



# Little Crow

*Solar Park*

*Little Crow Solar Park, Scunthorpe*

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## DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH HISTORIC ENGLAND

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**LITTLE CROW SOLAR PARK  
LAND TO THE EAST OF STEEL WORKS,  
SCUNTHORPE**

**DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON  
GROUND (SOCG)**

**STATUS & DATE**

**APRIL 2020**

**BETWEEN:**

- I. LITTLE CROW SOLAR PARK; AND
- II. HISTORIC ENGLAND

**ON BEHALF OF INRG SOLAR (LITTLE CROW) LTD**

**Pegasus Group**

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL

**T** 01454 625945 | **F** 01454 618074 | **W** [www.pegasusgroup.co.uk](http://www.pegasusgroup.co.uk)

Birmingham | Bracknell | Bristol | Cambridge | Cirencester | East Midlands | Leeds | Liverpool | London | Manchester

**PLANNING** | **DESIGN** | **ENVIRONMENT** | **ECONOMICS**

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## **APPENDICES:**

APPENDIX 1:	LAND USE PLAN
APPENDIX 2:	PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT PLAN

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared as part of the application process for a Development Consent Order for the Little Crow Solar Park [“the Development”]. This document has been prepared jointly between the applicant and Historic England.

### **Historic England**

1.2 Historic England are the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. They protect, champion and save the places that define who we are and where we've come from as a nation. They seek to work with communities and specialists to inspire interest, care and conservation, so everyone can keep enjoying and looking after the history that surrounds us all.

1.3 Historic England are the government's expert advisor on the nations heritage, and they have a statutory role in the planning system. Central to their role is the advice given to local planning authorities, government departments, developers and owners on development proposals affecting the historic environment.

1.4 Although a national body, they work from six offices around the country. Being local, the advice given benefits from their local knowledge and relationships, as well as our national expertise.

### **Purpose of Document**

1.5 This statement of common ground is a working document prepared jointly by the applicant and Historic England. The document has been structured to reflect the matters and topic relevant between the applicant and Historic England. It is not the intention for this document to supplant the role of the heritage advisors at North Lincolnshire Council (to which a separate SoCG is being discussed/agreed)

1.6 As this is a working document, the general approach is to provide common ground text set out in a tabulated format for Historic England to comment upon and then either agree, disagree or identify the need for further negotiations.

1.7 As the SoCG evolves, the aim will be to provide three distinct tables covering (i) matters that are agreed, (ii) matters which are subject to further negotiations, and (iii) matters not agreed.

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## **2. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 The main element of the Development is the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park with a maximum design capacity of up to 150MWp (megawatts peak) and battery storage capacity of up to 90MW. Battery storage will allow the development to fully utilise the network connection capacity when the solar park is not exporting at peak capacity. The battery element of the proposal would be available to store energy from and release electrical energy to the electricity network.
- 2.2 The solar and battery elements could either be delivered and connected to the electricity network independently of each other or at the same time. They could therefore be constructed and become operational either independently or together. An operational lifespan of 35 years is sought for each element and, subject to when they are constructed, the operational lifespans could run concurrently or interdependently.
- 2.3 A single main substation compound will serve the whole Development, and this will be required for the duration of the Development and retained thereafter. The substation compound would be located near the northern perimeter of the site and to the east of the existing double row of 132kV overhead electricity pylons which traverse the site and duly provides the point of connection to the local electricity network.
- 2.4 The Development area can be effectively split into seven land use zones, these are:-
- Zone 1: Ground mounted solar photovoltaic arrays
  - Zone 2: Battery Compound Yard
  - Zone 3: Ecological corridors
  - Zone 4: Central substation compound and connection to the national grid
  - Zone 5: Main access track
  - Zone 6: Perimeter development buffer
  - Zone 7: Temporary construction compound

- 2.5 The proposed land use zoning plan is provided at Appendix 1. The proposed layout drawings are provided at Appendix 2.

**APPENDIX 1 – LAND USE ZONING PLAN  
APPENDIX 2 – PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT PLAN**

**Solar Arrays**

- 2.6 All solar photovoltaic (PV) modules will be located within the fields enclosures / Zone 1 as defined on the zoning plan. The total solar output will not exceed 150MW with land coverage of the PV modules would be 800,000 sq m.
- 2.7 The PV modules would be static, mounted on aluminium metal racks. The racks will be laid out in multiple parallel rows running east to west across the various field enclosures. The distance between the arrays would respond to topography but would typically be between 3.5 metres to 6 metres. The maximum height of the solar panels fixed onto the framework would be under 2.5m. All PV modules will be south facing.
- 2.8 The mounting system will be primarily formed of piled posts set approximately 3.75m apart, except within areas of archaeological interest where the posts will be fixed into concrete pads resting on top of the ground. The PV modules would be dark blue, grey or black in colour with the frame constructed of anodized aluminium alloy.
- 2.9 For archaeological interests, a development exclusion zone has been provided around the area containing the former Gokewell Priory. No arrays or cable runs will go through this area. The area will be used to provide biodiversity measures and will be delineated with a stock-proof fence. The existing public right of way (Footpath 214) running through this area will be retained.
- 2.10 Inverters, transformers and associated switch gear which are required to convert the DC electricity produced by the arrays into AC energy, will be spread equally across the site. Insulated DC cables from the solar modules will be routed in channels fixed on the underside of the framework. The electrical cabling from each array will be concealed through shallow trenches linking the modules to the inverters and transformers and then to the main substation. AC cables will also be laid in trenches and would run directly to the main substation compound.

- 2.11 The arrays would be set within stock-proof fencing up to 2m in height with wooden supporting posts placed at intervals of c. 3.5m. The stock proof fencing would be either green or galvanised aluminium in finish. The minimum distance between the edge of the arrays and the stock-proof fence would be 3m. Land between and beneath the panels would be used for biodiversity enhancements and seasonal sheep grazing.
- 2.12 A CCTV system mounted on poles would be positioned at intervals along the inside face edge of the stock-proof fencing (between the fence and the arrays).

### **Battery Storage Compound**

- 2.13 The battery storage compound consists of industrial batteries that can store energy and are able to release or absorb energy from the power network. Being able to absorb and release energy, the battery storage at Little Crow can be used to contribute towards the frequency balancing services, where the power is being generated or absorbed statically or dynamically depending on the system frequency.
- 2.14 When there is not enough power, batteries are discharged to balance under frequency, preventing black and brown outs. To balance over frequency, batteries are charged to prevent dangerous spikes across electricity infrastructure<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.15 All batteries will be located within the Zone 2 as defined on the zoning plan. The total land coverage of the battery compound would not exceed 3,500 m sq. The total storage capacity would not exceed 90MW.
- 2.16 The compound would be made secure by a 3m gated palisade fence. Battery containers would have a maximum length of 17m, maximum width of 3m and a maximum height of 4m. The maximum storage capacity of a single battery container would be c6MW. The battery containers would be dark green in colour. The maximum development footprint of the battery storage compound will be 55m by 100m and will be surfaced with stone chippings.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Electricity Transmission System is an islanded network with no AC connections to other networks. In order to manage the system frequency within the normal operating range 49.5Hz to 50.5Hz, National Grid relies on frequency balancing service providers to modulate their active power output or consumption in order to minimise the imbalance between generation and demand on the system. The extent of the required modulation is determined by the deviation of the system frequency from 50Hz. A change in grid frequency is caused by an imbalance of supply and demand.



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### **Substation**

- 2.17 A single substation compound will be required for the Development and this will be constructed at the start of the development of the whole site. Following construction and commissioning the substation compound will be adopted and become the property of the District Network Operator (DNO, who will maintain the compound throughout the lifetime of the Development. The decommissioning of the substation is not considered as part of the Application as this will be the property of the DNO and as such would be outside the gift of the developer to decommission.
- 2.18 The maximum development footprint of the substation yard will be 80m by 80m and will be surfaced with stone chippings. Under normal conditions the site would be unmanned.

### **Landscape and ecological management plan**

- 2.19 The Development proposal presents considerable opportunity for landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement. The Landscape and Biodiversity proposal are discussed in detail in the supporting Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.
- 2.20 Ecological and biodiversity measures are promoted across the entire site and these enhanced areas are shown as land zone 3, as shown on the zoning plan. Land between and beneath the panels would be used for biodiversity enhancements and seasonal sheep grazing. Tree planting would be introduced along the north east section of the development boundary.
- 2.21 The existing woodland plantations that surround the various field enclosures would continue to be managed by the landowner as part of its woodland forestry licence. The hedgerows surrounding the field edges will also be managed via the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.

### **Access**

- 2.22 It is proposed that construction traffic will arrive from the M180 junction 4, the A15, the A18, the B1208 and B1207 to the site access. From the M180 junction 4 vehicles will use the A15 northbound to the Briggate Lodge Roundabout and then travel east along the A18 towards Brigg. From the A18, vehicles will turn left onto the B1208. The B1208 measures between approximately 5.5 and six metres wide.

Vehicles will travel along the B1208 to the junction with the B1207 and then continue straight ahead into the site access.

- 2.23 No construction vehicles associated with the development proposal would travel through Broughton.

### **Construction phase & Temporary Construction Compound**

- 2.24 As stated elsewhere in this section, the solar and battery elements could either be constructed and connected to the electricity network independently of each other or at the same time. If all elements were constructed as at the same time, then the construction period would take approximately 11 months (up to 47 weeks).

- 2.25 Construction activities will be carried out Monday to Friday 07:00-18:00 and between 08:00 and 13:30 on Saturdays. Where possible, construction deliveries will be coordinated to avoid HGV movements during the traditional AM peak hour (08:00-09:00) and PM peak hour (17:00-18:00).

- 2.26 During the construction phase (or phases) one main construction compound will serve the development proposal and this will be located off the main site entrance, thus reducing the distance delivery vehicles will need to travel after reaching the site's entrance.

- 2.27 The temporary construction compound would comprise: -

- Temporary portacabins providing office and welfare facilities for construction operatives
- Parking area for construction and workers vehicles
- Secure compound for storage
- Temporary hardstanding
- Wheel washing facilities
- Temporary gated compound
- Storage bins for recyclables and other waste

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All construction vehicles will exit through the wheel wash area in order to reduce the spread of mud and dirt onto the local highway network. Temporary roadways may be utilised to access parts of the development site and this would be guided by weather conditions at time of construction.

### **Decommissioning**

- 2.28 An outline decommissioning strategy is included within the Environmental Statement and sets out details of the decommissioning programme to be carried out after a 35 year generation period. It includes the methods for the removal of all the solar panels, cabins, structures, batteries, enclosures, equipment and all other apparatus above and below ground level from the site and details of their destination in terms of waste/recycling, and details of how the site is to be restored.

### 3. CULTURAL HERITAGE

3.1 The lead consultant on behalf of the applicant on cultural heritage and archaeology is Cotswold Archaeology

**Table 8.1: Cultural Heritage Common Ground Text**

<i>Applicant comments</i>	<i>Historic England Comments</i>	<i>Status e.g Agreed / not agreed N/A</i>
<i>Description</i>		
<p>A full and comprehensive Heritage Assessment has been completed for the proposed scheme. Assessment works have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Heritage Baseline Study (Pegasus Group, August 2019).</li> <li>• Geophysical Survey Report (SUMO, September 2018).</li> <li>• Archaeological Watching Brief (Cotswold Archaeology, November 2018).</li> <li>• Archaeological Watching Brief (Cotswold Archaeology, November 2018).</li> <li>• Archaeological Watching Brief (Cotswold Archaeology, November 2018).</li> </ul> <p>All works were undertaken in dialogue with and with agreement from Alison Williams (AW) Historic Environment Officer at NLC.</p>	<p>Appear sufficient in scope insofar as they address those issues raised by us in pre-app, but we cannot certify the quality and content of the work done or supplant the role of the Local Government Archaeological Curator.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<i>Methodology</i>		
<p>The ES Chapter, the Heritage Assessment and the methodology for the assessment of development effects have been informed by the following documents:</p>	<p>Noted</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; 2019);</li> <li>• NPPF Planning Practice Guidance: Historic Environment (July 2019);</li> <li>• Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment, published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA; January 2017);</li> <li>• Historic England’s Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (published by English Heritage in 2008);</li> <li>• Historic England’s Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking (2015);</li> <li>• Historic England’s Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2017).</li> </ul> <p>The following sources of publicly available archaeological and historical information were consulted as part of the preparation of the Heritage Assessment, completed in August 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Heritage List for England for designated heritage assets, such as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments;</li> <li>• Historic England Archive data for information on non-designated heritage assets;</li> <li>• North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record for records of archaeology and heritage sites, finds and events recorded within the study area;</li> </ul>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online sources, including British Geological Survey and additional historic mapping.</li> </ul> <p>A geophysical survey was undertaken at the Site in July - September 2018.</p> <p>Ground investigation works undertaken at the Site were subject to an archaeological watching brief in September 2018.</p> <p>A 24.4% sample of the Site was subject to archaeological fieldwalking in September 2018.</p> <p>In June and July 2019, an archaeological evaluation, comprising 155 trial trenches, was carried out across the Site.</p>		
<p><i>Baseline</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of features of potential archaeological interest have been identified through the various studies and surveys undertaken. Some of these have been shown to be of little or no archaeological interest, and others that can be mitigated via design changes or recording in advance of development.</li> <li>• The site of a Cistercian priory is documented as lying beneath the remains of Gokewell Priory Farm, limited upstanding remains of which are visible within the Site. Whilst the later farm buildings reused the architectural fabric of the priory, leaving no original upstanding remains, it is likely that archaeological remains associated with the earlier priory survive within the area of the farm.</li> </ul>	<p>Noted</p>	

<p><b>Mitigation:</b> The area of the medieval Gokewell Priory has been designated as an archaeological exclusion zone and therefore there will be no impacts associated with installation or operation of the arrays.</p> <p>In addition, a programme of archaeological recording will be implemented during the works within the periphery of the archaeological exclusion zone (i.e. around pylons to the east and during cable trench excavations within the south-east corner).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Proposed Development at the Site is not deemed likely to impact on the settings of any designated assets to an extent that it alters the significance of the asset and as such there are no identified designated sensitive receptors in this respect.</li> </ul> <p><b>General Mitigation Measures:</b> in addition to the specific measures set out above archaeological monitoring (watching brief) will be carried out during ground works within sensitive areas in Fields 7 and 10, and during excavation of the swale to the west of the archaeological exclusion zone.</p>	<p>Noted and welcomed</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted and welcomed</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>
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**Table 8.2 Cultural Heritage Consultation Response**

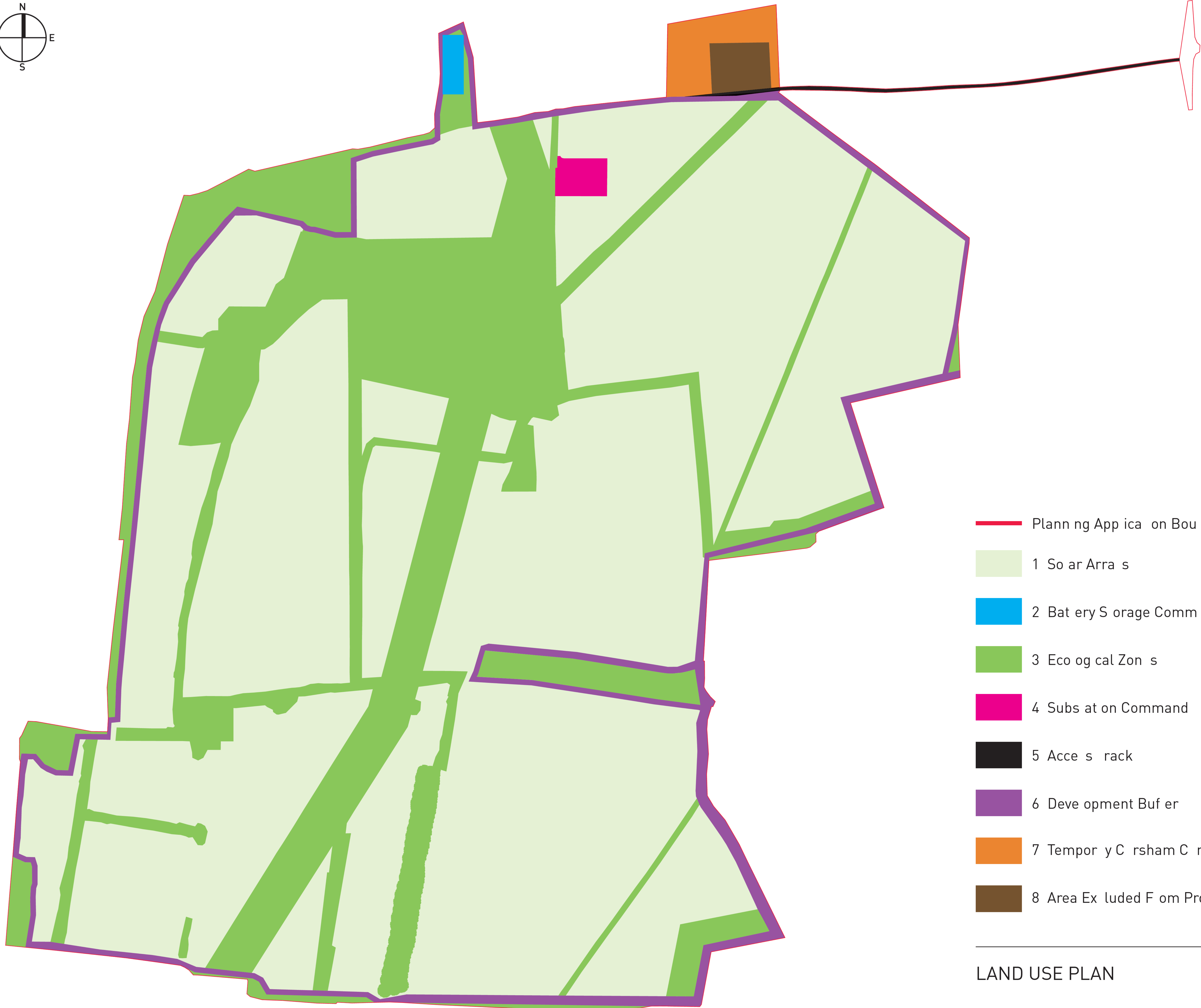
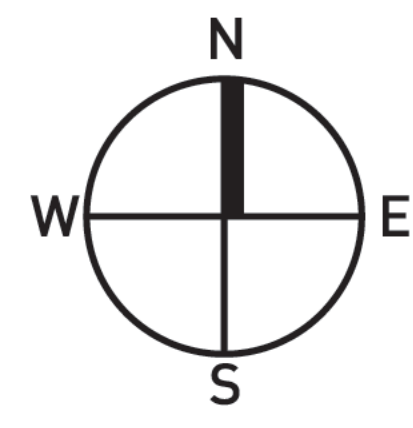
<b><i>Historic England Comments</i></b>	<b><i>Applicant comments</i></b>	<b><i>Status e.g Agreed / not agreed N/A</i></b>
Correspondence dated August/September 2018 with response from Historic England including:	No further action required.	Agreed

<p>'Key heritage assets in the area include the non-designated nunnery at Gokewell Farm, a site potentially of national importance depending upon the degree of below ground survival.' And 'It appears from your material that the scheme as proposed avoids the site of the Nunnery and this thus appears a proportionate response provided this balance survives scheme medications or further discoveries. On the basis of the work done to date (and in the expectation of your on-going positive dialogue with the Local Authority Archaeologist Ms Alison Williams) Historic England anticipates making no objection to the grant of a Development Consent Order for this scheme on heritage grounds.'</p>		
<p>Section 42 Planning Act 2008 – Historic England response to Statutory Consultation dated 4 March 2019. Essentially repeats comments made in response of September 2018</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>





## **APPENDIX 1: LAND USE PLAN**



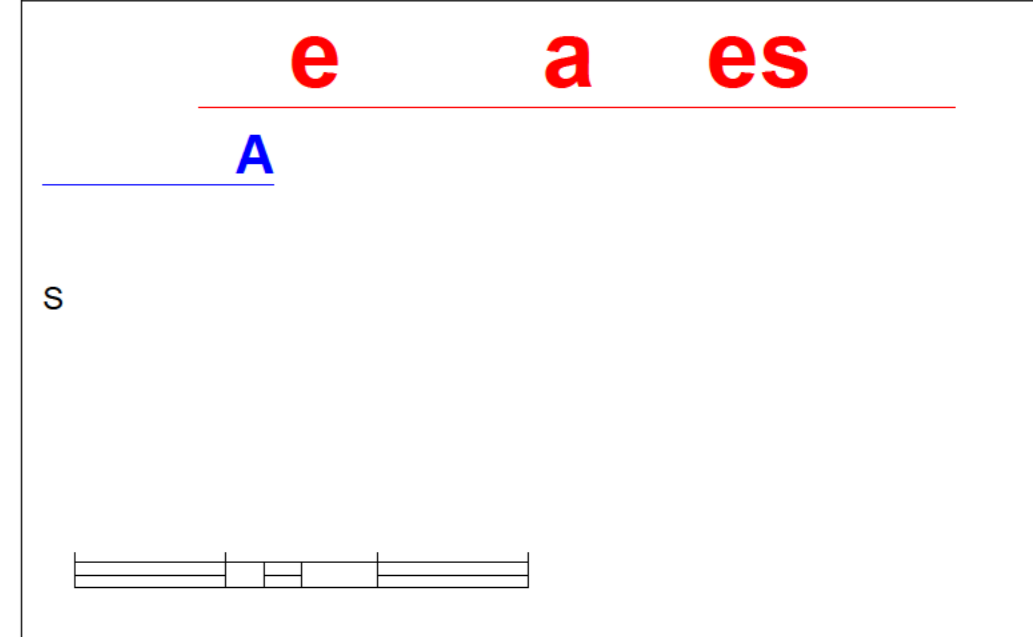
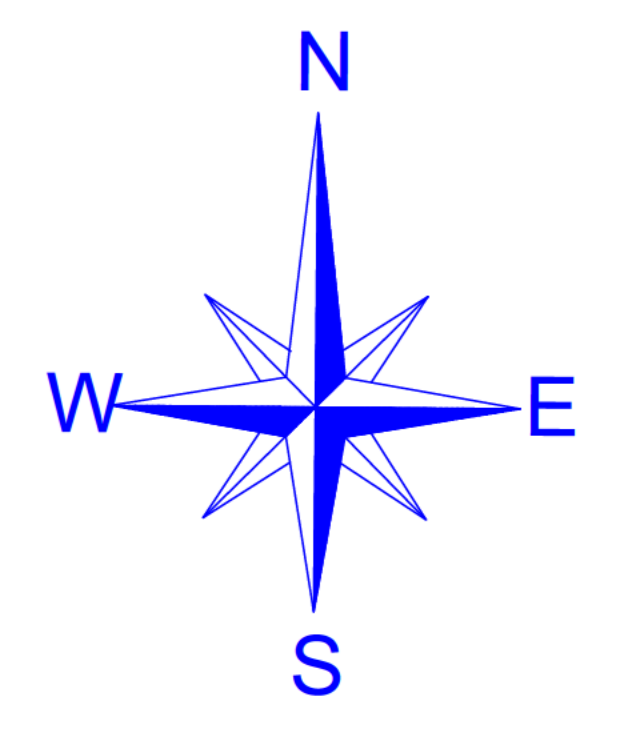
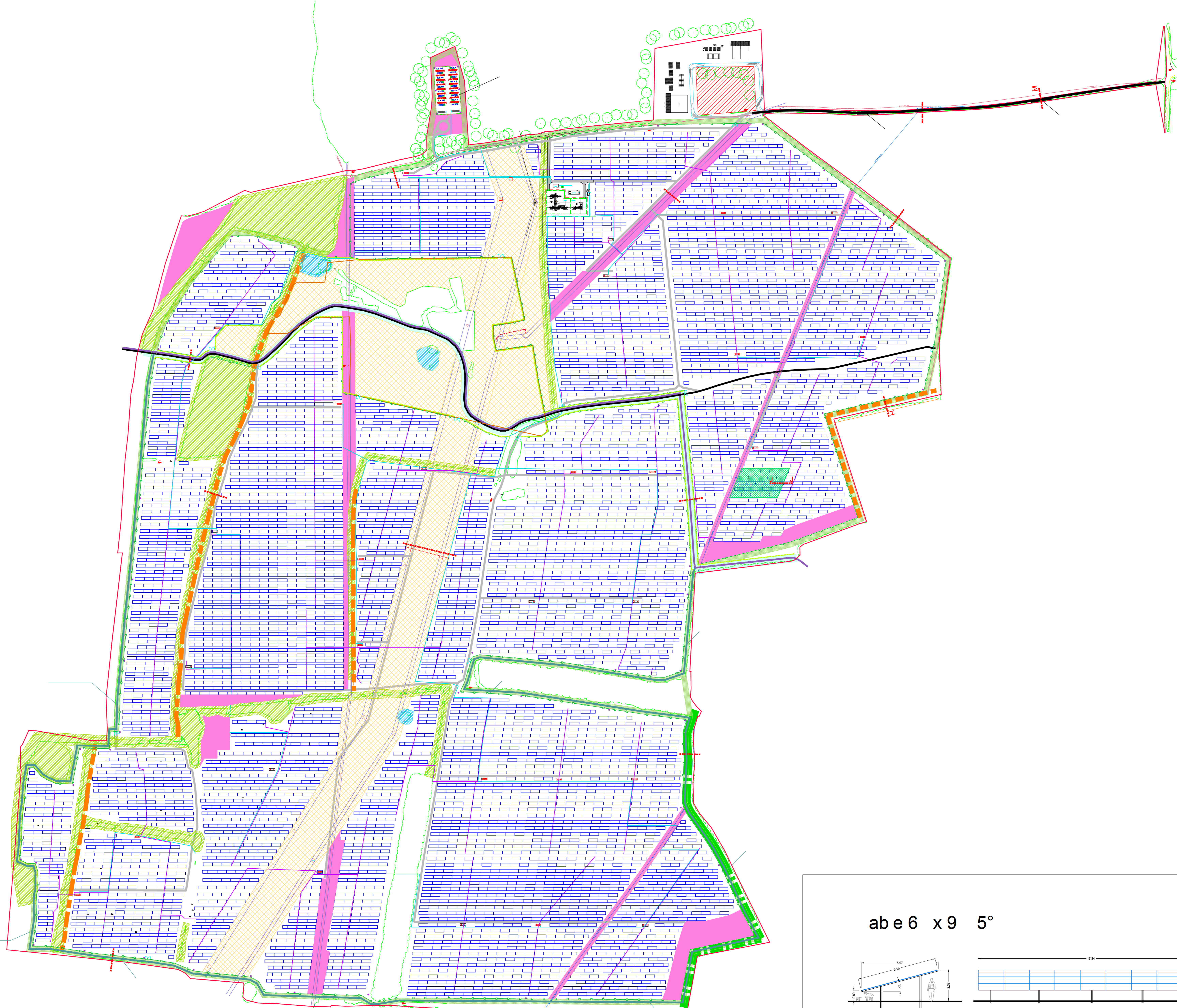
-  Planning Application Boundary
-  1 Solar Arrays
-  2 Battery Storage Compound
-  3 Ecological Zones
-  4 Substation Compound
-  5 Access Track
-  6 Development Buffer
-  7 Temporary Construction Compound
-  8 Area Excluded From Proposal

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LAND USE PLAN

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**APPENDIX 2: PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT PLAN**

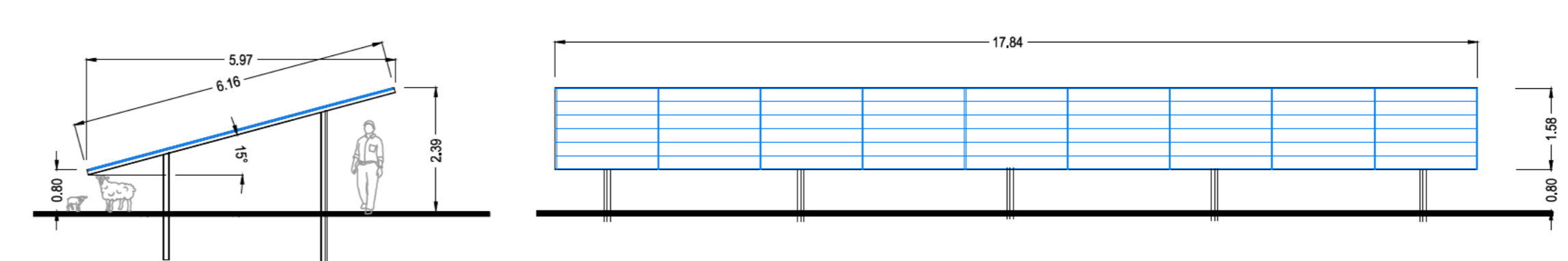


- Ke**
- Table
  - Existing Public Footpath
  - Existing Access Track
  - New Access Track
  - New Hedge
  - Existing 33kV cable
  - Planting & Maintenance Corridor (Up to 10.00m wide)
  - Public Footpath (Buffer 15.00m)
  - Ancient Woodland (Buffer 15.00m)
  - Swales (Buffer 8.00m)
  - Pond (Buffer 5.00m)
  - Hedges (Buffer 5.00m)
  - Zone for Winter Birds : 22.2 ha
  - Zone for Arable Weeds / Species Rich Grasslands : 8.9 ha
  - Area not part of Development Boundary
  - Archaeological No-Dig Zone
  - Temporary Footpath Route
  - Transformer Station
  - Planning Application Boundary
  - Exclusion Zone Archeological
  - Fence
  - Gate / Entrance
  - Trench AC
  - Trench MV
  - CCTV
  - 53ft Battery Container
  - 40ft Flat Rack Skid
  - 40ft Container

**Little Crow Solar Park**

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