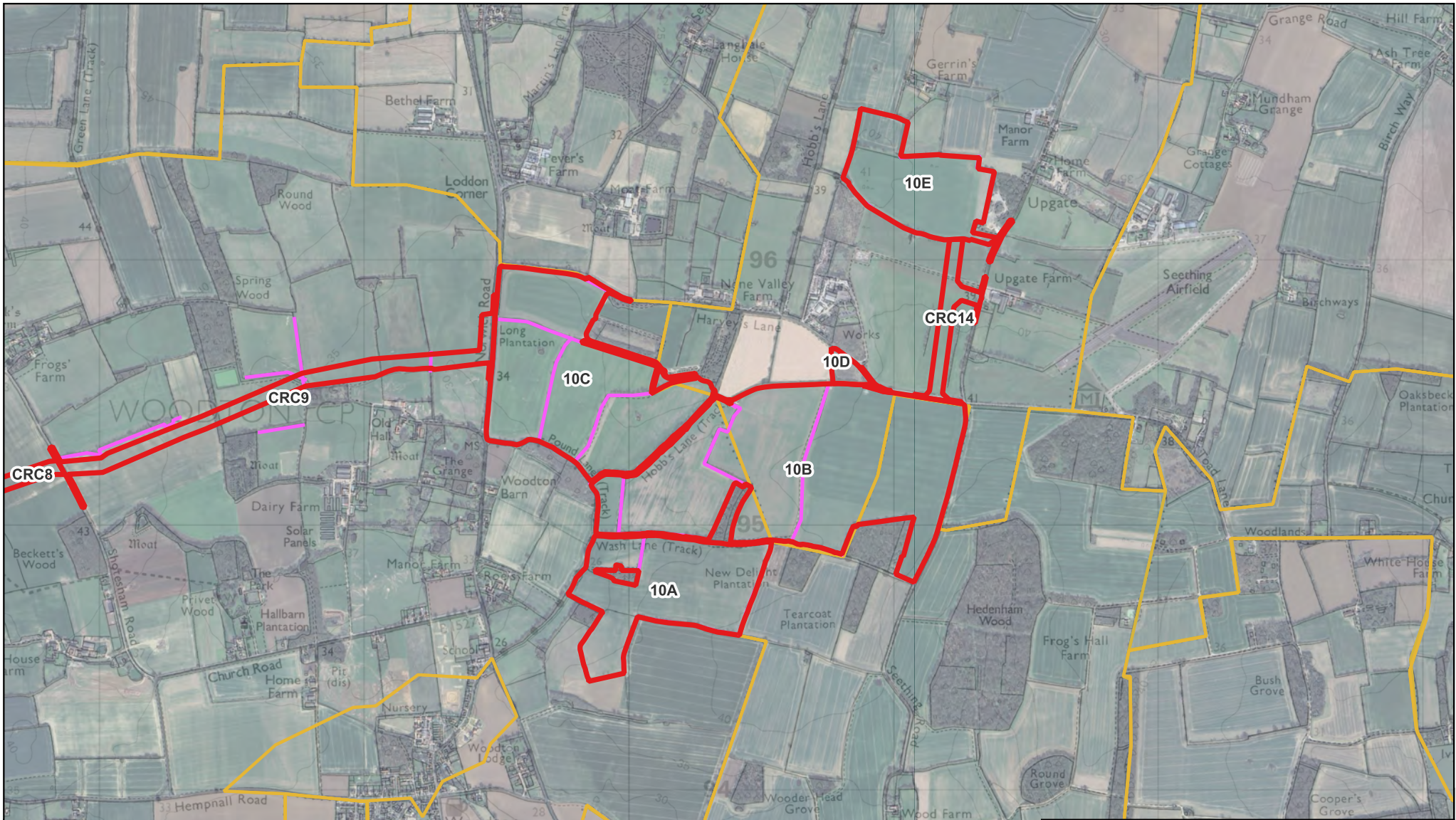


Figure 82. Site 10 Order Limit showing historic hedgerows and parish boundaries

- Key
- ▭ Order Limits
 - ▭ Important Hedgerows
 - ▭ Norfolk Parish Boundaries

