

3 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 This chapter considers the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage and archaeology receptors. It includes consideration of buried archaeological remains, historic earthworks, buildings / structures, and all other aspects of the historic environment.

3.1.2 This chapter has been informed by an archaeological desk-based assessment and setting assessments (Heritage Statement) undertaken by Pegasus Group and reported in a Heritage Statement (**Appendix 3.1**) and a geophysical survey undertaken and reported on by ASWYAS (**Appendix 3.2**).

3.1.3 Both reports are referred to throughout this chapter and should be reviewed in conjunction. This chapter is also supported by the following figures: -

- **Figure 3.1** Selected Non-Designated Heritage Assets in Application Site Environs
- **Figure 3.2** Geophysical Survey Interpretation Plot for the Application Site
- **Figure 3.3** Designated Heritage Assets in the Application Site Environs

3.2 ASSESSMENT APPROACH

Methodology

3.2.1 This Chapter and the Heritage Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with national legislation and guidance and national and local planning policy as provided in table 3.1 below.

Table 3-1 : Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance Relevant to Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Document	Summary
Legislation	
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states that: <i>"In considering whether to grant planning permission [or permission in principle] for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State, 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."</i>

<p>Planning Policy</p>	
<p>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2021)</p>	<p>Heritage Assets are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: <i>"A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including Local Listing)."</i></p> <p>The NPPF defined in annex 2 of the NPPF a Designated Heritage Asset as a: <i>"World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under relevant legislation."</i></p> <p>Significance is also defined in annex 2 of the NPPF as: <i>"The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance."</i></p> <p>Setting is defined as: <i>"The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral."</i></p> <p>Paragraph 194 <i>"Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal."</i></p>

	<p>Paragraph 197:</p> <p><i>"In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;</i><i>b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and</i><i>c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness"</i> <p>Paragraph 199:</p> <p><i>"When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance."</i></p> <p>Paragraph 200:</p> <p><i>"Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens should be exceptional;</i><i>b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional."</i> <p>Paragraph 201:</p> <p><i>"Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the</i></p>
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	<p><i>following apply:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and</i> b) <i>no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and</i> c) <i>conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and</i> d) <i>the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use"</i> <p>Paragraph 201: <i>"Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use"</i></p> <p>Paragraph 203: <i>"The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset."</i></p>
<p>Melton Local Plan 2011–2036 (adopted 2018).</p>	<p>Policy EN13 Heritage Assets states: <i>"The NPPF provides national policy for considering proposals which affect a heritage asset. This includes the need to assess the effect of a proposal on the significance of an asset and the need for a balanced judgment about the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.</i></p> <p><i>Melton Borough has a number of important historic assets. These include Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and non designated heritage assets (ranging from nationally o locally important heritage features).</i></p> <p><i>The Borough of Melton contains heritage assets that are at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. These will be conserved, protected and where possible enhanced.</i></p> <p><i>The Council will take a positive approach to the</i></p>

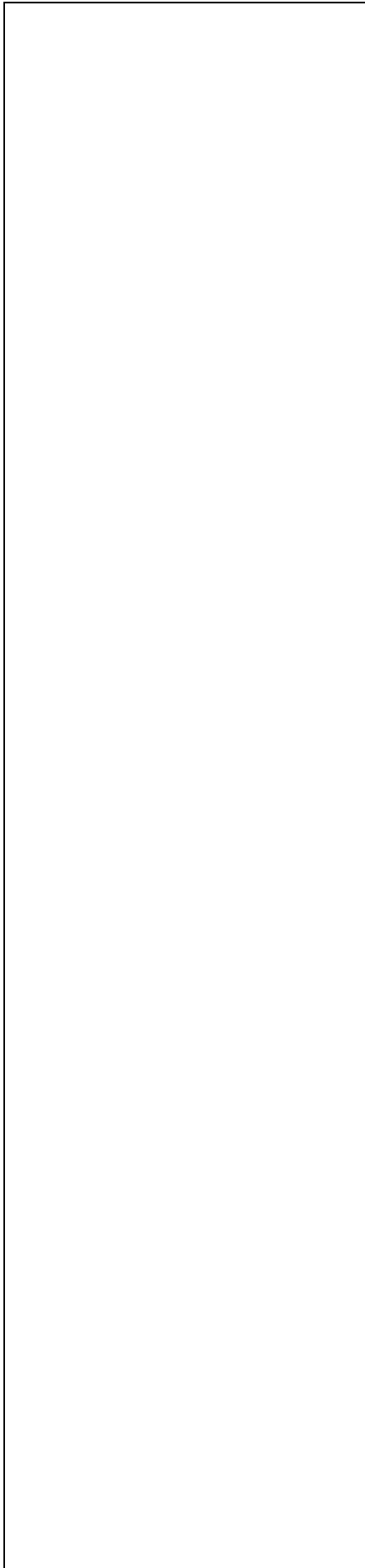
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	<p><i>conservation of heritage assets and the wider historic environment through:</i></p> <p><i>A) seeking to ensure the protection and enhancement of Heritage Assets including non designated heritage assets when considering proposals for development affecting their significance and setting. Proposed development should avoid harm to the significance of historic sites, buildings or areas, including their setting.</i></p> <p><i>B) seeking new developments to make a positive contribution to the character and distinctiveness of the local area.</i></p> <p><i>C) ensuring that new developments in conservation areas are consistent with the identified special character of those areas, and seeking to identify new conservation areas, where appropriate;</i></p> <p><i>D) seeking to secure the viable and sustainable future of heritage assets through uses that are consistent with the heritage asset and its conservation;</i></p> <p><i>E) allowing sustainable tourism opportunities in Heritage Assets in the Borough where the uses are appropriate and would not undermine the integrity or significance of the heritage asset: and</i></p> <p><i>F) the use of Article 4 directions where appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>G) taking account of any local heritage assets listed in Neighbourhood Plans.”</i></p>
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Guidance

<p>National Planning Practice Guidance (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2019).</p>	<p>Paragraph 007 (ID: 18a-007-20190723 revision date 23.07.2019):</p> <p><i>"Heritage assets may be affected by direct physical change or by change in their setting. Being able to properly assess the nature, extent and importance of the significance of a heritage asset, and the contribution of its setting, is very important to understanding the potential impact and acceptability of development proposals. "</i></p> <p>Paragraph: 018 (ID: 18a-018-20190723.Revision date: 23 07 2019):</p>
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"What matters in assessing whether a proposal might cause harm is the impact on the significance of the heritage asset. As the National Planning Policy Framework makes clear, significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

Proposed development affecting a heritage asset may have no impact on its significance or may enhance its significance and therefore cause no harm to the heritage asset. Where potential harm to designated heritage assets is identified, it needs to be categorised as either less than substantial harm or substantial harm (which includes total loss) in order to identify which policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraphs 194-196) apply.

Within each category of harm (which category applies should be explicitly identified), the extent of the harm may vary and should be clearly articulated.

Whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgment for the decision-maker, having regard to the circumstances of the case and the policy in the National Planning Policy Framework. In general terms, substantial harm is a high test, so it may not arise in many cases. For example, in determining whether works to a listed building constitute substantial harm, an important consideration would be whether the adverse impact seriously affects a key element of its special architectural or historic interest. It is the degree of harm to the asset's significance rather than the scale of the development that is to be assessed. The harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting.

While the impact of total destruction is obvious, partial destruction is likely to have a considerable impact but, depending on the circumstances, it may still be less than substantial harm or conceivably not harmful at all, for example, when removing later additions to historic buildings where those additions are inappropriate and harm the buildings' significance. Similarly, works that are moderate or minor in scale are likely to cause less than substantial harm or no harm at all. However, even minor works have the potential to cause substantial harm, depending on the nature of their impact on the asset and its

	<p>setting.</p> <p><i>The National Planning Policy Framework confirms that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). It also makes clear that any harm to a designated heritage asset requires clear and convincing justification and sets out certain assets in respect of which harm should be exceptional/wholly exceptional (see National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 194)."</i></p> <p>Paragraph: 020 (ID: 18a-020-20190723. Revision date: 23 07 2019):</p> <p><i>"The National Planning Policy Framework requires any harm to designated heritage assets to be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.</i></p> <p><i>Public benefits may follow from many developments and could be anything that delivers economic, social or environmental objectives as described in the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 8). Public benefits should flow from the proposed development. They should be of a nature or scale to be of benefit to the public at large and not just be a private benefit. However, benefits do not always have to be visible or accessible to the public in order to be genuine public benefits, for example, works to a listed private dwelling which secure its future as a designated heritage asset could be a public benefit.</i></p> <p><i>Examples of heritage benefits may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• sustaining or enhancing the significance of a heritage asset and the contribution of its setting</i> <i>• reducing or removing risks to a heritage asset</i> <i>• securing the optimum viable use of a heritage asset in support of its long term conservation."</i>
<p>Historic England, 2015. Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment:</p>	<p>The purpose of this Historic England Good Practice Advice note is to provide information to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other</p>

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<p>Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2</p>	<p>interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). These include; assessing the significance of heritage assets, using appropriate expertise, historic environment records, recording and furthering understanding, neglect and unauthorised works, marketing and design and distinctiveness.</p>
<p>Historic England, 2017, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition): The Setting of Heritage Assets.</p>	<p>This document sets out guidance, against the background of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guide (PPG), on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes.</p> <p>It gives general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views contribute to setting. The suggested staged approach to taking decisions on setting can also be used to assess the contribution of views to the significance of heritage assets. The guidance has been written for local planning authorities and those proposing change to heritage assets.</p>
<p>Historic England 2019. Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets Historic England Advice Note 12.</p>	<p>This Historic England advice note covers the National Planning Policy Framework requirement for applicants for heritage and other consents to describe heritage significance to help local planning authorities to make decisions on the impact of proposals for change to heritage assets. Understanding the significance of heritage assets, in advance of developing proposals for their buildings and sites, enables owners and applicants to receive effective, consistent and timely decisions. This advice note explores the assessment of significance of heritage assets as part of a staged approach to decision-making in which assessing significance precedes designing the proposal(s). It also describes the relationship with archaeological desk-based assessments and field evaluations, as well as with Design and Access Statements. Analysis of heritage significance may also be useful in development plan preparation, including site allocations and Minerals and Waste Local Plans.</p>
<p>Historic England's Conservation Principles:</p>	<p>Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance' is intended mainly to guide Historic England</p>

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<p>Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (published by English Heritage in 2008)</p>	<p>staff on best practice, but like all of Historic England guidance, the principles will also be read and used by local authorities, property owners, developers and professional advisers.</p> <p>It sets out six high level principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The historic environment is a shared resource • Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment • Understanding the significance of places is vital • Significant places should be managed to sustain their values. • Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent • Documenting and learning from decisions is essential <p>The principles respond to the need for a clear, over-arching philosophical framework of what conservation means at the beginning of the 21st century.”</p>
<p>Historic England Advice Note 15. Commercial Renewable Energy and the Historic Environment.</p>	<p>This Historic England Advice Note describes the potential impacts on the historic environment of commercial renewable energy proposals, which could occupy large areas of land or sea. It is written for all of those involved in commercial renewable energy development, helping them to give appropriate consideration to heritage issues.</p> <p>The Advice Note includes consideration of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). Also it covers other large-scale proposals that do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the NSIP regime, but which require assessment under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations to determine what harm might be caused, including to cultural heritage, and whether this can be avoided or reduced.</p>
<p>Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy - Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) – September 2021.</p>	<p>This National Policy Statement (NPS), taken together with the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), provides the primary policy for decisions by the Secretary of State on applications they receive for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure.</p> <p>It states "<i>2.49.13 The time-limited nature of solar farms, where a time-limit is sought by an</i></p>

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	<p><i>applicant as a condition of consent, is likely to be an important consideration for the Secretary of State when assessing impacts such as landscape and visual effects and potential effects on the settings of heritage assets. Such judgements should include consideration of the period of time sought by the applicants for the generating station to operate. The extent to which the site will return to its original state may also be a relevant consideration"</i></p> <p>And</p> <p><i>"1.2.1 In England and Wales this NPS may be a material consideration in decision making on applications that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). Whether, and to what extent, this NPS is a material consideration will be judged on a case by case basis and will depend upon the extent to which the matters are already covered by applicable planning policy."</i></p> <p>Although in draft version and primarily written for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure it gives an indication of the degree of consideration that can be given to the reversible nature of solar renewable developments.</p>
<p>Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014)</p>	<p>This guidance seeks to define good practice for the execution and reporting of desk-based assessment, in line with the regulations of CIfA; in particular the Code of conduct.</p>

Value of receptors (the significance of a Heritage Asset)

3.2.2 Heritage Assets are defined in the NPPF as:

"A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including Local Listing)."

3.2.3 The value of Heritage Assets is defined as the 'Significance of Heritage Assets' and is defined in the NPPF as:

"The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the

cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance."

3.2.4 Historic England's *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning; 2* (hereafter GPA 2); Historic England 2019. *Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets Historic England Advice Note 12* and the National Planning Guidance which advocate describing the significance of Heritage Assets in the terms of four interests. These interests are described as follows:

- **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 skills, 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."

3.2.5 In accordance with the levels of significance articulated in the NPPF, three levels of significance are identified:

- **Designated heritage assets of the highest significance**, as identified in paragraph 200 of the NPPF comprising Grade I and II* Listed buildings, Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, World Heritage Sites and Registered Battlefields (and also including some Conservation Areas) and non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to Scheduled Monuments, as identified in footnote 68 of the NPPF;
- **Designated heritage assets of less than the highest significance**, as identified in paragraph 200 of the NPPF, comprising Grade II Listed buildings and Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens (and also some Conservation Areas); and
- **Non-designated heritage assets.** Non-designated heritage assets are defined within the Government's Planning Practice Guidance as "buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets".

3.2.6 Additionally, it is of course possible that sites, buildings, or areas have no heritage significance, values are thereby articulated from having a negligible value to high value.

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3.2.7 The value (significance) of receptors and descriptions are presented in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 : Receptor Value (importance) and Sensitivity

Value	Description
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standing structures included within World Heritage Sites.• Scheduled Monuments.• Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings.• Grade I and Grade II*Registered Parks and Gardens.• Registered Battlefields.• Non-Designated Heritage Assets of archaeological interest which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade II Listed Buildings.• Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens.• Conservation areas.• Non-Designated Heritage Assets, Sites, and features noted as nationally or regionally important in the Historic Environment Record.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locally listed buildings.• Non-Designated Heritage Assets, Sites, and features noted as locally important in the Historic Environment Record.
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buildings of no architectural or historical note; buildings of an intrusive character and badly preserved / damaged or very common archaeological features buildings of little or no value at local or other scale.

3.2.8 The setting of a Heritage Asset can also contribute to its significance, as defined in the NPPF:

“Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting.”

3.2.9 Setting is defined as:

“The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.”

3.2.10 Therefore, setting can contribute to, affect an appreciation of significance or be neutral with regards to heritage values.

3.2.11 How setting might contribute to these interests has been assessed with reference to *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition): The Setting of Heritage Assets (GPA 3)*. This advocates the clear articulation of ‘what matters and why’.

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3.2.12 In GPA 3 a stepped approach is recommended, of which:

- Step 1 is to identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected.
- Step 2 is to assess “*whether, how and to what degree settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciate*”. The guidance includes a (non-exhaustive) check-list of elements of the physical surroundings of an asset that might be considered when undertaking the assessment including, among other things: topography, other heritage assets, green space, functional relationships and degree of change over time. It also lists points associated with the experience of the asset which might be considered, including views, intentional intervisibility, tranquillity, sense of enclosure, land use, accessibility and rarity.
- Step 3 is to assess the effect of the proposed development on the significance of the asset(s).
- Step 4 is to explore ways to “*maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm*”.
- Step 5 is to “*make and document the decision and monitor outcomes*”.

3.2.13 Descriptions of significance will naturally anticipate the ways in which impacts will be considered. Hence descriptions of the significance of Listed Buildings will be discussed with reference to the building, its setting and any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Magnitude of Impact

3.2.14 The magnitude of impact is defined by the extent of change to a receptor (heritage asset) or its setting. The magnitude of impact is described in Table 3-3

Table 3-3: Magnitude of Impact.

Magnitude of Impact	Description
Major	Change to most or all of the Heritage Asset, or change within its setting resulting in the total loss, or near total loss of the significance of the Heritage Asset
Moderate	Change to large parts or elements of the Heritage Asset or elements within its setting that contribute to its significance resulting in a moderate loss of the significance of the Heritage Asset directly or via a change to its setting.
Minor	Change to any part of the Heritage Asset or elements of its setting that contribute to its significance resulting in a minor change to the significance of the Heritage Asset directly or via a change to its setting.

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Negligible	Change to any part of the Heritage Asset or elements of its setting that contribute to its significance resulting in a negligible change to the significance of the Heritage Asset directly or via a change to its setting.
No Change	No change to the Heritage Asset or its setting.

3.3 NATURE OF EFFECT

3.3.1 In addition to determining the magnitude of the impact the assessment process also includes a qualitative description regarding the nature of the effect. These terms add additional information about how the effect would affect a receptor (Heritage Assets) and are set out in Table 3-4.

Table 3-4: Assessment Descriptors

Term	Nature of Effect Descriptors
Adverse	An effect which has the potential to decrease a Heritage Asset value or status relative to baseline conditions.
Beneficial	An effect which has the potential to increase a Heritage Asset value or status relative to baseline conditions.
Short-term	Effects that persist only for a short time, e.g., during the construction (or decommissioning) phase only; includes reversible effects.
Medium-term	Effects that may persist until additional mitigation measures have been implemented and become effective.
Long-term	Effects that persist for a much longer time, e.g., for the duration of the operational phase (essentially until the development ceases or is removed/ reinstated); includes effects which are permanent (irreversible) or which may decline over longer timescales.
Temporary	A reversible effect where recovery is possible.
Frequent	Refers to a recurring effect that occurs repeatedly; in some cases a lower level of impact may occur with sufficient frequency to reduce the ability of a Heritage Asset to recover effectively.

Determination of Residual Effect

3.3.2 The determination of the magnitude of effect has been assessed with regard to the extent to which embedded mitigation and enhancement measures will reduce or reverse negative effects or enhance positive effects, to determine the residual effect.

3.3.3 The assessment of the predicted effects of the Proposed Development on the Heritage Assets (receptors) is undertaken by assessing the magnitude of the impact of

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the proposal against the Receptor Sensitivity (i.e., the significance of the Heritage Asset). These effects can be adverse or beneficial.

3.3.4 The methodology matrix for assessment is presented in Table 3-5: Significance of Effect MatrixTable 3-5. It is considered in the professional judgement of Pegasus Group that a Very Large effect would be considered significant in EIA terms. Effects of Large or, Moderate a may be considered significant or not significant. The distinction is made by applying professional judgement to this matrix-led process allowing a true reflection of the effect to be considered, rather than a level of effect which has been artificially inflated due to the constraints of the EIA process.

Table 3-5: Significance of Effect Matrix

Receptor Sensitivity (Heritage Asset Value)	Magnitude of impact				
	No change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
High	Neutral	Slight	Slight or Moderate	Moderate or Large	Large or Very large
Medium	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate or large
Low	Neutral	Neutral or slight	Neutral or slight	Slight	Slight or moderate
Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Neutral or Slight	Slight

Limitations of the Assessment

3.3.5 The conclusions presented within this chapter are based upon the baseline conditions (presented below), which are derived in large part from the data held and supplied by the Leicestershire and Lincolnshire HERs. In establishing the baseline conditions, for the purposes of this chapter, both the accuracy and currency of this data has necessarily been assumed.

3.3.6 The geophysical survey method relies on the ability of a variety of instruments to measure very small magnetic fields associated with buried archaeological remains. Under favourable conditions, it can identify a wide range of features including infilled cut features such as large pits, gullies and ditches, hearths and areas of burning and kilns and brick structures. It is less successful in identifying smaller features such as post-holes, small pits, and graves/burial grounds.

3.3.7 In relation to settings assessment, inspection of those designated heritage assets within the Application Site environs that were identified as potentially susceptible to non-physical impact was undertaken from publicly accessible locations. No privately held land or properties were accessed.

3.4 BASELINE CONDITIONS

3.4.1 The baseline conditions reported in this chapter comprise a summary of the archaeological and historic background of the Application Site which is detailed in the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).

Application Site Description and Context

3.4.2 The Application Site comprises c.105ha of farmland to the south of Bottesford and to the west and south-west of Muston.

3.4.3 The eastern part of the Application Site occupies the slopes of an area of high ground on which the village of Muston is located. From here the land of the Application Site falls to the north, west and south. A watercourse, called Winter Beck, traces the lower section of the western boundary of the Application Site.

3.4.4 The recorded geological composition of the Application Site is interbedded mudstone and limestone of the Beckington Member to the north, and alternating bands of limestone of the Littlegates Limestone Bed and interbedded mudstone and limestone of the Foston Member elsewhere. No superficial deposits are recorded.

3.4.5 The recorded soils of the Application Site are loamy soils with naturally high ground water to the north-west, slowly permeable and seasonally wet slightly-acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils to the south, and lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage elsewhere.

Baseline Survey Information

Baseline Data Procurement & Analysis

Data sources

3.4.6 The following key sources were consulted as part of the assessment process:

- The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) for information relating to designated heritage assets;
- The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) for information relating to recorded heritage assets and previous archaeological works;
- The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) for information relating to recorded heritage assets and previous archaeological works;
- Historic maps held by the Leicestershire Leicester and Rutland Record Office and available online from The Genealogist and Promap websites;
- Previous published and grey literature reports relating to archaeological investigations undertaken within the Application Site environs; and
- Online resources, including geological data available from the British Geological Survey (BGS), soil data available from the Cranfield University Soilscales Viewer, and historic satellite imagery available on Google Earth.

Data processing and analysis

3.4.7 A proportionate level of data, sufficient to inform the assessment of archaeological potential, significance, and potential impact, has been acquired from the sources listed in section 3.4.6 above.

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3.4.8 All data has been reconciled and analysed in accordance with the relevant industry guidance and best practice, and consistent with the objectives of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

3.4.9 All digital spatial data has been interrogated using industry-standard Geographical Information System (GIS) software.

Historic Environment Record (HER) data

3.4.10 The results of a full commercial data search were received from Leicestershire and Lincolnshire HERs in September 2020.

3.4.11 All of the HER data supplied was reconciled and analysed within the context of the project aims and objectives.

3.4.12 The HER data returned contained numerous records of varying reliability and relevance. Only those recorded sites and events that are of relevance to the determination of potential, significance and impact in respect of cultural heritage are discussed further within this chapter.

Application Site inspection

3.4.13 A walkover survey of the Application Site was undertaken in August 2020 in order to;

- i. assess the Application Site within its wider landscape context,
- ii. identify/confirm any evidence for previous disturbance within the Application Site, and
- iii. examine any known or suspected archaeological features within the Application Site.

3.4.14 Settings assessments were carried out during separate visits to the Application Site in September 2019 and February 2021. Those designated heritage assets identified as potentially susceptible to non-physical impact, and their settings, were assessed from publicly accessible locations.

The Historic Environment

Prehistoric (pre-43 AD) and Romano-British (43–410 AD)

3.4.15 Mesolithic and Neolithic worked stone tools have previously been found along the route of the A52, c.250m from the north-eastern corner of the Application Site.

3.4.16 The cropmark of a probable-prehistoric ring ditch and an excavated Iron Age enclosure with evidence for ironworking are recorded on the north side of Easthope Lane, c.270m north-east of the Application Site.

3.4.17 Cropmarks and geophysical survey anomalies within the north-western corner of the Application Site indicate the buried archaeological remains of a ring ditch, linear features, and up to three sub-rectangular enclosures.

3.4.18 Indication of Iron Age to Roman iron working, and Roman coins and brooches, have previously been found along the route of the A52, c.250m from the north-western corner of the Application Site. Roman pottery sherds have also been reported from Muston and Easthorpe.

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Early Medieval (AD 410 – 1066) & Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

3.4.19 The enclosure on the north side of Easthope Lane, c.270m north-east of the Application Site (see 3.3.6), had been re-used until the Saxon period.

3.4.20 Part of the head of an Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch has previously been found in the north-western corner of the Application Site. Anglo-Saxon pottery has also been found at Easthorpe Lane, c.250m from the north-eastern corner of the Application Site.

3.4.21 Earthworks in the pasture fields at California, on the opposite side of Castle View Road to the north-western corner of the Application Site, may be the remains of the documented deserted medieval village of Toston.

3.4.22 Earthworks on the west side of Muston, c.340m from the north-eastern corner of the Application Site, represent the remains of a medieval moated grange and fishponds. Earthworks on the north and east side of Easthorpe, c.550m north-west of the Application Site, represent an area of shrunken medieval settlement.

3.4.23 The geophysical survey of the Application Site has not identified any anomalies suggestive of medieval settlement.

Post-medieval (AD 1539 – 1800) & Modern (post-1800)

3.4.24 Historic landscape characterisation classes the Application Site as piecemeal enclosure, indicating a gradual process of enclosure from the medieval open fields. The earliest available historic mapping of the site is the 1772 enclosure map for the parish of Bottesford and the 1849 tithe map for the parish of Muston.

3.4.25 The entirety of the Application Site is part of the Belvoir Castle Estate. In the mid-19th century, the land of the Application Site falling within the parish of Muston was farmed by Spray Farm, Peacock Farm and Mountain Ash Farm. The geophysical survey detected buried plough furrows and former field boundaries within the Application Site.

3.4.26 Post-medieval and modern infrastructure recorded within a 1km radius of the Application Site includes the mid-18th-century turnpike road between Nottingham and Grantham; the late 18th-century Grantham Canal; the early 19th-century private Belvoir Castle freight railway; and the mid-19th-century Great Northern Railway.

Receptors (Heritage Assets)

3.4.27 Within the site there are no identified Designated Heritage Assets (receptors) and the site is not within a Conservation Area or a World Heritage Site. Known and potential non-designated archaeological remains located within the Application Site comprise:

- A ring ditch, a linear feature of pit-like responses, and up to three sub-rectangular enclosures in the north-western part of the Application Site;
- Evidence of Saxon and medieval activity, most likely limited to unstratified finds such as metalwork and pottery sherds; and
- Plough furrows and former field boundaries across the Application Site.

3.4.28 Designated Heritage Assets within 1km of the application site include two Scheduled Monuments, two Grade II* Listed Buildings and eight Grade II Listed Buildings. In addition the Heritage Statement considered assets beyond the 1km study area, including further Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and a Registered Park and Garden.

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3.4.29 The site visits and research carried out as part of the Heritage Statement established that there would be no non-physical / indirect effects on the majority of the designated heritage assets located within the study area. The heritage assets which could be susceptible to direct and indirect effects as a result of the Proposed Development and assessed is shown in **Table 3-6**.

Table 3-6; Identified Receptors and their Value.

Receptor (Heritage Asset)	Receptor (Heritage Asset Type)	Value
Belvoir Castle	Grade I Listed Building	High
Church of St Mary at Bottesford.	Grade I Listed Building	High
Church of St John the Baptist at Muston	Grade II* Listed Building	High
The Village Cross at Muston;	Grade II* Listed Building	High
Peacock Farmhouse	Grade II Listed Building	Medium
Registered Park and Garden at Belvoir Castle	Grade II* Registered Park and Garden	High
The Village Cross at Muston;	Scheduled Monument	High
Earthwork Remains of the Moated Grange Site at Muston	Scheduled Monument	High
Easthorpe Conservation Area;	Conservation Area	Medium
Belvoir Castle Conservation Area.	Conservation Area	Medium
A ring ditch, a linear feature of pit-like responses, and up to three sub-rectangular enclosures in the north-western part of the Application Site	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	Low
Evidence of Saxon and medieval activity, most likely limited to unstratified finds such as metalwork and pottery sherds	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	Low
Plough furrows and former field boundaries across the Application Site	Non-Designated Heritage Asset	Low

3.5 OTHER POTENTIALLY SUSCEPTIBLE RECEPTORS (HERITAGE ASSETS).

3.5.1 The potential of effect on other potentially susceptible receptors (heritage assets) via a change to their settings were discounted during the compilation of the Heritage Statement and site visits (**Appendix 3.1**, see Section 6). This includes all other designated heritage assets depicted on **Figure 3.3**.

3.5.2 The intervening distance(s) between each of those receptors (assets) and the Application Site; the lack of any material intervisibility between them and the Application Site; the lack of any relevant non-visual association(s) between them and the Application Site; and the lack of any 'third points' from which both would be visible within the same view-shed, negates the potential for development within the Application Site to adversely affect their heritage significance.

3.5.3 Similarly, the ability to appreciate the significance of those assets would be unaffected by development of the nature and on the scale proposed within the Application Site. The key contributing heritage interests to the significance of those heritage assets; the ability to appreciate their significance; and the key views towards, from and including them, would be preserved.

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3.5.4 There are no direct or indirect impacts on any other heritage assets and thereby the magnitude of impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of any other heritage assets during any phase would be **no change** with the effect of the impact being **neutral**.

ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

3.5.5 The Proposed Development comprises construction of:

- a solar farm and generating station supplying up to 49.9MW of clean energy to the local grid distribution from ground mounted solar panels mounted on metal frames driven into the ground to a depth of approximately 2-2.5m and laid out in east-west rows with a space around 3.8-7m between each row;
- plant and equipment to enable grid connection will include a number of inverter housings appropriately spaced across the site. Each cabinet will be accompanied by a transformer;
- a temporary construction compound;
- A 2m high deer / security fence with wooden poles will be installed around the site;
- 3m high pole mounted CCTV security cameras will be provided inside the site; and
- Access tracks will be kept to a minimum around the Site and will be 3.5-5m wide and made of crushed aggregate.

3.5.6 The effects of which are also considered as being direct or indirect to the receptors (heritage assets) including archaeology during construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

3.5.7 The Proposed Development only has the potential to directly, physically impact upon non-designated heritage assets within the Application Site. The effect of the proposals could only affect Designated Heritage Assets in-directly by impacting on their value (heritage significance) via a change to their setting.

CONSTRUCTION EFFECTS (ARCHAEOLOGY)

3.5.8 Ground clearance and preparation, piling for the solar arrays, excavation of cable trenches and drainage runs, provision of access, and landscaping during the construction phase will have below-ground impacts.

3.5.9 Construction activities would truncate and/or remove the known and potential buried archaeological remains identified in **Table 3-6** above, resulting in varying degrees of harm to their heritage significance. The impact to archaeology would be direct and would be **long-term** and **permanent**.

A ring ditch, a linear feature of pit-like responses, and up to three sub-rectangular enclosures in the north-western part of the Application Site

3.5.10 The buried remains of prehistoric enclosure ditches and pits would be of some heritage significance as derived from their archaeological interest. The features would most likely constitute non-designated heritage assets. Based on currently-available information, it is considered unlikely that they would be of a significance commensurate with a designated heritage asset (i.e., a Scheduled Monument) and thereby are receptors of **low or medium value**. The magnitude of impact of the Proposed Development during the construction phase is considered to be **moderate** with the effect of the impact being **slight adverse**.

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Evidence of Saxon and medieval activity, most likely limited to unstratified finds such as metalwork and pottery sherds.

3.5.11 Unstratified finds would not be considered heritage assets. It is possible that some of the features referred to in **Table 3-6** are of Saxon or medieval origin or were re-used in these periods, as was the case on the north side of Easthorpe Lane (see 3.4.19). They are receptors of **low value**. The magnitude of impact of the Proposed Development during the construction phase is considered to be **moderate** with the effect of the impact being **slight adverse**.

Plough furrows and former field boundaries across the Application Site

3.5.12 Historic agricultural remains such as buried furrows and ditches of former field boundaries are unlikely to be considered heritage assets, especially if dating from the post-medieval and modern periods. Any earlier remains retaining archaeological or historic interest could be considered heritage assets but would be of low significance. They are receptors of **low value**. The magnitude of impact of the Proposed Development during the construction phase is considered to be **moderate** with the effect of the impact being **slight adverse**.

OPERATIONAL EFFECTS (ARCHAEOLOGY)

3.5.13 There may be the need for ongoing maintenance works during the operation phase however where any groundwork maintenance is required it is probable that this would be undertaken within the existing disturbed footprint and no further effects or impacts on archaeology are anticipated.

3.5.14 The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the known and potential archaeological remains within the Application Site during the operational phase would be considered to be **no change** with the effect of the impact being **neutral**.

DECOMMISSIONING EFFECTS (ARCHAEOLOGY)

3.5.15 Assuming no groundworks are undertaken outside the original excavated footprint, there are no further anticipated impacts on archaeological remains during the decommissioning phase.

3.5.16 There are no indirect impacts on known and potential archaeology and the magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the known and potential archaeological remains within the Application Site during the decommissioning phase would be considered **no change** with the effect of the impact being **neutral**.

CONSTRUCTION EFFECTS (BUILT HERITAGE)

3.5.17 There are no predicted direct effects to any designated heritage assets during the construction phase at the Application Site. Any effect thereby would be considered **no change** with the effect of the impact being **neutral**.

OPERATIONAL EFFECTS (BUILT HERITAGE)

3.5.18 There will be some indirect impacts on Designated Heritage Assets via a change to their settings during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. These impacts would be **long-term** but **temporary** as they are for the duration of the Proposed Development only until decommissioning. These impacts and effects are discussed below.

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Grade I Listed Building – Belvoir Castle

3.5.19 The Grade I Listing of the building highlights that it is a heritage asset of the highest significance as defined by the NPPF and is thereby a receptor of **high value**. The heritage significance of this Listed Building is principally embodied in its architectural and artistic interest through its architectural styles, materials and interiors and historic interest as a seat of aristocratic power since the Norman period. It is a physical record part of the nation's history and part of the local identity. The castle also has archaeological interest in its ability to potentially reveal further evidence about past human activity.

3.5.20 The setting of the castle also contributes to the significance of the asset, although the significance derived from the setting is less than that from its historic fabric. The principal elements of the physical surrounds and experience of the castle (its 'setting') which are considered to contribute to its heritage significance comprise:

- The relationship between the individual heritage assets which as a group form the complex of designated heritage assets at Belvoir;
- The prominent position on an area of high ground overlooking the Vale of Belvoir;
- Views towards the Castle which allow for an appreciation of its role as a strategically placed defensive stronghold, and later as a demonstration of wealth;
- Views north-eastwards from the Castle over its park and estate land over the Vale of Belvoir;
- Associative and functional relationships with some elements of the wider Belvoir Estate.

3.5.1 The Application Site forms part of the Belvoir estate and thereby has an economic, social, and historic connection with castle. The site also allows for the Castle to be viewed from it, but the site is not discernible in views from the castle, other than from its roof. The site might thereby be considered to offer some contribution to the significance of the castle, but the site does not provide the only vantage point to experience or view the castle and as such the contribution the site makes to its significance is low.

3.5.2 The site is c.2.3 km to the north of the Castle and the indirect effect is assessed with consideration of views from it and towards it.

3.5.3 The Site is screened by trees in views from rooms within the Castle, from the Castle esplanade / terrace and the Spiral Walk. Views from the esplanade / terrace have been assessed in both the winter and summer months and any view of the site is only a glimpsed and heavily filtered view through the tree canopy, and from a single static point only. **This is shown in Plate 6 and Plate 7 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

3.5.4 The Application Site is visible from the roof top at Belvoir Castle due to its elevated height above the tree canopy. The roof comprises a series of slate and lead roofs with numerous chimney stacks set behind battlements / crenelated parapets. Views from the roof are extensive across the vale and include views of the Park and Garden, agricultural fields, surrounding villages and infrastructure, including the Grantham Canal, A52 trunk road, electricity pylons, railways lines and wind turbines. The appearance of the site in views from the roof will thereby be seen within the context of an evolving landscape and in the far distance. **This is shown in Plate 10 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

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3.5.5 There is no evidence that the roof was designed to act as a vantage point. The roof is not readily accessible and access to it allows for maintenance but not for pleasure. Views from the roof are thereby incidental and their contribution to the significance of the castle is significantly less than views from the esplanade / terrace.

3.5.6 With regard to views towards the Castle views will only be impacted from a very limited number of vantage points, namely to the north of the site from the track alongside the A52, from parts of the public footpath F82 and from Castle View Road. **These are shown in Heritage Photomontage 7C and 10 within Appendix 13 and Plate 11 and 12 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).** However, these are not the only vantage points of the castle, and they are incidental, fortuitous views and thereby are not highly significant to the special interest of the castle or its setting.

3.5.7 Due to the topography of the landscape and the castle's prominent position any view will not be lost, the development will result in a change in the view but will not result in total loss of visibility from these vantage points.

3.5.8 The proposed development will change the appearance of the site, but the economic, social and historic connection with the estate will still be retained. The proposed Landscape Strategy includes opportunity for interpretation boards that will form a heritage trail where these connections can be better told and thereby the historic and extant relationship between the site and the castle will be better known publicly.

3.5.9 The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the Grade I Listed Castle would be **negligible** with the effect of the impact being **slight adverse**. The effect is considered to be slight due to the impact being on limited incidental views only towards the Castle.

Grade II* Registered Park and Garden at Belvoir Castle

3.5.10 The Grade II* Listing of the Park and Garden highlights that it is a heritage asset of the highest significance as defined by the NPPF and is thereby a receptor of **high value**. The heritage significance of this Park and Garden is principally embodied in its historic interest as a multi-layered designed landscape of great time-depth, having evolved over almost a thousand years. It is one of the latest designs by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and following his death his plans and folio album continued to be used when alterations and improvements were initiated at the Castle and on the estate, altogether shaping the land and views in accordance with the ideals of the landscape park. It is associated with some of the most accomplished landscape and garden designers, architects and engineers from the 18th to the 20th century.

3.5.11 The setting of the Park and Garden also contributes to the significance of the asset, although the significance derived from the setting is less than that from its historic fabric. The principal elements of the physical surrounds and experience of the Park and Garden (its 'setting') which are considered to contribute to its heritage significance comprise:

- The relationship between the individual heritage assets which as a group form the complex of designated heritage assets at Belvoir;
- Some elements of the surrounding countryside such as where it provides any designed extension to any view from within the Park and Garden.

3.5.12 The castle and its park and garden is at the centre of a large estate and is associated with the Application Site in economic, social and historic connection terms. In visual terms the Application Site affords views of some elements of the Park and Garden, mainly the higher points i.e. the castle. In views from the Park and Garden the site is largely screened by trees, or is at too great a distance from it to be discernible, other

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than from the roof of the castle. Overall, the contribution the site makes to the heritage significance of the Registered Park and Garden is low.

3.5.13 The Registered Park and Garden (RPG) is a designed landscape and thereby the boundaries of the Park and Garden identify the extent of area that is considered to be significant in landscaping terms unless external elements were considered as part of the landscape design. Only a small percentage of the Park and Garden is located to the north of the castle. The indirect effect of the Proposed Development is assessed on views towards and from the Registered Park and Garden.

3.5.14 With regards to views towards the Registered Park and Garden the formal, historic approach and those used by tourists to the castle have been examined in detail, together with the impact of the proposed development on views of the castle and thereby an element of the Registered Park and Garden, in the preceding section (see Belvoir Castle).

3.5.15 The formal, historic approach to the castle is from the east, from Woolsthorpe village and over the serpentine lake and through the Park and Garden. The proposals will not be visible from the formal approach or from most areas within the Park and Garden.

3.5.16 On routes from the north the proposed development is seen on approach from along Castle View Road, Woolsthorpe Lane, Belvoir Road and Long Lane. Vantage points from Castle View Road and the footpath are discussed above (see preceding section – Belvoir Castle)

3.5.17 In views from Belvoir Road, Woolsthorpe Road and Long Lane, the proposals will have no impact on the Park and Garden as the site will not be visible in any view due to its more northerly location -**see Heritage Photomontage 1 (Appendix 3.1)**.

3.5.18 There will be some harmful impact on the significance of Belvoir Castle with regard to views towards it from and across the application site (see the preceding section, Belvoir Castle) and thereby on one element only of the Registered Park and Garden. But due to the topography of the landscape and the castle's prominent position within the Park and Garden any view will not be totally lost.

3.5.19 Views from the Park and Garden towards the site change as one travels through it. The extensive and dense tree cover and vegetation around the castle and on its slopes screen the site from the castle (except from the roof), its esplanade and terracing, which are all within the Registered Park and Garden.

3.5.20 The Application Site will be seen in views from Jubilee Way but views from here are far reaching taking in Bottesford Church and Muston Church and development and settlements beyond. The A52 and electricity pylons are also discernible in the landscape. However, the southern boundary of the site is c.2km away and due to the distance from this vantage point the proposals will not be highly visible or intrusive in views.

3.5.21 The Application Site will also be seen in views from around the Engine Yard, car parking areas and Belvoir Road / Woolthorpe Road. However, the southern boundary of the site is c.2km away and due to the distance from this vantage point the proposals will not be highly visible or intrusive in views and will be partially screened by existing plantations from these vantage points. **These views are shown in Plate 17 and 18 of the Heritage Statement and Heritage Photomontage 8 at Appendix 13 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

3.5.22 The opportunities to see both the Park and Garden and the Application Site together in the same view are very limited and contained to views southwards from the

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north of the site and the public footpath F82 through the site. Here the main A52 road, a national speed limit trunk road provides a significant visual barrier to any longer views.

3.5.23 The site is in common ownership, being a long-established part the Belvoir estate. The estate, and thus the setting of the park and Garden has witnessed continual change especially since the 18th-century. The Grantham Canal was built across the estate between 1793 and 1799 (and included the Knipton Reservoir); the surrounding villages have continued to expand; and the A52 has become a more prominent landscape feature during the 20th-century together with electricity pylons. The setting of the Park and Garden thereby is not static but an evolving landscape with each generation.

3.5.24 In summary, there shall be an impact to the significance of the Park and Garden via the change to views of the Castle within it.

3.5.25 The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden at Belvoir Castle would be **negligible** with the effect of the impact being **slight adverse**.

Grade I Listed Building – Church of St Mary at Bottesford.

3.5.26 The Grade I Listing of the church highlights that it is a heritage asset of the highest significance as defined by the NPPF and is thereby a receptor of **high value**. The heritage significance of this Listed Building is principally embodied in its historic interest which has been a spiritual and communal centre for the community since the 13th century and its association with the Earls and Dukes of Rutland. The building also has architectural interest as a medieval church with later additions, alterations and restorations and artistic interest through the extensive monuments, memorials and artwork internally.

3.5.27 The church is very much associated with the both the settlement of Bottesford and Belvoir Castle, but it is at close proximity and internally that it is best appreciated and experienced, although its spire is visible from greater distances, including the site and from Belvoir Castle.

3.5.28 The setting of the church also contributes to the significance of the asset, although the significance derived from the setting is less than that from its historic fabric. The principal elements of the physical surrounds and experience of the church (its 'setting') which are considered to contribute to its heritage significance comprise:

- Its churchyard and associated headstones;
- The Grade II Listed Parker Memorial and War Memorial and Table Tombs in the Graveyard;
- The surrounding village settlement of Bottesford;
- Surrounding roads and footpaths from where the church can be seen; and
- Belvoir Castle due to its historical patronage and final resting place for several members of the family.

3.5.29 The Application Site has no economic, social or historic association with the Church of St Mary, but does allow for the church to be experienced in the landscape by affording views of the church spire from some locations within the site. The site might thereby be considered to offer some contribution of the significance of the church, but the site does not provide the only vantage point to experience a view of the church and as such the contribution the site makes to its significance is low.

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3.5.30 The church is largely screened by existing surrounding development therefore only the spire, due to its height, can be seen in views across the wider landscape, including from Belvoir Castle, the Park and Garden and the application site. There is no evidence identified to suggest that any view between the castle, park and garden and the church and the intervening land, including the site, was significant to either the church or the castle.

3.5.31 From the footpath F82 that traverses the site there are northward views of the church spire starting at the Muston village end. This footpath does not align with the church itself and the church is unlikely to have been a destination point for users. Views from the footpath are thereby incidental and not planned and the footpath is unlikely to have arisen from being a route to the church.

3.5.32 The Proposed Development will be visible in the foreground in views northwards from along the footpath, although the fields closest to Muston will remain open and without panels and have purposefully been excluded from development. However, when considering the height and prominence of the church spire and the low height of solar development the church spire will remain a visible feature in the landscape. The development will change the view in the foreground but the views from the footpath are few in number when considered in the context of the wider landscape and the numerous opportunities to view the church spire from numerous other vantage points.

3.5.33 The proposed landscaping strategy proposes enhanced field boundary planting which will mitigate the impact of the proposals by largely screening the panels from views with the church, whilst also stepping the panels back from the footpath to ensure that views of the church are maintained. The strategy also includes boards to improve public interpretation of the heritage assets to users of the footpath which will enhance the understanding assets for the public benefit. **This is shown in Heritage Photomontages 6B, 7A and 13A at Appendix 13 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

3.5.34 The Application Site boundary has been amended over the development of the proposals on recommendation from Historic England to omit the fields closest to Easthorpe Lane. As such the proposals are unlikely to be visible in views towards the church from Easthorpe Lane, and any views will be largely screened by existing field boundary hedgerows. Also, when considering the height and prominence of the church spire and the low height of solar development, the church spire will remain a visible feature in the landscape and still will connect the settlements visually maintaining any purpose of navigation between the two whether historically or today. **This is shown in Heritage Photomontage 5 at Appendix 13 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

3.5.35 The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the Grade I Listed Building – Church of St Mary at Bottesford would be **negligible** with the effect of the impact being **slight adverse**. The effect is considered slight due to the impact being on limited incidental views only towards the church and the church will remain prominent in views.

Grade II* Church of St Baptist at Muston

3.5.36 The Grade II* Listing of the church highlights that it is a heritage asset of the highest significance as defined by the NPPF and is thereby a receptor of **high value**. The heritage significance of this Listed Building is principally embodied in its historic interest which has been a spiritual and communal centre for the community since the 13th century and its architectural interest as a 19th-century restored medieval church.

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3.5.37 The church is very much associated with the settlement of Muston and it is at close proximity to it that it is best appreciated and experienced, although its spire is visible from greater distances, for example from Easthorpe Lane, Castle View Road, Footpath F82 and from the northern boundaries of the Registered Park and Garden at Belvoir Castle. Whilst the spire can be seen, it is not overtly prominent, due to its lesser height and the density of tree screening and the village settlement that surrounds it.

3.5.38 The setting of the church also contributes to the significance of the asset, although the significance derived from the setting is less than that from its historic fabric. The principal elements of the physical surrounds and experience of the church (its 'setting') which are considered to contribute to its heritage significance comprise:

- Its churchyard and associated headstones;
- The Grade II Listed War Memorial;
- The surrounding village settlement and fields to the south of the A52 and east of Easthorpe Road that affirm its rural character.

3.5.39 The Application Site has no economic, social or historic association with the Church of St John the Baptist but does allow for the church to be experienced in the landscape by affording limited views of the church spire from some locations within or across the site. However, the site cannot be seen from the church itself. The site might thereby be considered to offer a low contribution of the significance of the church.

3.5.40 From within the Application Site the church, principally its spire, can be seen from the footpath that traverses the site, footpath F82. However, several of the fields between the footpath and the church will not be developed and as such will not interrupt any view of the church from vantage points along the footpath. The Proposed Development will be visible in wider periphery views, but they will not interfere with any ability to see the church; understand it as part of the settlement of Muston; or its ability to act as way marker in the landscape either historically or today. Also, the proposed landscaping strategy proposes enhanced field boundary planting which will mitigate the impact of the proposals largely screening the panels in periphery views with the church. **This is shown in Heritage Photomontage 7B at Appendix 13 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

3.5.41 Opportunity to see the Proposed Development and the Church together are limited mainly to views from Castle View Road. However, due to the intervening distance the Church is not overtly prominent and due to the lack of any road or footpath across the site currently, or historically it is not a landmark feature that acts as focal point or terminates a routeway or acts as a point of destination from this vantage. **This is shown in Heritage Photomontage 12 at Appendix 13 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

3.5.42 The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the Grade II* Church of St Baptist at Muston would be **negligible** with the significance of the impact being **slight adverse**. The effect is considered slight due to the impact being on limited incidental views only towards the church.

Grade II Listed Building – Peacock Farmhouse

3.5.43 The Grade II Listing of the farmhouse highlights that it is a heritage asset of the less than highest significance as defined by the NPPF and is thereby a receptor of **medium value**. The heritage significance of this Listed Building is principally embodied in its architectural interest an example of a mid-18th-century farmhouse which adopts typical 18th-century form and appearance with a focus on proportion and symmetry but in a vernacular style reflected by the use of materials. Its historic interest is as a

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farmhouse was part of the Belvoir estate and represents a part of the nation's agricultural heritage.

3.5.44 The setting of the farmhouse also contributes to the significance of the asset, although the significance derived from the setting is less than that from its historic fabric. The principal elements of the physical surrounds and experience of the church (its 'setting') which are considered to contribute to its heritage significance comprise:

- Its garden curtilage – from where the building can best be appreciated;
- Its associated traditional farm buildings;
- Some elements of the wider rural landscape, including the fields immediately adjacent to its garden which it has clear intervisibility.

3.5.45 The Application Site forms part of the Belvoir estate and was farmed by an estate tenant at Peacock Farmhouse, thereby the site has some contribution through an economic, social and historic connection with the farmhouse. However, the site affords no contribution with regards to visibility and views either to or from the Listed Building. The contribution of the site to the significance of the farmhouse is thereby low.

3.5.46 The Application Site is not visible in views with the house from the front (roadside) due to the distance of the site from the Listed Building, the intervening rear garden and the intervening field between the site and rear garden.

3.5.47 From the rear of the house there will only be glimpsed views of the Application Site, these views will be partially screened by existing trees and field boundaries and the intervening buildings and the fields which forms the immediate setting of the house and garden, although less-screened it is anticipated that views are likely from upper floors within the building.

3.5.48 The farmhouse is seen within a grouping of buildings in Muston with the focus generally being on the roofscape due to intervening screening from other buildings and vegetation. While the solar panels will be visible within peripheral longer views from the Application Site and across it, focus will still be maintained on the roofscape of the building and its grouping. These longer views from within the site, or across the site towards farmhouse will thereby change but these views do not contribute to the significance of Peacock Farm and the economic, social and historic connection with the estate will still be retained. **This is shown in Heritage Photomontage 7B at Appendix 13 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

3.5.49 The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the Grade II Listed Peacock Farmhouse would be **no change** with the effect of the impact being **neutral**. The effect is considered neutral due to the views to and from the Application Site being glimpsed views only which do not contribute to the special interest of the building.

Scheduled Monument and Grade II* Listed Building – The Village Cross at Muston

3.5.50 The Scheduling and the Grade II* Listing of the cross highlights that it is a heritage asset of the highest significance as defined by the NPPF and is thereby a receptor of **high value**. The heritage significance of this Monument and Listed Building is principally embodied in its historic interest as a structure that yields evidence of past societal functions and events in this location.

3.5.51 The setting of the cross also contributes to the significance of the asset, although the significance derived from the setting is less than that from its historic

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fabric. The principal elements of the physical surrounds and experience of the cross (its 'setting') which are considered to contribute to its heritage significance comprise:

- The elevated grassed area immediately surrounding the cross.
- The roadside from where it can be appreciated and accessed from.
- The village which it served.
- The open field opposite to the west.

3.5.52 There is no identified functional or historic association of the Application Site with the cross, nor does the site enable the cross to be experienced or appreciated in views from the site, or the site in views from the cross. It is considered that the site does not contribute to the significance of the cross.

3.5.53 The elevated position of the cross allows for views westwards towards the site but when considering the intervening development and fields; the distance between the site and the cross; and the low height of solar development the proposed development will not be visible in views from the cross.

3.5.54 Views towards the cross are obtained from The Green, Woolsthorpe Lane and from the field opposite to the west. The field is not a publicly accessible point. Views from the Application Site are limited due to the screening provided by existing buildings between the cross and the site. **This is shown in Plate 30 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

3.5.55 The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the Scheduled Monument and Grade II* Listed Building – The Village Cross at Muston would be **no change** with the effect of the impact being **neutral**.

Scheduled Monument - Earthwork Remains of the Moated Grange Site at Muston

3.5.56 The Scheduling highlights that it is a heritage asset of the highest significance as defined by the NPPF and is thereby a receptor of **high value**. The heritage significance of this Monument is principally embodied in its historic interest as a site that represents a medieval monastic community. The monument also has the potential to yield further evidence of medieval society and thereby has archaeological interest also.

3.5.57 The setting of the moated grange site also contributes to the significance of the asset, although the significance derived from the setting is less than that from its historic fabric. The principal elements of the physical surrounds and experience of the cross (its 'setting') which are considered to contribute to its heritage significance comprise:

- The relationship of the moated complex with the wider settlement of Muston.
- Some elements of the wider agricultural landscape, particularly fields between the site and Easthorpe Road.
- Contemporary medieval structures and sites the wider landscape.

3.5.58 No economic, social or historic connection of the Application Site with the Scheduled Monument has been identified. The site does not afford views of the Scheduled Monument or the ability to experience the Monument and the site cannot be seen from the Monument itself. It is considered that the site does not contribute to the significance of the Scheduled Monument.

3.5.59 The Scheduled Monument occupies lower ground than the Application Site and as such the topography, field boundaries, intervening fields and Easthorpe Road ensure

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that the site is not prominent in views from the Scheduled Monument, with only the hedgerow along Easthorpe Lane visible from the boundary of the Scheduled Monument.

3.5.60 Due to the topography, intervening field boundaries, fields and Easthorpe Lane, the Monument is not visible from the Application Site. As such there is no intervisibility between the Application Site and the Monument and c.12ha (c.30 acres) has been excluded from development from the fields closest to Easthorpe Lane following recommendation from Historic England in pre-application discussions to further ensure that there is no risk of any intervisibility. **This is shown in Heritage Photomontages 3B, 3C and 4 at Appendix 13 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

3.5.61 There is no opportunity to see the Application Site and the Scheduled Monument within the same view from any vantage points again due to the topographical features, including the intervening River Devon and the settlement of Muston which prevents any opportunity to view the site and monument together in views from the north and east.

3.5.62 Whilst the agricultural landscape within its vicinity is a reminder of any assumed functional association the surrounding fields had with the Grange, this would have been severed at the time of the Dissolution, and the landscape has changed since then through enclosure and later interventions.

3.5.63 The retention of field boundaries and the low level of the Proposed Development will still allow the historic context of its wider agricultural landscape to be read and understood.

3.5.64 The visual relationship of the Monument with other medieval structures within the vicinity will remain unchanged. The Church spires will still be dominant and visible elements when moving to and from the Monument, whether along the footpaths that traverse the Monument or from along Easthorpe Road. There is no visual relationship with Belvoir Castle due to the topography and any relationship between the Monument and Castle or priory is purely historic, long severed by the Dissolution. **This is shown in Heritage Photomontage 3A, 3C and 5 at Appendix 13 of the Heritage Statement (Appendix 3.1).**

3.5.65 The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the Scheduled Monument - Earthwork Remains of the Moated Grange Site at Muston would be **no change** with the effect of the impact being **neutral**

Easthorpe Conservation Area.

3.5.66 The heritage significance of the Conservation Area is principally embodied in its historic interest as an historic settlement; its architectural interest from the numerous historic buildings, and archaeological interest from its potential to yield information about past human activity, especially at the Scheduled Monument site within and adjacent to the Conservation Area. The Conservation Area is a receptor of **medium value**.

3.5.67 The setting of the Conservation Area also contributes to the significance of the asset, although the significance derived from the setting is less than that from its historic fabric. The principal elements of the physical surrounds and experience of the cross (its 'setting') which are considered to contribute to its heritage significance comprise:

- Some aspects of the surrounding agricultural landscape that define the extent of the area;
- The village of Bottesford in which parish the hamlet is part of.

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3.5.68 There is no identified functional association of the site with the Conservation Area and whilst historically the site might have formed part of the Area's wider landscape setting the construction of the A52 has severed any connection visually and physically. The site is considered to not contribute to the significance of the Conservation Area.

3.5.69 While the fields immediately to the south of the Conservation Area do contribute to its significance by providing a clear extent of the boundary of the built form of the village and ensuring its rural character, the site lies beyond this area of setting and beyond the A52 main road. The A52 and its boundaries comprise mature hedgerows and effectively severs the Conservation Area both physically and visually from the site. The fields south of the A52, including the site, do not contribute to the significance of the Conservation Area.

3.5.70 The Proposed Development will not impact on any views of the Conservation Area and its setting or any significant views from within the Conservation Area.

3.5.71 Due to the distance of the Application Site from the Conservation Area, the low height of the proposed development, intervening screening and the physical and visual barrier of the A52, the proposals at the site will result in impact on the significance of the Conservation Area or any heritage assets within it.

3.5.72 The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of Easthorpe Conservation Area would be **no change** with the effect of the impact being **neutral**.

Belvoir Castle Conservation Area

3.5.73 The heritage significance of the Conservation Area is principally embodied in its architectural interest as a complex of historic buildings, several being Listed, and its historic interest through its association with the Belvoir Estate. The Conservation Area is a receptor of **medium value**.

3.5.74 The setting of the Conservation Area also contributes to the significance of the asset, although the significance derived from the setting is less than that from its historic fabric. The principal elements of the physical surrounds and experience of the Conservation Area (its 'setting') which are considered to contribute to its heritage significance comprise:

- The relationship between the individual heritage assets which as a group form the complex of designated heritage assets at Belvoir;
- Some elements of the surrounding countryside such as where it provides a clearly-visible extension to some views from within the Conservation Area.

3.5.75 The Conservation Area comprises the Grade I Listed castle, part of its Registered Park and Garden, and several associated Listed Buildings and is at the centre of a large estate. Whilst the Application Site is not in close proximity to the Conservation Area it is associated with it in terms of its economic, social and historic connections. In visual terms the Application Site allows for views of Conservation Area, focussing primarily on the higher elements of the castle with in. Views from the Conservation Area of the Application site are limited by the tree screening and are generally only obtainable from Jubilee Way, from north of the Engine Yard, or from the castle roof. Overall, the contribution the site makes to the heritage significance of the Conservation Area is low.

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3.5.76 The Conservation Area boundary includes the Grade I Listed Belvoir Castle and is within the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden. Thereby the assessment of the impact of the proposals on both the castle and the Park and Garden in the paragraphs above also applies to the Conservation Area (see preceding paragraphs)

3.5.77 Other Heritage Assets, within the Conservation Area will be screened by existing buildings and trees or be at too great a distance to be affected by the proposals at the site.

3.5.78 The proposed development will change the appearance of the Application Site, but the economic, social and historic connection with the estate will still be retained. The proposed Landscape Strategy includes opportunity for interpretation panels where these connections can be better told and thereby the historic and extant relationship between the site and the castle will be better known publicly.

3.5.79 Any impact on the Conservation Area from the proposed development harm will only arise from the impact on views towards the Conservation Area, but due to the topography of the landscape and the Conservation Area's prominent position any view will not be totally lost.

3.5.80 The development will result in a change in the view primarily of the castle but will not result in total loss of visibility from vantage points at the site. The impact of the change in views of the castle and on the significance of the castle is discussed above in the preceding sections. Whilst the castle is a significant part of the Conservation Area the Conservation Area is also made up of several elements and other heritage assets, including the Registered Park and Garden. In summary there will be no harm to the significance of the Conservation Area over and above any harm that might only be considered to be less than substantial and at the lowermost end of the spectrum as identified with regard to impact on views towards the castle.

3.5.81 There shall be an impact to the significance of the Conservation Area via the change to views of the Castle within it. However, the Castle is one element within a much larger Conservation Area and thereby the magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the Conservation Area at Belvoir Castle would be **negligible** with the effect of the impact being **slight adverse**.

DECOMMISSIONING PHASE (BUILT HERITAGE)

3.5.82 The effect of decommissioning would be beneficial in that it restores the baseline position of the site as it was on the day before construction started. All of the adverse impacts identified are for the duration of the operational phase only. Decommissioning will remove the identified adverse impact or harms.

3.6 The impact of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of any designated heritage assets during the decommissioning phase is considered to be **no change** with the effect of the impact being **neutral**.

3.7 MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT

Mitigation by Design

3.7.1 Mitigation that has already been included within the consideration of the initial effects of the scheme and includes:

- The omission of a significant areas (c.12ha) of fields closest to Easthorpe Lane to remove any adverse effect on the experience of the Schedule

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Monument of the moated grange at Muston, the Church spire of St Mary's and Bottesford and the spire of the St John the Baptist at Muston.

- The omission of several fields south of Footpath F82 to allow or uninterrupted views southwards towards Belvoir Castle from several vantage points.
- The stepping back of panels from sections of the Footpath F82 to ensure that long distance views northwards towards the Church of St Mary are retained.
- A detailed landscaping strategy that allows for retention and enhancement of existing field boundaries and the selective planting of new to allow for screening of the proposed development with minimal screening of the heritage assets.
- The inclusion of heritage interpretation boards as part of a trail to better reveal and access the significance of heritage assets for the public.

Additional Mitigation

3.7.2 Groundworks associated with the Proposed Development could potentially result in a measure of harm to potential buried archaeological remains within the Application Site. It is not considered likely that any remains would be of equivalent significance to a designated heritage asset, such that they should be subject to the policies for designated heritage assets as noted in NPPF (2021) paragraph 200, footnote 68.

3.7.3 With this in mind, in line with NPPF (2021) paragraph 202, a balanced judgment will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the non-designated heritage asset. On that basis, appropriate mitigation will be implemented to ensure that any such remains are identified at a suitable stage and are properly managed.

3.7.4 Based on current evidence, preservation in situ would not be a proportionate or appropriate mitigation strategy for the Proposed Development. Rather, a programme of archaeological excavation and/or observation could be undertaken. A trench plan has been agreed with Heritage Team Manager at Leicestershire County Council with trenching to be undertaken in spring 2022.

Table 3.3: Mitigation

Ref	Measure to avoid, reduce or manage any adverse effects and/or to deliver beneficial effects	How measure would be secured		
		By Design	By S.106	By Condition
1	Archaeological evaluation and mitigation to confirm the presence and significance of buried archaeological remains within the Application Site.			X

Enhancements

3.7.5 The proposed development includes interpretation boards at publicly assessable points. These will allow for improved public awareness and interpretation of the historic environment to a greater audience.

3.8 CUMULATIVE AND IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

3.8.1 Where the significance of a receptor (heritage asset) has been compromised in the past by unsympathetic development affecting its setting, to accord with NPPF policies, consideration still needs to be given to whether additional change/effects will further detract from, or can enhance, the significance of the asset.

3.8.2 The following sites have been identified and considered whether there will be any cumulative and in-combination effects.

- 10MW Solar Farm, Land South of The Railway Line & East of Station Road, Elton, Nottinghamshire (planning reference: 14/01739/FUL Rushcliffe Borough Council). Constructed and operational. Approximately 4.5km north-west of site.
- 12.4 MW Solar Farm, Lodge Farm, Longhedge Lane, Orston (planning reference: 13/01609/FUL Rushcliffe Borough Council). Constructed and operational. Approximately 4.5km north-east from the site
- 49.9MW Solar Farm, land south of the A1 (Foston-By-Pass), Foston, Grantham (planning reference: S20/1433 South Kesteven Council). Granted permission subject to conditions 1st March 2021. Approximately 4.9km north-east from the site.
- 49.9MW Solar Farm, land east of Jericho Covert, Jericho Lane, Barkestone Le Vale (planning reference: 20/01182/FUL, Melton Borough Council). Validated 15th October 2020, still pending decision. Approximately 3.8km west of the site.

10MW Solar Farm, Land South of The Railway Line & East of Station Road, Elton, Nottinghamshire (planning reference: 14/01739/FUL).

3.8.3 This site is c. 4.5 km north-west from the Application Site. The Local Planning Authority Committee Report states that Historic England did not object nor did the LPA Conservation and Design Officer and County Archaeologist. The Conservation Officer stated:

“In relation to Bottesford Church and Belvoir Castle I cannot conclude, based upon the submitted evidence, that there is no harm arising from the proposal. However, the harm which does arise is certainly less than substantial, it affects only partially the wider landscape context, does not affect intervisibility between those Grade I heritage assets and ultimately considered to be minor”.

3.8.4 The Local Planning Authority assessment, as admitted in the report was based on the submitted assessments which were considered to be worst case scenarios. However, the site has been developed and is evident that the site has had no harmful impact on the Belvoir Castle or St Mary’s Church at Bottesford, or any heritage asset that could potentially be affected by the Proposed Development at the Application Site.

3.8.5 For purposes of this EIA, there are no greater direct or indirect impacts on any other heritage assets arising from this constructed development and the Proposed Development together than already reported from the Proposed Scheme alone.

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12.4 MW Solar Farm, Lodge Farm, Longhedge Lane, Orston (planning reference: 13/01609/FUL Rushcliffe Borough Council). Constructed and operational. Approximately 4.5km north-east from the site.

3.8.6 This site is c.4.5km to the north-east of the Application Site and has been constructed. The Local Planning Authority's Officers Report records the comments of Historic England who made no objection to the proposal in relation to impact on heritage significance and the Local Planning Authority's Conservation Officer recognised that there would not be a significant impact on heritage assets. The application was determined without undertaking a balance exercise of harm to heritage significance with public benefits and thereby is concluded that the proposal was not deemed harmful to heritage assets.

3.8.7 The site is situated to the north-east of Bottesford and separated from the Application Site by the built form at the village and the A52. It is anticipated that there will not be an opportunity to see the Application Site in shared view with any heritage asset including the Grade I Listed Belvoir Castle and the Grade I Listed Church of St Mary at Bottesford due to the intervening distances and existing screening.

3.8.8 For purposes of this EIA, there would be no direct or indirect impacts on any heritage assets arising from this development and the Proposed Development together than already reported from the Proposed Scheme alone.

49.9MW Solar Farm, land south of the A1 (Foston-By-Pass), Foston, Grantham (planning reference: S20/1433 South Kesteven Council). Granted permission subject to conditions 1st March 2021. Approximately 4.9km north-east from the site.

3.8.9 This site is c.4.9 km north-east from the Application Site and is not yet constructed. It was not found that there would be harm to heritage assets during the determination of the application and thereby was determined without undertaking a balance exercise of harm to heritage significance with public benefits. It is concluded that the proposal was not deemed harmful to heritage assets.

3.8.10 It is anticipated that both sites might be visible in panoramic views to the north-east from the roof at Belvoir Castle only, but due to the intervening distances the sites together are unlikely to be discernible with by the naked eye. It is considered that that there will be no cumulative or in-combination effect on any other heritage asset.

3.8.11 3.50.83.9.8 For purposes of this EIA, there would be no direct or indirect impacts on any heritage assets arising from this development and the Proposed Development together than already reported from the Proposed Scheme alone.

49.9MW Solar Farm, land east of Jericho Covert, Jericho Lane, Barkestone Le Vale (planning reference: 20/01182/FUL, Melton Borough Council). Validated 15th October 2020, still pending decision. Approximately 3.8km west of the site.

3.8.12 This site is c.3.8 km west from the Application Site and is currently pending determination and thereby it has not been determined whether the proposal has an adverse effect on heritage assets.

3.8.13 There is no intervisibility between this site and the Application Site any identified co-visibility of both sites with the any heritage asset.

3.8.14 It is anticipated that both sites might be visible in panoramic views from the roof at Belvoir Castle only, but in separate directions to the north-east and to the north-west but both sites will be visible in the context of a development in the wider landscape context.

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3.8.15 For purposes of this EIA, there would be no direct impacts on any heritage assets arising from this development and the Proposed Development. The magnitude of the any indirect impact only of this development and Proposed Development together on the heritage significance of any heritage assets during any phase would be considered to be a **no change** impact with the effect of the impact being **neutral**.

3.9 SUMMARY

Introduction

3.9.1 This chapter has considered potential effects upon the significance of cultural heritage and archaeology receptors. This includes buried archaeological remains, earthworks, and buildings / structures.

Baseline Conditions

3.9.2 Known and potential non-designated heritage assets located within the Application Site comprise the buried archaeological remains of a probable-prehistoric ring ditch and up to three sub-rectangular enclosures; and general evidence of historic agricultural activity. There is currently nothing to suggest that any such remains would be of the highest heritage significance.

3.9.3 There are no designated heritage assets located within the Application Site and thereby there will be no direct effect on any asset but within 1km of the application site are two Scheduled Monuments, two Grade II* Listed Buildings and eight Grade II Listed Buildings. However, the assessment of indirect effects considered assets beyond the 1km study area, including further Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and a Registered Park and Garden, where necessary.

Likely Significant Effects

3.9.4 No significant effects have been identified, either as a result of direct truncation of archaeological remains or indirectly as a result of changes to setting.

3.9.5 The magnitude of impact on a Heritage Asset or its setting is defined by the NPPF as 'harm'. An impact (harm) may arise from a direct effect on the significance of a heritage asset through an alteration to its fabric or via a change in setting from a change in view of it, or how it is experienced.

3.9.6 It is also possible that development proposals will cause no harm, thereby preserve a Heritage Asset and / or its setting.

3.9.7 The NPPF articulates level of harm as follows:

- Substantial harm or total loss of significance.
- Less than substantial harm.

3.9.8 An assessment of impact or harm is a professional judgement but must have regard the definitions of the NPPF and it has been clarified in a High Court Judgement of 2013 that Substantial Harm would be harm that would *"have such a serious impact on the significance of the asset that its significance was either vitiated altogether or very much reduced"*¹; Less than Substantial Harm is thereby a harm of a lesser level than that defined above.

¹ Bedford Borough Council v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government [2013] EWHC 2847 (Admin), para. 25.

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3.9.9 Substantial Harm might thereby be considered to equate with a Major Adverse impact as defined in Table 3-3

3.9.10 Less than Substantial Harm might thereby be considered to equate with a Moderate, Minor or Negligible Adverse impact as defined in Table 3-3: Magnitude of Impact.

3.9.11 Preservation would equate to No Change, again as defined in Table 3-3: Magnitude of Impact.

Mitigation and Enhancement

3.9.12 The Proposed Development includes mitigation by design through the omission of several fields from development to the west of Easthorpe Lane and to the south of the footpath F82. The Proposed Development also includes a Landscape Strategy that preserves and enhances existing field boundaries or introduces new planting to screen the Proposed Development in views of heritage assets. The panels have also been stepped back from footpath F82 to ensure that longer distance views northwards toward Bottesford and the Church of St Mary are retained.

3.9.13 Further mitigation may be required post-consent to counter the impact of construction activities upon the buried archaeological resource of the Application Site.

3.9.14 The Proposed Development allows for interpretation of the historic environment to be provided at publicly accessible points.

Conclusion

3.9.15 This chapter has identified no significant effects in respect of cultural heritage that would arise from development of the nature and on the scale proposed within the Application Site.

3.9.16 The Proposed Development would be consistent with the provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990) Sections 66(1) and 72(1), the NPPF (2021) paragraphs 200–203, and Policy EN13 of the Melton Local Plan (adopted 2018).

3.9.17 The Proposed Development would be acceptable in respect of cultural heritage and archaeology.

3.9.18 **Table 3.4** provides a summary of effects, mitigation and residual effects.

Table 3.4: Summary of Effects, Mitigation and Residual Effects

Receptor	Value	Summary Impact Description	Magnitude	Effect	Additional Mitigation	Significance
Probable-prehistoric ring ditch, enclosures, and other features	Low	Truncation / loss through ground preparation, piling, excavation of cable trenches, and groundworks for access and landscaping.	Moderate	Slight adverse	Archaeological work: preservation by record	Not significant
Evidence of Saxon and medieval activity, most likely limited to unstratified finds such as metalwork and pottery sherds	Low	Truncation / loss through ground preparation, piling, excavation of cable trenches, and groundworks for access and landscaping.	Moderate	Slight adverse	Archaeological work: preservation by record	Not significant
Evidence of historic agricultural activity	Low	Truncation / loss through ground preparation, piling, excavation of cable trenches, and groundworks for access and landscaping	Moderate	Slight adverse	Archaeological work: preservation by record	Not significant
Grade I Listed Belvoir Castle	High	Proposed Development will be seen in views towards the Castle.	Negligible	Slight Adverse	n/a	Not significant

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Receptor	Value	Summary Impact Description	Magnitude	Effect	Additional Mitigation	Significance
Grade II* Registered Park and Garden at Belvoir Castle	High	Proposed Development will be seen in views towards and from the Registered Park and Garden.	Negligible	Slight Adverse	n/a	Not significant
Grade I Listed Building – Church of St Mary at Bottesford.	High	Proposed Development will be seen in views towards the Church.	Negligible	Slight Adverse	n/a	Not significant
Grade II* Church of St Baptist at Muston	High	Proposed Development will be seen in views towards the Church.	Negligible	Slight Adverse	n/a	Not significant
Grade II Listed Building – Peacock Farmhouse	High	Proposed Development will be seen in views towards and from the Farmhouse.	No Change	Neutral	n/a	Not significant
Scheduled Monument– The Village Cross at Muston	High	Proposed Development will not be seen in views to or from the Cross.	No Change	Neutral	n/a	Not significant
Grade II* Listed Building – The Village Cross at Muston	High	Proposed Development will not be seen in views to or from the Cross.	No Change	Neutral	n/a	Not significant

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Receptor	Value	Summary Impact Description	Magnitude	Effect	Additional Mitigation	Significance
Scheduled Monument - Earthwork Remains of the Moated Grange Site at Muston	High	Proposed Development is within the wider landscape setting of the Monument but will not be seen in views to or from the Monument.	No Change	Neutral	n/a	Not significant
Easthorpe Conservation Area.	Medium	Proposed Development will not be seen in views to or from the Conservation Area.	No Change	Neutral	n/a	Not significant
Belvoir Castle Conservation Area	Medium	Proposed Development will be seen in views to and from the Conservation Area.	Negligible	Slight Adverse	n/a	Not significant