

Herstmonceux Castle

(Inset Map No.30)

21.1 This site is one of the most historic estates in the District and the Castle and grounds are particularly important from an economic, heritage and environmental point of view.

21.2 Herstmonceux Castle is both a Grade I Listed Building and a scheduled Ancient Monument. It was originally built in the 15th Century but significantly rebuilt in the 20th. Much of the Estate is listed as Grade II within English Heritage's non-statutory list of parks and gardens of historic interest; the formal gardens to the north of the Castle are also statutorily listed. The Estate itself comprises about 380 acres of mixed grazing, arable and wooded land; parts of it are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest by English Nature.

21.3 Aside from the Castle itself, the main buildings on the Estate are a legacy of the occupation by the Royal Greenwich Observatory. These comprise a group of six telescopes known as the Equatorial Group (or EQ Group), a single empty dome which used to house the Isaac Newton telescope and former administrative and workshop buildings.

21.4 The major objectives of the Council are to secure the conservation and enhancement of the Castle, its setting and the Estate, to maintain employment in the area and to safeguard public access to the Estate. In addition, the Council has maintained a strong preference for retaining the Castle and Estate in single ownership and would seek to oppose the more intensive use of the Estate which might result from subdivision into multiple ownerships.

21.5 The Castle and a major part of the Estate are now owned and occupied by the University of Kingston, Ontario as a University International Study Centre. A Planning Agreement accompanying the various planning permissions relating to the Study Centre ensures that appropriate controls are in place to safeguard the character and setting of the Castle and Estate.

21.6 The EQ Group of telescopes and associated buildings have now been developed as a Science Centre. As such, it is a valuable resource for local schools, as well as a visitor centre with wide appeal. The Council considers that this use is the most appropriate means of safeguarding the historic, scientific and educational character and setting of the telescopes. Future potential may exist for related uses, including a Planetarium and alternative uses for the Isaac Newton building.

HC1 The Local Planning Authority will seek to ensure that the character of Herstmonceux Castle, its setting and the Estate including the EQ Group are conserved or enhanced. There will be a presumption against any development that would harm this character.

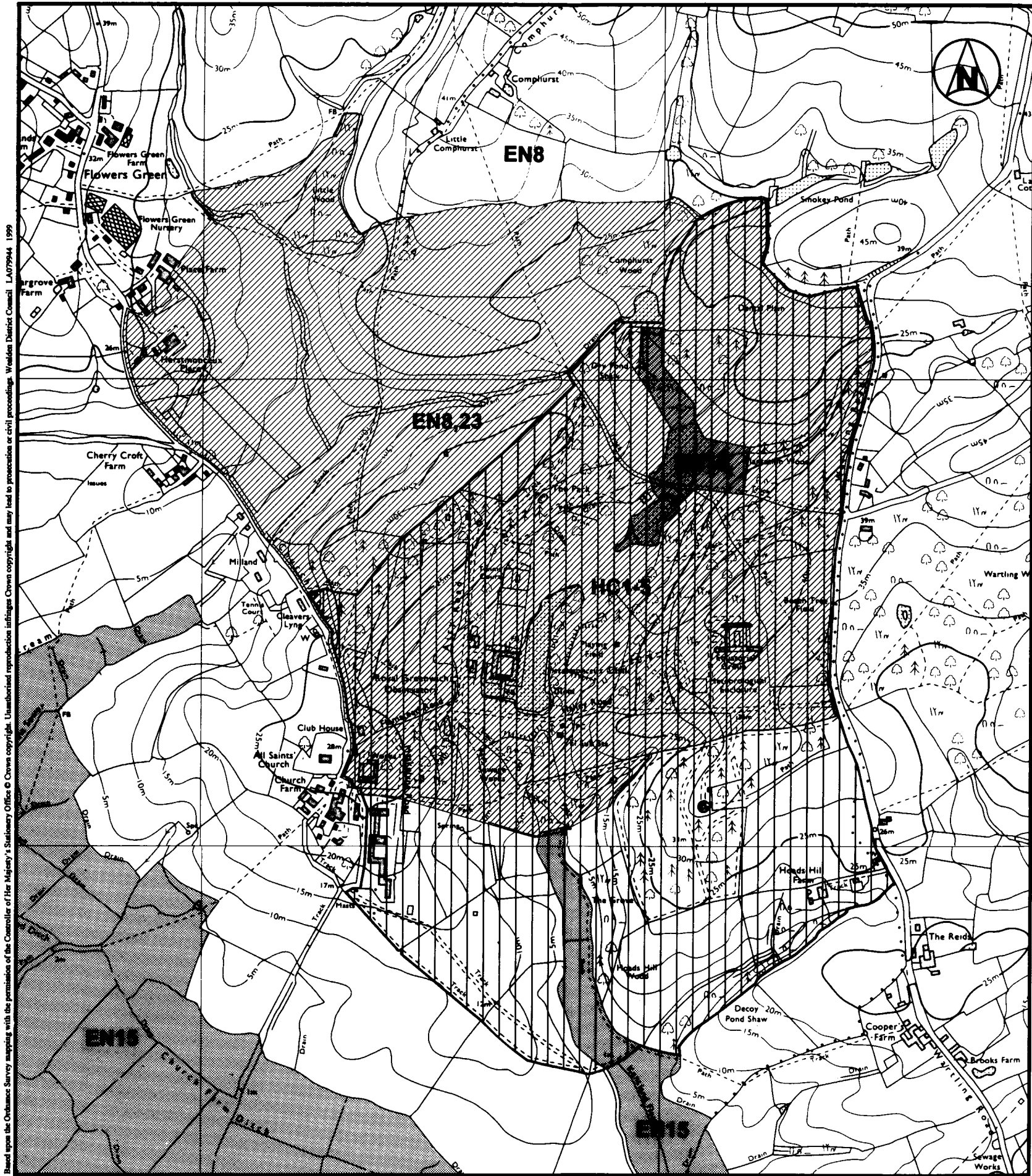
HC2 There will be a presumption in favour of development proposals to establish educational, tourism and/or leisure related uses or other appropriate job generating uses subject to compliance with the provisions of Policy HC1. Proposals not meeting with the requirements of Policy HC1 will be resisted.

HC3 The Local Planning Authority will support the use of the Equatorial Group of telescopes and buildings as a visitor attraction for scientific and educational use.

HC4 In considering development proposals for the Castle and the Estate, the Local Planning and Highway Authorities will require to be satisfied that the level of traffic generated can adequately be accommodated within the existing highway network with or without improvements thereto and without detriment to the character and amenities of the locality.

HC5 Proposals resulting from subdivision of the Estate will be resisted where such proposals are considered to lead to more intensive use and development contrary to the provisions of Policies HC1 and HC4.

Inset Map No. 30
Herstmonceux Castle



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- KEY**
- Inset Map boundary
 - ▨ Herstmonceux Castle policy area
 - ▤ Site of Special Scientific Interest
 - ▧ Historic Park and Garden

Plan wide policies are listed on the main Proposals Map.



Proposals Map

0 200 400 metres 1:10,000