Gardens Trust Green Futures Project, 2025-2026: Site Record	
Section 1.	
Site Name*	Petygard's Hall
Location*	County:* Norfolk District or Borough: * Breckland Parish:* Sporle With Palgrave
Type of Survey*	Desk based
Surveyed by:	Diane Barr
Reported completed:	Date: 09 March 2026
Heritage Assets	
NHLE Names and Numbers*	None
HER (Historic Environment Record)*	Site of Petygards: NHER 4638 Roman road and multi-period pottery sherds: NHER 4249
Is the designed landscape listed locally?	No
Is it in a Conservation Area?	No
Landscape Summary and Description (for the HER record)	
Summary*	The remains of ornamental C19 gardens and landscape park, created on a medieval moated site.
Description*	Petygards in flat, open countryside to the west of the upper reaches of the river Wissey. The soil is this area is a mix of sandy and impermeable clay and it falls in the north half of the Brickland district. The site is accessed along a straight drive from North Pickenham Road to the east. Petygards is a medieval site which had a moated manor house and a chapel – both have now gone. A C19th villa was built to the north of the moat, which had a 25-hectare park around it. A u-shaped section of moat has survived but has undergone transformation in the C19 and C20 into an ornamental water and pleasure garden. A sizeable block of woodland (in the form of a backward C) called Whitegate Plantation occupies the east of the site and through which the main drive runs. The main lawn, south of the surviving portion of the C19 house, is used as a small park for touring caravans and camping. There are a large number of ornamental trees including different varieties of cherries. Remnants of the park which have not been ploughed up in the second half of the C20, have been divided into paddocks. A spiritual healing centre is run from The Old Barracks on site.

Statement of Significance (brief notes, as bullet points)	
Archaeological interest	Area south of the present house is presumed to be the site of a moated house circa. 1300, named after the owner at the time. Investigation of the grounds in 1978 recovered medieval pottery sherds and a few Roman sherds, from earlier occupiers of the site.
Architectural and Artistic Interest	n/a
Historic Interest	n/a
Summary Statement of Significance	Petygards Hall and grounds incorporate a site which once contained a medieval moated house. There may also have been a medieval hamlet here as medieval pottery shards have been found nearby. The moated area south of the present house has been converted into ornamental ponds.
Owner Information (if multiple owners, please provide all known)	
Name	Not known
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Main contact for the site (if different from above)	
Name	Not known
Address	Petygards Hall, North Pickenham Road, Sporle, Norfolk, England, PE32 2EQ
Telephone	01760 722881
Email:	
Owner/Occupier notes	
Any extra information not given above	Very hard to find out any information about who owns the site, all contact is through the Campong and caravanning Club.

Section 2. Outline History of the Site	
Key Dates*	Circa. 1300 – a moated house stood on the site presumably named after the individual who owned the site. 1825 – Date of south wing. 1838 – tithe apportionments state Edmund Farrer was the owner – he was responsible for building the later house and presumably the pair of lodges at the east gate, and a possibly lodge on the secondary north entrance. 1845 – Chapel demolished. 1890 – Farrer is proclaimed bankrupt. 1890 – the property is owned and occupied by the Wyrley-Birch family. 1937 – the owner and occupier is Capt. Richard Gurney Buxton.

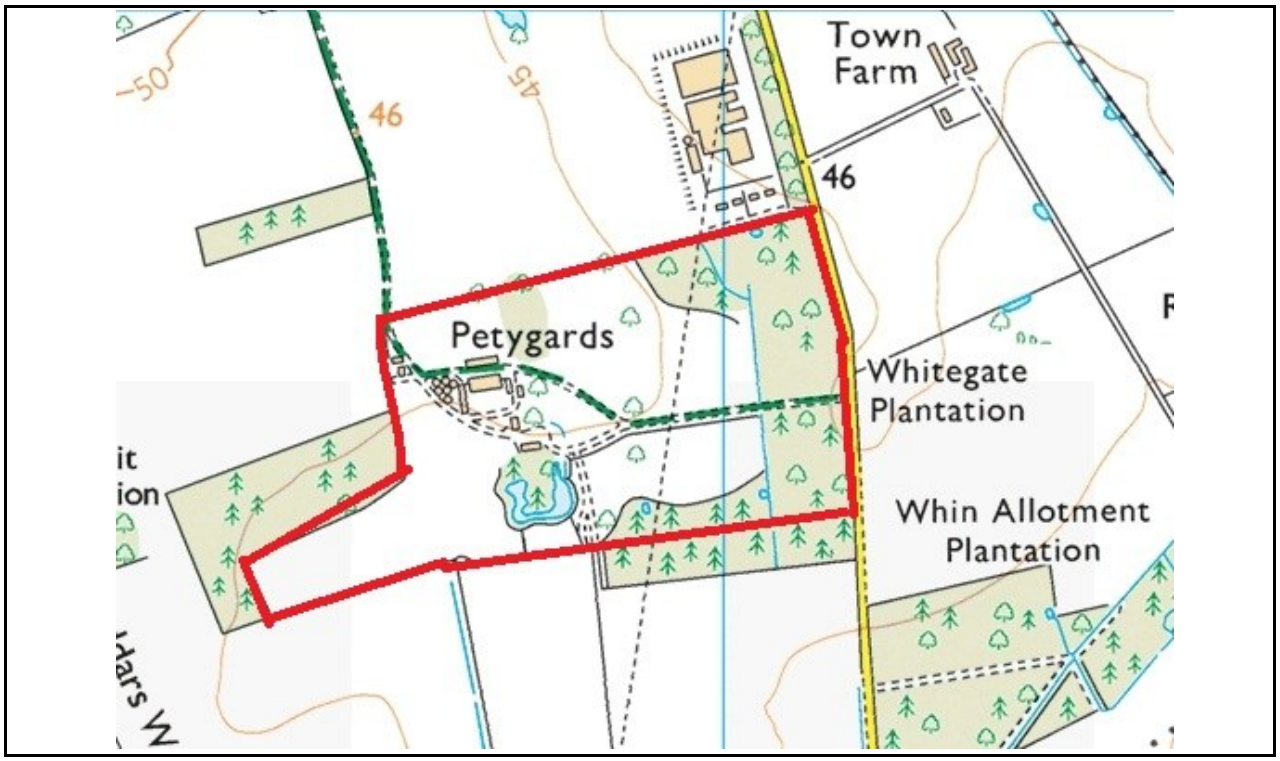
	1940 – Requisitioned by H. M. War Office. Description of garden – consists of semi-circular lawn and ornamental flower beds on the south. Tree and shrubberies to the north. Drive to house on the east with pair of iron entrance gates. 1955 – Demolition of the old north wing. Late twentieth century – grounds incorporate a camping and caravanning site.
Key People*	1841 to 1871 – Farmer, Edmund Farrer, resides at Farm House, Pettisgate. 1881 – Farmer, Edmund Farrer resides at Pettygard Farm 1921 – Farmer, Richard Gurney Buxton, resides at Petygards Hall
Events:	n/a
Influence:	n/a
Documentation*	(1) Publication: *Norfolk Gardens and Designed Landscapes*, P. Dallas, T. Williamson, R. Last (2013) (2) Publication: *Lost Country Houses of Norfolk,* T. Williamson, I. Ringwood & S. Spooner (2015)
Major changes	Some of the grounds have been given over to providing camping and caravanning facilities.
List of sources*	(1) Archive: Norfolk Record Office – BR 73/120 Sporle: Report and schedule of condition of property, Petygards, for Eastern Command. Maxey & Son (1940) (2) Maps: Ordnance Survey Six-inch maps courtesy of National Library for Scotland website. (3) Census Records: https://www.ancestry.co.uk (4) Norfolk Directories: https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/NFK/Sporle (5) Norfolk Heritage Explorer: https://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/home (6) Camping & Caravanning Club website: https://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/campsites/uk/norfolk/kings-lynn/petygardshall/ (7) Faden's Map of Norfolk, 1797, http://www.fadensmapofnorfolk.co.uk/

Section 3. Site Visit	
Date/s*	n/a
Site Contact	
Site visit by*	
Are there any threats to the preservation of the site?	Proposed High Grove Solar Farm has potential to be visible from the house and grounds.
Are there any other issues and/or vulnerabilities that could potentially affect its preservation?	
Are there any Stewardship Schemes relevant to the site?	No
Is there a management plan in place?	No
Constraints encountered	Unable to make contact

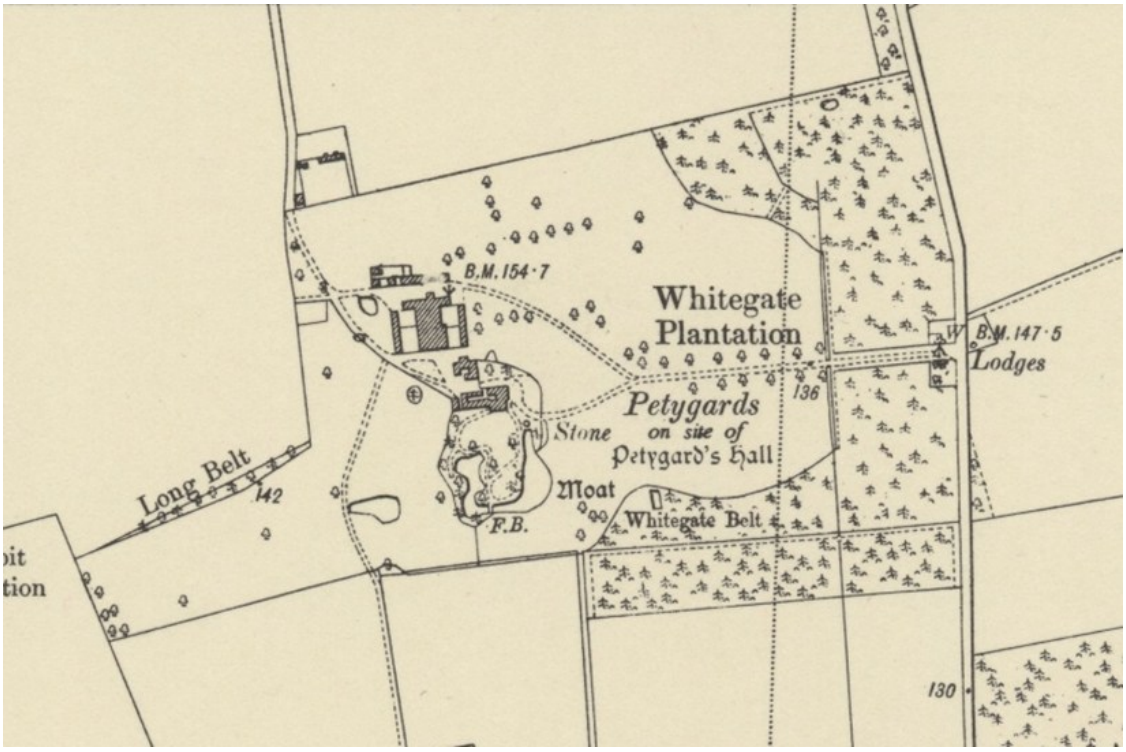
Section 4. Description of the Site	
Ordnance Survey 8-figure grid reference – site centre	TF 8567 0837
Postcode:	PE32 2EQ
Type of Location	In the C19th the hall stood within a park of about 25 hectares. A moated house once stood as a U-shaped moat survives and it is marked on the 1884 25-inch OS map. The present house stands to the north of the moat, which has been converted into an ornamental pond.
Entrance points and pathways*	The hall was approached by an avenue from North Pickenham Road to the east. Old maps indicate there were lodges on either side of the driveway. A secondary drive to the north entrance had possibly a lodge beside it.
Main component areas	Eastern block of woodland, gardens and water gardens south of house, paddocks in former parkland.
Views and vistas	Not known
Landforms and earthworks*	Medieval moat
Water features*	Medieval U-shaped moat remains but now used as ornamental ponds.
Tree species and specimen trees	Mature nineteenth century and early C20 plantings consist of oak, ash, Corsican pine, yew, lime, sweet chestnut, beech and copper beech, holly, and weeping ash. More recent planting includes flowering cherries, acer, camelias and magnolias.
Structural planting	An avenue of C19 limes remains to the east of the house. Inside this is an avenue of fastigate cherries.
Buildings, constructions and ornaments*	Not known
Pleasure grounds/gardens	Gardens in an irregular style exist to the south of the house. There are also irregular areas of lawn.
Parkland	The park survived intact until the second half of the C20, when the northern and most of the western side were ploughed.
Land beyond the boundary that makes a contribution to significance	n/a
Kitchen gardens and productive/service areas*	Not known
Modern features	The surviving section is divided into paddocks. Grounds used as camping and caravanning site. Modern farm buildings north of house.

Boundaries*	Large woodland belt named Whitegates Plantation is to the eastern side. On the southern side is smaller belt named Whitegate Belt.
Other descriptions or features not covered above	

Section 5. Concluding	
Final comments:	
Site map attached?* (Please indicate ownership boundaries where known)	Yes
Labelled photographs*	1. *OS Six-inch map,* 1952, National Library for Scotland. 2. *OS Six-inch map,* 1926, National Library for Scotland. 3. *OS Six-inch map,* 1904, National Library for Scotland. 4. *OS Six-inch map,* 1882, National Library for Scotland. 5. OS 25-inch map, 1884, National Library for Scotland. 6. *Faden's Map of Norfolk, 1797*, http://www.fadensmapofnorfolk.co.uk/ 7. *High Grove Solar Farm outline masterplan,* Interactive Map, https://uk.rwe.com/project-proposals/high-grove-solar-farm/ 8. Green shrub border and lawn (Camping and Caravan Club website) 9. Avenue of fastigate cherry trees lining the drive (Camping and Caravan Club website) 10.
Photo permission attached?	
Drone images	n/a
Copies of useful source materials attached and labelled?	
Sensitive information	



Petygards Hall Boundaries – Modern OS map



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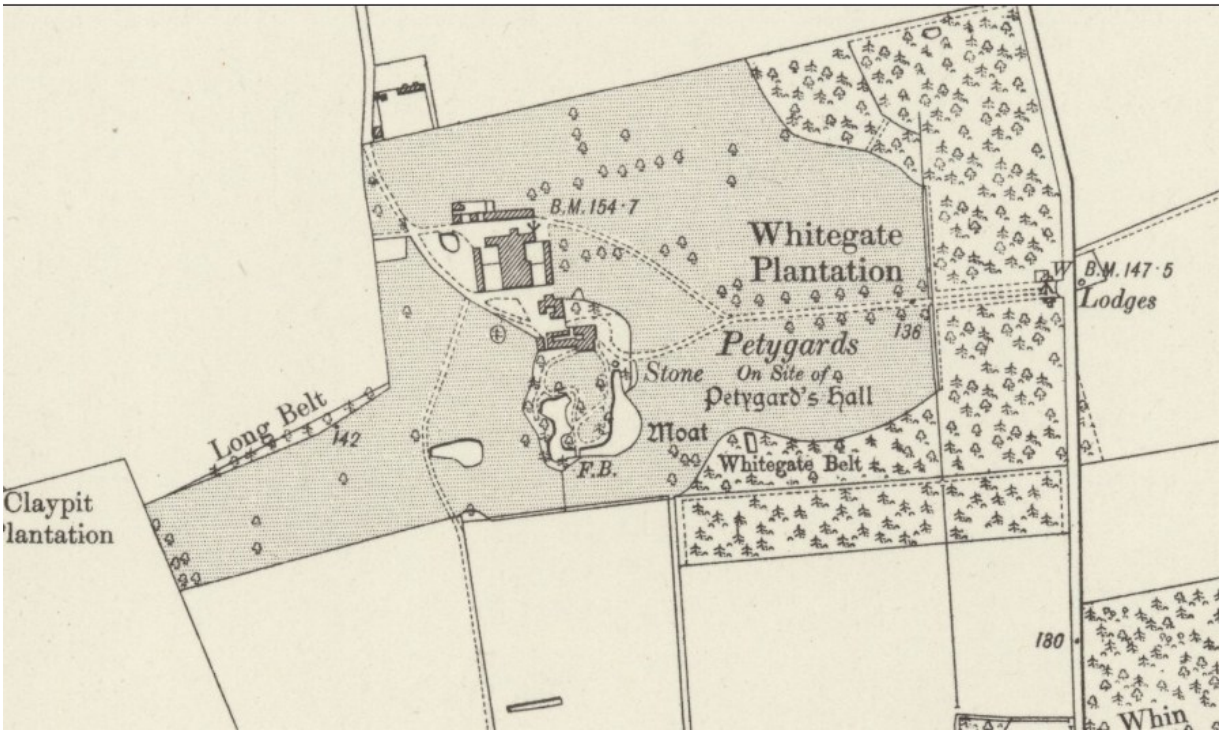
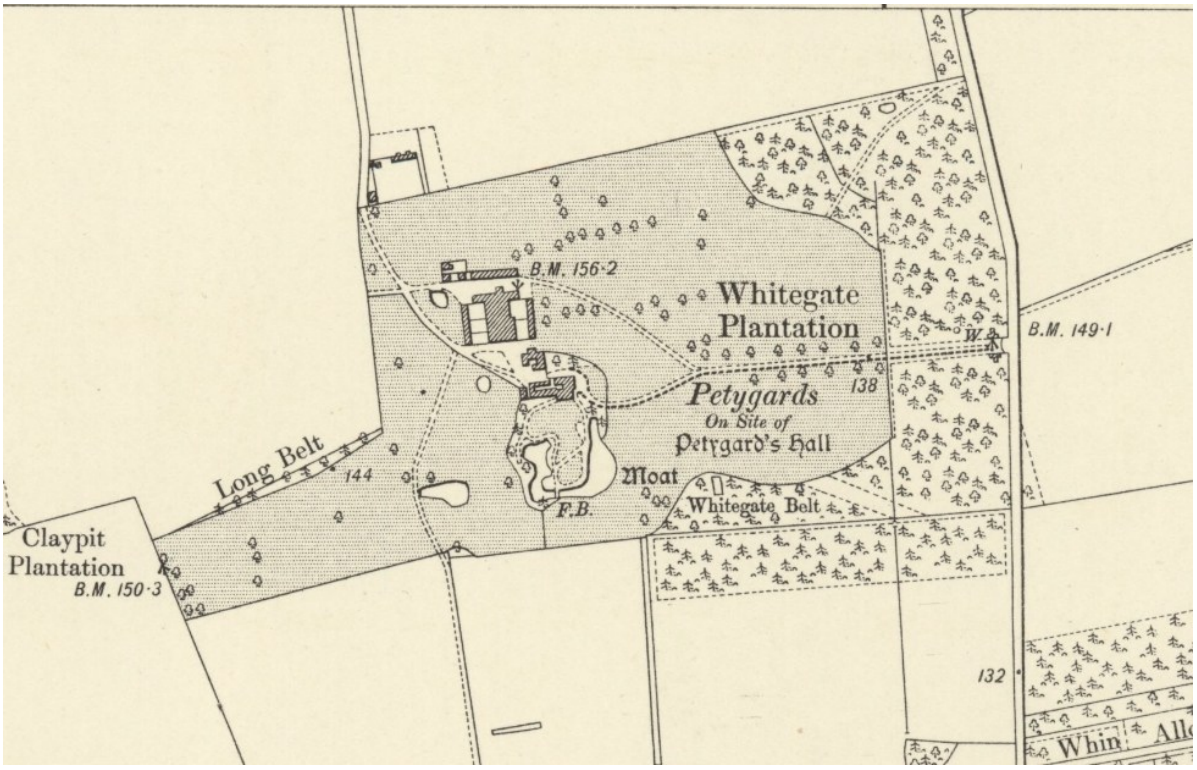

B.M. 154·7
Whitegate Plantation
B.M. 147·5
Lodges
136
Petygards
On Site of
Petygard's Hall
Stone
Long Belt
142
Moat
F.B.
Whitegate Belt
Claypit
Plantation
180

3.


B.M. 156·2
Whitegate Plantation
B.M. 149·1
138
Petygards
On Site of
Petygard's Hall
Long Belt
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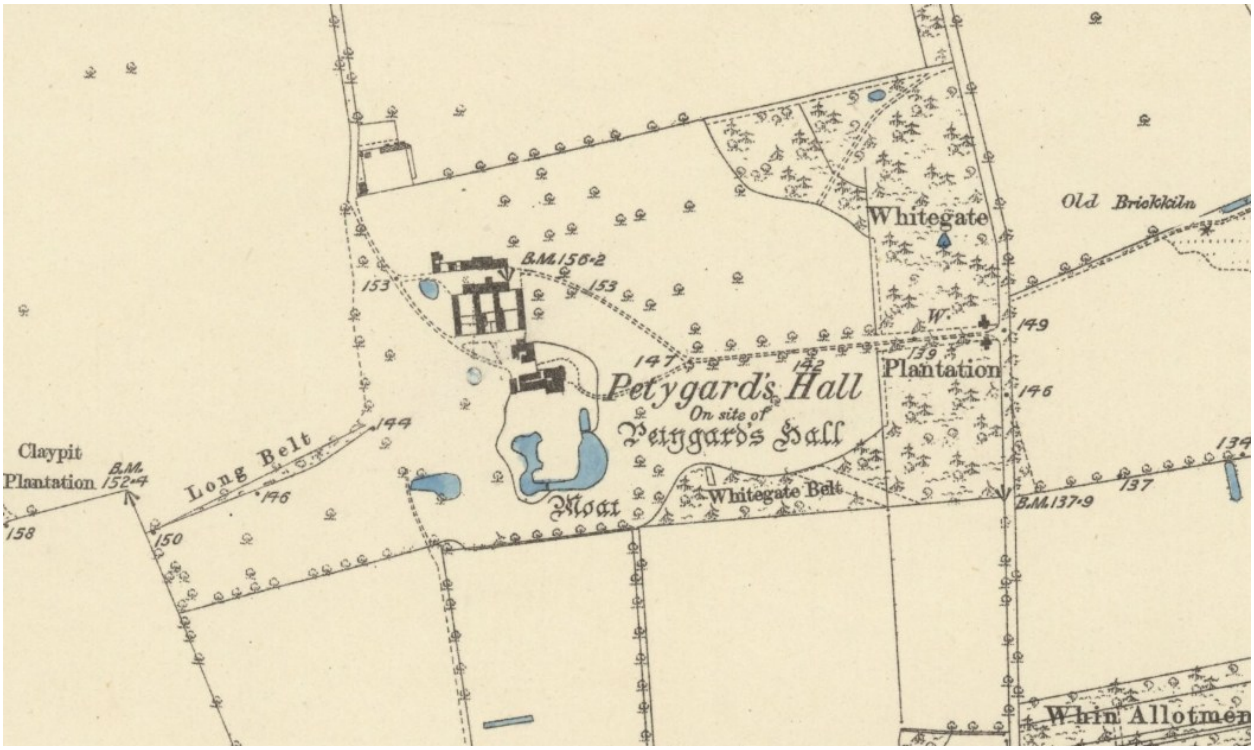
Moat
F.B.
Whitegate Belt
Claypit
Plantation
B.M. 150·3
132

4.


Whitegate
Old Brickkiln
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Petygard's Hall
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Petygard's Hall
Plantation
139
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Claypit
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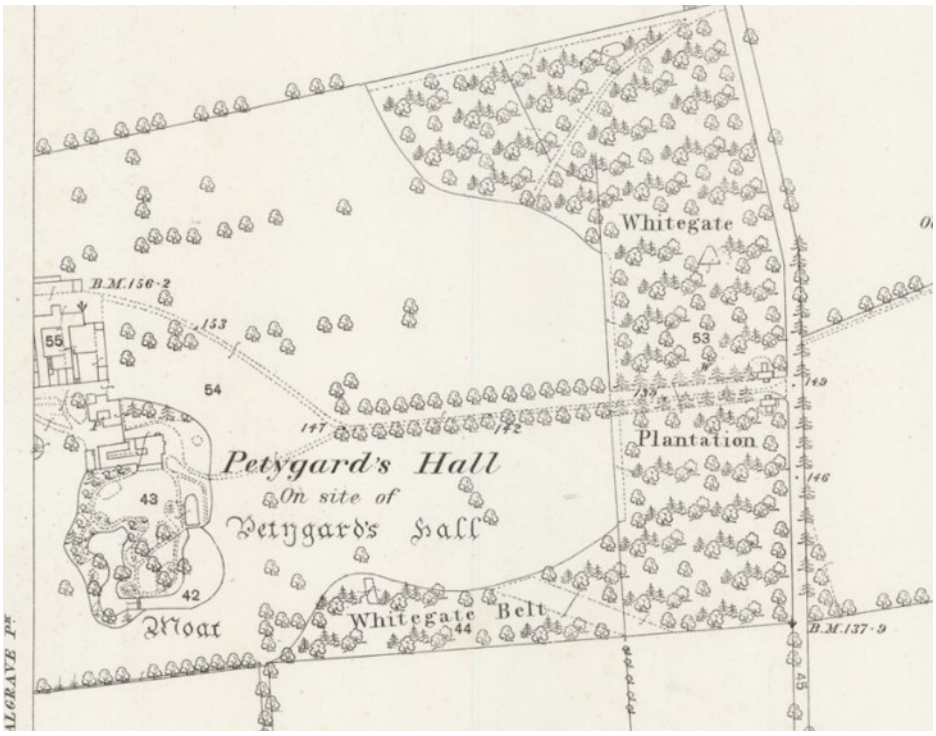
Whitegate
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Plantation
Petygard's Hall
On site of
Petygard's Hall
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146
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Moat
Whitegate Belt
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B.M.137·9
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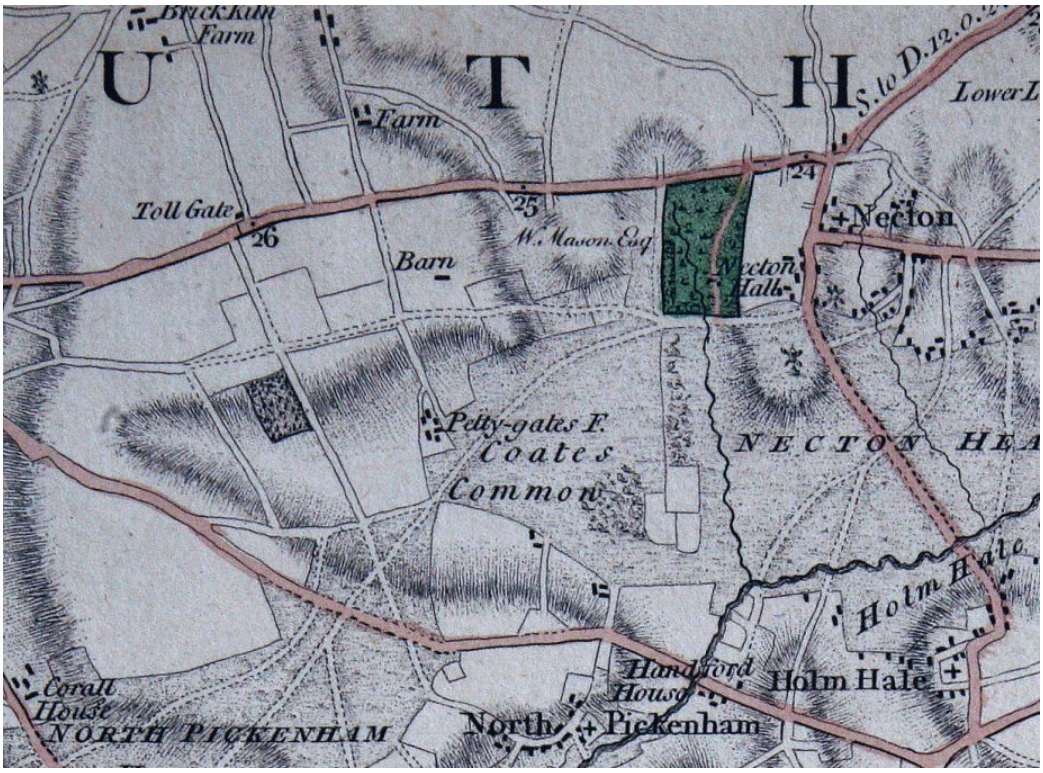

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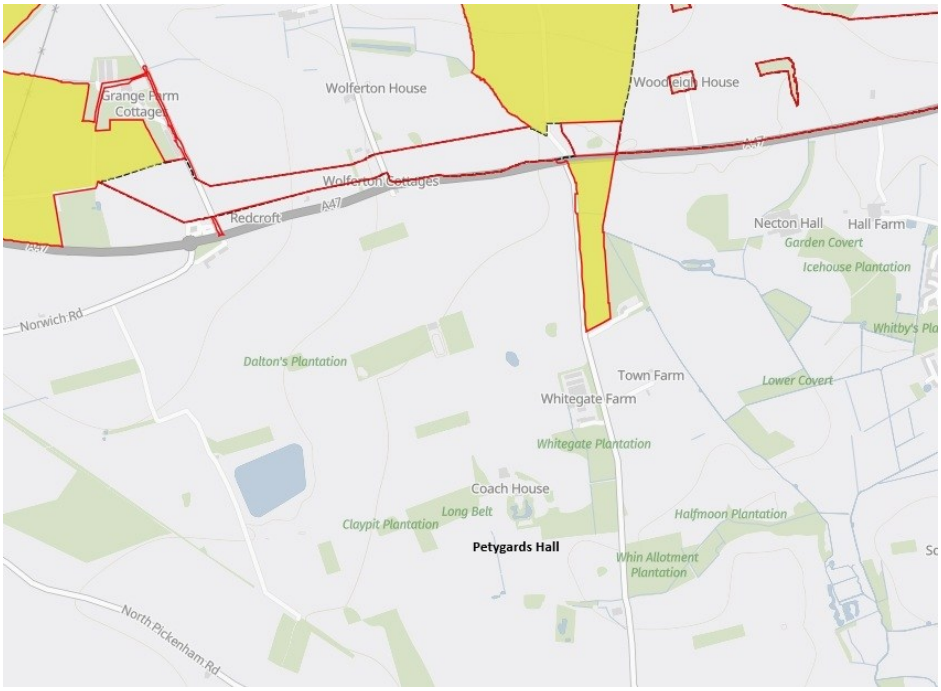

High Grove Solar Farm proposed masterplan

9.



10.

