

Proposed Solar Farm at Mill Green,  
Burston, Norfolk  
Archaeological desk-based assessment

Report YA/2023/039 v2

York Archaeology 2023

**Proposed Solar Farm at Mill Green, Burston, Norfolk: Archaeological  
Desk-based Assessment**

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## Key Project Information

Project name	Mill Green, Burston
Report status	Version 2
YA project no.	3665
Type of project	Desk-based assessment
Client	Zestec Asset Management
NGR	TM 1365 8288
HER Event reference	ENF153213
HER consultation reference	CNF50247
Author	Rowan May & Tristan Cousins
Illustrations	Rowan May
Editor	Rowan May
Report number and date	YA/2023/039 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023
Version and filename	V2: Mill Green solar farm Burston DBA v2.docx
Detail of changes	Updated text and figures to address a revision to the application area boundary

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Cover image: Detail of the 1839 Burston tithe map

### Time periods used in the text

Period	Subdivision	Date range
Prehistoric	Unclassified	500,000 BC to 43 AD
Early prehistoric	Unclassified	500,000 to 4000 BC
	Palaeolithic	500,000 to 10,000 BC
	Mesolithic	10,000 BC to 4000 BC
Later prehistoric	Unclassified	4000-BC to AD 43
	Neolithic	4000 to 2100 BC
	Bronze Age	2100 BC to 700 BC
Iron Age/Roman	Iron Age	700 BC to AD 43
	Iron Age/Roman	700 BC to AD 450
	Roman	AD 43 to 450
Early Medieval		AD 450 to 1066
Medieval		AD 1066 to 1539
Post-medieval		AD 1540 to 1750
Industrial		AD 1750 to 1900
Modern		AD 1901-present
Unknown		No dating evidence

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

An archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken for a proposed solar farm in a playing field off Mill Road, Mill Green, Burston, Norfolk. The aim of the assessment was to establish the known cultural heritage resource within and around the site, to provide a context for the identification and understanding of any potential cultural heritage resource and to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on cultural heritage assets. York Archaeology was commissioned by Urbana, on behalf of Zestec Asset Management, to undertake the assessment.

The desk-based assessment has indicated that the majority of the site is likely to have been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period, and the archaeological potential for the medieval to modern periods is considered to be low, with the exception of the area of the southwest construction compound. Artefactual remains associated with medieval activity have been recorded in association with development at Home Farm, just to the south of the proposed compound and southwest of the solar farm site, and it is likely that settlement activity was largely concentrated alongside the current road network from this period onwards. The potential for prehistoric to Roman remains is more difficult to assess. Limited remains from these periods have been recorded within 1km of the site, but there has also been very little previous archaeological fieldwork within this area, apart from some fieldwalking. This recorded a scatter of Roman pottery and more sparsely distributed prehistoric artefacts at the western edge of the search area. On the basis of the available evidence, the archaeological potential within the site is considered to be low; however, the presence of prehistoric to Roman remains cannot be entirely ruled out.

Direct impacts from the proposed development could be caused by the stripping of topsoil for temporary access roads and sub-stations, the excavation of cable trenches, and the driving of piles for solar panel frames and construction of fencing. With the exception of cable trenches, disturbance is unlikely to extend to substantial depths. The temporary construction compounds are located within areas that are already surfaced with gravel hardstanding or concrete, so it is unlikely that further sub-surface disturbance will be required for these. The indirect impacts on designated cultural heritage assets and historic landscape character are considered to be neutral, due to the screening of the site by existing tree belts and hedges, as well as the local built environment. There may be some slight increased noise, dust and vibration impacts during the construction phase, related to the movement of construction and delivery vehicles. Such impacts could be mitigated through sensitive construction management planning.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Purpose of the desk-based assessment**

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment for the site of a proposed solar farm, in a playing field off Mill Road, Mill Green, Burston, Norfolk. The aim of the report is to establish the known cultural heritage resource within and around the site, to provide a context for the identification and understanding of any potential cultural heritage resource and to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on cultural heritage assets. York Archaeology was commissioned by Urbana, on behalf of Zestec Asset Management, to undertake the assessment.

### **1.2 Site location and description**

The site is within a playing field located to the immediate east of the For Farmers industrial estate, east of Mill Road, Mill Green, Burston, Norfolk. The site is approximately 2.07 ha (5.1 acres) in extent, and is bounded by fields to the east, south and northwest, and a continuation of the playing field to the north, with gardens to the rear of properties on Bridge Road further north. The site has hedged boundaries to the south and east, and the buildings and access road of the agricultural works to the west. There is a small pavilion at the southwest corner of the site, by the entrance from Mill Road. Tree belts flank the east and west sides of the north end of the playing field. The site lies at between 40-45m above Ordnance Datum and is relatively level.

The bedrock geology underlying the site is chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk, Culver Chalk and Portsdown Chalk Formations. This is a sedimentary rock formed during the Cretaceous period. It is overlain by superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation Diamicton, formed between 480-423,000 years ago (BGS 2023). The British Geological Survey does not hold any borehole records from within or adjacent to the site.

### **1.3 Scope of proposals**

The proposed development aims to create a solar farm, with a single group of panels bounded at the north side by a public footpath. The group of panels would be surrounded by a 2m high Deerstock wire perimeter fence. The construction phase would feature two temporary compounds to the west of the field, within the grounds of the agricultural works, and temporary access tracks through the site. The development would retain the existing hedged boundaries and tree belts, as well as planting a new hedge to screen the north end of the solar farm from the public footpath. The pavilion is excluded from the area of panels.

## **2 AIMS & METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims**

The general aim of the desk-based assessment was to determine the nature of the archaeological and cultural heritage resource within the Site and its environs, and to outline any potential impacts on this resource arising from the proposed development.



## 2.2 Methodology

### 2.2.1 Desk-based research

Determining the nature of the cultural heritage resource was achieved by collating existing archaeological and historic information relating to the site and its immediate environs. The desk-based research was undertaken in line with the standards and guidance produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2017). Information on recorded cultural heritage assets and historic land use within 1km of the site were collated from available databases and documentary sources to provide baseline data for the assessment.

The following sources were consulted:

- Norfolk Historic Environment Record (HER) – search ref CNF50247;
- National Heritage List for England (NHLE);
- Archaeology Data Service (ADS);
- Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS);
- Environment Agency Lidar data (1m DTM), available from [environment.data.gov.uk](http://environment.data.gov.uk);
- Norfolk Archives (NA);
- National Archives online catalogue;
- Historic England Archive (HEA);
- Historic OS maps;
- Historic England Aerial Photo Explorer (online aerial photograph resource);
- Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP) online catalogue;
- British Geology Survey online (BGS);
- Google Earth.

### 2.2.2 Assessing significance

Assessment of significance is designed to help establish why a place or feature is considered to be important and why it is valued. The assessment of significance is a subjective exercise, reflecting the moment in history when it is written and the knowledge gained about the site at that time. This means that the assessment of significance has the potential to change, as further knowledge and understanding is gained, and should be regularly reviewed.

The term ‘heritage assets’ covers a wide variety of features including: buildings; standing, buried and submerged archaeological remains, sites and landscapes; and parks and gardens, whether designated or not. Heritage assets hold meaning for society over and above functional utility. The relative importance or value of a heritage asset relates to its archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic interest. It is possible to ascertain the heritage importance of assets based on period, rarity, documentation, group value, vulnerability and diversity. The criteria used for assessing heritage importance in this report are presented in Table 1.

In addition to the relative heritage importance of a site or asset, heritage significance of a place can be complex and subtle, and requires a discursive approach. Historic England guidelines on *Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (HE 2019, 16) outline the following themes to help establish the various interests contributing to the significance of heritage assets:

- Archaeological interest: the potential of the site or asset to hold evidence of past human activity worthy of investigation.
- Architectural and artistic interest: the extent to which the aesthetics of a site or asset contribute to its significance, either from conscious design or fortuitously through the evolution of the asset.
- Historic interest: the potential of the heritage asset to provide information on past lives and events. This can be illustrative or associative. Heritage assets can provide a material record of the past, provide meaning for communities, derived from their collective experience of a place, and symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

**Table 1: Criteria for assessing the importance of heritage assets**

Significance	Heritage Asset (examples)	Note
Very High	World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites)  Assets/structures of acknowledged international importance and/or that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives  Extremely well-preserved landscapes with exceptional coherence, time-depth, etc	Substantial harm to, or loss of, designated assets should be <u>exceptional</u> and requires clear and convincing justification (NPPF para 200-201)
High	Scheduled Monuments (including proposed)  Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, and other listed buildings that have exceptional qualities not adequately reflected in the listing grade  Undesignated assets or structures of clear national importance and/or that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives  Grade I and II* Registered Parks & Gardens, and other well-preserved or very legible historic landscapes of national importance	Substantial harm to, or loss of, designated assets should be <u>exceptional</u> and requires clear and convincing justification (NPPF para 200-201)
Medium	Grade II Listed Buildings  Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives  Undesignated historic buildings that have exceptional qualities  Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character  Grade II Registered Parks & Gardens, and undesignated historic landscapes with reasonable coherence, legibility, time depth, etc.	Substantial harm to, or loss of, designated assets should be <u>exceptional</u> and requires clear and convincing justification (NPPF para 200-201)  A balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of undesignated heritage assets (NPPF para 203)
Low	Locally Listed buildings  Historic unlisted buildings of modest quality in fabric or historical associations  Undesignated assets, structures or landscapes of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives  Assets and historic landscapes compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations	A balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. (NPPF para 203)

Significance	Heritage Asset (examples)	Note
Negligible	Assets/landscapes with very little or no surviving archaeological/heritage interest  Buildings of no architectural or historical note, or of an intrusive character  Areas of known ground disturbance	
Unknown	The importance of the resource (below ground deposits, landscape, setting or historic building) has not been ascertained	Field evaluation may be required to evaluate potential buried assets (NPPF para 194)

### 2.2.3 Assessing archaeological potential

The assessment of the potential for buried archaeological remains to be present is a professional judgement based on known cultural heritage assets in the vicinity, the nature of current and historic land-use, and available information on the nature and condition of sub-surface deposits. The assessment is not a definitive statement, but a consideration of *potential* based on the currently available evidence. The assessment of potential could be modified if additional information was to become available.

A **low** potential reflects a below-average likelihood for the preservation of remains based on known parameters; **moderate** represents an average potential; and **high** would reflect an above-average potential for the survival of archaeology. If there is insufficient evidence on which to make a judgement the potential is deemed to be **unknown**. A **negligible** potential means that no significant archaeological remains are present; this is only used where it is known that substantial sub-surface disturbance has occurred in the past (such as excavation for deep basements or quarrying) which will have removed any earlier remains.

### 2.2.4 Assessing significance

The setting of heritage assets is an important consideration in relation to future management. The setting of a heritage asset is defined in *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3) as the surroundings in which it is experienced, and can contribute to, or detract from, heritage values of the asset (Historic England 2017, 2). Paragraphs 13-31 of GPA3 consider the steps required to identify and assess potential effects on setting of heritage assets. In line with this guidance, criteria by which existing setting and change to setting will be judged as making a positive, negative or neutral contribution to the setting of an asset include:

- *View*: the views to and from an asset play an important part in the way in which an asset is experienced.
- *Environmental factors*: setting is influenced by environmental factors such as noise, dust and vibration.
- *Spatial associations and our understanding of the historic relationship between places*: buildings that are in close proximity but not visible from each other may have a historic or aesthetic connection that amplifies the experience of the significance of each. They would be considered to be within one another's setting. The perceived extent of a setting may change as an asset and its surroundings evolve or as understanding of the asset

improves. Also, the setting of a heritage asset can enhance its significance whether or not it was designed to do so.

- *Public appreciation*: evaluation of the effect of change within the setting of a heritage asset will need to consider the implications, if any, for public appreciation of its significance.

### 2.2.5 Assessment of impacts

The assessment considers the significance of each feature and the likely effect of the proposed development upon them, in order to arrive at a judgement of the effects of the proposed development. Taking these into account, the effects have been assessed with reference to the criteria for determining the magnitude of impact shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Criteria for determining magnitude of impact**

Magnitude of impact	Criteria for assessing impact
Major	Total loss or major/substantial alteration to key elements/features of the baseline (pre-development) conditions, such that the post-development character/composition/attributes will be fundamentally changed.
Moderate	Loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features of the baseline conditions, such that post-development character/composition/attributes of the baseline will be materially changed.
Minor	A minor shift away from the baseline conditions. Change arising from the loss/alteration will be discernible/detectable, but not material. The underlying character/composition/attributes of the baseline condition will be similar to the pre-development circumstances/situation.
Negligible	Very little change from baseline conditions.
Neutral	No impact.
Unknown	The effect of the impact cannot be determined on the basis of the current evidence.

## 2.3 Planning background

### 2.3.1 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and outlines how they should be applied. The most relevant section that refers archaeology and cultural heritage is Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. It states that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource that should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance (Paragraph 189).

Paragraph 194 states that applications for development should describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made to their setting. Where a proposed development site includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, developers should submit a desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

When considering the impact of a development on the significance of a heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation, in relation to its importance (Paragraph 199). Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated asset (including from development within its setting), requires clear and convincing justification (Paragraph 200). Harm can be defined as substantial or total loss, or as less than substantial. Substantial harm to designated assets should

be avoided wherever possible (Paragraph 201). In cases of less than substantial harm, the damage to designated assets should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal (Paragraph 202). In weighing applications that 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 (Paragraph 203)

Where it is determined that the harm to heritage assets is justifiable, local planning authorities should require developers to investigate and record the heritage assets to provide further information on their nature and significance, and to provide a permanent record that is accessible to the public (Paragraph 205). Where loss of all or part of a heritage asset takes place, the LPA should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the new development proceeds after the loss has occurred (Paragraph 204).

### 2.3.2 *South Norfolk Local Plan*

Policy 1 of the *Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk* (adopted 2011) relates to addressing climate change and protecting environmental assets. It includes the consideration of cultural heritage, and states that the built environment, heritage assets and the wider historic environment will be conserved and enhanced through the protection of buildings and structures which contribute to their surroundings, the protection of their settings, and the enhancement of public spaces.

The *South Norfolk Local Plan Development Management Policies Document* (adopted 2015) includes policies relating to cultural heritage. Policy DM 1.4 (environmental quality and local distinctiveness) requires that development proposals demonstrate an understanding of important environmental assets including locally distinctive characteristics, and states that designated assets will be protected in accordance with their significance. It also states that development proposals should take the opportunity to enhance, re-use and better reveal the significance of heritage assets.

Policy DM 4.10 (heritage assets) requires that development proposals must take account of the historic environment and the contribution that heritage assets make to the significance of an area and its sense of place. Proposals must demonstrate how the significance of heritage assets has been assessed. Development should avoid causing loss or harm to a heritage asset, including the settings of listed buildings and the character and appearance of conservation areas. Substantial harm will only be justified where this would provide substantial benefits. Where less than substantial harm is proposed, the case for development will be judged on whether it provides public benefits that outweigh the level of harm.

Policy DM 4.1 states that the effects of proposed renewable energy development on the character and appearance of the landscape and on designated and undesignated heritage assets will be considered in making decisions. Permission will be granted where there are no significant adverse effects, or where such effects are outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This section presents a summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site and its surrounding area. A search area with a 1km radius around the site boundary was used to collate information on recorded cultural heritage in the vicinity. A gazetteer of the recorded cultural heritage assets within the search area is given in Appendix 1. Heritage asset numbers in the text refer to the gazetteer, and their locations are shown on Figure 2.

No heritage assets are recorded within the site. There are 38 assets recorded by the HER and NHLE within the search area, of which 15 have national cultural heritage designations. The Norfolk Historic Landscape Characterisation project (HLC) describes the site as in leisure/recreational use, with a previous character of probable pre-18<sup>th</sup>-century enclosure, more closely defined as a dual-axis rectilinear coaxial field (UID HNF42388).

#### 3.1 Designated assets

The site does not contain any designated heritage assets, and is not located within a Conservation Area. Burston Conservation Area is located in the south part of the 1km search area, its northern edge being 350m south of the site boundary. The southern tip of Gissing Conservation Area extends into the north edge of the search area, 960m north of the site boundary. There are no scheduled monuments or registered parks and gardens within the 1km search area.

Within the search area, there are 15 listed buildings. The Church of St Mary at Burston is grade II\* listed, and is 560m south of the site. The other 14 listed buildings are grade II. The nearest to the site are located along Bridge Road, to the north of the site. Culpher Farm is c.120m north of the site boundary, and the Cottage and Higdon's Cottage are 200m to the northwest. To the northeast, Grove Cottage and Kite House are over 350m distant from the site boundary, as are Bridge Green Farmhouse and 121 Gissing Road to the southeast, and Far End to the west. The remaining eight listed buildings are concentrated in and around Burston Conservation Area, between 430m and 850m to the south of the site boundary.

#### 3.2 Undated assets

A findspot of animal bone (probably cow) of unknown date was made in the garden of the School House at Burston, underlying a set of slabs beneath a hedge. The bone was in a thin topsoil deposit, with no associated artefacts (MNF56689).

#### 3.3 Prehistoric to Roman

There have been limited finds of prehistoric to Roman remains within the 1km search area, which may be partially due to a lack of recorded archaeological investigations in the vicinity. Only three findspots of possible prehistoric lithics are recorded within the search area. A series of fieldwalking events undertaken by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit in 1984 recorded one flint artefact, a worked flake of likely Neolithic to Bronze Age date, in a field at the western side of the search area (MNF21039), c.660m distant from the site. Another field in the vicinity produced two flint artefacts (MNF21050). In closer proximity to the site, a possible pot boiler (heated stone) of potential prehistoric date was found in construction spoil at Home Farm, Mill Road (MNF25400), just to the south of the proposed temporary construction compound.



The fieldwalking activity also recorded a significant scatter of 61 Roman pottery sherds in the same field as a flint flake (MNF21039), and further scatters in a field further to the southwest, just on the edge of the search area (MNF21047). The number of sherds from the latter site is not stated in the HER record. A single Roman sherd was found in a field that lies largely outside the southwest edge of the search area (MNF21169). The finds indicate that there was some prehistoric to Roman activity in the area, although the nature of this is unclear.

### 3.4 Medieval

#### 3.4.1 Recorded heritage assets

There are 15 medieval heritage assets within the 1km search area. Six sites are recorded as possible medieval moats, recorded either as surviving earthworks or from historic maps. This includes surviving earthwork moats with building platforms at Burston Hall (MNF10989) and just to the north and south of Burston village (MNF10991 and MNF10992). Around 200m to the north of the site is a possible moat that survived only as a linear earthwork (MNF10990), although this is not clear in recent Lidar data. It was shown on the tithe map as a linear pond rather than a moat, so the attribution is uncertain. Further to the northwest is a slight oval earthwork that was shown as a possible moated site on the 1839 tithe map (MNF11007), although it has also been interpreted as a potential windmill base (possibly constructed over a pre-existing moat). At the western side of the search area is a slight earthwork platform recorded as a moat (MNF21050); however, the HER record does not contain any information on its background. Fieldwalking in this area produced a substantial quantity of medieval pottery from the field immediately to the north, but none from across the platform.

St Mary's Church at Burston is of medieval origin, constructed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was heavily restored in the 1850s (MNF11000; NHLE 1305672). Bridge Green Farmhouse at the eastern side of the search area originated as a hall house of possible 14<sup>th</sup>- to 16<sup>th</sup>-century date, altered and extended in the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (MNF42501/NHLE 1049622). At the southwest edge of the search area is the route of a former road, shown on a 19<sup>th</sup>-century map but no longer extant except as field boundaries (MNF11004). The date of this road is uncertain, but it was potentially medieval in origin.

Other medieval assets within the search area are findspots, including pottery scatters recorded from fieldwalking, largely in the western part of the search area (MNF21037, 21038 & 21047) and a single sherd in a field at MNF21049. One of the sherds from the assemblage at MNF21047 was of early medieval date (Middle Saxon), in combination with Roman and later medieval sherds, which could indicate some continuation of activity throughout these periods in the area of The Heywood. This was the only early medieval artefact from the search area. A medieval spur was found by a metal detectorist at Burston, close to one of the moated sites (MNF20924). In the vicinity of the site, medieval pottery sherds and a fragment of a lava quernstone (for grinding cereals) were recovered from a construction spoil heap at Home Farm in 1989 (MNF25400), just to the south of the proposed temporary compound. The quantity of sherds recovered is not stated, but the presence of pottery and a grinding stone could indicate the location of some domestic activity in the vicinity of Home Farm, possibly a dwelling located close to Mill Road.

### 3.4.2 *Documentary sources*

The manor of Burston was extant prior to the Norman Conquest, indicating some early medieval settlement was present within the area. An early Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been identified in the parish of Burston (HER 23345), although this does not lie within the 1km search area around the site. In 1086 it was recorded in Domesday Book as Borstuna, the name being of Old English derivation (*'byrst-tun'*) and probably meaning a homestead or village by a landslip (Burston CAA 2021). At the time of the Domesday survey it had a recorded population of 41 households, and was divided into seven separate holdings, with the tenants-in-chief being King William and Robert Malet. The overlords at the time of the Conquest included King Edward, Algar, Alsi, Edric of Laxfield, and Leofric of Thorndon (Powell-Smith & Palmer 2011). It is possible that the various moated sites within the parish may indicate the location of manorial complexes for the administration of the separate holdings within the parish.

Land use within the site during the medieval period is unclear; however, the form of the field boundaries shown on 19<sup>th</sup>-century mapping suggest piecemeal enclosure from medieval open field, indicating it is likely to have been in agricultural use. A strip of land to either side of Mill Road remained commons until the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, and may have been part of the village commons referenced in the name Mill Green.

## 3.5 **Post-medieval**

### 3.5.1 *Recorded heritage assets*

The HER lists 20 heritage assets of post-medieval date, of which the majority are grade II listed buildings. These largely comprise timber-framed houses of 17<sup>th</sup>-century origin (MNF29916/NHLE 1049586; MNF41617/NHLE 1049584; MNF42500-01/NHLE 1305647 & 1049622; MNF50775/NHLE 1152850; MNF50829/NHLE 1373593; MNF50834/NHLE 1049581; MNF50836/NHLE 1049583; MNF50952/NHLE 1373631; MNF53346/NHLE 1049585; MNF53358/NHLE 1049621; MNF53788/NHLE 1373592 & MNF53798/NHLE 1373630). These are mainly concentrated in Burston village in the south part of the search area and along Bridge Road to the north. Another timber-framed house was formerly located at Paradise Farm (MNF21976), but has been demolished, with some of the timbers reused in outbuildings.

To the west of the site, a tower mill for grinding corn was formerly located along Mill Road (MNF16401). This was still shown on early 20<sup>th</sup>-century OS maps, but burned down in 1938. In 1922 the windmill was taken over by William Tuck and used for producing animal feed. Following the fire, it was replaced by a modern feed mill that was the origin of the current For Farmers factory. As noted above, a mound interpreted as the base for a possible tower mill is located further to the northwest (MNF11007). The oval earthwork is still visible in the Lidar data (Figure 7), but it is labelled as a possible moat on the 19<sup>th</sup>-century tithe map; however, a mill is shown in this approximate location on Faden's 1797 map of Norfolk and an adjacent house is called Old Mill House, which would support the windmill mound theory (see Section 3.6.1).

A findspot of post-medieval pottery has been recorded through fieldwalking at the western side of the search area (MNF21038), and post-medieval pottery and a knife were found in trial holes on the site of a medieval moat at the south side of Burston village (MNF10992). A post-medieval finger ring was found at an unspecified location by a metal detectorist (MNF72720).

### 3.5.2 *Cartographic & documentary sources*

A 1728 plan of the lands of Edward Fisher in the parishes of Diss and Burston does not show the site (MS 19902). A map of the Bishop of Norwich's Burston estate from 1753 was consulted, but is in a very poor state of repair and it was not possible to establish whether the site was shown amongst the fields depicted on this map (CHC 10458).

## 3.6 **Industrial to Modern**

### 3.6.1 *Recorded heritage assets*

Two assets dating to the Industrial period are recorded within the search area. These comprise the Eastern Union Railway Norwich Extension branch (MNF13578), which crosses the southeast part of the search area and was constructed in 1839. In Burston, the Old School and attached School House (MNF56688) were constructed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, in a Tudor style. One modern asset is the Strike School at Burston (MNF53870/NHLE 1171245), which was constructed by the villagers in 1917, in response to the eviction of the old school's headmaster due to their support of a farm workers' strike in 1914. Most of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century timber framed buildings recorded in the previous section were modified, extended and occasionally encased in brick in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### 3.6.2 *Cartographic & documentary sources*

#### *1797 & 1807 county maps*

A 1797 map of the county of Norfolk by William Faden shows few details due to its county-wide scale, and does not depict any features within the site (Figure 3). Interestingly, it shows a mill in the north-west part of the search area, on the approximate location of the oval earthwork interpreted as a post-medieval windmill mound in the HER (MNF11007), but does not depict a mill to the immediate west of the site. John Carey's 1807 map of the county shows fewer details and a more simplified road network than Faden's map.

#### *1839 tithe map and 1871 enclosure map*

The site is depicted on the 1839 tithe apportionment map of Burston as lying within four fields, labelled as plots 155, 170, 171 and 172 (Figure 3). All the fields were in the ownership of the Earl of Albemarle and leased by Richard Palmer. The fields at the east and south (170 and 171) were in arable use at that date, while plot 155 was pasture (PD 101/21). The site is not included on a plan of the estate of Thomas Dyson from 1830, although this shows the fields lying to the immediate east, between the site and Bridge Green Farm (DS 38).

The 1839 tithe map shows the windmill to the west of the site (MND16401), situated within a sub-oval enclosure surrounded by a strip of land that was otherwise unenclosed at that date. A similar strip was located to the west of Mill Road, and appears to be a roadside common or green. This was the only land in the vicinity of the site that was subject to Parliamentary Enclosure in 1872, and was depicted on the contemporary enclosure map as subdivided into a series of small plots (C/Sca 2/253). Only the new enclosures were depicted on the map, which did not include the site. The map showed the mill as a circular building, with a square building to the north, presumably the miller's house.

### *1884-1922 OS maps*

By the time of the 1884 OS map, one field boundary had been removed and the site crossed three fields (Figure 4). The windmill and associated house were still shown to the west of the site. The site was crossed by a footpath running from east to west, but no other features were depicted within the site. Hedges or trees were shown along the field boundaries. No changes were shown within the site or its immediate vicinity on the 1907 OS map. By 1922, there had been some small-scale housing construction alongside Mill Road to the north of the mill.

### *1957-1985 OS maps*

The 1957 map showed the site layout as unchanged. To the west, the windmill had been replaced by a larger modern feed mill following the fire at the original mill in 1938 (Figure 5). The footpath was not depicted on the 1977 OS map, by which time the feed factory to the west had been expanded, but no further changes to the site layout were depicted on either the 1977 or 1985 mapping (Figure 6).

### *Aerial imagery, 1999-2021*

Google Earth shows that the site had become a playing field by 1999. A cricket pitch was shown in the south-central part of the site, and a small pavilion had been constructed at the southwest corner, adjacent to an access track and parking from Mill Road. The agricultural works had expanded to the south and east by that date, and the proposed temporary compounds are situated within the yard areas of the works. Tree belts along the northeast and northwest sides of the playing field appeared to be relatively recently planted at that date. By 2005, these had become well-established, and the cricket pitch was more clearly defined, with rougher grass in the northern tip of the site, between the tree belts. The layout had not changed substantially by 2019, although the cricket pitch was no longer marked out at that date.

Several of the aerial images show the cropmark of a linear feature crossing the northern two thirds of the site, on a diagonal angle from northeast to southwest, terminating at the north end of the cricket field (Figure 6). This generally appears as a darker feature in the grass, suggestive of an infilled ditch or trench, and it lines up with the route of the former field boundary that divided the site and was still extant in 1985. The linear hollow is visible as a slight earthwork in the Environment Agency's 1m DTM Lidar data (Figure 7). Fainter linear features are shown on some of the aerial images, crossing the north end of the field in a fairly narrowly-spaced, east-northeast to west-southwest alignment. Similar features are seen in the fields to the east, and their pattern and regularity suggests these are likely to be field drains. They are not visible in the Lidar, indicating that these cropmarks relate to buried features with no surface expression.

## **3.7 Previous investigations**

Very few intrusive archaeological investigations are recorded within the 1km search area. A watching brief on groundworks at Old Hall Farm for the installation of a wind turbine did not encounter any archaeologically significant deposits or features (MNF75322; ENF133664). A watching brief on a pipeline route that crosses the northeast tip of the search area did not record any features within the search area (ENF109840). A watching brief on drainage works in the churchyard at Burston recorded only disarticulated human bone (ENF139510).

Although not recorded as an event, archaeological artefacts were noted in a spoil heap associated with construction works at Home Farm in 1989, just to the southeast of the proposed panel complex and immediately south of the proposed construction compound (MNF25400). The artefacts included a possible prehistoric pot boiler, a medieval quern fragment and pottery sherds, as well as oyster shell and animal bone. The quantity of medieval pottery sherds is not recorded; however, it does suggest some potential for medieval activity in the vicinity of Home Farm. The construction works were undertaken just before the introduction of planning regulations that required the consideration of archaeology in association with development.

## **4 SITE VISIT**

### **4.1 Walk-over survey**

A site visit was conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 by Tristan Cousins. The site visit was undertaken for an earlier proposed application boundary that extended further north than the revised boundary. The walkover survey covered the whole of the playing field and grassed area to the north, but the proposed construction compounds within the agricultural works yard were not examined as these lay outside the previous boundary. Weather conditions were overcast with light rain. Photo viewpoints for the walkover survey are shown on Figure 8.

The site is essentially level with no obvious slopes and is aligned north by south. The boundaries to the northeast and northwest consist of thick strips of woodland, changing to tree and hedgerow lines to the south, southeast and southwest and along the northern boundary of the field. The ground surface comprises coarse, thick grass that was reasonably low lying and so did not completely obscure the ground surface (Plates 1-6). The only exceptions to this were at the southeast and southwest corners of the site which have not formed part of the open field area. A small part of the southeast corner was partially wooded, whilst at the southwest was a larger area that seems to have been recently cleared of overgrowth (Plates 7 and 8). Overhead services run east-northeast by west-southwest across the field to the immediate north of the site (Plates 1-3), and north by south along the southwestern boundary (Plates 5 & 10). Also at the southwest of the site is a disused wooden sports pavilion on a concrete foundation pad (Plates 5, 9-10).

Within the northern part of the field, an ambiguous ovoid depression was discernible in the ground surface that correlates with lidar plot (Plate 11). A second similar but more obvious depression was noted in the north part of the site, but that seemed more obviously formed by water accumulation (Plate 12). Running approximately northeast by southwest from the northern part of the field into the north-central part of the site was a barely discernible linear feature some 1-1.5m wide. In places, the ground was very slightly depressed but this is difficult to see on the photographic images. Textural change was easier to discern, being softer ground than that surrounding the feature (Plates 13-14). This corresponds with a feature identifiable on lidar survey, which itself correlates to a former field boundary that may have included a ditch.

No other significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the site walkover survey. As noted above, the locations of the temporary compounds were not examined; however, these are within the area of the For Farmers agricultural feed works. These areas appear to consist of concrete surfacing for the northeast compound and gravel hardstanding in

the area of the southwest compound, likely a former parking area for the playing field, which has become grassed over (Plate 15).

## 4.2 Setting assessment

Photo viewpoints for the settings assessment are shown on Figure 9. The woodland and hedge screening is most effective to the east, west and south of the site. The woodland is penetrated only by thin footpaths which are not discernible from any distance. The entrance to site off Mill Road is the largest gap in the screening but is some way from the road itself and largely overshadowed by the modern commercial-agricultural complex (For Farmers) that sits between the site and Mill Road at the southwest (Plates 16-17).

The closest designated asset to the site is Culpher Farmhouse (NHLE 1049581), situated some 40m from the northern boundary of the field and approximately 200m from the northern limit of the proposed development. The screening along the north of the field is less dense than that to the east and west, but is still substantial. However, it is possible to partially see through the floral screen at this time of year to the upper storey of the building (Plates 18-19). The grounds were not accessible for the setting assessment, being on private land, but there may be partial views to the site from this asset, which could be reduced during summer months. This partial view could be reduced by the proposed hedge planting along the northern boundary.

Between the site and the assets located in the Burston Conservation Area to the south are a number of wooded areas and further hedgerows in addition to that which bounds the southern part of the site itself and there are no direct views to or from the site and these assets. The Conservation Area itself is therefore effectively screened from the proposed development (Plates 20-22). A single designated asset, Manor Farm (NHLE 1049586), is to the east of the village outside of the Conservation Area. A small field is behind the building which is bounded by a substantial hedgerow, with further such field boundaries between it and site and there are no direct views to or from the site and this asset (Plates 23-24).

Far End (NHLE 1373593) is situated some 367m west of the site beyond Mill Road. The For Farmers complex is between the site and this asset, as is the tree and hedge screening bounding fields on the west side of Mill Road (Plates 25-27). At the junction of Mill Road and Bridge Road to the northeast of the site is The Cottage and Higdon's Cottage (NHLE 1049583). This is situated on the far side of the road and between it and the site are a number of other buildings and their associated landscaping, which in addition to the dense screening around the northwest of the site itself means there are no views to or from this asset (Plates 28-29).

Two designated assets are some 220m northwest of the site. Grove Cottage (NHLE 1373630) is on the northwest side of Bridge Road. There are two fields between this asset and the site which both have tall arboreal screening. The southeasternmost field is also bounded by the thick strip of woodland that is along the northwest side of the site. There are therefore no views to or from the site and this asset, or from Kite House (NHLE 11528590) located just to the south of Grove Cottage (Plates 30-31).

On the east side of Gissing Road some 400m from the site are two assets which are situated with their own woodland landscaping, 121, Gissing Road (NHLE 1305647) and Bridge Green Farmhouse (NHLE 1049622). There are no direct views between these assets and the proposed development area (Plate 32).



## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL & SIGNIFICANCE

The assessment of the potential for archaeological remains to be present is based on known cultural heritage assets in the vicinity, the nature of current and historic land-use and available information on the nature and condition of sub-surface deposits. **The assessment is not a definitive statement, but a consideration of *potential* based on the currently available evidence.**

The results of the desk-based assessment has indicated that there is relatively limited information on which to base an assessment of the potential for the presence and preservation of buried archaeological deposits within the site. The land use in recent years has been a playing field in grass coverage, but the site was previously agricultural fields, likely from at least the medieval period onwards. It is possible that at least parts of the site were under arable cultivation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the potential for some deep ploughing that may have truncated buried features and deposits. This may be supported by cropmark features tentatively identified as field drains noted in the northern part of the site on recent aerial imagery. The proposed construction compounds are within the yard areas of the agricultural works, and may have had some disturbance, such as stripping of topsoil, during construction of the concrete and hardstanding yard surfaces.

The nature of recorded archaeological remains in the wider search area suggests that there is the potential for medieval remains in the vicinity of the site, with a number of artefacts recorded from development within the area of Home Farm, to the southwest of the proposed solar farm and immediate south of the southwest construction compound. The other medieval settlement features within the search area, such as moated sites, are also concentrated close to the current road system, suggesting the main part of the site is unlikely to have been a focus for settlement activity. If the site was fields during this period, the potential for significant medieval remains within the site is likely to be low. Similarly, for the post-medieval to industrial periods any archaeological remains are likely to be associated with agricultural activity and of low cultural heritage significance. The exception is the area of the southwest construction compound, which is in a location close to the road that could have been a focus for settlement activity in the medieval period. As this area is currently hardstanding, it is likely to have had some previous topsoil disturbance that may have had a slight impact on any buried remains in its footprint.

The potential for prehistoric to Roman remains is more difficult to assess, given the scarcity of recorded archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity. Roman pottery has been recorded through fieldwalking in the western part of the search area, though at some distance from the site. Prehistoric findspots are more sparse, but include a possible prehistoric pot boiler among the artefacts recovered from a spoil heap at Home Farm. The potential for the presence of prehistoric to Roman remains is considered likely to be low, but cannot be entirely ruled out on the basis of available evidence. The significance of any such remains is unknown.

## 6 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

The assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on cultural heritage has been undertaken based on information made available by the client (SENS drawing 230106 LAY-01, rev. 2). The methodology for the construction of the solar farm has not been detailed, however, the location of temporary construction compounds and access tracks have been defined, as well as the location of perimeter fencing and panel housings. The proposed construction compound

locations are within areas of concrete and hardstanding surfacing, so may not require any modifications for this temporary use. Topsoil disturbance may be required for the footprint of the access roads and any substations, as well as the excavation of service trenches for buried electricity cables. The solar panels are likely to be mounted on frames erected using driven piles. Perimeter fencing will surround the group of solar panels, possibly involving piling or a foundation cut for the fencing.

## **6.1 Direct impacts**

The stripping of topsoil and excavation of cable trenches would have the potential to truncate or remove any buried archaeological remains within the footprint of these works. The insertion of driven piles for the panel frames and fencing would have a more limited impact on buried remains, constituting of small areas of disturbance over a widespread part of the site. These small disturbances are unlikely to cause substantial damage to any buried archaeological remains, although the distribution across the site could increase the cumulative impact, depending on the extent and nature of any potential archaeology within the site. The magnitude of impact is currently unknown, due to the lack of information on buried archaeological remains; however, based on the available evidence, it is considered likely to be minor to negligible. The direct impacts would arise largely during the construction phase of the development.

The area of the site considered to have the highest potential for remains of medieval and later settlement activity is the southwest construction compound. However, as this is already surfaced with gravel hardstanding, sub-surface disturbance would only occur if it is proposed to remove and replace the existing surfacing, or insert any buried services through this area.

## **6.2 Indirect impacts**

Indirect impacts from the proposed development on cultural heritage assets could include visual, noise, dust and vibration intrusions on the setting of designated assets during the construction phase, and visual intrusion during the operational phase. The settings assessment has indicated that the site is well-screened by the existing tree belts and hedging around the perimeter of the site, with the flat topography of the area also meaning that the existing built environment and hedgerows block views towards the site from the majority of viewpoints, including from Burston and Gissing conservation areas. The exception is a slight potential for a view into the site from the upper storey of the grade II listed Culpher Farm to the north of the site. This would not affect views from publicly accessible areas, and the view from Culpher Farm may be reduced by the planting of a hedgerow along the northern edge of the site, which will also assist with screening the panels from the footpath that runs immediately to the north. The proposed development will not affect the ways in which any of the designated heritage assets are experienced through visual intrusion or isolation, and therefore will not have any identifiable impacts on the significance of these assets.

The proposed development would not result in a notable change to the historic landscape character, as the site's current extents and layout are a late 20<sup>th</sup>-century creation, altering the historic pattern of the fields in this area. Assuming that the current hedges and tree belts are to be maintained, the visual impacts of the construction and operation phases on cultural heritage are considered to be neutral.

Noise, dust and vibration intrusions on the setting of nearby listed buildings and conservation areas are likely to be limited, given the nature of the proposed development. There may be some noise and vibration impacts from increased vehicle movement and deliveries, although it should be noted that HGVs currently operate on Mill Road to access the For Farmers feed factory. The potential noise, dust and vibration impacts are considered to be of minor magnitude, and would only occur during the construction phase. Such impacts could be mitigated through the design of the construction management plan.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

The desk-based assessment has summarised the recorded cultural heritage resource within the vicinity of the site, and assessed the potential impacts of the proposed development on this resource. The majority of the site is likely to have been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period, and the archaeological potential for the medieval to modern periods is considered to be low, with the exception of the area of the southwest construction compound. Artefactual remains associated with medieval activity have been recorded in association with development at Home Farm, just to the south of the proposed compound and southwest of the solar farm site, and it is likely that settlement activity was largely concentrated alongside the current road network from this period onwards. The potential for prehistoric to Roman remains is more difficult to assess. Limited remains from these periods have been recorded within 1km of the site, but there has also been very little previous archaeological fieldwork within this area, apart from some fieldwalking. This recorded a scatter of Roman pottery and more sparsely distributed prehistoric artefacts at the western edge of the search area. On the basis of the available evidence, the archaeological potential within the site is considered to be low; however, the presence of prehistoric to Roman remains cannot be entirely ruled out.

Direct impacts from the proposed development could be caused by the stripping of topsoil for temporary access roads and sub-stations, the excavation of cable trenches, and the driving of piles for solar panel frames and construction of fencing. With the exception of cable trenches, disturbance is unlikely to extend to substantial depths. The temporary construction compounds are located within areas that are already surfaced with gravel hardstanding or concrete, so it is unlikely that further sub-surface disturbance will be required for these. The indirect impacts on designated cultural heritage assets and historic landscape character are considered to be neutral, due to the screening of the site by existing tree belts and hedges, as well as the local built environment. There may be some slight increased noise, dust and vibration impacts during the construction phase, related to the movement of construction and delivery vehicles. Such impacts could be mitigated through sensitive construction management planning.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

York Archaeology would like to thank Ketill Lord and Terrence Hill of For Farmers, for arranging access to the site. We would also like to thank Peter Watkins of Norfolk Historic Environment Record for the provision of data, and the staff of Norfolk Archives for assistance with documentary research.

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CHC 10458: Burston, Norwich Bishopric estate, 1753 (surveyed by William Stanford)

PD 101/52: Map of Norfolk by William Faden, 1797

PD 101/53: Map of Norfolk by John Cary, 1807

DS 38: Map of the estate of Thomas Dyson at Burston, 1830

PD 101/21 Burston tithe map & apportionment 1839

C/Sca 2/253: Shimpling & Burston: enclosure plan of commons, 1872

1884, 1907 & 1922 25 inch: 1 mile OS maps

1957 1:10,560 OS map

1977 1:2500 OS map

1985 1:10,000 OS map

Aerial imagery: Google Earth

## FIGURES

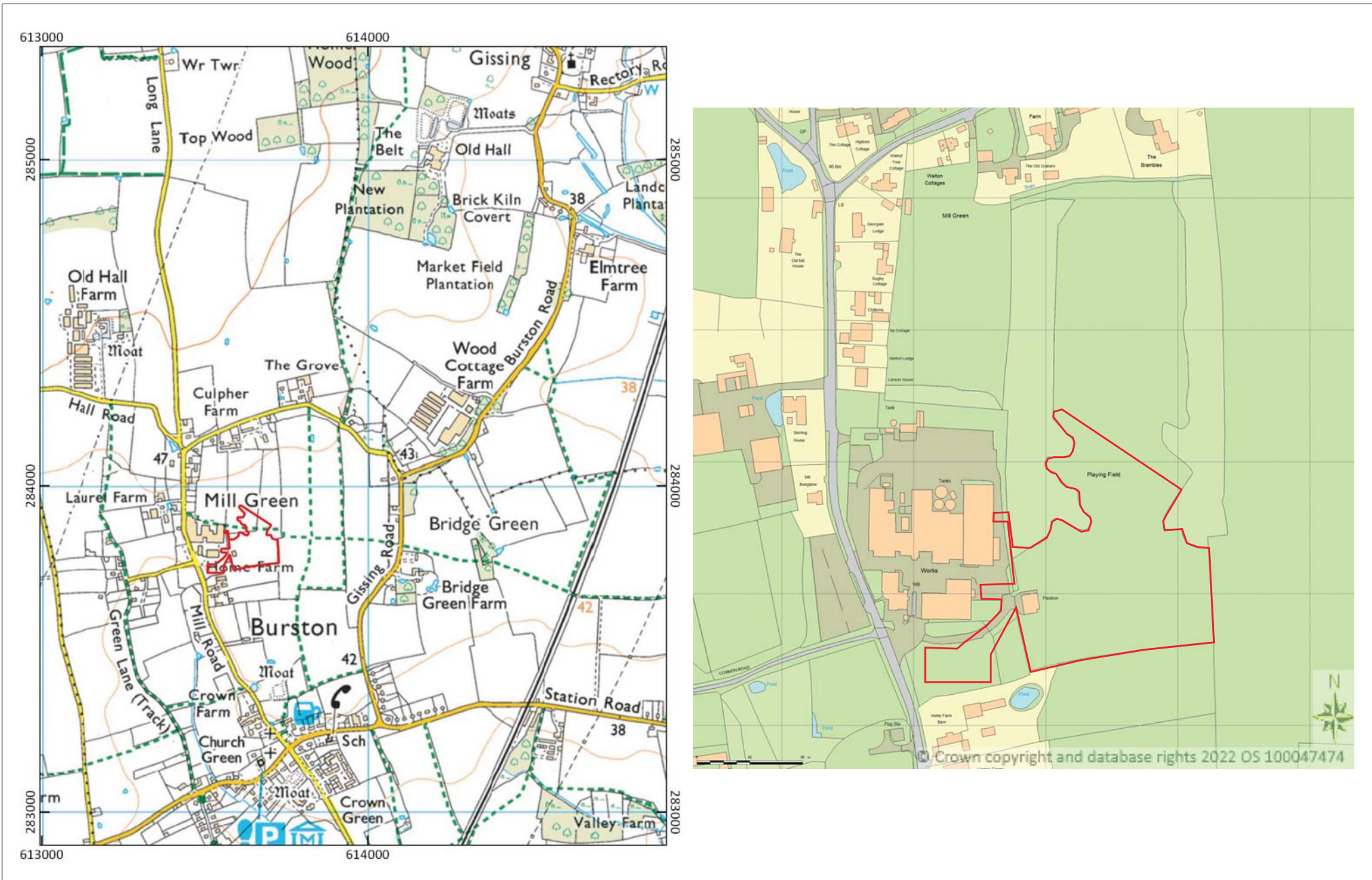
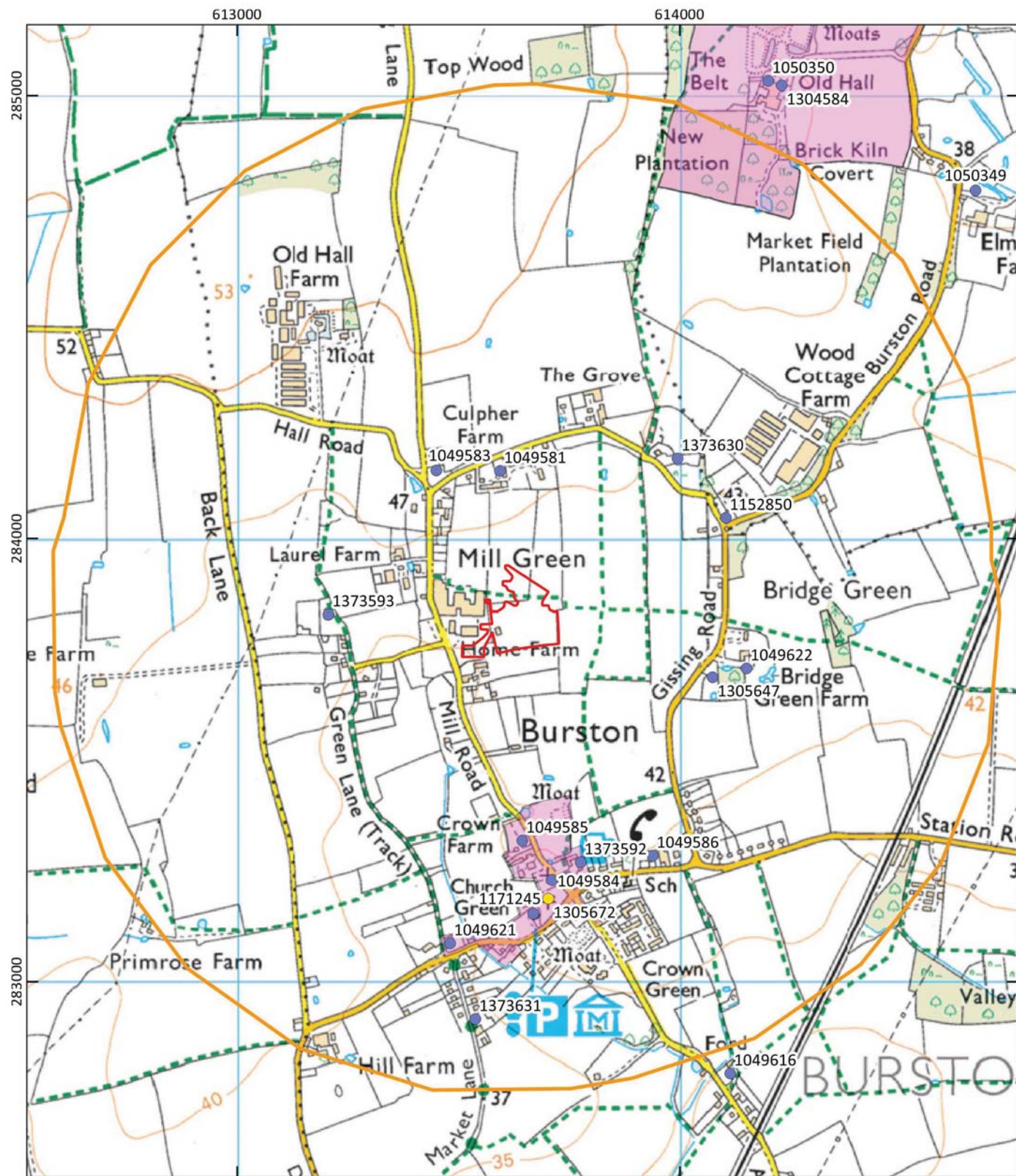


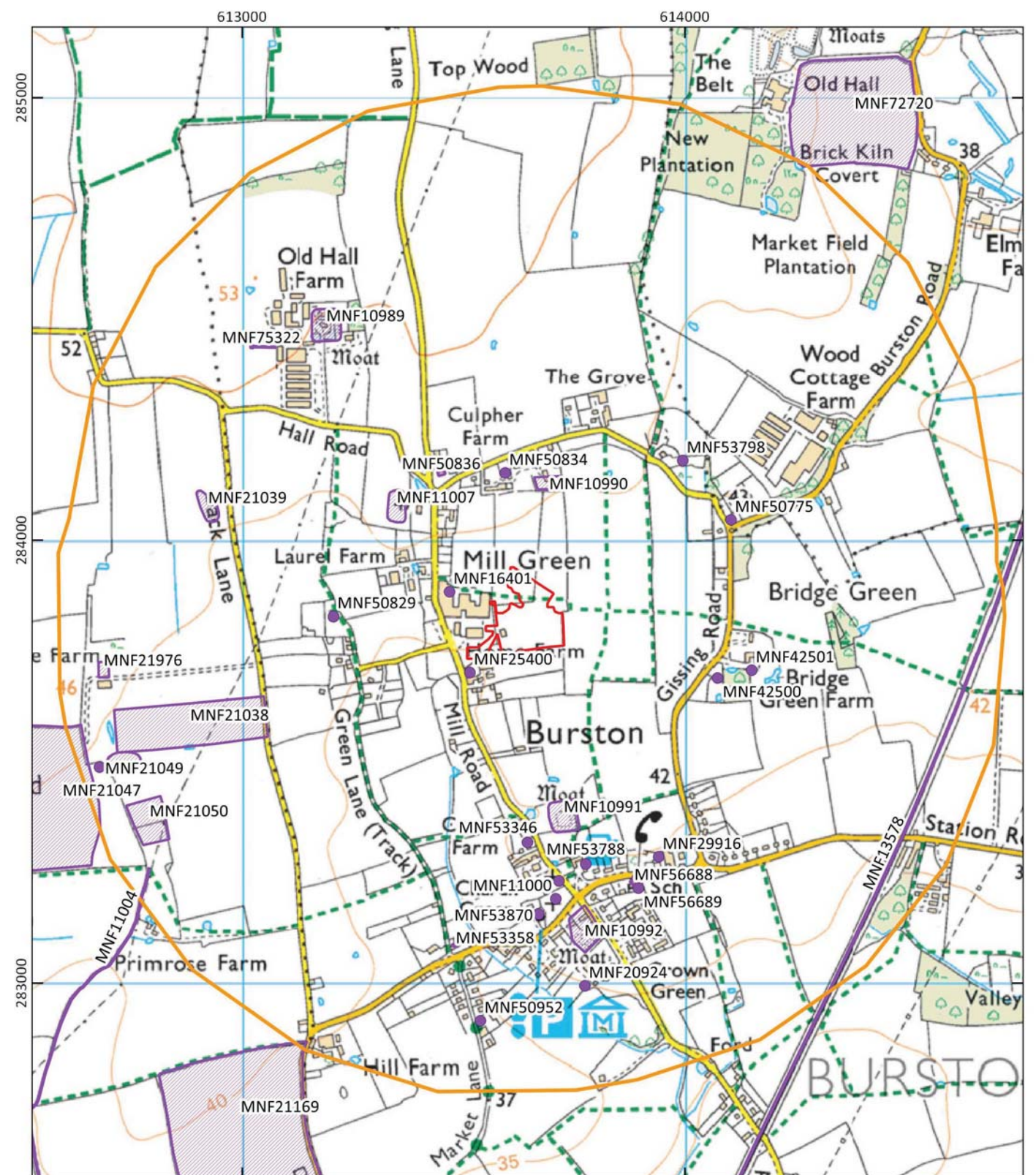
Figure 1 - Site location  
Mill Green, Burston





Designated assets

- 1km search area
- Application area boundary
- Listed building:
- II
- II\*



Assets recorded in the HER

- Conservation Area
- HER asset - point
- HER asset - line
- HER asset - polygon



Figure 2 - Location of recorded heritage assets  
Mill Green, Burston





Site location is approximate

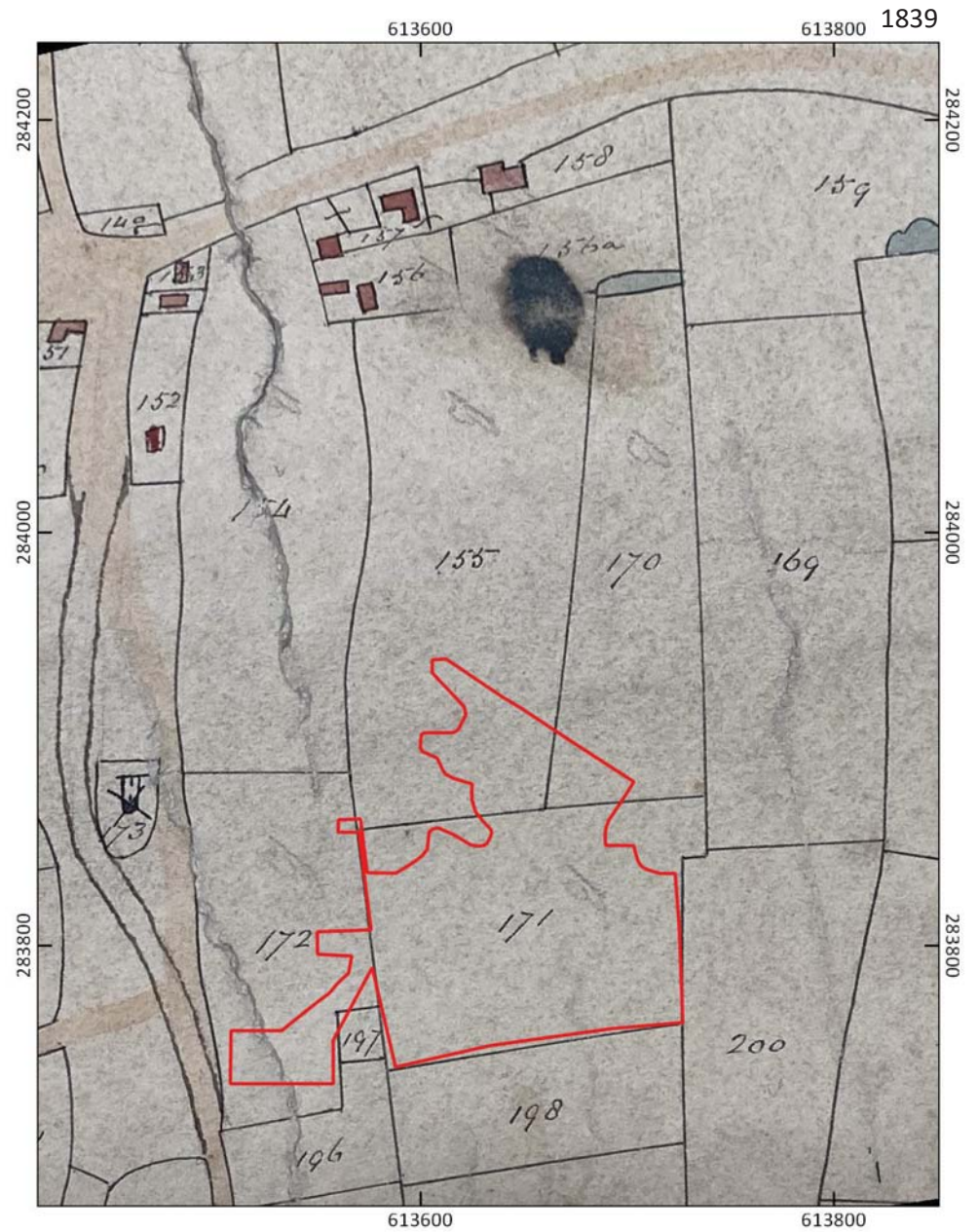


Figure 3 - 1797 map of Norfolk & 1839 tithe map  
Mill Green, Burston





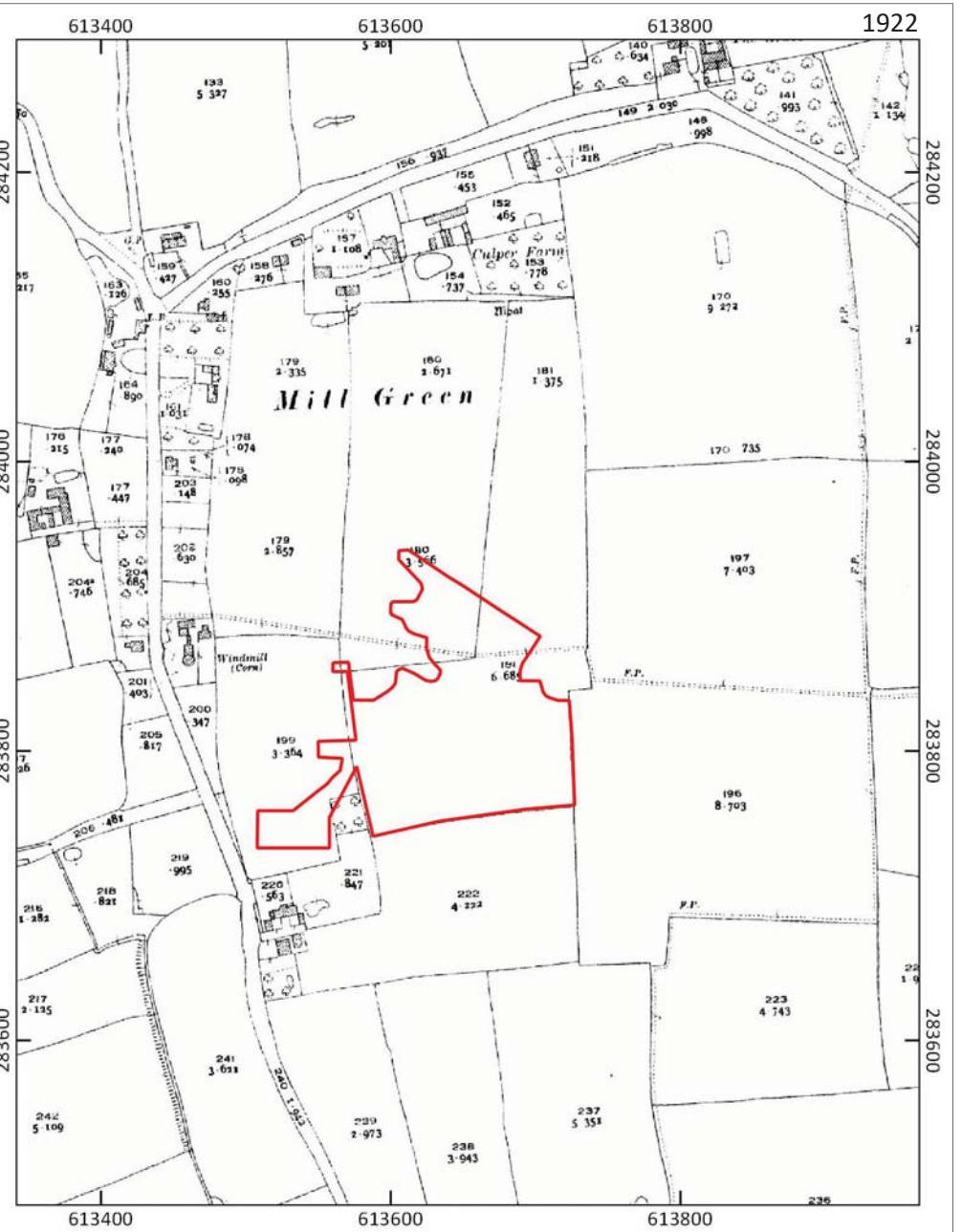
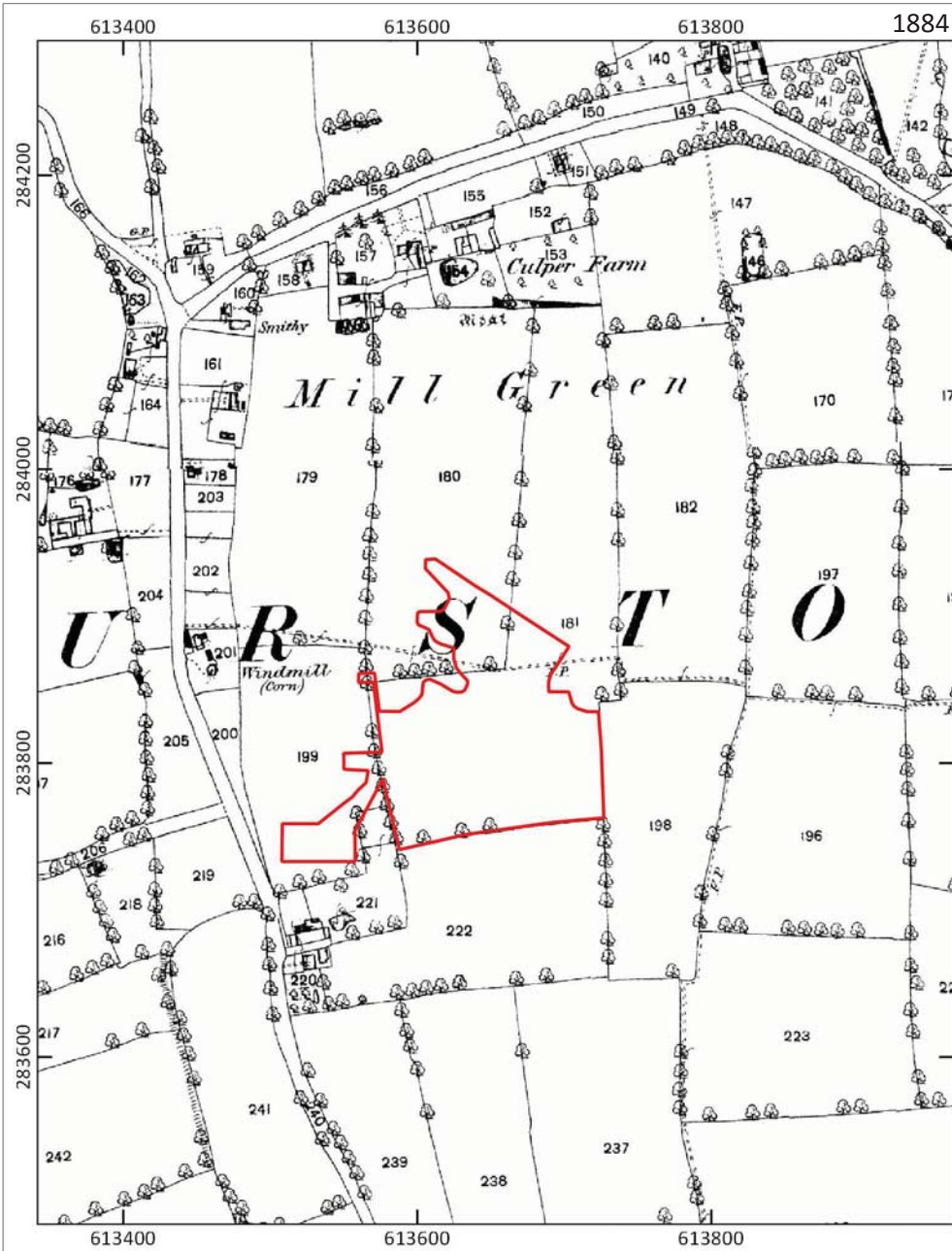


Figure 4 - 1884 & 1922 OS maps  
Mill Green, Burston

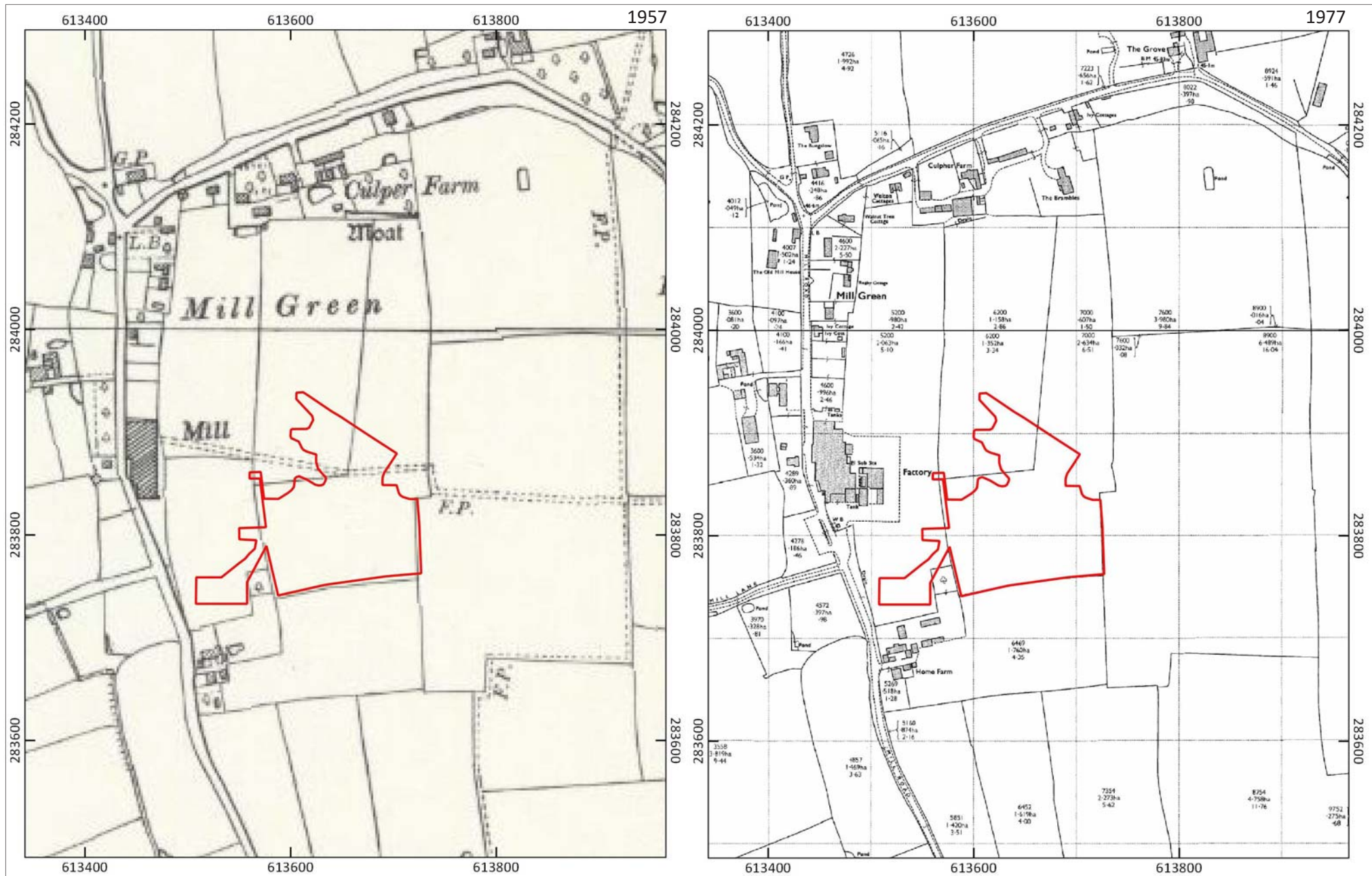


Figure 5 - 1957 & 1977 OS maps  
Mill Green, Burston

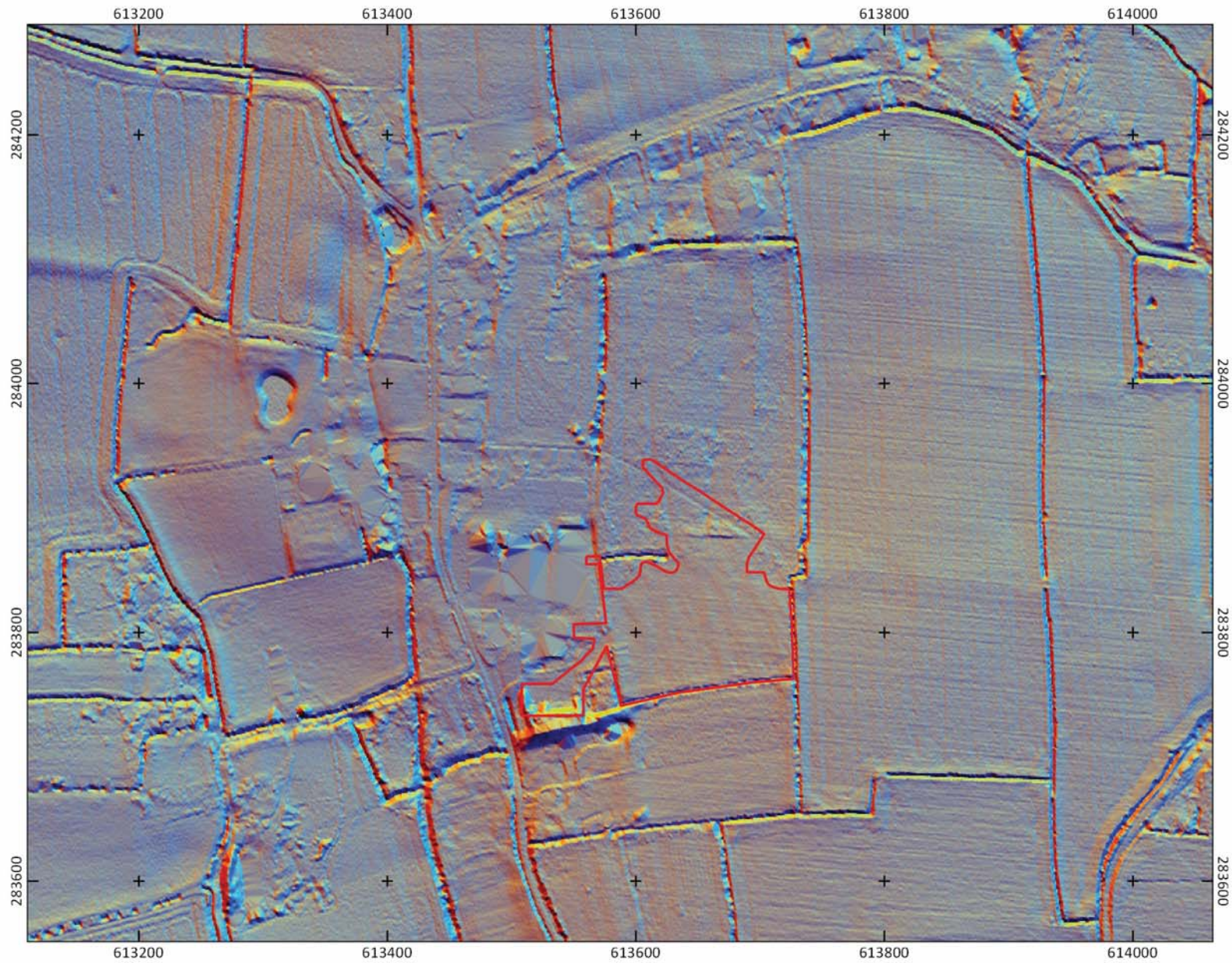




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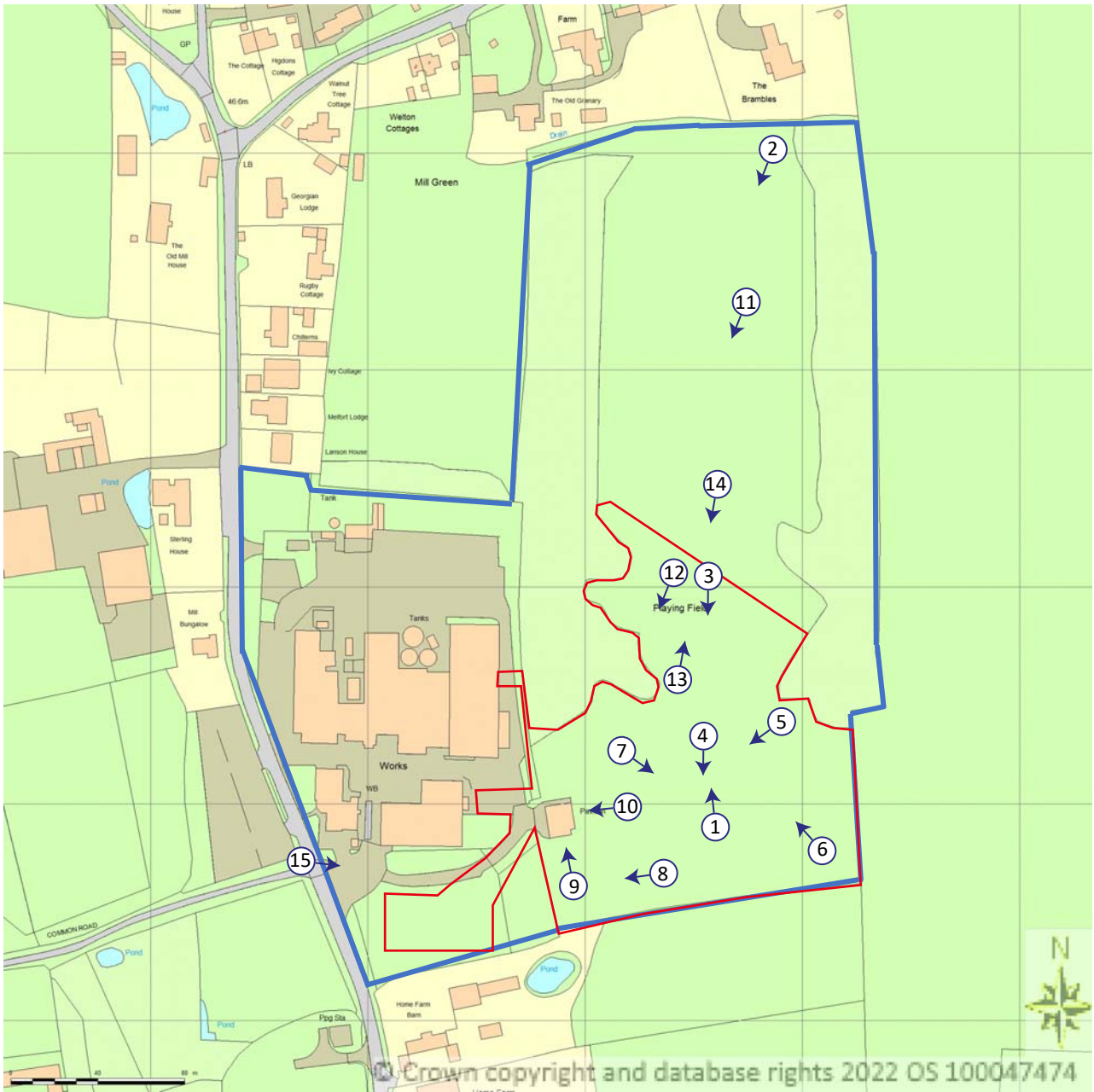
Figure 6 - 1985 OS map & 2017 Google Earth aerial image  
 Mill Green, Burston





Environment Agency Lidar (1m DTM, 2020), processed as multi-angle hillshade (16 directions, sun elevation angle 35 degrees, vertical exaggeration factor 5).

Figure 7 - Lidar 1m DTM  
Mill Green, Burston

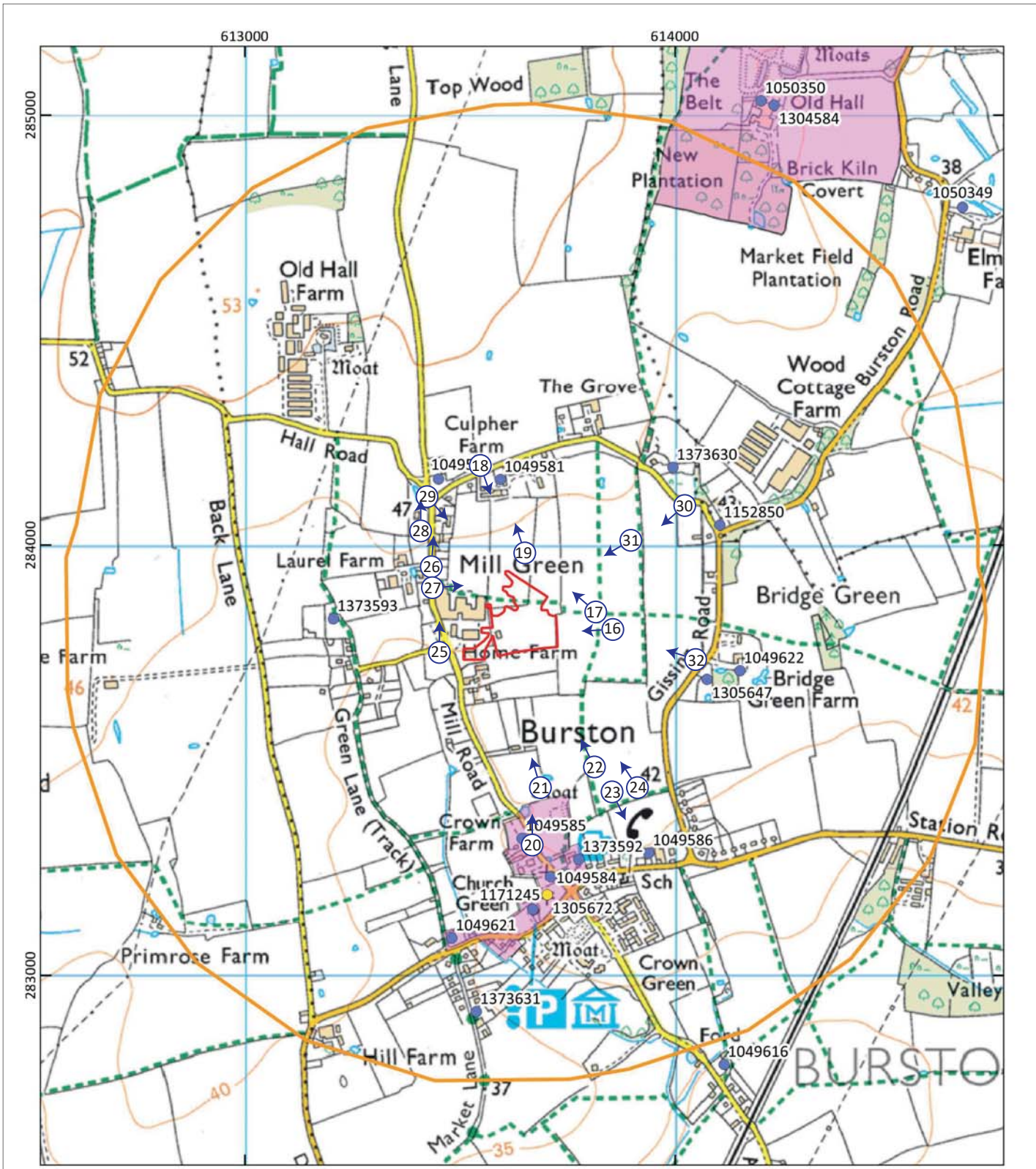


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Figure 8 - Walkover survey photo viewpoints  
 Mill Green, Burston














- |   |                           |   |                     |
|---|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
|  | 1km search area           |  | Conservation Area   |
|  | Application area boundary |  | HER asset - point   |
| Listed building:  |                           |  | HER asset - line    |
|  | II                        |  | HER asset - polygon |
|  | II*                       |  | Photo viewpoint     |



Figure 9 - Settings photo viewpoints  
Mill Green, Burston



## PLATES



Plate 1: View north from the south-centre of the site



Plate 2: View southwest from the northeast corner of the field, with proposed development area towards the rear of the image



**Plate 3: View south across the development area (to the rear of the telegraph pole)**



**Plate 4: View looking south towards the southern boundary of the site. Burston is beyond the woodland in the background**





Plate 5: View southwest across the proposed development area, with the disused pavilion to the right. Burston conservation area is beyond the woodland in the background.



Plate 6: View northwest from the southeast corner of the site





**Plate 7: View towards the southeast side of the site and small wooded area in the field corner**



**Plate 8: View west into the recently cleared woodland area at the southwest corner of the proposed development site**





Plate 9: Detail of the southern elevation of the disused sports pavilion, with concrete foundation pad extending west as a surface



Plate 10: Detail of the east-facing elevation of the pavilion, with no extension of the concrete pad beyond the south, east and north elevations





Plate 11: Ovoid depression in the field to the north of the site



Plate 12: Ovoid depression, probably due to natural water accumulation, at the north-centre of the site





Plate 13: View northeast along the line of the slight linear depression (north of the site)



Plate 14: View southwest along the linear depression, which was not discernible much past the telegraph pole that lies just north of the site boundary





Plate 15: Site entrance of Mill Road, viewed facing east. The site access and proposed compound are the track and grassed-over gravel area at the rear right, with For Farmers buildings to the left.



Plate 16: View west towards the southern part of the site from the adjacent field to the east, with the roofs of the pavilion and For Farmers complex just visible. The site is screened by hedging and the footpath (foreground) does not interrupt the screening.





Plate 17: View from the same point as Plate 16, looking northwest



Plate 18: Looking towards Culpher Farmhouse (NHLE 1049581). The north boundary of the field containing the proposed development is demarcated by the trees beyond the building





Plate 19: View north from the field (north of the PDA) towards the white upper storey and window of Culpher Farmhouse at the top left of the image



Plate 20: View north towards the site from a point close to Crown Farmhouse (NHLE 1049585)



Plate 21: View north towards the site from the north edge of Burton Conservation Area, just north of the Crown Public House (NHLE 1373592) and the historic village core



Plate 22: View northwest towards the site from footpath east of the conservation area. The top of one of the For Farmers buildings is just visible above trees at the centre-left





Plate 23: Detail of hedgerow screening opposite Manor House Farmhouse (NHLE 1049586), the white building at the left



Plate 24: View from the same point looking northwest towards the site, with the roof of the For Farmers complex visible to centre-left, and thick woodland screening to the right along the east boundary of the proposed development area



Plate 25: View north showing the extent of the For Farmers complex along Mill Road, with further modern development to the west of the site beyond



Plate 26: Modern development north of the site along Mill Road, viewed facing north





Plate 27: View east from Mill Road across a field between the road and the northwest tip of the site, showing tree belt screening



Plate 28: View of the setting of The Cottage and Higdons Cottage (NHLE 1049583) off Bridge Road, facing north





Plate 29: View southeast from the entrance to The Cottage and Higdon's Cottage, looking between the houses opposite towards the woodland screening northwest of the PDA



Plate 30: View southeast towards the site from a point on Bridge Road between Grove Cottage (NHLE 1373630) and Kite House (NHLE 1152850). The thick hedge to the rear demarcates the boundary of another field between this point and the site



Plate 31: View southeast from the opposing side of the hedge shown in Plate 30, looking towards the woods bounding the northeast edge of the site



Plate 32: View northwest towards the site from the entrances to 121 Gissing Road (NHLE 1305647) and Bridge Green Farmhouse (NHLE 1049622). The roofs of the For Farmers works are visible at centre left, as well as the tree belt screening to the site



## APPENDIX 1: GAZETEER OF RECORDED HERITAGE ASSETS

Locations shown on Figure 2.

MonUID	Name	Summary	Grid Ref	NHLE
MNF10989	Burston Hall medieval moat	A medieval moat can be seen on old maps. Excavations for extensions to a modern house revealed upcast from the moat but no datable finds.	TM 1318 8448	
MNF10990	Possible medieval moat	The site of a possible medieval moat, with only one arm (south) shown on the tithe map, but possible depressions on the north and east sides. The OS described it as a narrow linear pond rather than a moat.	TM 1369 8412	
MNF10991	Medieval moat	The site of a medieval moat marked on the tithe map. The south and east sides still hold water, while the north and west sides are largely infilled.	TM 1372 8337	
MNF10992	Medieval moat	Site of a medieval moat and outer earthworks to the northeast, recorded on OS maps. Test holes in advance of modern construction revealed medieval to post-medieval pottery and an iron knife of post-medieval date. A modern house stands on the platform.	TM 1377 8312	
MNF11000	St Mary's Church, Burston	A church of 15th-century date, restored in 1853. It formerly had a round tower with octagonal top, but this fell down in 1753. Constructed of flint with stone dressings, slate and tiled roof. Contains a painted coat of arms of James I.	TM 1370 8319	Grade II* 1305672
MNF11004	Course of former road	The course of a former road shown on an enclosure map of 1814, now visible only as curving field boundaries. Unknown date of origin.	TM 126 827	
MNF11007	Medieval moat and windmill mound	A large oval cropmark visible on aerial photographs has been interpreted as a windmill mound, although the tithe map shows a possible medieval moat at this location. It is possible that the windmill mound was built on the edge of an earlier moat.	TM 1334 8407	
MNF13578	Eastern Union Railway Norwich Extension (Norwich to Diss)	Railway line opened in 1849, originally from Diss to Norwich Victoria station until 1916, when it was diverted to Thorpe Station.	TM 18366 93587	
MNF16401	A post medieval tower mill	The site of a tower mill shown on the first edition 1 inch: 1 mile OS map. It burned down in 1938 and was replaced by a modern mill.	TM 1346 8388	
MNF20924	Late medieval spur	A late medieval copper alloy rowel spur was found before 1979 to the southwest of the Rectory by a metal detectorist. Low accuracy findspot location.	TM 13 82	
MNF21037	Medieval pottery	A scatter of medieval pottery was found during fieldwalking at the north end of a ploughed field in 1984. It included a concentration of 18 unglazed sherds.	TM 1273 8349	

MonUID	Name	Summary	Grid Ref	NHLE
MNF21038	Medieval and post medieval pottery	A scatter of medieval to post-medieval pottery sherds found on the surface of two fields (now one field) during fieldwalking in 1984. The finds included one unglazed medieval sherd, two of late medieval to early post-medieval date, and five 16th- to 17th-century sherds.	TM 1288 8358	
MNF21039	Prehistoric flint and Roman pottery	Fieldwalking in 1984 found a scatter of 61 Roman coarse ware sherds and one flint flake of Neolithic to Bronze Age date. They were concentrated in the southwest part of the field.	TM 129 840	
MNF21047	Multi-period pottery	Fieldwalking in 1984 found scatters of Roman and medieval pottery, including one Middle Saxon sherd, as well as a medieval quern and floor tile. The finds were located in two distinct areas.	TM 1255 8341	
MNF21049	Medieval pottery	One sherd of medieval unglazed pottery was found in the northwest corner of a field in 1984.	TM 1267 8348	
MNF21050	Medieval moat and medieval pottery	The site of a medieval moat and post-medieval hollow way. The moated site comprises a rectangular earthwork platform, with a hollow way on the west side that is shown as a road on the tithe map. Fieldwalking in 1984 did not recover any finds from the area of the earthwork, but recorded two lithics and 94 sherds of medieval pottery, four of which were green glazed.	TM 1278 8336	
MNF21169	Roman pottery	A single sherd of Roman greyware was found during fieldwalking in 1984, on the former site of Meadow Farm.	TM 13 82	
MNF21976	Paradise Farm	The site of a timber-framed post-medieval house, which was constructed on brick footings. It had two storeys and attics with a central chimney and thatched roof. It has been demolished but some farm sheds on the site contain reused timbers.	TM 1268 8370	
MNF25400	Prehistoric and medieval finds	Finds from spoil on a building site at Home Farm in 1989 included medieval pottery, a lava quern fragment, oyster shell and animal bone, as well as a possible prehistoric flint pot boiler.	TM 1351 8370	
MNF29916	Manor House Farm, Burston	A large timber-framed building of L-plan with two storeys and an attic. The main block is said to be of 16th-century date, with the rear wing added in the 17th century. The exterior is plastered, with modern fenestration and doors.	TM 1394 8328	Grade II 1049586
MNF41617	Red House, 1 Mill Road, Burston	A timber-framed house of 17th-century date, extended to the east in the 18th century and coated in brick in the 20th century. It has a gabled roof with black pantiles and central stack. Two storeys. Extended in 2002 with the addition of an imported timber-framed French barn from St Gilles.	TM 1371 8323	Grade II 1049584
MNF42500	Bridge Green House, 121-2 Gissing Road, Burston	A timber-framed, two-storey building of T-plan, dating to the 17th-century and encased in brick in the 20th century. Now separated into two properties. The south crosswing has a jettied west gable with exposed framing. Black pantile roof.	TM 14073 83689	Grade II 1305647

MonUID	Name	Summary	Grid Ref	NHLE
MNF42501	Bridge Green Farmhouse, Gissing Road, Burston	A hall house of possible 14th- to 16th-century date, timber framed. It originally had no upper floor and an open hearth, with a cross passage at the low end of the hall. A brick stack and upper floor were inserted in the 17th century, and it was extended in the 18th century. Split into cottages in the 18th or 19th century and the north facade rebuilt in brick. Remodelled in the 20th century.	TM 1415 8370	Grade II 1049622
MNF50775	Kite House, Gissing	A thatched cottage of probable 18th-century date, remodelled in the early 19th century in Gothic style. One storey with attic, gabled roof. The exterior is plastered with yellow brick dressings.	TM 1410 8404	Grade II 1152850
MNF50829	Far End, Mill Road, Burston	A small timber framed, two-storey house of 17th-century date. The exterior is rendered. It has a steep gable-ended roof that is thatched and clad in corrugated iron.	TM 13206 83828	Grade II 1373593
MNF50834	Culpher Farmhouse, Bridge Road, Burston	A timber-framed, two-storey house, plastered on the exterior and L-plan, of 17th-century date. It has a later, lower-pitched roof with gabled ends and black-glazed pantiles.	TM 13593 84152	Grade II 1049581
MNF50836	Pair of cottages west of Culpher Farmhouse, Mill Green, Burston	A 17th-century two-storey timber-framed house, now two properties, rendered on the exterior. It has a thatched roof with gabled ends and brick stacks.	TM 13449 84151	Grade II 1049583
MNF50952	Market Farmhouse, Market Lane, Burston	A timber-framed, two-storey house of 17th-century date, with modern rendering. The gabled roof has black glazed pantile coverings and an off-centre brick stack.	TM 13537 82914	Grade II 1373631
MNF53346	Crown Farmhouse, Mill Road, Burston	Timber-framed two-storey house of 17th-century date, faced in brick in the late 19th century. It has a steep pantile roof with gabled ends. There is an adjoining wing of late 19th-century date.	TM 13644 83318	Grade II 1049585
MNF53358	Valley Farmhouse, Diss Road, Burston	A timber-framed, two-storey house of 17th-century date, plastered on the exterior. It has a later black-glazed pantile roof with gabled ends.	TM 13481 83086	Grade II 1049621
MNF53788	The Crown Public House, Mill Road, Burston	A timber-framed house of 17th-century date, faced in brick in the late 19th century. It is of two storeys and attic, and a steep pantile roof with gabled ends and an off-centre brick stack.	TM 13775 83269	Grade II 1373592
MNF53798	Grove Cottage, Kite House Road, Burston	A timber-framed house of 17th-century or earlier date, plastered on the exterior. It is of two storeys and attic, with a thatched, gabled roof and off-centre brick stack.	TM 13995 84180	Grade II 1373630
MNF53870	The Strike School, Church Green, Burston	A small single-storey school building constructed in 1917 by public subscription. It employed the teachers from the village school, allowing them to teach after they had been dismissed by the education authorities for supporting the farm workers' strike in 1914. The front wall is composed of stones inscribed with the subscribers' names. Now a museum, listed for its social interest.	TM 1366 8315	Grade II 1171245

MonUID	Name	Summary	Grid Ref	NHLE
MNF56688	School and Old School House	School with attached teacher's house, forming a single building, constructed between 1840 and 1880. The house is of two storeys, in red brick with black brick diaperwork in Tudor style, of high quality. The school was of a similar style but is much altered. Historic interest due to the eviction of the headmaster, provoking the Burston School Strike of 1914.	TM 13884 83232	
MNF56689	Garden of School House	Casual find of animal bone in the School House garden, made when removing a hedge. A slate slab covered by three sandstone slabs overlay a very shallow topsoil containing cow bones.	TM 13894 83214	
MNF72720	Post-medieval finger ring	Post-medieval gold enamelled finger ring found by a metal detectorist. Originally enamelled, with internal inscription reading '+I+AM+YOVRES+'.	Not displayed	
MNF75322	Site where limited groundworks revealed no evidence for archaeological remains	A watching brief on groundworks associated with a new wind turbine recorded no archaeologically significant features or deposits.	TM 1304 8443	

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