

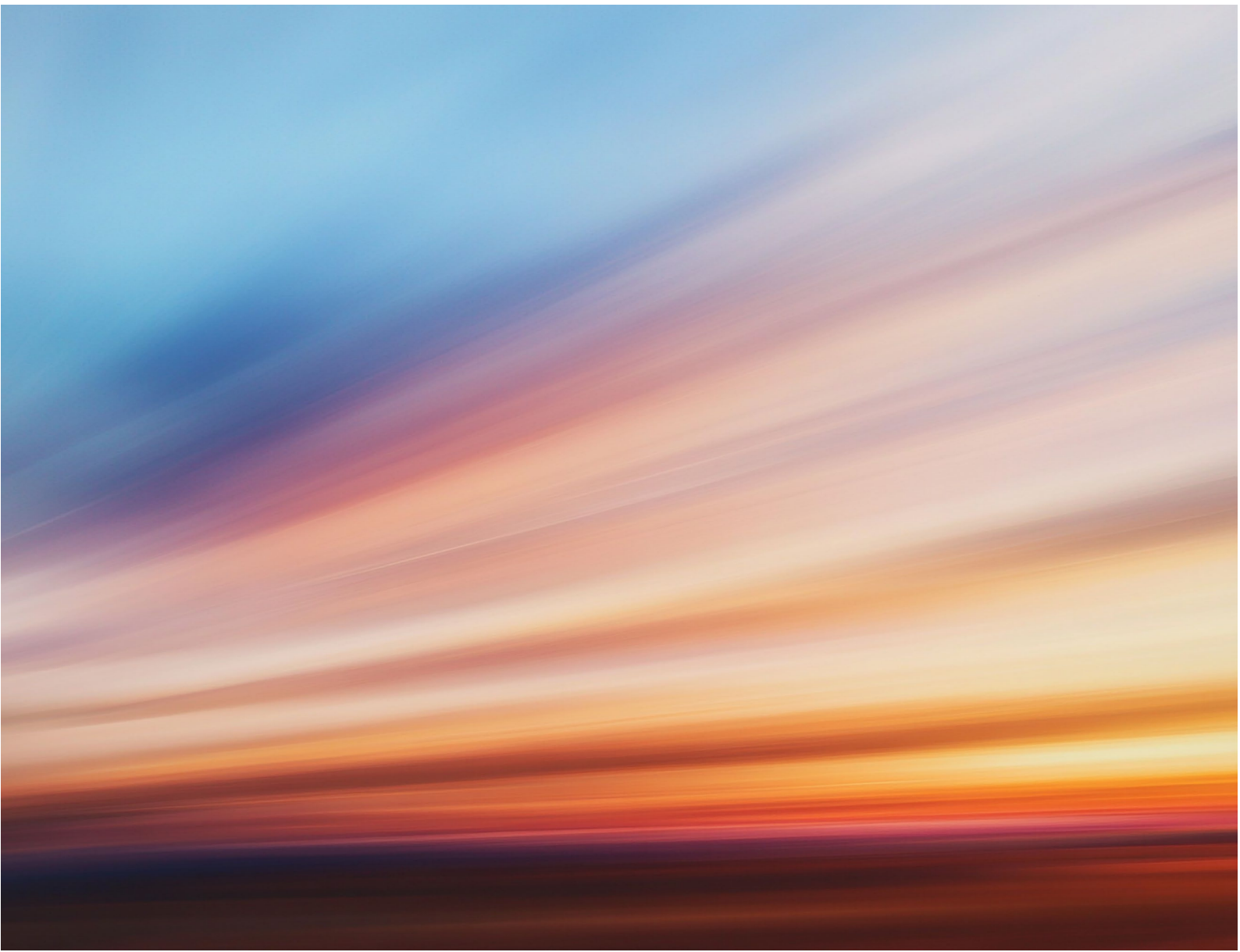
Mysten Leah Solar Farm

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Volume 1

Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage

April 2026



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9. Cultural Heritage

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 This chapter presents a preliminary assessment of the likely significant effects arising on cultural heritage during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.
- 9.1.2 This chapter should be read in conjunction with the following chapters in **Volume 1**, with the following figures in **Volume 2** and with the following appendices in **Volume 3**:
- **Figure 9.1: Designated Heritage Assets;**
 - **Figure 9.2: Non-Designated Heritage Assets;**
 - **Appendix 9.1: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment;** and
 - **Appendix 9.2: Geophysical Report.**
- 9.1.3 Following the EIA scoping process, the following receptors/matters have not been considered within this preliminary assessment:
- Findspots (locations where artefacts are discovered) recorded by Humber Historic Environment Record (HER) within the study area during construction and operation.

9.2 How have we engaged with others about cultural heritage so far?

- 9.2.1 **Table 9.1** provides a summary of the engagement undertaken to date to inform this preliminary assessment, outside of the EIA Scoping process.

Table 9.1: Summary of engagement undertaken to date in relation to cultural heritage

Consultee	Date of engagement	Summary of engagement
Historic Environment Record Officer	26 February 2024	Discussion regarding what would be an appropriately sized study area. Historic Environment Record Officer suggested a 2km study area. Data was provided for this study area.
Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England	21 February 2025 MS Teams meeting and email follow up	Discussion on Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) and additional sources of information which should be used (including Portable Antiquities Scheme data). Historic England requested impacts on the historic landscape should be considered within the DBA. The Applicant has adhered to this request. Historic England believes that outreach and public engagement is important. A follow up meeting has therefore been arranged with the Applicant's

Consultee	Date of engagement	Summary of engagement
		Community Engagement Archaeologist.
Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England	25 April 2025	Community engagement archaeology proposals and ideas were put forward by the Applicant's Community Engagement Archaeologist.
Conservation Team Leader for ERYC	2 May 2025 MS Teams meeting	Conservation Team Leader suggested it was important to locate where the site compound will be as this is an area of intense activity. Also requested that the route which will be taken by heavy vehicles be assessed for any impacts to heritage assets. This will be undertaken as part of the ES.
Development Management Archaeologist for ERYC	14 November 2025 MS Teams meeting	Discussion regarding known and unknown heritage assets and the results of the geophysics survey were presented. A targeted pre-consent trial trenching strategy was suggested by the Applicant. It was agreed that this was an appropriate strategy and a heat map should be produced to inform the trial trenching strategy. It was also agreed that further archaeological investigation would not take place within the area for the underground grid connection corridor until this part of the Site has been refined, as the size of the Site is likely to significantly reduce in area as the design progresses.
Development Management Archaeologist for ERYC	5 December 2025 MS Teams meeting	An Archaeological 'heat map' was presented by the Applicant and discussions on trial trenching (mitigation) were held. It was agreed that trial trenching would target the areas shown on the heat map where there was high archaeological potential and where the proposed road network and substations will be located.
Development Management Archaeologist for ERYC	12 January 2026	A draft trial trench location plan was presented by the Applicant, and it was agreed that 50 trenches would be excavated across areas where there was the highest potential for archaeological remains and in areas where the location of infrastructure is proposed.

9.3 What legislation, planning policy and guidance is relevant to cultural heritage?

9.3.1 The general legislation and planning policy context for Mylen Leah Solar Farm is provided in **Section 1.4 of Chapter 1: Introducing Mylen Leah Solar Farm in Volume 1**. Legislation, planning policy and guidance relevant to this preliminary cultural heritage assessment is detailed below:

Legislation

- Burial Act 1857¹;
- Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 (as amended)²;
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended)³;
- National Heritage Act 1980 (as amended)⁴.
- Protection of Military Remains Act 1986⁵;
- Treasure Act 1996 (as amended)⁶;
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended)⁷;
- The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (as amended)⁸; and,
- The Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 (as amended)⁹

National planning policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) (December 2025, published January 2026¹⁰) – Section 5.9 details the planning policy for the historic environment;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) (December 2025, published January 2026¹¹) – Section 2.10 contains details on solar energy generation. Paragraphs 2.10.99 – 2.10.111 specifically relate to impacts on the historic environment;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) (December 2025, published January 2026¹²) – Paragraphs 2.2.10, 2.9.19 and 2.9.25 confirm the applicant's responsibility to consider the impacts of the development on the environment in order to abide by the requirements of Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024¹³) – Section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.

Local planning policy

- East Riding Local Plan Update 2020-2039 (adopted April 2025)¹⁴ with specific reference to Policy ENV3 'Valuing our heritage'. This policy includes the desirability for proposed developments to use heritage assets to reinforce local distinctiveness, create a sense of place, and assist in the delivery of the economic well-being of the area, and for the significance, views, setting, character, appearance and context of

heritage assets, both designated and non-designated, to be conserved.

Guidance

9.3.2 The following guidance documents have been used during the preparation of this preliminary assessment:

- Guidance for commissioning organisations and archaeological contractors and consultants on undertaking archaeological works in relation to solar farm developments in the East Riding of Yorkshire (Newman and Goodyear, 2023)¹⁵;
- Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2022)¹⁶;
- The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Historic England, 2017)¹⁷;
- Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (Historic England Advice Note 12, 2019)¹⁸;
- Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2, 2015)¹⁹;
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 106 – Cultural Heritage Assessment (National Highways, 2020a)²⁰;
- DMRB LA 104 - Environmental assessment and monitoring (National Highways, 2020b)²¹;
- Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (2014, revised 2017 and 2020) (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists)²²; and
- Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK (2021) (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Institute of Historic Building Conservation and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists)²³.

9.3.3 In addition to the above, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists draft guidance on solar farms ‘Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice Guide²⁴’ has been consulted. Although this document has not formally been adopted, its current contents have been reviewed, and it is being applied by ERYC in the decision-making process regarding trial trenching plans.

9.4 What study area has been used for cultural heritage?

9.4.1 The study area for this preliminary assessment comprises land within the draft Order Limits and a 2km buffer surrounding the draft Order Limits, within which the archaeological and historical development of the Site and surrounding area has been considered. This study area encompasses designated and non-designated heritage assets. This was agreed as an appropriate dataset for assessment by the Historic Environment Record Officer and the Development Management Archaeologist for ERYC.

9.5 How have existing cultural heritage conditions been understood?

Data sources to inform the EIA baseline characterisation

9.5.1 The following data sources have been used to understand the existing cultural heritage baseline conditions:

- Designation data from the National Heritage List for England, downloaded from the Historic England website on 04 February 2026 and descriptions of designated heritage assets viewed on the Historic England website;
- Historic England research records, viewed through the Heritage Gateway website;
- Aerial photographs in the Historic England Archive available to view on Aerial Photo Explorer website;
- Archaeological records and Historic Landscape Characterisation data held by East Riding of Yorkshire & Hull HER (data received 26 February 2024);
- Historic maps and plans, aerial photographs, published books and unpublished archaeological reports held in the East Riding Archive;
- Environment Agency Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data;
- Geological data available online from the British Geological Survey;
- Portable Antiquities Scheme data; and
- Historic mapping, published books and unpublished archaeological reports available to view online through the Archaeology Data Service, the Yorkshire Archaeological & Historical Society, the East Riding Archaeological Society website, the National Library of Scotland and British History Online.

Site visits/surveys

9.5.2 Between 8- 10 April 2024, a field visit was undertaken of the solar PV development area, during which notes were made regarding site characteristics, any visible archaeology and geographical/geological features which may have a bearing on previous land use and archaeological survival. The known heritage assets within the draft Order Limits were inspected. Access was afforded to all fields.

9.5.3 A geophysical survey of the solar PV development area has also been carried out between 30 September 2024 and 3 April 2025 (refer to **Appendix 9.2: Geophysical Report in Volume 3**). A geophysical survey of the underground grid connection corridor has not yet been undertaken as the location and design of this area has not yet been narrowed down. This survey is likely to take place post-determination. This approach has been discussed with the Development Management Archaeologist for ERYC.

9.6 What are the cultural heritage conditions within the Site and study area?

Existing baseline

Designated heritage assets

- 9.6.1 **Figure 9.1: Designated Heritage Assets in Volume 2** presents the designated heritage assets identified in the study area.
- 9.6.2 There are two designated heritage assets within the Site: 'Moated site at Chapelgarth, 450m north east of Manor Farm' (list entry no. 1015303, ID 59) within the solar PV development area and the grade II listed Pocklington Canal Walbut Bridge (list entry no. 1309793, ID 35) within the underground grid connection corridor.
- 9.6.3 Beyond the draft Order Limits but within the 2km study area, there are 54 listed buildings (the majority of which are grade II), three scheduled monuments (consisting of the 'Site of Ellerton Priory' (list entry no. 1005225, ID 56), 'Motte and bailey castle, fishpond and moated site north and east of Aughton church' (list entry no. 1007973, ID 57), 'Moated site and water-management features south of White House' (list entry no. 1007974, ID58) and two Conservation Areas (East Cottingwith and Allerthorpe, ID 60 and 61).
- 9.6.4 There are no world heritage sites, registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens within the Site or study area.

Non-designated heritage assets

- 9.6.5 **Figure 9.2: Non-Designated Heritage Assets in Volume 2** presents the non-designated heritage assets identified in the study area.
- 9.6.6 There are 18 non-designated heritage assets within the Site. These are a boundary ditch (MHU22524, ID 279); the former Airfield, Melbourne (MHU11148, ID 228); the site of Retting Pits, West of Allerthorpe (MHU15468, ID 167); old field systems, Melbourne Airfield (MHU10377, ID 166); multiple areas of ridge and furrow (MHU22523 ID 300) (MHU22525, ID 301) (MHU22522, ID 299); cropmarks south-west of Warren House (MHU66, ID 103); Linear cropmarks (MHU7691, ID 114); Possible prehistoric trackway and boundary ditch (MHU22675) (ID 269); Linear ditches (MHU6885) (ID 96 and 97); Former Thornton-Bielby Road (MHU2603) (ID 88); NE-SW oriented ditch (MHU64) (ID 90); Enclosures, trackways and field systems (MHU21643) (ID 254); Pocklington Canal (MHU9478) (ID 182, 75, 78, 84, 141); Site of Millhouses and hamlet (MHU15579) (ID 168); Trackway and enclosures, Thornton (MHU22551) (ID 307); Ditch, enclosures and dyke (MHU10361) (ID 100).
- 9.6.7 Beyond the draft Order Limits but within the 2km study area, there are an additional 228 non-designated heritage assets.
- 9.6.8 There is a low potential for unknown archaeological remains to be encountered from the early prehistoric and Early Medieval eras within the Site. There is a medium potential for later prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval archaeological remains to be encountered, as there is a large amount of evidence pertaining to settlement within the study area. There is

considered to be a high potential for the presence of previously unknown archaeological remains from the Medieval period in the far south of the Site (Land Parcel E). This area of the Site was part of a Medieval landscape, before being remodelled in the post-Medieval era, and research indicates that there may be archaeological remains to the south of the moated Chapelgarth site. Pottery was recovered from this location during the field visit of the solar PV development area, further indicating that archaeological remains may exist below ground in this location. There is also a high potential for archaeological remains to be present from the Modern era. Remains from the Second World War Melbourne Airfield may be present below ground in the north-east of the Site (Land Parcel D). There is a low/medium potential for post-medieval and modern archaeological remains across the rest of the Site.

Future baseline

- 9.6.9 In the absence of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, the future baseline for built heritage and archaeology could change in the following ways:
- Existing heritage assets may be newly designated and/or currently designated heritage assets may be removed from statutory list/registers;
 - Previously unknown heritage assets may be identified if further research is undertaken, or if archaeological advances are made. These may be added to the HER;
 - Upstanding remains pertaining to built heritage and archaeological heritage assets may be degraded by the impacts of weather and the growth or proliferation of vegetation; and
 - Below ground archaeological remains may continue to be disturbed or truncated by agricultural activities such as ploughing or the establishment of plantations, or may be negatively impacted by changes in soil moisture levels, particularly if flooding occurs with the study area or through increased desiccation as a result of climate change.
- 9.6.10 Changes to the designated status of assets within the study area will be monitored up to the submission of the DCO Application and any newly designated assets will be assessed to ensure that the DCO Application is based on up-to-date information.
- 9.6.11 Changes to the integrity of heritage assets as a result of weather, vegetation growth, and agricultural practices would be relatively slow to become apparent and are unlikely to alter the heritage significance of heritage assets between submission of the DCO Application and construction commencing.
- 9.7 How have the likely effects been assessed for cultural heritage?**
- Approach to design flexibility**
- 9.7.1 This assessment assumes that the substations will be located in a maximum of two of the four proposed locations. All four substation locations have been assessed within this preliminary assessment.

Assessment assumptions

- 9.7.2 The locations of all the elements of the infrastructure, including inverters, roads, tracks and construction compounds have not been fixed and as a worst-case scenario it is assumed that any known heritage asset within the draft Order Limits will be impacted. The exception is the 'Moated site at Chapelgarth, 450m north east of Manor Farm' (list entry no. 1015303, ID 59), which is within the draft Order Limits, but there is an assumption that this asset will not be physically impacted. This assumption is based on the proposed use of this area for habitat creation. An appropriate buffer zone can be established around the heritage asset and archaeological advisors will ensure that any habitat creation will not be detrimental to the heritage asset.
- 9.7.3 All solar farm infrastructure elements have the potential to physically damage archaeological remains due to their below ground impact, including the construction of foundations, footings and levelling of soil. This preliminary assessment assumes that the solar PV modules will require piled foundations that could physically impact below ground heritage assets within their footprint. The depth of the foundations for solar PV modules is assumed to be 4m as a reasonable worst-case scenario.
- 9.7.4 It is assumed that there is archaeological potential in the areas where green waste (composted organic matter derived from leaves, branches, twigs, grass cuttings etc.) has been spread, as it was not possible to obtain meaningful results from the geophysical survey in these areas. It is also assumed that subsequent trial trenching undertaken to inform the ES will provide a suitable means to establish the archaeological potential of these areas. Trial trenching will be undertaken in green waste areas, where it is known that there could be below ground impacts on any archaeological remains due to the presence of infrastructure (refer to **Section 9.14** below).
- 9.7.5 This preliminary assessment assumes that, as a worst-case scenario, the cable route in the underground grid connection corridor will pass close to the listed buildings along the periphery of the draft Order Limits, close to the grade II listed Pocklington Canal Walbut Lock (list entry number 1083859, ID 8).
- 9.7.6 There is an assumption that an appropriate buffer can be put in place between the heritage assets and areas where heavy machinery or vibratory construction works will be taking place.

Assessment methodology and criteria

- 9.7.7 The assessment methodology follows Historic England's guidance²⁵ regarding the setting of heritage assets, which states that potentially impacted heritage assets should be identified, an assessment made to establish if setting contributes to their significance, followed by an assessment to establish the effects of the proposed development on the significance. Consideration of the ways to maximise enhancement or minimise harm should be made.
- 9.7.8 The assessment criteria for cultural heritage adopted for this preliminary assessment are detailed below. It should be noted that these criteria differ slightly from the criteria proposed within Appendix D of the EIA Scoping

Report, with an updated approach that provides additional robustness in terms of assessing the potential effects relating to cultural heritage receptors.

Importance of the receptor

- 9.7.9 The importance of a heritage asset (receptor) is a measure of the degree to which the heritage significance of that asset is sought to be protected. The mechanisms for protecting assets are through legislation, national planning policy and in the context of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, the East Riding Local Plan Update 2020-2039 (adopted April 2025), namely policy ENV3 ‘Valuing our heritage’. The level of importance therefore reflects any statutory and non-statutory heritage designation or, in the case of undesignated assets, the professional judgement of the assessor, as to the degree of importance that the asset has with reference to regional research priorities (as set out in the regional research framework).
- 9.7.10 The criteria presented in **Table 9.2** have been used to establish the importance of heritage assets. In the absence of directly applicable Historic England guidance, these criteria have been adapted from DMRB LA 106 - Cultural Heritage Assessment.
- 9.7.11 Assessment of importance is based on a combination of designated status and professional judgement. It takes into account the Secretary of State’s criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments and principles of selection criteria for listed buildings. It is also recognised that, occasionally, sites can have a lower or higher than normal importance than the criteria suggest. Where this is the case, it is clearly expressed within the preliminary assessment with reference to designation criteria or other professional guidance.

Table 9.2: Criteria for establishing importance of heritage assets (adapted from DMRB LA 106)

Importance	Description of receptors
Very High	World Heritage Properties; assets of acknowledged international importance; assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives; Historic landscapes of international value (designated or not) and extremely well preserved historic landscapes with exceptional coherence, time depth or other critical factor(s).
High	Scheduled Monuments and non-designated assets of schedulable quality and importance; Grade I and II* listed buildings; Grade II listed buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or associations; conservation areas with exceptional qualities; non-designated structures of clear national importance; designated and non-designated historic landscapes of historic interest; assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.
Medium	Grade II listed buildings; non-designated assets that contribute to regional research objectives; locally listed

Importance	Description of receptors
	buildings and other historic unlisted buildings that have exceptional qualities; conservation areas.
Low	Non-designated assets of local importance including those compromised by poor preservation; assets of limited value but with the potential to contribute to local research objectives; robust non-designated historic landscapes.
Negligible	Assets with very little surviving archaeological interest; buildings of little architectural or historic note; landscapes with little historic interest.

Magnitude of impact

- 9.7.12 The magnitude of impact reflects the scale of change which would be caused by Mylen Leah Solar Farm and the effect this would have on ability to appreciate and interpret the significance of heritage assets. Impacts can result either from physical changes to the fabric of a heritage asset or through changes within its setting.
- 9.7.13 An impact may be positive where, for example, as part of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, an intrusive building or feature is removed or replaced with a more harmonious one; historic features are restored or revealed; a new feature is added which adds to public appreciation; new views are introduced that add to public experience of an asset; or public interpretation or access is improved to an asset or its setting.
- 9.7.14 Impacts may impart major change, for example where groundworks completely destroy important archaeological remains, to minor change to part of a heritage assets’ setting, leading to a limited impact on our ability to interpret it, or its context.
- 9.7.15 Utilising the key principles for assessing the implications of change outlined above, an assessment of the magnitude of impact has been implemented for each heritage asset using the criteria presented in **Table 9.3** below. In the absence of directly applicable Historic England guidance, these criteria have been adapted from DMRB LA 106 - Cultural Heritage Assessment.
- 9.7.16 Conclusions of the assessed magnitude of impacts are a product of the consideration of the elements of an asset and its setting that contribute to its heritage significance and the degree to which Mylen Leah Solar Farm would change these contributing elements. The assessment therefore reflects the varying degrees of sensitivity of different assets to change brought about by different types of development.
- 9.7.17 To assist with the assessment of “harm” as required in NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 and the NPPF, adverse impacts of major magnitude are considered to equate to “substantial harm”, whilst adverse impacts of moderate, minor or negligible magnitude are considered to represent scales of “less than substantial harm”. Situations where “no change” is predicted represent no harm to the heritage significance of a heritage asset. Beneficial impacts represent enhancements to heritage significance.

Table 9.1: Criteria for classifying magnitude of impact (adapted from DMRB LA 106)

Magnitude of impact	Criteria
Major	Change to key historic building elements so that an asset is totally altered; OR change to most/all key archaeological materials such that the resource is totally altered; OR comprehensive change to the setting such that the significance of the asset is severely compromised.
Moderate	Change to many key historic building elements, such that the asset is significantly modified; changes to many key archaeological materials such that the resource is clearly modified; changes to setting of an asset, such that the significance of the asset is compromised.
Minor	Change to key historic building elements, such that the asset is slightly different; changes to key archaeological materials such that the asset is slightly altered; changes to setting of an historic building, such that its significance is slightly compromised.
Negligible	Very minor changes to historic building elements, archaeological materials or setting that hardly affect them/it.
No change	No change to fabric, archaeological materials or setting.

Significance of effect

- 9.7.18 Significance of effect is based on a combination of importance of the asset (sensitivity) and the magnitude of impact upon that asset/receptor. The significance of effect matrix is presented in **Table 9.4** below and provides a guide to decision-making but is not a substitute for professional judgement and interpretation, particularly where the importance or impact magnitude levels are not clear or are borderline between categories. The significance of effect may be described on a continuous scale from ‘no effect’ to ‘major’. In the absence of directly applicable Historic England guidance, these criteria have been adapted from DMRB LA 106 - Cultural Heritage Assessment.
- 9.7.19 For the purposes of this preliminary assessment, ‘**very large**’, ‘**large**’ and ‘**moderate**’ effects are regarded as ‘**significant**’ while ‘**slight**’ and ‘**neutral**’ effects are regarded as ‘**not significant**’. Effects can be either adverse or beneficial.
- 9.7.20 Where the significance matrix indicates a range for the effect significance (e.g. ‘slight or moderate’), professional judgement can be applied to select one option (which would be justified by evidence, as appropriate) or an effect significance range can be applied. If a significance of effect is assigned as ‘slight or moderate’, this would be considered significant unless further information could be provided to downgrade the significance effect to ‘slight’. Where both effect categories within the range fall within either ‘significant’ or ‘not significant’, it may not be necessary to adjust the range to a single descriptor (for example if the range is ‘neutral or slight’, as both effects are considered to be not significant; or if the range is ‘large or very large’, as both effects are considered to be significant).

9.7.21 Permanent effects are considered to be those which are not reversible on decommissioning (i.e. direct physical impacts to below ground archaeological remains). Temporary effects are considered to be those which are reversible and typically relate to changes in the setting of heritage assets. There is no established guidance for determining if a temporary effect to a heritage asset is short, medium or long term. For the purposes of this preliminary assessment, only short term and long term durations are considered. Short term effects are considered to be those that last less than 5 years (generally the construction and decommissioning phase effects) and long term effects are considered to be those lasting more than 5 years (i.e. from the operation phase of Mylen Leah Solar Farm). This is because although 50 years is a short span of time in the duration of a heritage asset, it is a long time for the people who are able to appreciate the asset and experience the effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

Table 9.42: Criteria for establishing the significance of effect (adapted from DMRB LA 106)

Importance	Magnitude of impact				
	No change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Very high	Neutral	Slight	Moderate or Large	Large or Very Large	Very Large
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

9.8 How has cultural heritage informed the design so far?

9.8.1 This preliminary assessment has been based on the principle that certain mitigation measures have been ‘embedded’ into the design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm to minimise likely significant effects as far as reasonably practicable at this stage of the design process, for example by the considered placement of infrastructure. Embedded (primary) environmental mitigation measures relevant to this preliminary cultural heritage assessment comprise the following (**Table 9.5**):

Table 9.5: Embedded mitigation measures relevant to cultural heritage

Embedded mitigation measures relevant to cultural heritage	Function
Proposed design around the scheduled monument, ‘Moated site at Chapelgarth, 450m north east of Manor Farm’ (list entry no. 1015303, ID 59 in Figure 9.1 in Volume 2), which will be limited to ecological mitigation in the form of grassland.	To ensure there is no physical impact to the scheduled monument in the form of solar farm infrastructure or ecological mitigation and to ensure that changes to the setting of the scheduled monument will not negatively impact (harm) the scheduled monument’s significance.

Embedded mitigation measures relevant to cultural heritage	Function
Changes have been made to the draft Order Limits to reduce potential impacts on cultural heritage assets. In particular, the non-designated heritage asset 'site of monastic grange' (MHU3875, ID 156 in Figure 9.2 in Volume 2) no longer falls within the draft Order Limits.	To reduce the number of known archaeological heritage assets that would be physically impacted by Mylen Leah Solar Farm and to preserve the contribution that the setting of other heritage assets makes to their significance.
The retention of the runways on the Second World War Melbourne Airfield (MHU11148, ID 228 in Figure 9.2 in Volume 2).	To preserve some of the former layout of the Second World War airfield, which would decrease the impact of Mylen Leah Solar Farm on this non-designated heritage asset.
Change to the draft Order Limits in the south, removing one of the areas where there was the highest archaeological potential around the scheduled monument 'Moated site at Chapelgarth, 450m north east of Manor Farm' (list entry no. 1015303, ID 59 in Figure 9.1 in Volume 2).	To remove an area where there was very high archaeological potential, based on information shown on the LiDAR and field survey. This has also reduced the effects of changes within the setting of the scheduled monument.

9.9 What are the likely effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm on cultural heritage?

Construction

- 9.9.1 Physical impacts could include damage to below- and/or above-ground archaeological remains pertaining to or associated with a heritage asset, particularly if it lies within the Site. Such impacts could occur due to construction groundworks, including the piling of solar PV modules. The heritage assets identified which could be damaged, truncated or destroyed during construction are a boundary ditch (MHU22524, ID 279); the former Airfield, Melbourne (MHU11148, ID 228); the site of Retting Pits, West of Allerthorpe (MHU15468, ID 167); old field systems, Melbourne Airfield (MHU10377, ID 166); multiple areas of ridge and furrow (MHU22523 ID 300) (MHU22525, ID 301) (MHU22522, ID 299); cropmarks south-west of Warren House (MHU66, ID 103); Linear cropmarks (MHU7691, ID 114); Possible prehistoric trackway and boundary ditch (MHU22675) (ID 269); Linear ditches (MHU6885) (ID 96 and 97); Former Thornton-Bielby Road (MHU2603) (ID 88); NE-SW oriented ditch (MHU64) (ID 90); Enclosures, trackways and field systems (MHU21643) (ID 254); Pocklington Canal (MHU9478) (ID 182, 75, 78, 84, 141); Site of Millhouses and hamlet (MHU15579) (ID 168); Trackway and enclosures, Thornton (MHU22551) (ID 307); Ditch, enclosures and dyke (MHU10361) (ID 100).
- 9.9.2 Another possible impact during the construction phase could be the partial loss of a heritage asset's setting attributes of surrounding undeveloped land or green space between a heritage asset and present day urban occupation and industrial or economic activity.

- 9.9.3 Impacts to a heritage asset's setting could cause changes to an attribute of that setting which contributes to the significance of that heritage asset. Such impacts could take the form of, for example, the temporary loss of a heritage asset's setting attribute of tranquillity during the construction of Mylen Leah Solar Farm arising from noise, light and dust associated with groundworks. The heritage assets identified above, which could be physically affected, may also be subject to a change in setting. In addition, a change in setting may also affect other heritage assets within the Site or outside of it. This includes 'Moated site at Chapelgarth, 450m north east of Manor Farm' (list entry no. 1015303, ID 59).

Operation

- 9.9.4 During operation, physical impacts could occur to heritage assets, caused by changes in soil conditions (such as moisture levels), compaction of the ground in operational areas such as roads and physical impacts caused by any maintenance which requires groundworks (such as the replacement of infrastructure).
- 9.9.5 As with the construction phase, effects may occur to heritage assets resulting from the partial loss of a heritage asset's setting attributes of surrounding undeveloped land or green space between a heritage asset and present day urban occupation and industrial or economic activity. The heritage assets listed above are the most likely to be affected.

Decommissioning

- 9.9.6 Although the decommissioning methodology is not yet finalised, the effects of decommissioning are often similar to, or to a lesser magnitude, when compared to the construction effects. No new infrastructure is expected to be required during the decommissioning phase. No physical impacts to known or potential heritage assets are therefore anticipated to arise. Although decommissioning groundworks associated with activities such as the removal of the solar PV modules may create physical impacts to known or potential heritage assets within the draft Order Limits, these are anticipated to be of a lower magnitude than physical impacts to these assets during the construction phase.
- 9.9.7 Regarding setting, it is not expected that any new infrastructure or construction activities requiring groundworks (such as access roads and landscaping) will need to be established or carried out within the vicinities of the heritage assets deemed as vulnerable to changes in their settings by Mylen Leah Solar Farm during the decommissioning phase.

9.10 What additional mitigation is proposed to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset likely effects on cultural heritage?

Construction

- 9.10.1 The results of the ongoing geophysical surveys will inform proposals for appropriate mitigation measures (such as preservation in situ or a programme of archaeological investigation and recording secured by a DCO requirement). Any proposed archaeological investigation would be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, which will be secured as a requirement in the DCO.

9.10.2 Where archaeological remains within the Site do not require preservation in situ and cannot be avoided through embedded (primary) mitigation (e.g. changes to the layout of Mylen Leah Solar Farm and/or construction methods or amended foundation design), it is anticipated that additional mitigation to reduce adverse impacts will take the form of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording, secured by a DCO requirement. Such a programme may include pre-commencement phases of archaeological excavation (such as trial trenching) and/or archaeological 'watching brief' during construction or formal excavation. The need for and scope of such investigation will be agreed with the ERYC and Hull City Council archaeological advisor and Historic England, where necessary. The scope and methodology of the mitigation will be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation. Any programme of archaeological investigation and recording would ensure that archaeological remains are subject to 'preservation by record'. Preservation by record means the heritage asset will be recorded prior to its destruction and the archaeological information obtained will be transferred to a paper or digital archive, resulting in the retention of some archaeological information.

9.10.3 Mitigation measures to protect the physical remains of in-situ designated heritage assets, such as scheduled monuments and listed buildings, will be included within an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Outline CEMP), and an Archaeological Management Plan (both of which will be submitted in support of the DCO Application). The latter will be aimed at identifying, protecting and managing the known and unknown heritage assets. This may include measures such as the installation and maintenance of temporary fencing around designated heritage assets during construction works and measures to ensure that heavy machinery and increased traffic do not impact any listed building or conservation area within the study area. Toolbox talks to inform site contractors of these measures and the procedure to follow in case of archaeological remains being exposed will also be produced and distributed.

Operation

9.10.4 The Outline CEMP and Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Outline LEMP) will detail the way the grassland will be created and managed so that the setting of the scheduled monument (Moated site at Chapelgarth, 450m north east of Manor Farm (List entry no. 1015303, ID 59 in **Figure 9.1** in **Volume 2**) is not negatively impacted.

Decommissioning

9.10.5 Cultural heritage assets, or parts of heritage assets, which remain after construction activity will be appropriately identified, marked (through means such as fencing) and plans put in place to ensure they are not impacted. Information dissemination in the form of toolbox talks may be required to ensure they are not impacted. The Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (Outline DEMP) will detail the way impacts on cultural heritage will be avoided during decommissioning.

9.11 What likely effects would remain for cultural heritage following additional mitigation?

9.11.1 In summary, taking account of the additional mitigation measures proposed in **Section 9.10** above, no significant effects are predicted on any cultural heritage assets during construction, operation or decommissioning. However, this will be confirmed following review of the non-designated heritage assets within the underground grid connection corridor.

Construction

Designated heritage assets

9.11.2 The importance of the Moated site at Chapelgarth, 450m north east of Manor Farm (List entry no. 1015303, 1D 59 in **Figure 9.1** in **Volume 2**) scheduled monument is **high** and the magnitude of impact is considered to be **minor**, as it is acknowledged that there may be some temporary impacts to its setting, which contributes to its significance, due to an increase in noise, dust and lighting. In accordance with **Table 9.4** above, the significance of the residual effect would therefore be slight or moderate adverse. It is the professional opinion of the assessor that the significance of the residual effect is **slight adverse** and **not significant**, on the basis that the Medieval moated site is no longer within its original medieval setting and therefore its significance does not derive substantially from its setting.

9.11.3 The listed building Pocklington Canal Walbut Bridge (list entry no. 1309793, ID 35 in **Figure 9.1** in **Volume 2**) has a **medium** importance. With appropriate additional mitigation (which could take the form of a buffer zone, exclusion zone and/or traffic management system), the magnitude of impact upon this listed building is **no change**. The significance of the residual effect is therefore **neutral** and **not significant**.

9.11.4 No other designated heritage assets identified within the Site or study area will be impacted during construction and no significant effects upon them are therefore anticipated.

Non-designated heritage assets

9.11.5 The importance of the non-designated heritage assets within the Site (boundary ditch (MHU22524), (ID 279), the former Airfield, Melbourne (MHU11148) (ID 228), the site of Retting Pits, W of Allertorpe (MHU15468) (ID 167), Old field systems (MHU10377) (ID 166), multiple areas of ridge and furrow (MHU22523) (MHU22525) (MHU22522) (ID 301), Cropmarks south-west of Warren House (MHU66) (ID 103/112), Linear cropmarks, w of Woodhouse Farm (MHU7691) (ID 114), Possible prehistoric trackway and boundary ditch (MHU22675) (ID 269), Linear ditches (MHU6885) (ID 96 and 97), Former Thornton-Bielby Road (MHU2603) (ID 88), NE-SW oriented ditch (MHU64) (ID 90), Enclosures, trackways and field systems (MHU21643) (ID 254), Pocklington Canal (MHU9478) (ID 182, 75, 78, 84, 141), Site of Millhouses and hamlet (MHU15579) (ID 168), Trackway and enclosures, Thornton (MHU22551) (ID 307), Ditch, enclosures and dyke (MHU10361) (ID 100) is **low** and would be subject to a **moderate** magnitude of impact. This impact will be permanent and represents a **slight adverse** significance of residual effect, which is considered to be **not significant**.

9.11.6 It is acknowledged that the temporary removal of the setting attribute of tranquillity during the construction phase of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, arising from increased noise, dust and/or lighting associated with construction activities, is possible for non-designated heritage assets within the Site. The following non-designated heritage assets of **low** importance may be affected:

- Boundary ditch (MHU22524), (ID 279 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- The former Airfield, Melbourne (MHU11148) (ID 228 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- The site of Retting Pits, W of Allerthorpe (MHU15468) (ID 167 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Old field systems (MHU10377) (ID 166 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Multiple areas of ridge and furrow (MHU22523) (MHU22525) (MHU22522) (ID 301 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Cropmarks south-west of Warren House (MHU66) (ID 103/112 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Linear cropmarks, w of Woodhouse Farm (MHU7691) (ID 114 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Possible prehistoric trackway and boundary ditch (MHU22675) (ID 269 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Linear ditches (MHU6885) (ID 96 and 97 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Former Thornton-Bielby Road (MHU2603) (ID 88 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- NE-SW oriented ditch (MHU64) (ID 90 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Enclosures, trackways and field systems (MHU21643) (ID 254 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Pocklington Canal (MHU9478) (ID 182 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Site of Millhouses and hamlet (MHU15579) (ID 168 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**);
- Trackway and enclosures, Thornton (MHU22551) (ID 307 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**); and
- Ditch, enclosures and dyke (MHU10361) (ID 100 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**).

9.11.7 The magnitude of impact to the significance of these non-designated heritage assets as a result of change(s) in the setting is **moderate**. This represents a **slight adverse** significance of residual effect, which is considered to be **not significant**.

9.11.8 No other non-designated heritage assets identified within the Site or study area will be impacted during construction and no significant effects upon them are therefore anticipated.

Operation

- 9.11.9 During operation, no additional physical impacts are anticipated on any cultural heritage asset following additional mitigation. However, the heritage assets, or parts of the heritage assets, which remain after construction (specifically boundary ditch (MHU22524) (ID 279); the former Airfield, Melbourne (MHU11148) (ID 228); the site of Retting Pits, W of Allerthorpe (MHU15468) (ID 167); old field systems (MHU10377) (ID 166); multiple areas of ridge and furrow (MHU22523) (MHU22525) (MHU22522) (ID 301); cropmarks south-west of Warren House (MHU66) (ID 103/112); linear cropmarks, w of Woodhouse Farm (MHU7691) (ID 114); possible prehistoric trackway and boundary ditch (MHU22675) (ID 269); linear ditches (MHU6885) (ID 96 and 97); former Thornton-Bielby Road (MHU2603) (ID 88); NE-SW oriented ditch (MHU64) (ID 90); enclosures, trackways and field systems (MHU21643) (ID 254); Pocklington Canal (MHU9478) (ID 182, 75, 78, 84, 141); site of Millhouses and hamlet (MHU15579) (ID 168); trackway and enclosures, Thornton (MHU22551) (ID 307); ditch, enclosures and dyke (MHU10361) (ID 100)) are considered to be of **low** importance. This represents a **moderate** magnitude of impact and a **slight adverse** effect, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Decommissioning

- 9.11.10 No significant effects are anticipated during the decommissioning phase. This includes physical impacts to in situ archaeological remains arising from decommissioning activities.

9.12 What opportunities are there for environmental enhancement?

- 9.12.1 Opportunities to enhance the historic environment will be explored in consultation with Historic England and the Development Management Archaeologist for ERYC.
- 9.12.2 There is an opportunity to enhance public awareness and understanding of the heritage assets within the Site, particularly the Second World War Melbourne Airfield, including surviving buildings (ID MHU11148, ID 228 in **Figure 9.2 in Volume 2**) and the Moated site at Chapelgarth, 450m north east of Manor Farm' (list entry no. 1015303, ID 59 in **Figure 9.1 in Volume 2**). Such opportunities will be explored with Historic England and ERYC, as appropriate. The airfield has a low importance, while the moated site has a high importance.
- 9.12.3 There is an opportunity to provide community outreach opportunities, relating to the heritage assets within the Site and study area. This has been requested by Historic England during consultation. The scope of these opportunities will be explored with Historic England and ERYC, as appropriate.

9.13 What difficulties and uncertainties have been encountered in this preliminary cultural heritage assessment?

- 9.13.1 Several difficulties were encountered during the geophysical survey (magnetometer survey) undertaken to date:

- Ground conditions were generally poor with a lot of standing water due to the loamy and clayey nature of the soils. Waterlogging and flooding resulted in some areas being unsuitable for survey. Areas of the Site which will not be impacted by Mylen Leah Solar Farm were excluded from the survey, including areas designated for habitat and landscape management.
- The effects of an overlying superficial deposit might normally increase the receptivity to magnetometer survey, but in this case, these deposits are silty clays which may also respond poorly to magnetic survey.
- The geophysical survey results also indicate that several parts of the Site have likely been spread with 'green waste', (composted organic matter derived from leaves, branches, twigs, grass cuttings etc). This organic mulch is increasingly being applied to fields to improve the quality and drainage of soil. Green waste is not conducive for clear survey results: the strength and density of the magnetic 'noise' generated by the material (caused by a combination of ferrous material present within the organic matrix due to poor sorting and also to the magnetic properties of the organic material as it decomposes) precludes the identification of all but the most high magnitude responses thereby virtually eliminating the possibility of recording the (usually) much weaker responses from a sub-surface archaeological feature, if present.

9.13.2 The layout of Mylen Leah Solar Farm is still being finalised and investigations to establish the archaeological resource of the Site are ongoing. There remains uncertainty regarding both the direct physical impacts on heritage assets as a result of construction, and the extent of change within the setting of heritage assets within the study area. This has therefore resulted in assets being considered within this preliminary assessment which may, once the design has been refined, not need to be considered in the subsequent ES as effects will have been avoided, or reduced to not significant.

9.13.3 There are inherent difficulties in assessing the importance of some heritage receptors. There can be limited information available regarding below ground archaeological remains, including their nature, preservation or in some cases even their existence. It can therefore be challenging to assess their importance. Their importance may be re-evaluated after archaeological investigation. For the purposes of this preliminary assessment, a precautionary approach of assuming the highest level of importance to archaeological remains (unless there is strong evidence for a lower level of importance, or agreement with consultees on the level of importance) has been taken.

9.13.4 There may be as yet unknown archaeological remains within the Site. It is not possible to predict the importance of or magnitude of impact upon these remains, but they will be re-evaluated after trial trenching has provided greater clarity on their nature.

9.13.5 There are always limitations associated with the baseline data used for a desk-based assessment. In the context of this preliminary assessment, the following limitations have been identified:

- Historic texts are rare before the medieval period;
- Whilst it is accepted that historic documents may be biased depending on the author, with content seen through the lens of context, wherever such documentary sources are used in assessing archaeological potential, professional judgment is used in their interpretation in that the functionality of the document is considered;
- HER records can be limited because opportunities for research, fieldwork and discovery depend on the situation of commercial development and occasional research projects, rather than the result of a more structured research framework. A lack of data within the HER records does not necessarily equal an absence of archaeology;
- Where archaeological sites have been identified solely from aerial imagery without confirmation from archaeological excavation or supporting evidence in the form of find-spots for example, it is possible the interpretation may be revised in the light of further investigation.
- The significance of sites can be difficult to identify from HER records, depending on the accuracy and reliability of the original source;
- There can often be a lack of dating evidence for archaeological sites.
- Any archaeological field visit has inherent limitations, primarily because archaeological remains below ground level may have no surface indicators.

9.13.6 The information provided in this PEIR is preliminary and is based on the information available at the time of writing. A full assessment of likely significant effects of Mylen Leah Solar Farm will be reported in the ES.

9.14 What further work is required to inform the full cultural heritage assessment in the DCO application?

9.14.1 The further work below is proposed to be carried out to inform the full cultural heritage assessment of the ES:

- A programme of targeted pre-determination trial trenching has been agreed with the Development Management Archaeologist for ERYC. The results of the pre-determination trenching will inform the additional mitigation measures presented within the ES, Outline CEMP, Outline LEMP and Outline DEMP, which will also be set out within an Archaeological Management Plan to be agreed with the Development Management Archaeologist for ERYC. The trial trenching will overcome the difficulties encountered with the geophysics survey and the limitations of the archaeological and historic sources. It will remove the archaeological uncertainty associated with the green waste areas and test the archaeological potential in areas where there will be known ground disturbance associated with infrastructure such as compounds, tracks and substations.

- A field visit will be undertaken within the underground grid connection cable corridor.
- The route which will be taken by heavy vehicles will be assessed for any impacts to heritage assets. This will be undertaken as part of the ES.
- Updated HER data will be requested and reviewed to assess whether there are any additional heritage assets within the study area.

¹ Burial Act 1857. Available online: [Burial Act 1857](#)

² Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953. Available online: [Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953](#)

³ Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Available online: [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#)

⁴ National Heritage Act 1980 (as amended). Available online: [National Heritage Act 1980](#)

⁵ Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Available online: [Protection of Military Remains Act 1986](#)

⁶ Treasure Act 1996 (as amended). Available online: [Treasure Act 1996](#)

⁷ Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Available online: [Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) Act 1990](#)

⁸ The Hedgerows Regulations 1997. Available online: [The Hedgerows Regulations 1997](#)

⁹ The Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010. Paragraph 3. Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments. Available online: [The Infrastructure Planning \(Decisions\) Regulations 2010](#)

¹⁰ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (December 2025, published January 2026). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available online: [Overarching National Policy Statement for energy \(EN-1\), 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

¹¹ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (December 2025, published January 2026). National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available online: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

¹² Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (December 2025, published January 2026). National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available online: [National Policy Statement for electricity networks infrastructure \(EN-5\), 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

¹³ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework. Available online: [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#)

¹⁴ East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2025) East Riding Local Plan Update. Available online: [East Riding Local Plan Update](#)

¹⁵ Newman, R. and Goodyear, J. (2023) Guidance for commissioning organisations and archaeological contractors and consultants on undertaking archaeological works in relation to solar farm developments in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

¹⁶ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2022) Code of Conduct (Version 5). Available online: [ClfA Codes, regulations and Standards, and guidance | ClfA](#)

¹⁷ Historic England (2017) The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning (Second Edition). Available online: [The Setting of Heritage Assets](#)

¹⁸ Historic England (2019) Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (Historic England Advice Note 12). Available online: [Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets](#)

¹⁹ Historic England (2015) Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2). Available online: [Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment](#)

²⁰ National Highways (2020a). Design Manual for Roads and Bridges: LA 106 – Cultural Heritage Assessment. Available online: [LA 106 - Cultural heritage assessment](#)

²¹ National Highways (2020b). Design Manual for Roads and Bridges: LA 104 - Environmental assessment and monitoring. Available online: [LA 104 - Environmental assessment and monitoring](#)

²² Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014, revised 2017 and 2020) Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment. Available online: [CIfA-SandG-DBA-2020.pdf](#)

²³ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Institute of Historic Building Conservation and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2021) Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK. Available online: [CIfA-IEMA-Principles-Cultural-Heritage-Impact-UK 2021.pdf](#)

²⁴ Chartered Institute for Archaeology (2025) 'Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice Guide. A Toolkit for Developers, Archaeological Advisors, Consultants and Contractors'.

²⁵ Historic England. (2017). The Setting of Heritage Assets. Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition). Available online: [The Setting of Heritage Assets](#)