

Heritage Statement
Manor Farm, NG23 5PN

There are several historical assets within the nearby vicinity of the proposed solar PV installation, all of which notably fall within or nearby the curtilage of a large scheduled monument (Please see Appendix A). These include:

1. Medieval village, Grade: Not Applicable to this List Entry, List UID: 1017780
2. Pigeoncote, Grade 1, List UID:1243820
3. Church of St Peter, Grade 1, List UID: 1244670

As indicated in Paragraph 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework, scheduled monuments are assets that should be afforded 'the highest significance'. As such, in line with Paragraph 189 of the National Planning Policy Framework, substantial attention has been given to ensuring the preservation of the historic assets and the potential impact of the proposed installation.

1.1 Scheduled Monument: Medieval village including monastic college, chapel, moat, fishponds, dovecote and open field system 200m south of Manor Farm, Grade: Not Applicable to this List Entry, List UID: 1017780

This scheduled monument is essentially the standing, buried and earthwork archaeological remains of Sibthorpe medieval village and rural settlements. This has very significant archaeological implications, providing agrarian, ecclesiastical and economical insights of the medieval period. According to the listing detailed on Historic England:

"...villages were the most distinctive aspect of medieval life, and their archaeological remains are one of the most important sources for understanding rural life in the five or more centuries following the Norman Conquest."

"The earthwork and standing remains of the deserted areas of Sibthorpe medieval village are particularly well preserved and retain significant archaeological deposits. The diversity of the archaeological remains compliment the extensive documentary evidence and together provide a rare historical sequence for the village and an insight into its wealth and importance. Taken as a whole Sibthorpe village will add greatly to our knowledge and understanding of the development of medieval settlement in the area."

"Archaeologically, fishponds are important for their association with other classes of medieval monument and in providing evidence of site economy."

As can be seen from the citations above, the scheduled monument not only provides a wealth of archaeological knowledge pertaining to the time but is considered one of the most important sources for this. This monument is not just a locating of one listed property but an undisturbed collection of several, giving a glimpse into life over five centuries ago! As such in line with Paragraph 193 of the National Planning Policy Framework, it is vital that this asset continues to be conserved.

In addition, the scheduled monument adds character and attraction to the modern village of Sibthorpe. As such it is of the greatest importance to ensure that this amazing historical

asset that reveals hidden archaeological wonders of a medieval village is preserved, conserved, and not harmed in any way, either physically or visually.

Associated with the scheduled monument are two Grade 1 listings; Pigeoncote and Church of St Peter.



1.2 **Pigeoncote: Grade 1, List UID:1243820**

Pigeoncote is a Grade 1 listed building and falls under the curtilage of the scheduled monument. Like the surrounding monument, this too has archaeological implications. As stated in the listing:

"Today the dovecote is the most prominent feature of the village" and "The monument survives as a series of earthworks and buried remains. The exception to this is the dovecote which remains as a standing structure to its original height."

As such, this listed asset is particularly significant as, unlike the scheduled monument, and being 10m in diameter, it is visible to the surrounding area and is displayed in its original glory, still containing nesting boxes. This adds character and attraction to the modern village as well as significant historical interest. Unfortunately, unlike the dovecote, the associated large house at Sibthorpe did not survive the passing of time. Thus the conservation of this asset is essential in order to retain a history that without protection can be eroded and removed.

1.3 **Church of St Peter, Grade 1, List UID: 1244670**

The existing church of St Peter is Grade I listed building and like Pigeoncote, is a prominent historical asset and is visible to the surrounding area and provides character to the existing village.



It is also interesting that the listing detailed on Historic England notes *"Earthworks to the north of the church indicate the survival of the remains of the chapel beneath the ground surface"* indicating that part of the scheduled monument includes a monastic college and chapel, something which is arguably rare. Most colleges were closed down under the Chantries Act of 1547 and only

approximately 300 separate colleges existed in the medieval period. Again, it is extremely important that this listed building and the surrounding rare historical monument beneath remains unharmed, unhindered and undisturbed.

2. Implication of the proposal

The proposal and associated works fall over 80m outside of the scheduled monument boundary and nearby listed entries, although the setting of these assets have been considered a key factor of the development. The solar PV proposal has potential physical and visual impacts on the assets which need to be addressed.

Thought has been given to Paragraph 194 of the National Planning policy Framework in relation to 'Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset'. The proposed works would not affect the heritage assets from a material point of view. No extensions, demolition or building works would be required for this installation. The scheduled monument is situated approximately 200m south east and south west of Manor Farm. The proposed location of the 13.2kW Solar PV installation is in approximately 50m north east of Manor Farm and approximately 80m from the scheduled monument border. The proposed location has been specifically chosen in order to minimise even the small chance of disturbing even the potential outskirts of the scheduled monument, by locating the proposal an additional 35m away from the stated northern border of the scheduled monument as indicated on the Historic England map. (see figure 1 below).

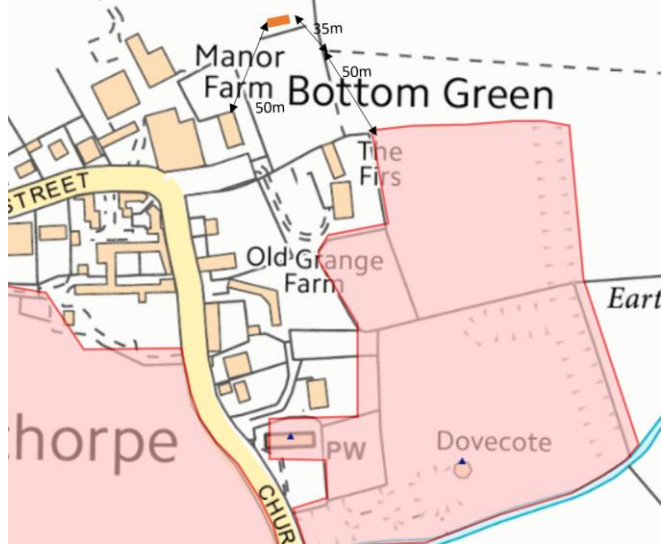


Figure 1: Proposed solar PV installation indicated by orange rectangle. Listed buildings indicated by blue triangle. Scheduled monument indicated in red.

Additionally, as extensive excavation works are not necessary for this proposal due to the system being 'pile driven', the proposal will not have any material impact on the scheduled monument nor the surrounding landscape. Thus the asset would be conserved and remain unharmed and undisturbed.

The solar PV installation will be displayed as a 'table' of 4 x 11 solar panels in landscape, pile driven into the ground. This method negates the need to fix the mounting system into a concrete base or extensive excavation. No demolition or extension works are necessary to facilitate this. The access route, as detailed in the main application, is not shared by the heritage assets and therefore there should be no effect on access to these sites during the construction of the solar PV array. Additionally, the proposal does not contribute to the noise or light pollution of the surrounding area and therefore this will have no negative impact on

the heritage assets either. Thus again, the heritage asset as well as the surrounding landscape, will not be harmed from a material point of view by the proposal.

Due to the relatively close proximity to the scheduled monument, in line with point 192 of the NPPF, thought has also been given to the likelihood of discovering currently unidentified heritage assets. As extensive groundworks are not necessary for this installation, but rather the installation is to be pile driven, it is highly unlikely that artefacts of historical interest will be unearthed during the installation process. No extensive excavation works are necessary again greatly reducing any risk of exposing historical assets.

The scheduled monument listing also notes:

“Well preserved ridge and furrow, especially in its original context adjacent to village earthworks, is both an important source of information about medieval agrarian life and a distinctive contribution to the character of the historic landscape.”

As indicated in the above comments, the scheduled monument and surrounding landscape, adds not just archaeological interest but also exceptional character and attraction to the modern village of Sibthorpe. It is good to emphasize that the proposal is to be 18.79m x 3.37m taking up only a small parcel of land, and the proposal is also low in height meaning it should not have a detrimental impact on neighbouring amenity. Despite the small size of the proposal, the location of the solar panels has been re-assessed to mitigate any potential visual harm to the surrounding area. It would be positioned behind a mixture of mature trees and substantial hedging to the south of the proposal. The array would be further visually obscured by the surrounding fields, trees and hedging. Thus the proposal will not be visible from the scheduled monument or any of the historical assets contained within. (Please see Appendix B)

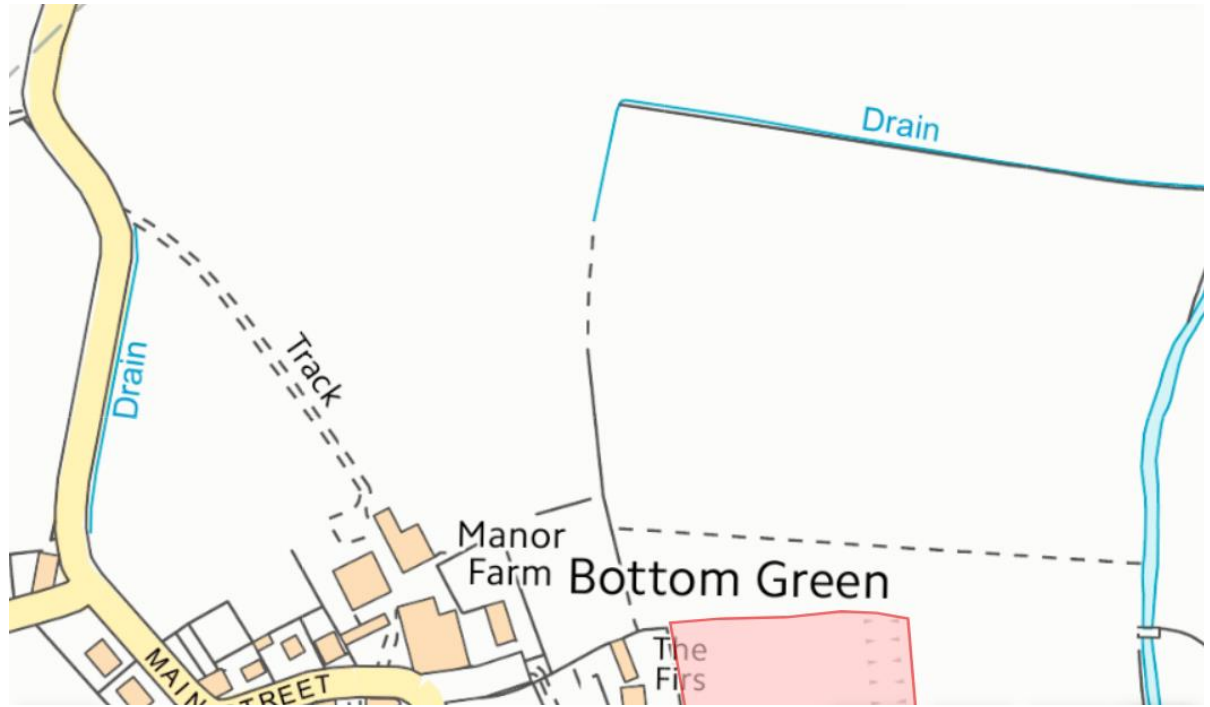
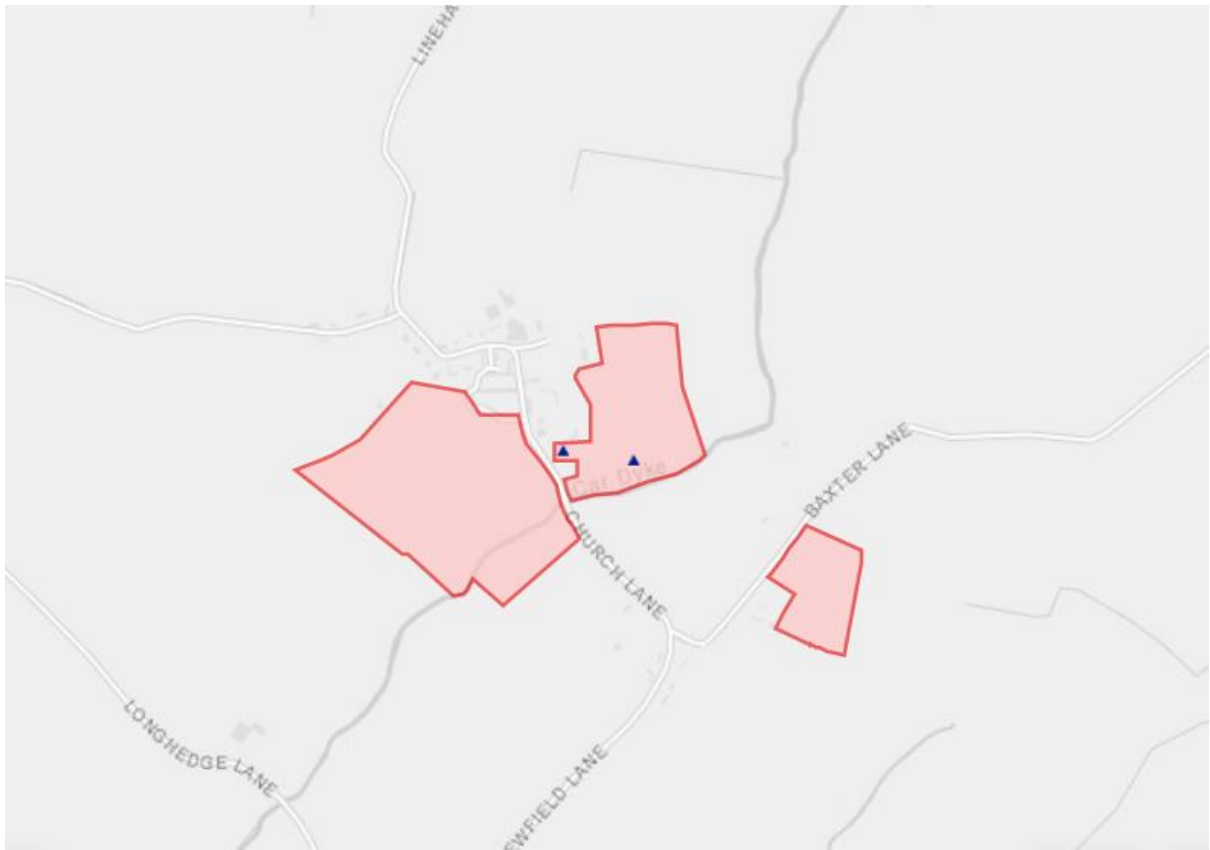
As detailed so far, the proposed solar PV installation would have minimal visual or physical affect on the historical assets or surrounding area or, as Paragraph 196 from National Planning Policy Framework states ‘less than substantial harm’. This paragraph refers to the ‘public benefits’ of the proposal. Regarding this, it is interesting to note the following from the listing details of the scheduled monument, in particular the Dovecote:

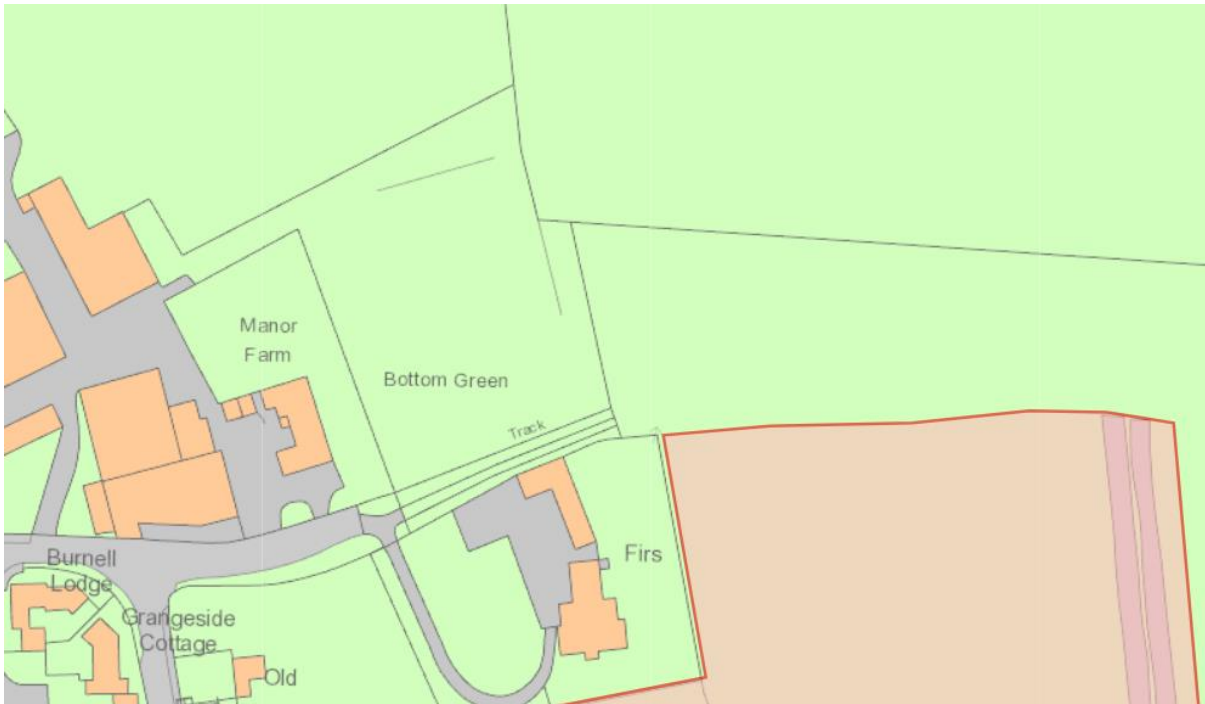
“They were constructed for the breeding and management of doves in order to provide a constant and sustainable supply of meat, eggs and manure” and “The difficulty of obtaining fresh meat in the winter...may have been factors which favoured the development of fishponds and which made them so valuable.”

As indicated by the above citations, Dovecotes were built to show off wealth but also to provide a sustainable supply when resources were scarce, making them valuable. Likewise, we are at a point in history where vastly dwindling resources cannot keep up with current demands, including electricity. This proposal would provide renewable electricity for the property and would reduce the property's carbon footprint by 5.94 tonnes of CO2 per annum. This proposal would allow the property to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, fuels which are polluting the planet and contributing to the current climate crisis. As such it would contribute reducing air pollution and increase air quality. Like the Dovecote, this benefit of this proposal is that it is able to provide a sustainable supply of a resource at a time when that resource is scarce. This proposal does not just benefit the one property but would make a contribution towards the conservation of the planet.

Ultimately, the solar proposal, although in relatively close proximity to several highly significant historical assets, would not affect these assets from a physical or visual point of view. Rather the proposal by utilising sustainable renewable energy as opposed to fossil fuels contributes to the reduction of pollutants and the conservation of the planet.

Appendix A: Historic England Maps





Scheduled monument in red. Listed assets indicated by blue triangles.

Appendix B: Viewpoints



Viewpoint 1



Viewpoint 2





Viewpoint 3





Viewpoint 4



