

**Land adjacent to the A614,
Worksop, Nottinghamshire –**

**Historic Environment
Desk-Based Assessment**

One Planet Developments Ltd

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Ecus Ltd

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Executive Summary

Ecus Ltd was commissioned by One Planet Developments Ltd in February 2024 to prepare an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) to inform a planning application for a proposed solar farm at land adjacent to the A614, Worksop in Nottinghamshire.

The Site is located in a landscape which contains a significant number of cropmarks which although they have not been tested archaeologically are likely to be indicative of Iron Age or Romano-British activity. Cropmarks within the north west of the Site have been interpreted as representing a potential Romano-British settlement. The proposed scheme has sought to avoid harm to these archaeological remains by excluding them from the development footprint.

During the medieval period the Site is likely to have formed part of the royal forest of Sherwood. Historic mapping from the eighteenth century demonstrates that the Site was wooded and was subsequently cleared by the 1830s. The present field system is a result of the agglomeration of smaller fields during the second half of the twentieth century.

Given the low impact of solar farm developments, and due to the proposed development avoiding areas with anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey any further archaeological works are considered to be possible to be secured through a pre-commencement planning condition, the scale and scope of which is recommended to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist. It is considered that the focus of any future work should be informed by the cropmark data and anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.

It is considered that although the Site is within the setting of the Grade I Registered Clumber Park it does not make a meaningful contribution to the heritage significance of the designated heritage asset and as such the Site makes a neutral contribution. It is anticipated that the proposed scheme will be effectively screened from the Registered Park and Garden and its associated Listed Buildings by existing planting along the east and west sides of the A614. The proposals include provision for additional planting along the western and southern boundaries of the Site which will reinforce the existing screening of the Site. The proposed development will have no impact on West Drayton Avenue, which is considered to make a high contribution to the setting of Clumber Park. It is considered that the proposed development will result in no harm to the setting of any designated heritage assets and as such the development accords with the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and is compliant with the NPPF and local planning policy.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Ecus Ltd was commissioned by One Planet Developments Ltd in February 2024 to prepare an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) to inform a planning application for a solar farm and battery energy storage system on land adjacent to the A614, Worksop in Nottinghamshire (hereafter the Site). The Site is centred on National Grid Co-ordinate 465260, 375270 (Figure 1).

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located to the east of Blyth Road, approximately 7 km to the south east of Worksop. The Site comprises five arable fields and the development footprint extends to 73.92 ha (Plates 1-2). The Site is bounded by woodland to the north, south and east, with the River Poulter running just north of its northernmost boundary, and West Drayton Avenue running c. 20 m south of the southern boundary. Beyond Blyth Road (A614) to the west lies Clumber Park, a Registered Park and Garden, which contains Hardwick Village.

1.2.2 The Site lies between c. 37 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north west to approximately 28 m aOD in the south east. The underlying geology of the Site is recorded as pebbly sandstone of the Chester Formation. Superficial deposits in the south of the Site have been recorded as glacial till, Mid Pleistocene - Diamicton, sand and gravel. There are no superficial deposits recorded across the north of the Site (BGS 2024).



Plate 1: View across the south east of the Site from the south



Plate 2: View across north west of the Site from the north west

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The purpose of this HEDBA is to determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records and observations, an understanding of the historic environment resource within and surrounding the Site to formulate:

- An assessment of significance of the known or predicted heritage assets considering, their archaeological, historic, architectural, and artistic interests;
- An assessment of the impact of proposed development or other land use changes on the significance of the heritage assets and their settings; and
- Strategies to avoid harm or better reveal the significance of heritage assets, and their settings, if necessary.

1.4 Regulatory and Policy Context

1.4.1 There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and development on, or near, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations as defined under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system. Further detail of the relevant, legislation, policy and guidance is provided in Appendix 1.

2. Methodology

2.1 Standards

2.1.1 This assessment is undertaken in accordance with:

- Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Notes:
 - *The Historic Environment in Local Plans* (2015a);
 - *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (2015b); and
 - *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2017a).
- Historic England's *Understanding Place – Historic Area Assessments* (2017b);
- Historic England's Advice Notes:
 - Advice Note 1 (Second Edition): *Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management* (2019a);
 - Advice Note 12: *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage* (2019b); and
 - Advice Note 15: *Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment* (2021).
- *Historic Environment* (revised July 2019), published by the Ministry Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), providing advice on enhancing and conserving the historic environment;
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA, 2022);
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2020a);
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment* (2020b).

2.2 Scope of Assessment

2.2.1 The initial step of the HEDBA process is the identification of heritage assets likely to be affected by the proposals due to their presence within the Site or due to sensitivity of their setting. This is informed through a desk-based study and site visit. This step constitutes Step 1 of Historic England's GPA3 (2017a).

2.2.2 A 1 km study area was utilised for the purpose of this HEDBA with regard to the buried archaeological resource.

Sources

2.2.3 The following sources were consulted to inform the presence of heritage assets within the study area, and to form a baseline for the assessment of their significance:

- The National Heritage List for England (NHLE);
- Historic Environment data recorded on the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (NHER);
- Historic manuscripts and maps available online and at Nottingham Archives;
- Aerial photography available online at Historic England's Aerial Photo Explorer, Britain from Above, Cambridgeshire Aerial Photographic collection online, National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP);
- Historic England's Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer
- Relevant primary and secondary sources including published and unpublished archaeological reports relating to previous fieldwork undertaken in the Site;
- Environment Agency LiDAR data; and
- A site visit undertaken during February 2024.

2.2.4 A site visit was undertaken during February 2024 in order to assess the general character of the Site, to identify heritage assets not identified through desk-based review, and to assess the heritage interest and sensitivity of heritage assets within the study area. Heritage assets outside of the Site were visited to assess the attributes of their setting that contribute to their significance and viewpoints where they may be seen alongside one another. The site visit was undertaken in good weather conditions with clear visibility.

2.2.5 A bibliography of documentary, archive, and cartographic sources consulted is included in the References section of this report.

Assumptions and Limitations

2.2.6 This report is compiled using secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some have been directly examined. The assumption is made that this data as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate. In addition, the records held by the NHER represent a record of a wide range of information derived from historical sources and previous archaeological discoveries and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.

2.2.7 Archival material relating to the Site and study area was consulted in person at Nottingham Archives. Whilst there may be other material held in private collections, local repositories, and the

National Archives, it was not possible to view these as part of the assessment. Early cartographic sources were viewed online as part of this assessment. Due to copyright these maps could not be reproduced.

2.2.8 Sufficient access was afforded to the Site and surrounding landscape. Due to location of some designated heritage assets within private ownership, no access was afforded to their immediate grounds. As such, an assessment of the likely impacts upon the significance of the assets due to changes to their setting was taken from the adjacent footpaths and roads.

2.3 Assessment of Significance

2.3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2023) recommends that, in determining applications, local planning authorities should require applicants to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting (NPPF, 200).

2.3.2 The significance of heritage assets is defined in terms of their value to this and future generations because of their heritage interest, deriving not only from their physical presence, but also from their setting. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historic (NPPF):

- **Archaeological interest:** As defined in the Glossary to the National Planning Policy Framework, there will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
- **Architectural and artistic interest:** These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skill, like sculpture.
- **Historic interest:** An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

(MHCLG 2019, Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 18a-006-20190723).

2.3.3 The heritage interest of an asset's physical presence is assessed in terms of attributes identified in statutory criteria, general principles for selection (DCMS 2013 and 2018), selection guides published by Historic England, and regional research agendas.

2.3.4 The overall significance of a heritage asset is the sum value of its interest expressed within this

report on a six-point scale of Very High, High, Medium, Low, Negligible and Unknown using the criteria presented in Table 1.

Although not considered to be of sufficient interest to merit formal designation, non-designated heritage assets require consideration as part of the planning process in line with paragraph 209 of the NPPF.

Table 1: Criteria for determining the significance of heritage assets

Heritage Significance	Criteria
Very High	World Heritage Sites and the individual attributes that convey their Outstanding Universal Value, or non-designated heritage assets of demonstrable international heritage interest.
High	Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings (Grade I, II*, II), Conservation Areas, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens (Grade I, II*, II), Registered Battlefields, Protected Wreck Site, or non-designated heritage assets of demonstrable national importance due to their heritage interest.
Medium	Locally Listed Buildings and Landscapes, or non-designated heritage assets of demonstrable regional importance due to their heritage interest.
Low	Non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably limited heritage interest.
Negligible	Buildings, landscapes or townscapes of such limited heritage significance it does not merit identification as a non-designated heritage asset. This is typically due to poor preservation, survival or restricted contextual associations.
Unknown	The significance of the heritage asset cannot be ascertained from available evidence.

Table 2: Criteria for valuing the contribution of the Site to the significance of heritage assets

Contribution of Site	Criteria
High Contribution	The site possesses attributes that make a strong positive contribution to the understanding and/or appreciation of the interests that embodies its significance.
Medium Contribution	The site possesses attributes that make some positive contribution to the understanding and/or appreciation of the interests that embodies its significance.
Low Contribution	The site possesses attributes that make little positive contribution to the understanding and/or appreciation of the interests that embodies its significance.
Neutral Contribution	The site does not contribute to the understanding and/or appreciation of the interests that embodies its significance
Negative Contribution	A site detracts from the understanding and/or appreciation of the interests that define the significance of a heritage asset.

3. Historic Environment Baseline

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 In accordance with Step 1 of Historic England's GPA (2017a) and Historic England's *Understanding Place – Historic Area Assessments* (2017b) – Level 1 Outline Assessment, an outline assessment of the historic and archaeological baseline was undertaken to identify which of these heritage assets could be affected by the proposed development and thereby scope out those assets that would not be affected.

3.1.2 The following section should be read in conjunction with:

- Figure 2: Designated Heritage Assets within 1 km. Designated assets are referenced by their NHLE entry number in the text;
- Figure 3: NHER monument data within 1 km. The NHER records are assigned an ID number within the text; and
- Figure 4: NHER event data within 1km. The event records are referenced by their NHER reference number in the text.

3.2 Archaeological Investigations

3.2.1 The NHER records six previous archaeological investigations within the study area. Two non-intrusive studies are recorded within the Site comprising:

- ENT2153 - Field Observation/Survey at Elkesley by Colquhoun in relation to Normanton medieval village. Located in the south western extent of the Site; and
- ENT1498 - Historical report re. Normanton DMV by Unwin. Located in the north eastern extent of the Site.

3.2.2 The Site has also been the subject of a geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS in 2022 (ASWYAS 2022). The geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies within the north western portion of the Site which are considered to be archaeological in origin and correspond with known cropmark data.

3.3 Historic and Archaeological Baseline

Prehistoric and Romano-British

3.3.1 There are no records of prehistoric activity within the Site or study area. During the prehistoric period, the Site and its surrounding landscape was mostly forested and was likely used for hunting. During the Iron Age much of the East Midlands, including Nottinghamshire, were part of the territory

of the *Corieltavi* tribe (University of Warwick 2021).

- 3.3.2 The NHER records the findspot of sherds of Roman pottery (1) approximately 325 m to the north of the Site, in the same location as cropmarks of an undated enclosure (23). A Romano-British settlement at Flint Hill (2) is recorded approximately 925 m to the north east of the Site, visible as enclosure and linear cropmarks. Further settlement activity, a potential farmstead (3), is recorded approximately 240 m to the west of the Site, identified through cropmarks of a small enclosure, field boundaries and a double ditched trackway visible on aerial photography.
- 3.3.3 Although not recorded on the NHER, or on *The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain* (Allen *et al* 2015) it is considered that the route of the modern A614 which runs adjacent to the western boundary of the Site is likely to be Roman in origin. The course of the road is characteristically straight within the study area and forms the boundary of several parishes along its route. The reuse of Roman roads as later parish boundaries is well established.
- 3.3.4 There are two records of potential enclosures within the Site. In the north western extent of the Site there are several sub-rectangular enclosure-like field boundary features, as well as parallel linear features that resemble trackways (17). These features were also identified as anomalies during the geophysical survey that was carried out in 2022 (ASWYAS 2022). Due to the shape and layout of these features, it is possible that they represent a late Iron Age or Romano-British settlement. In the south eastern extent of the Site, the NHER records horseshoe shaped enclosures (20) which could resemble former field boundaries.
- 3.3.5 The NHER records numerous areas of cropmarks within the study area which may represent prehistoric or Romano-British activity, although none of these have been tested archaeologically. Approximately 150 m to the north of the Site, there are several cropmarks recorded including possible trackways, a possible ring ditch and several sub-rectangular enclosures (16, 23, 25). Linear features, potential trackways and partial enclosures have also been identified approximately 175 m to the east of the Site (21, 22). Approximately 300 m south east of the Site, there have been other linear features and partial enclosures (19) identified, as well as further potential settlement activity (18) recorded approximately 900 m to the south of the Site. Approximately 500 m to the north west of the Site there are other linear cropmarks (24) recorded.

Early medieval and Medieval

- 3.3.6 No evidence of early medieval activity is recorded in the Site or study area on the NHER.
- 3.3.7 The earliest written reference to the Site is as *Normanton* in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Palmer and Powell-Smith 2016). *Normanton* is recorded as under the lordship King William and comprised 32 furlongs (approximately 1.2 km) of woodland, but no households (Palmer and Powell-Smith

2016). The nearest settlement appears to have been Elkesley approximately 2.2 km east of the Site, which is recorded in the Domesday Survey as comprising 15 households, 2 ploughlands, 1.5 plough teams, a mill and a church in 1086 (Palmer and Powell-Smith 2016). The land is also listed as being under the lordship of King William.

- 3.3.8 The Site and the surrounding landscape of Clumber Park to the west, and Thoresby Park to the south west, were likely part of the northern margins of Sherwood Forest which extended south towards Nottingham. During the medieval period, Sherwood Forest was a royal hunting ground comprised of both grassland and dense forest. Settlements on the fringes of the forest benefitted from the woodland as a resource for building and fuel, as well as utilising the landscape for grazing pigs (Brain 2021).
- 3.3.9 The NHER records the deserted village of Normanton (4) within the north eastern portion of the Site. The NHER record states that there is no surface indication or local knowledge of an early village and there is nothing visible on aerial photographs of the area. Additionally, no geophysical anomalies were identified within this portion of the Site. It is considered that the record of the village within the Site is conjectural and that there is currently no evidence for a deserted medieval village to be present within the Site.

Post-medieval and Twentieth Century

- 3.3.10 During the post-medieval period there appears to have been a considerable increase in deforestation, and parts of Sherwood Forest were sold off to estates, such as Clumber Park (NHLE: 1001079) and Thoresby Park (NHLE: 1000361) both of which are Grade I Registered Parks and Gardens. Clumber Park was granted to John Holles, the 3rd Duke of Newcastle in 1709 as land to become a deer park for Queen Anne.
- 3.3.11 A mansion was built on Clumber Estate in 1760, with wings added to the existing hunting lodge, as well as landscaping of parkland and gardens surrounding the main house. A three mile long lime tree lined avenue was planted and the River Poulter was dammed to create Clumber Lake in the nineteenth century. Two fires devastated the main house, one in 1835 and the second in 1912, which prompted the decision to demolish the house in 1938 due to the financial burden of having to rebuild for a second time.
- 3.3.12 Two gateways to Clumber Park, both of which are Grade II* Listed, are located on the eastern boundary of the parkland; Normanton Gate (NHLE: 1156026) approximately 150 m west of the Site, and Drayton Gate (NHLE: 1045058) approximately 170 m west of the Site. Normanton Gate most likely provided access from Blyth Road to Hardwick Village in the nineteenth century, however the gate itself probably came from Shireoaks Hall and does not match the other gates of the estate. Drayton Gate is situated on West Drayton Avenue, and was the principal drive to the Houghton

Estate and the Newcastle mausoleum. It was designed by Stephen Wright, the same architect as the main house.

- 3.3.13 Hardwick Village, within Clumber Park, was built as a model village for the Estate workers in the 1850s with most of the buildings still surviving today. Hardwick Grange Farmstead (26) and its associated farm buildings are recorded by the NHER approximately 900 m to the west of the Site. The NHER records the agricultural features of two water channels (6) approximately 825 m to the west of the Site, which were used to flood the water meadows to improve crop and grass growth.
- 3.3.14 South of Drayton Gate there are earthworks of a hollow which corroborates with a clay pit (13) approximately 325 m to the south west of the Site, which are labelled on historic maps of Hardwick Grange from 1629. A ruined building (9) is also recorded on the NHER approximately 450 m to the south west of Site.
- 3.3.15 During the Second World War Clumber Estate was used for military training and ammunition storage, and an army camp (15) was located approximately 220 m to the south west of the Site, just south of Drayton Gate.
- 3.3.16 A water pumping station (14) is recorded approximately 530 m to the north east of the Site, the building, which has since been demolished, housed two steam engines for pumping water for the city of Lincoln.

Historic Mapping

- 3.3.17 The 1774 county map of Nottinghamshire by John Chapman, shows the Site as part of a wooded area surrounding Clumber Park, roughly within the supposed boundaries of the medieval Sherwood Forest. A map from 1836 by J. and C. Walker shows the Site as a cleared area, with a small piece of woodland surviving to its east.
- 3.3.18 Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping from 1885 shows the Site comprising 12 fields, with a wooded area labelled 'Oval Clump' in the north western extent of the Site, and another labelled 'Round Wood' in the north eastern extent. Subsequent OS mapping shows very little change within the Site up until the 1950s. During the second half of the twentieth century the two isolated woodlands, Oval Clump and Round Wood, have been felled and the fields have been agglomerated.

3.4 Summary of Previous Impacts

- 3.4.1 The Site has remained in agricultural use since the eighteenth century, and it is considered that any previous impacts would be related to agricultural activity including modern ploughing.

3.5 Summary of Potential Heritage Constraints

Designated

- 3.5.1 The Site is located c. 50 m east of the Grade I Registered Clumber Park (NHLE: 1001079) on the other side of the A614. There are two gateways, Drayton Gate (NHLE: 1045058) and Normanton Gate (NHLE: 1156026), located on the eastern boundary of the Clumber Park which are both designated as Grade II* Listed Buildings. There is a Grade II Listed pigeoncote (NHLE: 1045038) within the parkland associated with the model Hardwick Village which is located just outside the study area. It is considered that, due to the proximity of the Site, there is the potential for the proposed scheme to impact upon the setting of these designated heritage assets. It is considered that the setting of these assets is interconnected and therefore they are considered together within Section 4 below.
- 3.5.2 The Scheduled West Bridge (NHLE: 1006400, 1223918, 1370411) is located approximately 150 m north of the Site. It is considered that the setting of the bridge is tied to its functional and spatial relationship with the A614 and the River Poulter. Despite the proximity of the Site to the bridge, there is no intervisibility (Plate 3) and it is considered that the Site does not contribute to the setting of the Scheduled Monument and that consequently this designated heritage assets is not a constraint to the proposed scheme in the Site.
- 3.5.3 The Grade I Registered Park and Garden Thoresby Park (NHLE: 1000361) is located approximately 250 m south west of the Site. It is considered that the Site is effectively screened by intervening vegetation (Plate 4) and that the Site does not contribute to the setting of the Registered Park and Garden and consequently this designated heritage assets is not a constraint to the proposed development in the Site.



Plate 3: View south from the Scheduled West Bridge (NHLE: 1006400, 1223918, 1370411)



Plate 4: View north east from the north east corner of the Grade I Registered Thoresby Park (NHLE: 1000361)

Archaeological Potential

3.5.4 Based on the historic environment baseline presented above, the potential for archaeological remains is as follows:

- High potential for Iron Age or Romano-British remains, due to the previously identified cropmarks, confirmed by the geophysical survey, in the north western portion of the Site. It is considered that these remains would be of medium heritage significance.
- Very low potential for archaeological remains from the early medieval period due to the general scarcity of such remains within the study area. As early medieval remains are nationally rare, they would be of at least medium heritage significance.
- Low potential for medieval remains. Despite the postulated position of the deserted medieval village of Normanton within the Site, there is no historic or archaeological evidence for this assertion. It is considered that medieval remains would comprise agricultural or forestry activity of up to low heritage significance.
- High potential for remains relating to post-medieval and twentieth century agricultural activity. Any such remains would be of at most negligible heritage significance.

4. Statement of Significance

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section assesses the significance of heritage assets identified in Section 3 as potential constraints. In accordance with Step 2 of Historic England's GPA3 (2017a), the following section assesses the significance of the heritage assets and how the Site contributes to setting.

4.2 Clumber Park

4.2.1 Clumber Park (NHLE: 1001079) is a Grade I Registered Park and Garden located to the west of the A614 and approximately 50 m west of the Site. The park forms part of the Dukeries, a series of four country estates including Thoresby Park, Welbeck Abbey, and Worksop Manor, located in the vicinity of Worksop. These were all owned by Dukes and formed from the former royal forest of Sherwood.

4.2.2 The parkland encompasses approximately 1,543 ha and includes 30 Listed Buildings. The aim of this statement of significance is to define those aspects of the overall heritage significance of the parkland which have the potential to be impacted by the proposed scheme. The focus of this section is therefore the eastern portion of the parkland and the Listed Buildings contained within this area. These include the Grade II* Listed Drayton Gate (NHLE: 1045058; Plate 5) and Normanton Gate (NHLE: 1156026; Plate 6), and the group of Grade II Listed Buildings located within the model Hardwick Village.

4.2.3 Clumber Park is considered to be of high heritage significance due to its historic, architectural, and archaeological interests. It is historically associated with the Dukes of Newcastle and is considered to be an exceptional example of an early eighteenth-century landscaped parkland. The design of the parkland and gardens is associated with several significant eighteenth and nineteenth century landscape architects including Lancelot Brown, William Sawrey Gilpin, William Eden Nesfield, Stephen Wright, John Simpson, and William Andrews Nesfield.

4.2.4 The character of the eastern portion of the park is significantly different to the more formal gardens and parkland to the west. This portion of the park has a more functional, agricultural character defined by fields currently in use as pasture. The agricultural character is a result of the association with the model Hardwick Village which was designed and built in the 1850s for the estate workers and includes the estate farm.

4.2.5 There are two gateways in the south eastern portion of Clumber Park. These comprise the Drayton Gate and Normanton Gate which are both designated as Grade II* Listed Buildings. These gateways would not have been the principal entranceways to the parkland as can be determined

by a comparison to ornate Grade I Listed Apleyhead Lodge (NHLE: 1267083) located in the north east of the park. Despite this, the gateways make an important architectural statement regarding the status of the parkland, the control of access, and the separation of the park from the wider landscape. The Drayton Gate is located at the western end of West Drayton Avenue, a formerly tree-lined route which runs for approximately 6 km from the village of West Drayton and the Great North Road (modern A1).

- 4.2.6 The eastern portion of Clumber Park has an inward facing character where the rolling landscape allows for an appreciation of the Listed Buildings located within Hardwick Village (Plate 7). The eastern boundary of the park is predominately screened by mature planting and this is further reinforced by additional planting on the east side of the A614. The result of this is that there are no significant views across the wider landscape to the east (plates 8-9).
- 4.2.7 The setting of Clumber Park is defined by its relationship with the other Dukeries, in particular the Grade I Registered Thoresby Hall (NHLE: 1000361), located immediately to the south of Clumber Park, and the Grade II Registered Welbeck Abbey (NHLE: 1000556) to the east. The relationships with the nearby country estates allow an appreciation of the historical development of the wider landscape from the medieval forest to the establishment of the great country estates by the eighteenth century. West Drayton Avenue (Plates 10-11) is clearly discernible within the landscape and in places survives in its original tree-lined form. It is considered that this feature makes a high contribution to the setting of Clumber Park by demonstrating the historic approach to the south east of the park and the importance of the Great North Road as a transport route for the Dukes of Newcastle.
- 4.2.8 The Site comprises modern agricultural fields which are the result of agglomeration during the second half of the twentieth century. The mature planting along both sides of the A614 means that Clumber Park is almost entirely screened from the Site (Plates 12-13). The site visit identified extremely limited glimpsed views from the north west of the Site into the parkland, with the Listed Buildings within Hardwick Village barely discernible (Plate 14). These views do not allow for an appreciation of the heritage significance of the Registered Park and Garden or the Listed Buildings contained therein. It is therefore considered that, although the Site is within the setting of the Grade I Registered Clumber Park, it does not make a meaningful contribution to the heritage significance of the designated heritage asset and as such the Site makes a neutral contribution



Plate 5: Grade II* Listed Drayton Gate (NHLE: 1045058)



Plate 6: Grade II* Listed Normanton Gate (NHLE: 1156026)



Plate 7: View north towards Hardwick Village from within Clumber Park



Plate 8: View east towards the eastern boundary of Clumber Park



Plate 9: View east towards the eastern boundary of Clumber Park



Plate 10: View from Drayton Gate towards West Drayton Avenue



Plate 11: View along West Drayton Avenue



Plate 12: View west from within the south western portion of the Site



Plate 13: View west from within the north western portion of the Site



Plate 14: Glimpsed view into Clumber Park towards Hardwick Village from the western boundary of the Site

5. Statement of Impact

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section sets out a brief description of the scheme and provides an assessment of impact with regard to historic environment constraints.

5.2 Scheme Proposal

5.2.1 The scheme involves construction and operation of a solar farm and battery energy storage system together with all associated works, equipment, necessary infrastructure and landscaping.

5.2.2 Solar arrays will be installed in all fields and will have a maximum height of 3 m above ground level. The arrays will be arranged in rows with an inter-row distance of 3.5 m. The layout indicates that a portion of the north western field will be left intentionally undeveloped in order to avoid known and predicted archaeological remains identified as cropmarks and geophysical anomalies. A battery energy storage system and substation will be positioned within the southern portion of the north eastern field. The battery containers will have a height of 2.9 m.

5.2.3 The proposed layout indicates that access to the Site will be provided from an existing access track from the A614 on the western boundary of the Site. Additional planting will be positioned along the western and southern boundaries of the Site.

5.3 Assessment of Proposals

Designated heritage assets

5.3.1 The Grade I Registered Clumber Park (NHLE: 1001079) and associated Listed Buildings, including two Grade II* Listed gateways (NHLE: 1045058, 1156026), have been identified as having the potential to be impacted by the proposed scheme. It is considered that the Site currently makes a neutral contribution to the setting of these designated heritage assets and is almost entirely screened by existing planting on the east and west sides of the A614, and will be further screened by the proposed additional planting on the western and southern boundaries of the Site.

5.3.2 The design of the proposed scheme has sought to minimise any potential impacts to the setting of Clumber Park. The proposed scheme will be effectively screened from the Registered Park and Garden and its associated Listed Buildings by existing planting, which will be reinforced by additional planting. Key views within the parkland, which allow an appreciation of the designed landscape including the model Hardwick Village and the Listed Building contained therein will be unaffected. The site visit confirmed that key views encompass views within the parkland itself, and that there are no key views across the wider landscape to the east that include the Site. It is considered that the existing tree planting on both sides of the A614 effectively screen the wider

landscape from the park. The scheme proposals include provisions for additional planting which will reinforce the existing screening along the western and southern boundaries of the Site.

- 5.3.3 The Grade II* Listed Drayton Gate is located directly opposite the western end of West Drayton Avenue and would have been designed to be the focal point at the end of the approach along the avenue. It is considered that the avenue makes a high contribution to the setting of both the Drayton Gate and Clumber Park itself. The proposed scheme will have no impact on the legibility of the avenue within the landscape and this key aspect of the setting of Clumber Park will remain unaffected. Views eastwards from the Grade II* Listed Normanton Gate encompass the Normanton Inn on the east side of the A614 and it is anticipated that the proposed scheme will be effectively screened.
- 5.3.4 It is considered that the proposed development will result in no harm to the setting of the Grade I Registered Clumber Park and the Grade II* Listed Drayton Gate and Normanton Gate.

Archaeology

- 5.3.5 Any direct physical impact to archaeological remains within the Site, if/where present, would primarily result from groundworks associated with construction. On-site activities which are likely to affect the archaeological resource could comprise the following:
- pre-construction impacts associated with ground investigation works;
 - construction ground works, including stripping and excavation associated with associated infrastructure; and
 - ground reduction/landscaping.
- 5.3.6 It is considered that the Site has a high potential to contain archaeological remains comprising an Iron Age or Romano-British settlement with associated agricultural enclosures and field boundaries. These remains have been identified through cropmarks visible on aerial photographs and were confirmed by a subsequent geophysical survey. The proposed development has sought to minimise impacts to these archaeological remains by leaving a portion of the north western field undeveloped. This will ensure that those remains outside of the development footprint will be preserved *in situ*.
- 5.3.7 It is considered that the remainder of the Site is unlikely to contain archaeological remains of an equivalent significance as further cropmarks and geophysical anomalies are more likely to be agricultural in origin. It is anticipated that there is the potential for localised impacts on archaeological remains during the construction phase and any future archaeological work should be informed by the cropmarks and geophysical survey undertaken within the Site.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 This assessment has utilised a range of sources, in line with industry guidance, to identify known and potential heritage assets of archaeological interest that could be affected by the proposed scheme.
- 6.1.2 The Site is located within a landscape which contains a significant number of cropmarks which although they have not been tested archaeologically are likely to be indicative of Iron Age or Romano-British activity. Cropmarks within the north west of the Site have been interpreted as representing a potential Romano-British settlement. The proposed scheme has sought to minimise any impacts to these archaeological remains by excluding them from the development footprint. This will ensure the remains are preserved *in situ*.
- 6.1.3 During the medieval period the Site is likely to have formed part of the royal forest of Sherwood. Historic mapping from the eighteenth century demonstrates that the Site was wooded and was subsequently cleared by the 1830s for agricultural use. The present field system is a result of the agglomeration of smaller fields during the course of the second half of the twentieth century.
- 6.1.4 Given the low impact of solar farm developments, and due to the proposed development avoiding areas with anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey, any further archaeological works are considered to be possible to be secured through a pre-commencement planning condition, the scale and scope of which is recommended to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist. It is considered that the focus of any future work should be informed by the cropmark data and anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.
- 6.1.5 It is considered that the Site does not make a meaningful contribution to the heritage significance of the Grade I Registered Clumber Park. It is anticipated that the proposed scheme will be effectively screened from the Registered Park and Garden and its associated Listed Buildings by existing planting along the east and west sides of the A614. The proposals include provision for additional planting along the western and southern boundaries of the Site which will reinforce the existing screening. The proposed development will have no impact on West Drayton Avenue, which is considered to make a high contribution to the setting of Clumber Park.
- 6.1.6 It is considered that the proposed development will result in no harm to the setting of any designated heritage assets and as such the development accords with the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and is compliant with the NPPF and local planning policy.

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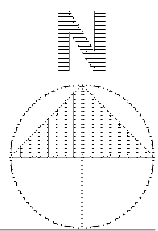
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Figures



KEY

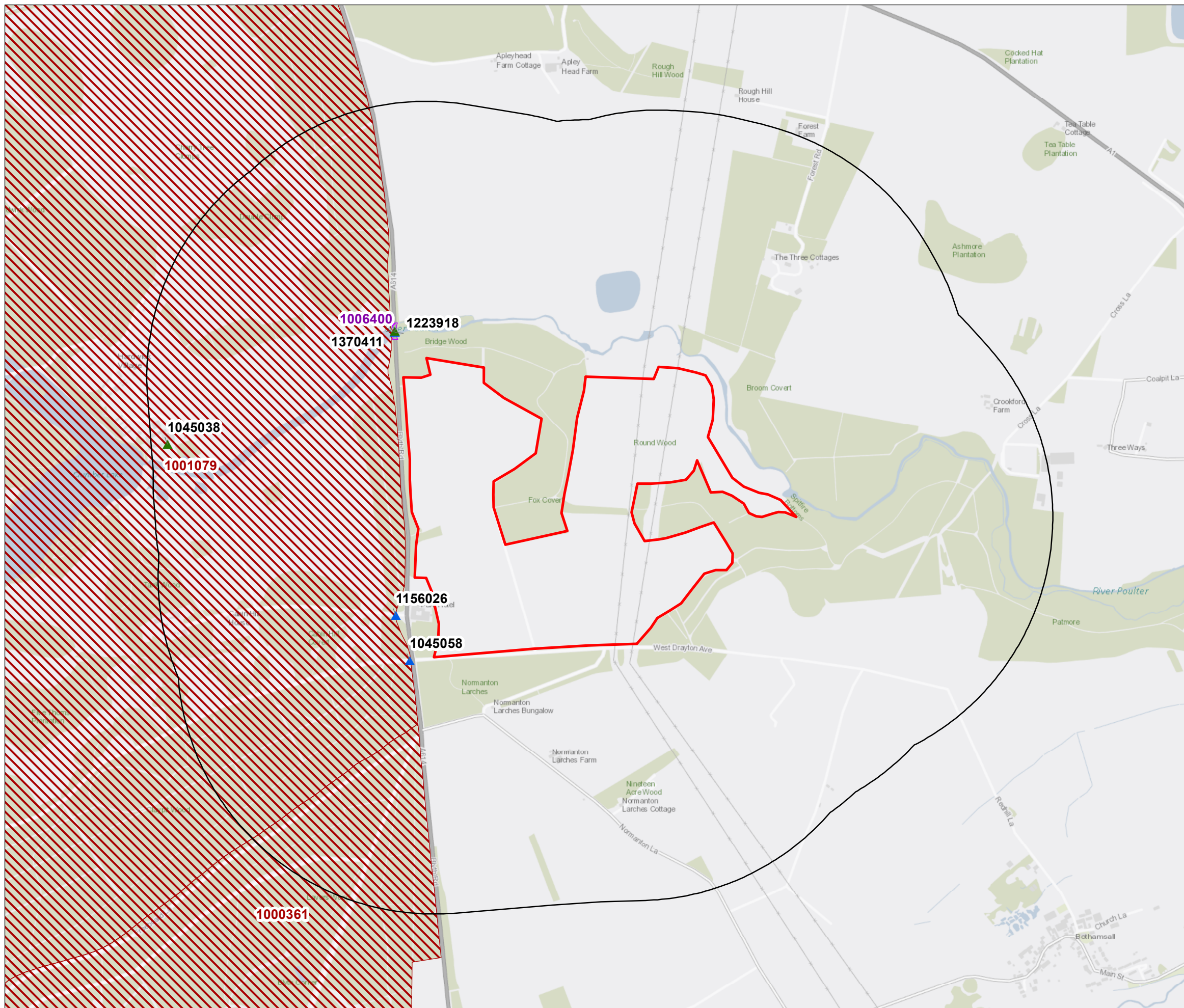
Site









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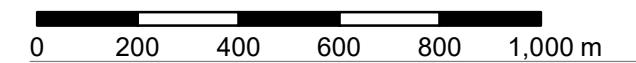
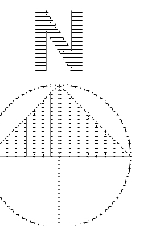
Figure 1: Site Location

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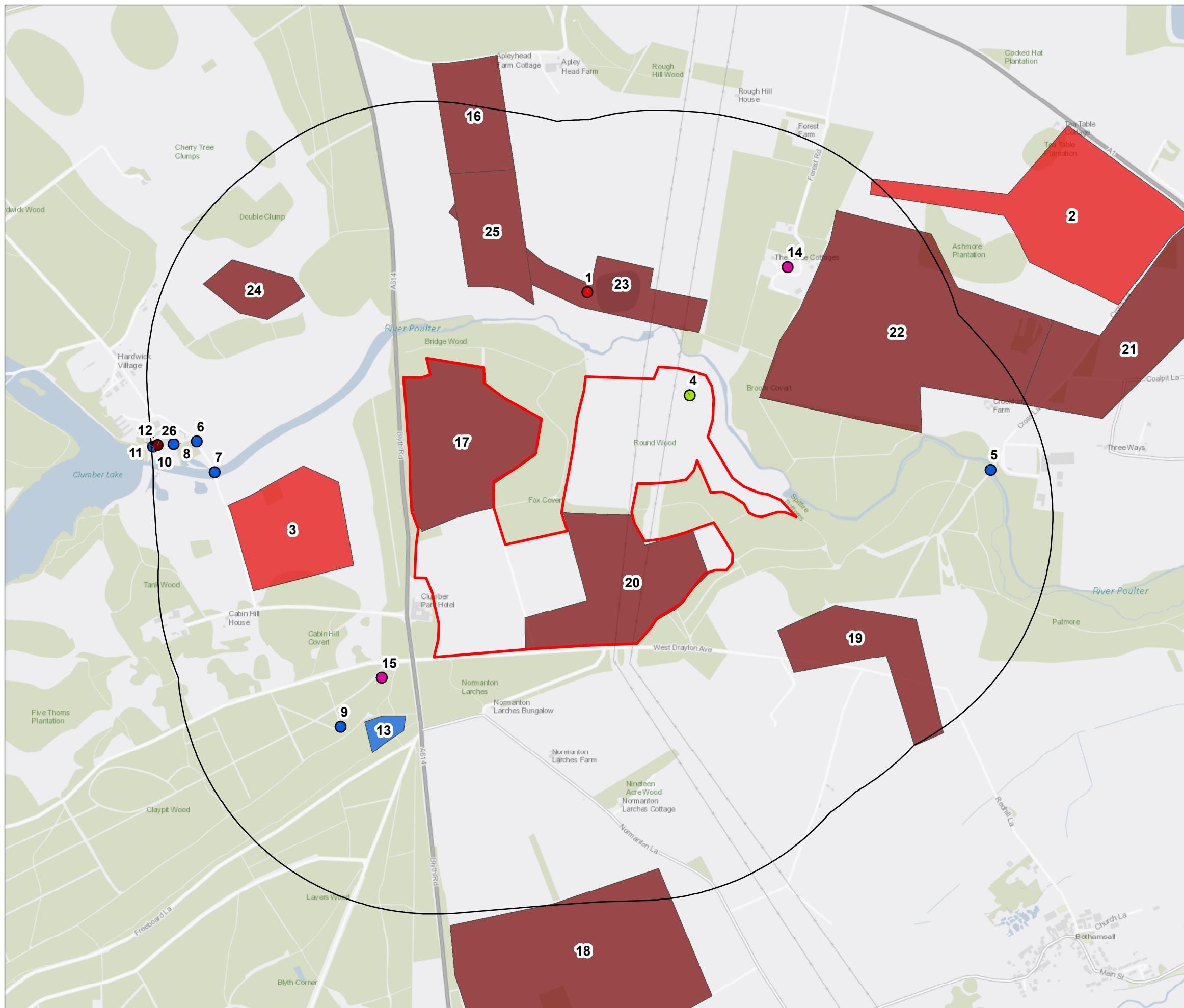
-  Site
-  Study area
- Designated Heritage Assets**
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Grade II* Listed Building
-  Grade II Listed Building
-  Grade I Registered Park and Garden



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**Figure 2: Designated Heritage Assets
 within 1 km**

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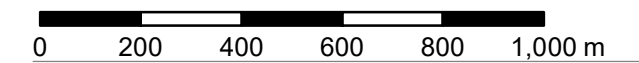
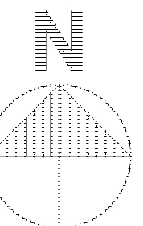


KEY

- Site
- Study area

Nottinghamshire HER monument data by period

- Roman
- Medieval
- Post-medieval
- Twentieth Century
- Undated



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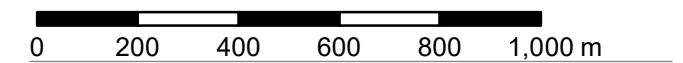
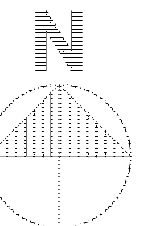
Figure 3: NHER monument data within 1 km

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KEY

- Site
- Study area
- Nottinghamshire HER event data



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Figure 4: NHER event data within 1 km

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Appendix 1: Regulatory and Policy Context

Introduction

There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and development on, or near, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations as defined under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system. The following policies are considered to be of relevance to the Site and the proposed scheme.

Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953

Historic England is enabled by the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 (as amended by the National Heritage Act 1983) to maintain a register of parks, gardens and battlefield sites which appear to Historic England to be of special historic interest. Registration in this way makes the effect of proposed development on the sites and their settings a material consideration. Historic England are a statutory consultee in relation to works affecting Grade I/II* Registered Parks and Gardens.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Scheduled Monuments and Areas of Archaeological Interest are afforded statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as Amended) and the consent of the Secretary of State (Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport), as advised by Historic England, is required for any works.

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Works affecting Listed Buildings or structures and Conservation Areas are subject to additional planning controls administered by LPAs under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. In considering development which affects a Listed Building or its setting, the LPA shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses (Section 66). In considering Conservation Areas the planning authority has a general duty to give special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area (Section 72).

The statutory criteria for listing are the special architectural or historic interest of a building. Buildings on the list are graded to reflect their relative architectural and historic interest (DCMS, 2010a, para 7, page 4):

- Grade I: Buildings of exceptional interest;
- Grade II*: Particularly important buildings of more than special interest;

- Grade II: Buildings of special interest which warrant every effort being made to preserve them.
- Historic England is a statutory consultee in relation to works affecting Grade I/II* Listed Buildings.

National Planning Policy Framework

Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's current planning policy in relation to conserving and enhancing the historic environment. The key requirements are summarised below.

Applicants are required to provide proportionate information on the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets affected by the proposals and an impact assessment of the proposed development on that significance. This should be in the form of a desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation (NPPF, 200).

LPAs are required to take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation; the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring; the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place (NPPF, 201).

In determining planning applications, great weight should be given to the conservation of designated heritage assets - World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas designated under the relevant legislation (NPPF, 205).

In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset (NPPF, 209).

LPAs should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their significance and the impact, and to make this evidence publicly accessible and any archives deposited with a local museum or other public depository (NPPF, 211).

Local Plan

The Site lies within the administrative boundaries of Bassetlaw District Council who are currently drafting the Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038. Until such time as the new local plan is formally adopted the policies contained within the *Bassetlaw Core Strategy & Development Management Policies DPD*, which was formally adopted in December 2011, apply. Relevant policies relating to

the proposed development comprise:

Bassetlaw Core Strategy & Development Management Policies DPD

Policy DM8: The Historic Environment

Support will be given to development proposals or regeneration schemes (particularly in central Worksop, Retford and Tuxford) that protect and enhance the historic environment and secure its long-term future, especially the District's Heritage at Risk. Support will also be given to proposals from the Welbeck Estate for the re-use of heritage assets, where these will result in the enhancement of the assets. Such proposals must recognise the significance of heritage assets as a central part of the development. They will be expected to be in line with characterisation studies, village appraisals, conservation area appraisals (including any site specific development briefs that may be found within them), archaeological reports and other relevant studies.

A. Definition of Heritage Assets

Designated heritage assets in Bassetlaw include:

- i. Listed Buildings (including attached and curtilage structures);
- ii. Conservation Areas;
- iii. Scheduled Monuments; and
- iv. Registered Parks and Gardens.

Non-Designated assets in Bassetlaw include:

- v. Buildings of Local Interest;
- vi. Areas of archaeological interest;
- vii. Unregistered Parks and Gardens; and
- viii. Buildings, monuments, places, areas or landscapes positively identified as having significance in terms of the historic environment.

B. Development Affecting Heritage Assets

There will be a presumption against development, alteration, advertising or demolition that will be detrimental to the significance of a heritage asset.

Proposed development affecting heritage assets, including alterations and extensions that are of an inappropriate scale, design or material, or which lead to the loss of important spaces, including infilling, will not be supported.

The setting of an asset is an important aspect of its special architectural or historic interest and proposals that fail to preserve or enhance the setting of a heritage asset will not be supported. Where appropriate, regard shall be given to any approved characterisation study or appraisal of the heritage asset. Development proposals within the setting of heritage assets will be expected to consider:

- i. Scale;
- ii. Design;
- iii. Materials;
- iv. Siting; and
- v. Views away from and towards the heritage asset.

C. Change of Use Affecting Heritage Assets

The change of use of heritage assets, including Listed Buildings and buildings in Conservation Areas, will only be permitted where the proposed use is considered to be the optimum viable use that is compatible with the fabric, interior and setting of the building.

Evidence supporting this will be submitted with proposals. New uses that adversely affect the fabric, character, appearance or setting of such assets will not be permitted.

D. Shopfronts

Proposals for replacement shopfronts, or alterations to shopfronts, affecting heritage assets will be expected to ensure that traditional shopfronts are retained wherever possible irrespective of the use of the property. New shopfronts will be expected to utilise traditional materials such as timber and be designed to respect the special interest of the building and its setting.

Appendix 2: Gazetteer

Table 3: Gazetteer of Designated Heritage Assets

NHLE	Name	Designation	Easting	Northing
1006400; 1223918; 1370411	West Bridge	Scheduled Monument; Grade II* Listed Building; Grade II Listed Building	464850	375750
1045058	Drayton Gate	Grade II* Listed Building	464909	374468
1156026	Gate Piers And Flanking Walls To Normanton Gate	Grade II* Listed Building	464855	374644
1045038	Pigeoncote At Hardwick Grange	Grade II Listed Building	463966	375310
1000361	Thoresby Park	Grade I Registered Park and Garden	463603	371171
1001079	Clumber Park	Grade I Registered Park and Garden	462234	374569

Table 4: Gazetteer of NHER monument data

ID	Period	Name	NHER Ref.	Easting	Northing
1	Roman	Roman pottery, Elkesley	L8711	465600	375900
2	Roman	Settlement at Flint Hill, Elkesley	M4459	467489	376202
3	Roman	Farmstead, Worksop	M4474	464454	374978
4	Medieval	Deserted village of Normanton, Elkesley	M4495	466000	375500
5	Post-medieval	Crooks Ford, Elkesley/Bothamsall, depicted on maps 1774	M17938	467170	375210
7	Post-medieval	Water meadow and channels, Clumber Park, Worksop	M4612	464080	375320
8	Post-medieval	Ford and Footbridge at Hardwick Village, Worksop	M17937	464150	375200
9	Post-medieval	Building, Clumber Park, Worksop	L4583	463990	375310
10	Post-medieval	Ruined building, Thoresby Border, Worksop	M4603	464640	374210

ID	Period	Name	NHER Ref.	Easting	Northing
11	Post-medieval	Buildings, Clumber Park, Worksop	L4599	463910	375300
12	Post-medieval	Farmstead at Hardwick Grange, Worksop	M4599	463910	375300
15	Post-medieval	Two Barns N side of the W courtyard at Hardwick Grange, Clumber Park	MNT27104	463906	375342
16	Post-medieval	Clay pit, Thoresby Border, Worksop	M4604	464808	374198
20	Twentieth Century	Water pumping station, Elkesley	M4496	466380	376000
21	Twentieth Century	Drayton Gate WWII Camp, Clumber Park, Worksop	M4596	464800	374400
34	Undated	Square enclosure, Elkesley	L4439	465158	376588
35	Undated	Settlement, Bracken Hill, Elkesley	M4537	465113	375321
36	Undated	Settlement at Spittalmoor Forest Farm, Bothamsall	M4533	465616	373059
37	Undated	Linear field boundaries, Bothamsall	L4535	466700	374484
38	Undated	Possible enclosure, Elkesley	L4536	465721	374765
39	Undated	Linear features, Elkesley	L4462	467719	375750
40	Undated	Linear features & rectangular enclosure, Elkesley	L4461	466808	375748
41	Undated	Rectangular enclosures, Elkesley	L4441	465602	375955
42	Undated	Linear features N of Horse Pasture Screed, Worksop	L4611	464304	375912
43	Undated	Enclosures & linear features, Elkesley	L4440	465231	376139
24	Undated	HARDWICK GRANGE	M15198	463928	375306

Table 5: Previous Archaeological Events Recorded by the DHER

NHER Ref	Type	Name	Easting	Northing
ENT3415	Casual Find	Casual Finds at Elkesley by Colquhoun	465600	375900
ENT1498	Historical Report	Historical report re. Normanton DMV by Unwin	466000	375500
ENT2131	Field Visit	Field Observation at West Bridge, Elkesley by Hart	464850	375750
ENT2134	Field Visit	Field Observation at Elkesley by Colquhoun	465600	375900
ENT2153	Field Visit	Field Observation at Elkesley by Colquhoun	465000	374800
ENT4255	Building Survey	Building Survey of 2 fire damaged barns at Hardwick Grange, Clumber Park by APS for The National Trust	463906	375343

