



Image from High Grove Solar consultation document, courtesy of RWE

Green Futures

Understanding the NSIP application process

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Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

Process and engagement

Mitigation Hierarchy





Image © Historic England

Development Consent Process

- Process focus
- Six stages
- Variable duration





Pre-Application Stage

- Early constructive engagement (PINs [Planning Inspectorate] Advice Note 11)
- Level of engagement and setting expectations
- Potential for ‘enhanced pre-application’
- HE requirements
- Evidence Plan Process (EPP)
- Local Impact Report (LIR)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report

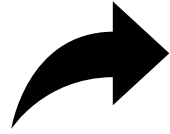
Rochdale Envelope

PINs Advice Note 9

- Provides flexibility in design options
- Ensures impacts of final development are fully assessed during EIA
- Consents conditional on providing final details prior to construction (DCO requirements)



Examination



- Relevant & Written Reps,
- Issue Specific Hearings,
- ExA questions
- DCO & requirements





Statutory Consultation

Under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 there is a duty to consult prescribed persons. These are

- Statutory consultees (e.g. Historic England, Natural England, Gardens Trust, Environment Agency).
- Amenity Societies (e.g. Georgian Group, C20 Society)
- The Public (e.g. residents and other interested parties)

Give your feedback

We are now seeking your views on these changes and are consulting on **these changes only** between 6 June 2022 and 6 July 2022. Responses to the consultation must be sent to Sunnica Ltd and not to the Planning Inspectorate.

If you want to submit your views to Sunnica Ltd, you must do so in writing by one of the following means:

By email to:
info@sunnica.co.uk

By post to:
FAO Sunnica Energy Farm
Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL

Your response must be received
by **23:59** on **6 July 2022**.

- Applicants normally engage statutory consultees and the public in prescribed ways. The key concern is information gathering to ensure robust evidence base for the application and for the identification of key issues
- Consultation is held in various way and for example a public consultation might include library display, leaflets and web material
- All examinations are held 'in public' and interested parties can register with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to participate
- Permission is granted by the Secretary of State (SoS) on the advice of PINS and Development Consent Order (DCO) is a legally binding document that covers all aspects of the permissions.
- This can be very different from other types planning application, where the Local Planning Authority is the responsible body, and they manage the permission and conditions

Sally Stradling

Heritage Consultant
&
Gardens Trust Conservation Committee



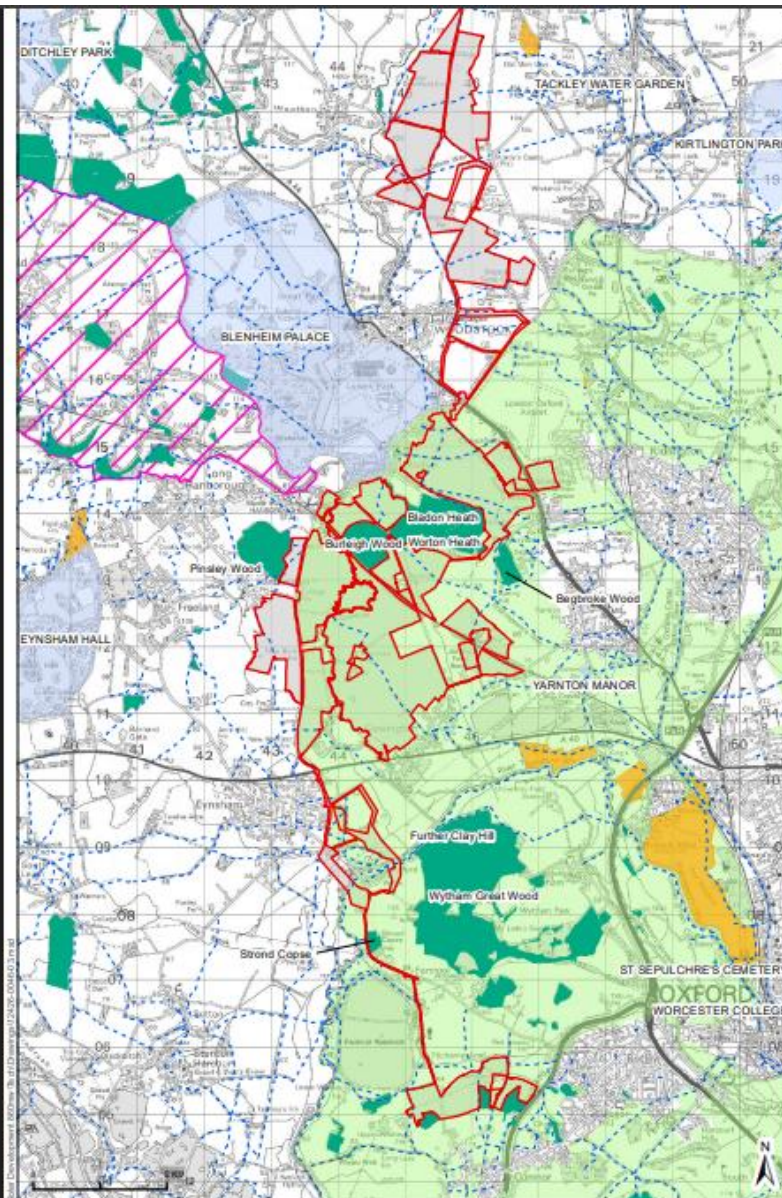
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only for the purposes of information and prepared and provided.
2. If received electronically it is the recipient's responsibility to print to correct scale. Only written dimensions should be used.

LEGEND

- Project Site Boundary
- Green Belt
- Parks and Gardens
- CRoW Access Land
- Ancient Woodland
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Public Right of Way



Figure Number Rev
2 -

VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK

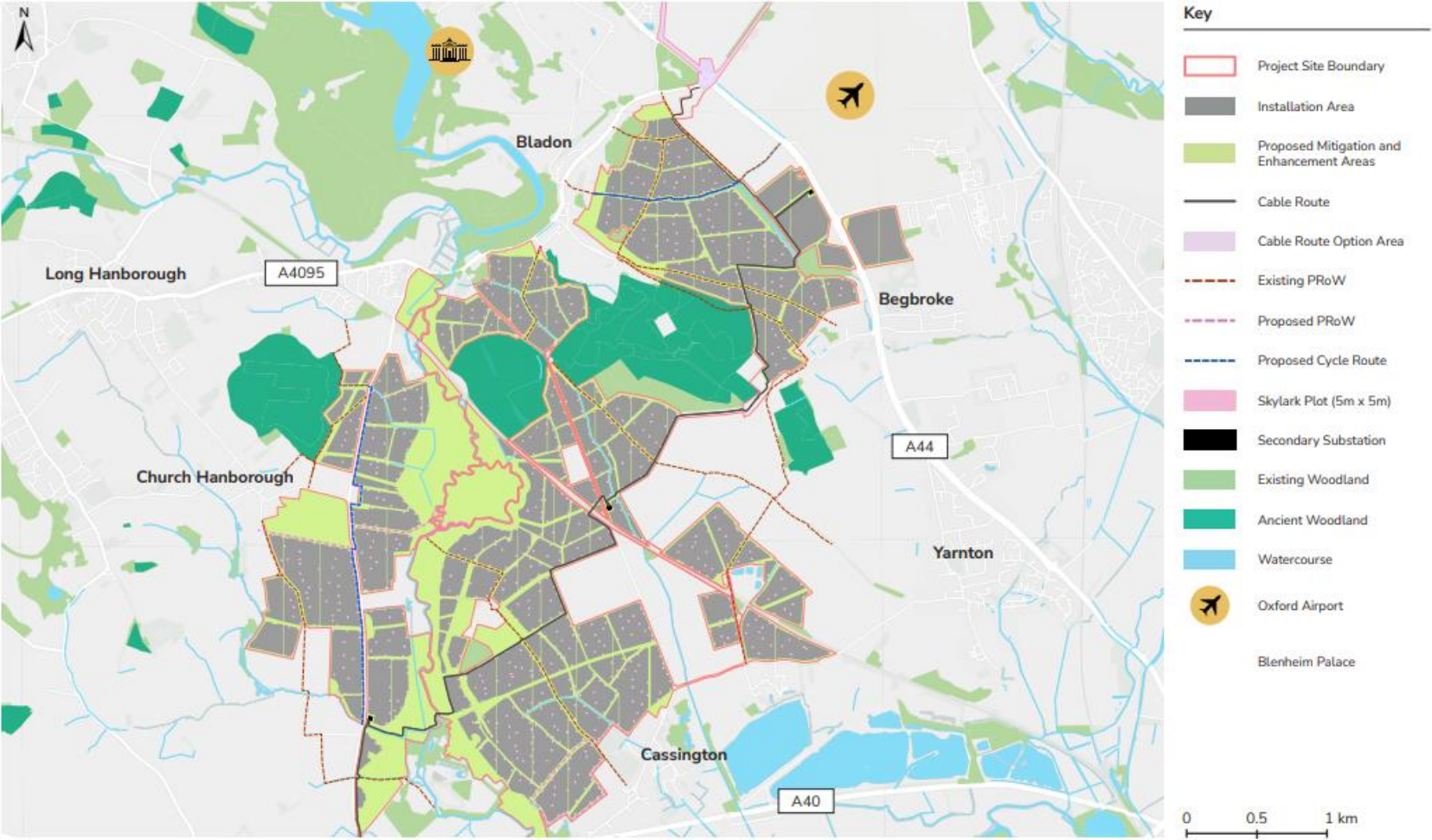
rpsgroup.com
20 Western Avenue, Milton Park, Abingdon,
Oxfordshire OX14 4SH
T: +44(0)1235 821 888 E: rps@rpsgroup.com

Client	PVDP	Status	Final	Drawn By	JM	PM/Checked By	MB
Project	Botley West Solar Farm	Project Number	NP12426	Scale @ A3	1:100,000	Date Created	OCT 2023
Title	Landscape Designations and Green Belt						

BOTLEY WEST: SOME FACTS

- 840 Mwe of solar generation- clean energy for 330,000 homes
- 1300 hectares of sensitive landscape & massive 11 x 4 miles
- Setting to Blenheim World Heritage Site
- Most of land owned by Blenheim Estate
- 70% + on Oxford Greenbelt
- **BALANCE national Renewable Energy needs and Landscape and Heritage Protections (also nature, farming etc).** Target that 43-45% of UK energy will be produced by renewables by 2030

Central Site Map



STAGES

1. **Pre-application**- Phase I *community* consultation- SCOPING STAGE
Phase II look at details in PEIR (Preliminary Information Report)
GT/OGT 3 letters in response to details & amendments
2. **Acceptance**- more detailed justification and detailed statement of need for BW requested by PINS (Planning Inspectorate)
3. **Pre-examination. Opportunity to Register and make a relevant Representation. 3 months. Preliminary hearing**
4. **Examination**. Interested parties invited to provide more details in writing of their representation
5. **Recommendation**. Within 3 months of close of the examination
6. **Decision**. Made by Secretary of State. 6 week period for decision to be challenged in High Court (Judicial Review)



ASSESSING CHANGE- key documents

- **GT Statutory Duty** in relation to Registered Parks and Gardens (RPG) and the World Heritage Site (WHS) and non designated assets
No direct impacts on RPG/WHS but **impacts on setting**
- **UNESCO Convention**
- **National Policy Statements NPS EN1 & EN3, paras 3.10, 108, 109**
- **NPPF 2024 , heritage paragraphs 202-204 and PPG**
- **Historic England, The setting of Heritage Assets, 2017**
- **Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) detailed assessment of impacts on Historic Environment (Ch.7), Landscape and Visual Resources (Ch. 8). Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) evolving following consultation, refinement and mitigation**
- **Botley West, PH II Non-Technical Summary 30 Nov 2023**
- **Blenheim WHS Management Plan, 2017**



IMPACTS & MITIGATION

- Cable runs, 2 m high fences, solar arrays (1 to 2 million panels?)- 1.8 to 2.5 m above ground, piling 1.5-2m in ground, size sub station nr Farmoor, removal of sections ancient hedgerows, glint, settings of assets, trees, ancient woodland, archaeology, settings of WHS/RPG, Yarnton Manor and Eynsham Hall RPGs and local landscapes including PROW linear landscapes. Cumulative impacts
- Not just **views/intervisibility** but **intrinsic** landscape character- wider Blenheim Estate farmed landscape setting to palace. Mosaic. Layers
- 18 representative view-points at scoping stage, 55 at PEIR stage but not all with visualisations or both ways. Inadequate assessment
- **Mitigation** Non-designated heritage assets achieved- increased buffers, Horizontal Directing Drilling, avoided Longmead Local Wildlife Site panels away from assets incl. Scheduled Monument Roman Villa site
- Mitigation with WHS – moved panels near church



What stage is Botley West at now?

- GT/OGT have Registered as interested parties.
Serious concerns about the heritage assessment in relation to the RPG. Relies on visual criteria, ignores intrinsic qualities of landscape setting. Full HIA not undertaken to inform early stages of the Project.
- Examining Authority have issued a Rule 6 letter setting out matters to reconcile & date of Preliminary Meeting
- Preliminary Meeting 13 May 2025, Oxford to discuss Timetable, Topics and procedures for the Examination of BW Solar Farm
(Registered Interested Parties can attend)
- After 13th May 2025 EA will issue a Rule 8 letter setting out final examination timetable





Image © Historic England

Sunnica



SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

EN010106

Volume 2

2.8 Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites or Features of the Historic Environment Plan

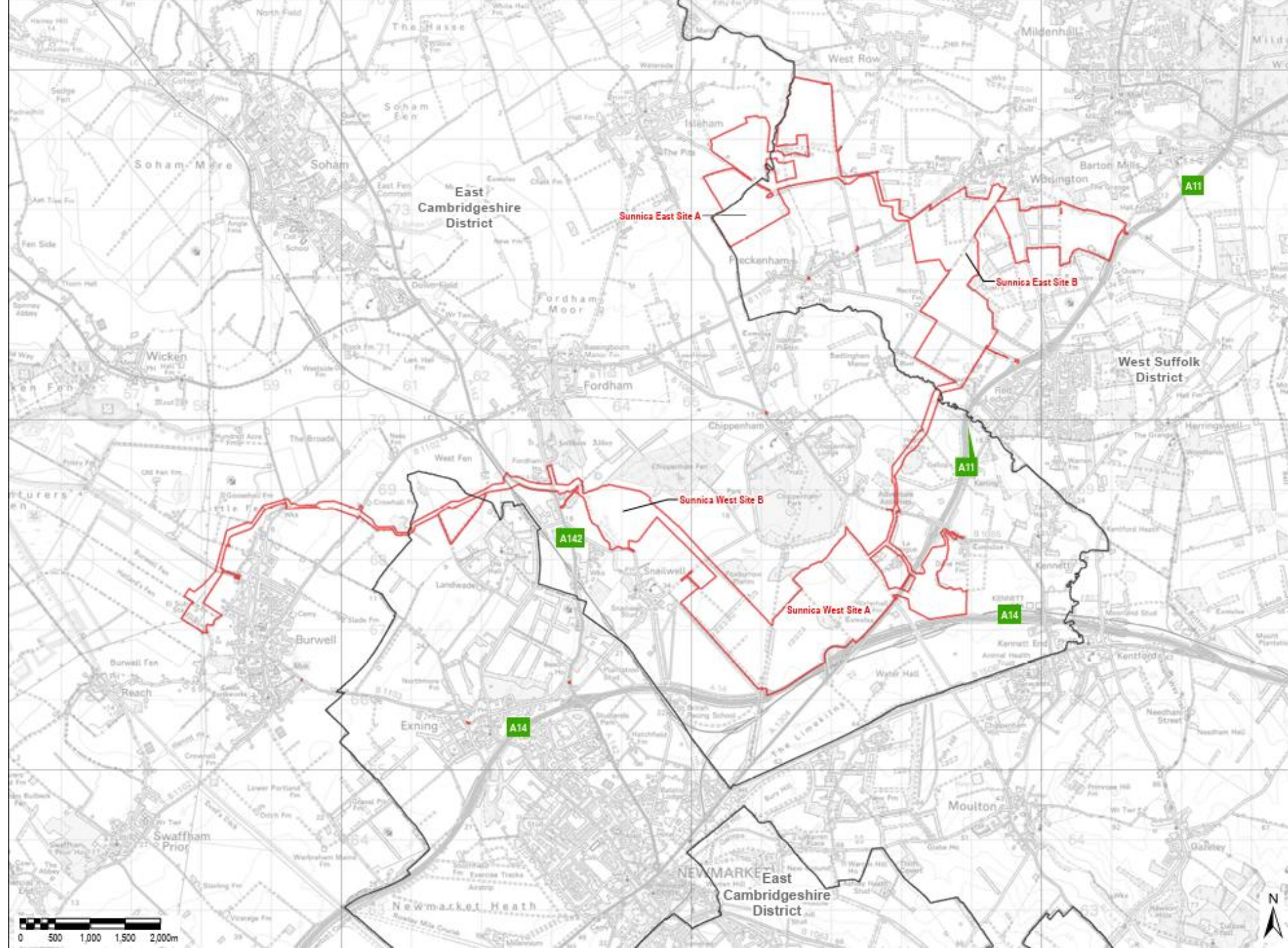
APFP Regulation 5(2)(m)

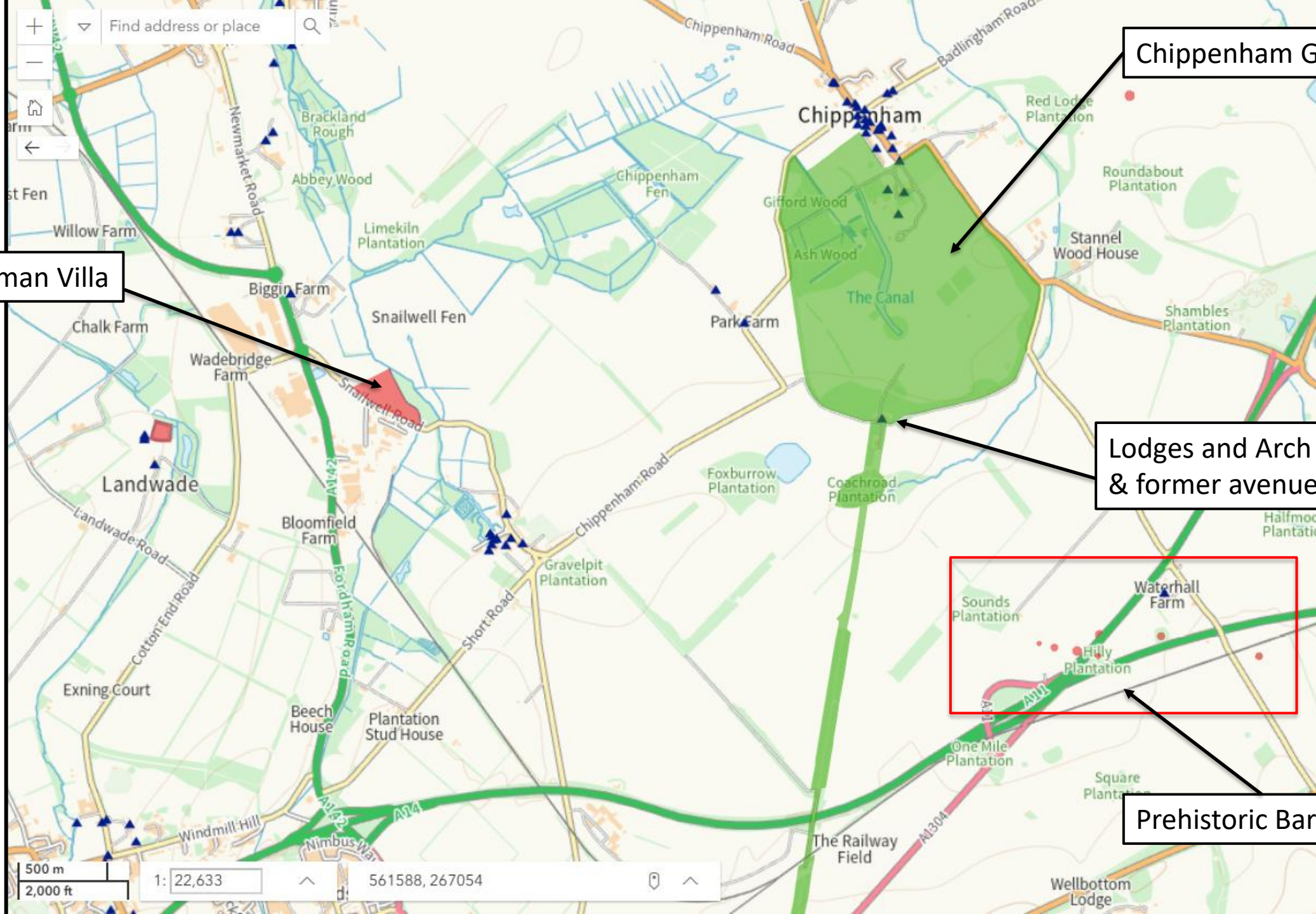
Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009



18 November 2021
Version number: 00



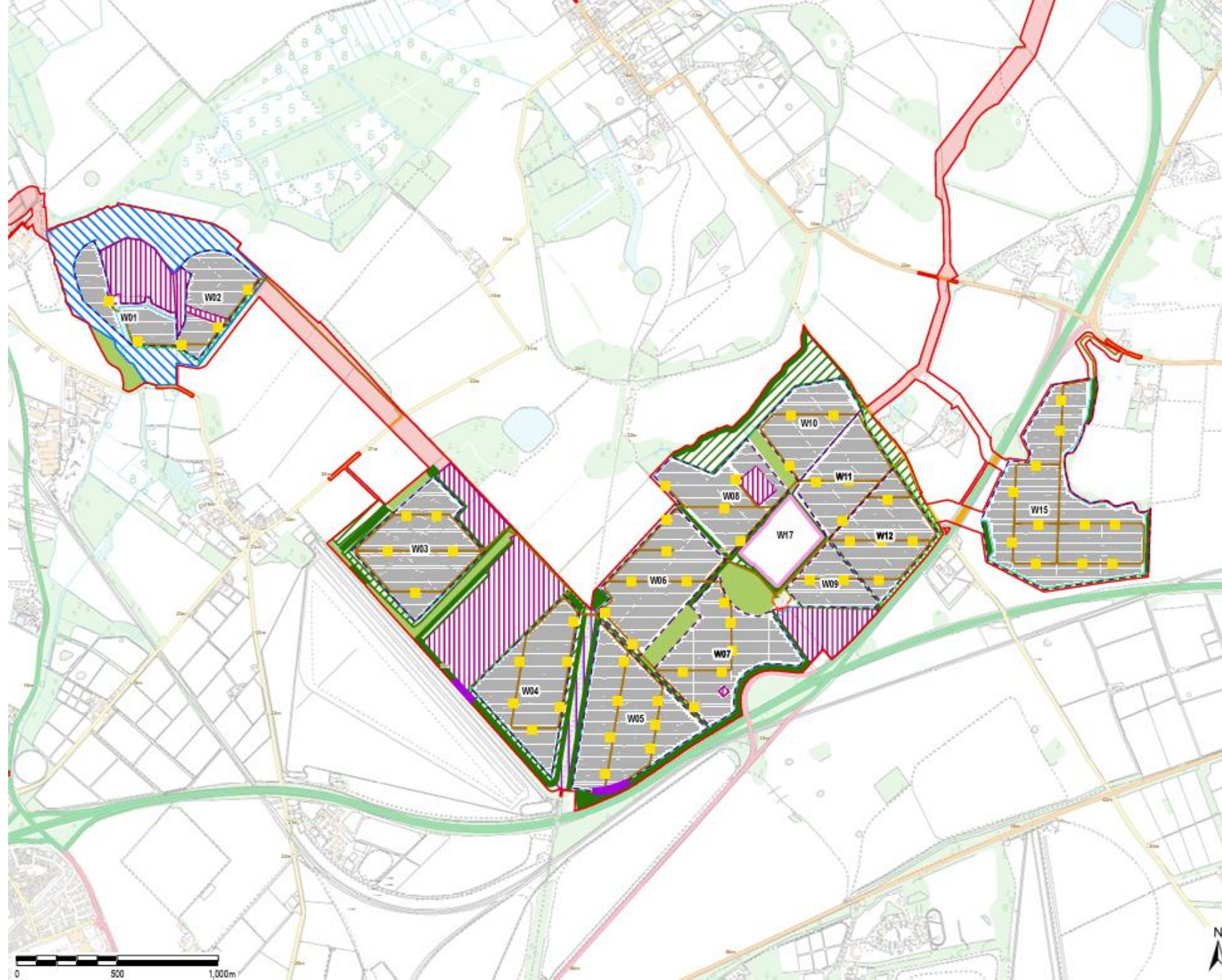


Roman Villa

Chippenham GdII RPG

Lodges and Arch GdII* LB
& former avenue

Prehistoric Barrow Group



Key

- Area for Change 3
- The Order limits
- Woodstore - 20m Buffer
- Public Highway within Scheme
- Proposed Fencing
- Area for Change 2

Proposed Scheme Plan

- Developable Area
- Solar PV Array
- Boundary Fence
- Illustrative Location of Solar Stations
- Proposed Road

Green Infrastructure

- Native Grassland Planting
- Native Grassland Planting within Archaeological Mitigation Areas
- Native Grassland/Wetland
- Heritage Offset with additional planting along The Avenue
- Proposed Woodland (new planting or infilling of existing vegetation)
- Retained Woodland
- Proposed Hedgerow (new planting or infilling of existing vegetation)



Main outcomes

- Buffers against historic features,
- Screening
- Enhanced management of historic features (e.g. barrows)
- Heritage mitigation areas
- Doubled with ecological mitigation



Welcome to our public
consultation on the Bramford
to Twinstead reinforcement

nationalgrid

Hintlesham Hall



EXISTING - WINTER BASELINE

A wide-angle photograph of a winter landscape. The foreground is a large, flat field of dry, brown grass and low-lying green plants. In the middle ground, there is a line of trees and several high-voltage power line towers. The sky is clear and blue. The right side of the image shows a shadow cast by a tree outside the frame.

PHOTOMONTAGE - WINTER IN OPERATION YEAR 1

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a flat, open field in the foreground with sparse vegetation. In the middle ground, a line of trees separates the field from a small, light-colored building. To the right, a large metal power line tower stands prominently, with several power lines stretching across the sky. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is a winter landscape.

VIEWPOINT 007: View from the Public Right of Way near Mabb's Corner.	
<p>Visualisation type: Type 3 (a) accordance with Landscape Institute Visual Representation of Development Proposals Technical Guidance Note 04/16/16</p> <p>Date and time of photograph: 11/03/2017 at 16:16</p> <p>Viewing coordinate: GCS2011</p> <p>OS grid reference: 501060N 80000E 230800E 473</p> <p>Viewpoint grid reference: 17.714 N</p> <p>Projection: UTM/World</p> <p>Offset: 0.000</p> <p>Subsistence: Data: 0.000</p>	<p>Camera type: Canon EOS 80D 18-55mm f/4</p> <p>Camera lens: 18mm</p> <p>Camera height above ground level: 1.6m</p> <p>Aperture: f/5.6</p> <p>ISO: 1250</p> <p>Shutter speed: 1/1250</p> <p>Horizontal field of view: 30°</p> <p>Vertical field of view: 30°</p> <p>Exposure: 0.000</p> <p>Distance to nearest object: 0.000</p>

[illegible]

Shutterstock, April 2014A 20

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Outcomes

- Replanting
- Additional screening
- Moving the pylons to avoid direct impact



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Next: Understanding Setting, 29th May

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