



Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Appendix 22.3 Water Vole Survey Report

Environmental Statement



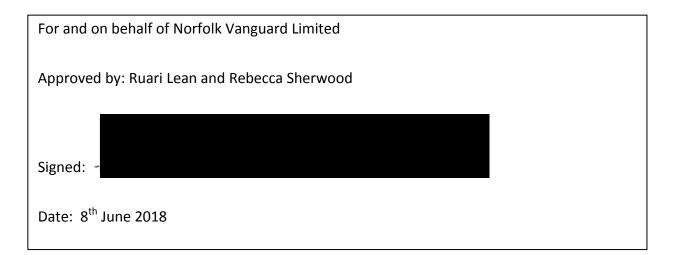


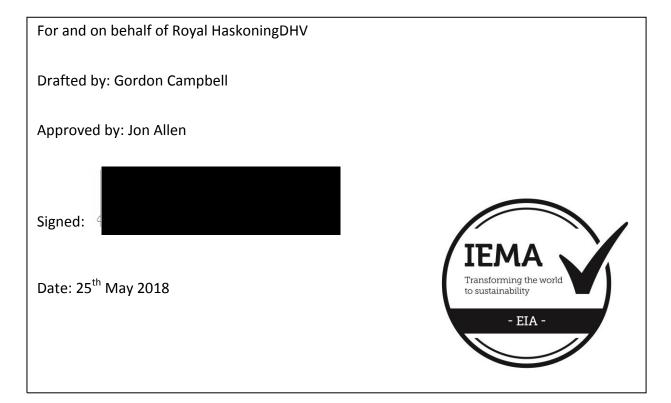


Environmental Impact Assessment Environmental Statement

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Glossary

AfL	Agreement for Lease
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CRS	Cable Relay Station
DCO	Development Consent Order
EAOW	East Anglia Offshore Wind
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
SPR	Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Limited
VWPL	Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd
ZDA	Zone Development Agreement

Terminology

Cable Relay Station	Primarily comprised of an outdoor compound containing reactors (also called inductors, or coils) and switchgear to increase the power transfer capability of the cables under the HVAC technology scenario as considered in the PEIR. This is no longer required for the project as the HVDC technology has been selected.
Landfall	Where the offshore cables come ashore at Happisburgh South
Mobilisation area	Areas approx. 100 x 100m used as access points to the running track for duct installation. Required to store equipment and provide welfare facilities. Located adjacent to the onshore cable route, accessible from local highways network suitable for the delivery of heavy and oversized materials and equipment.
Mobilisation zone	Area within which the mobilisation area will be located.
National Grid new / replacement overhead line tower	New overhead line towers to be installed at the National Grid substation.
National Grid overhead line modifications	The works to be undertaken to complete the necessary modification to the existing 400kV overhead lines
National Grid substation extension	The permanent footprint of the National Grid substation extension
National Grid temporary works area	Land adjacent to the Necton National Grid substation which would be temporarily required during construction of the National Grid substation extension.
Necton National Grid	The existing 400kV substation at Necton, which will be the grid connection





substation	location for Norfolk Vanguard
Onshore cable corridor	200m wide onshore corridor within which the onshore cable route would be located as submitted for PEIR.
Onshore cable route	The 45m easement which will contain the buried export cables as well as the temporary running track, topsoil storage and excavated material during construction.
Onshore cables	The cables which take the electricity from landfall to the onshore project substation
Onshore project area	All onshore electrical infrastructure (landfall; onshore cable route, accesses, trenchless crossing technique (e.g. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)) zones and mobilisation areas; onshore project substation and extension to the Necton National Grid substation and overhead line modification)
Onshore project substation	A compound containing electrical equipment to enable connection to the National Grid. The substation will convert the exported power from HVDC to HVAC, to 400kV (grid voltage). This also contains equipment to help maintain stable grid voltage.
Onshore project substation temporary construction compound	Land adjacent to the onshore project substation which would be temporarily required during construction of the onshore project substation.
The project	Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm, including the onshore and offshore infrastructure





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22 WATER VOLE SURVEY REPORT

22.1 Introduction

1. The aim of this report is to present the findings of a water vole *Arvicola amphibius* presence/absence survey (herein the 'Water Vole Survey') conducted with respect to the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm (herein referred to as the 'project') onshore project area.

22.1.1 Project Background

- 2. In December 2009 as part of the UK Offshore Wind Round 3 tender process, The Crown Estate awarded the joint venture company, East Anglia Offshore Wind (EAOW) Ltd, the rights to develop Zone 5 (later called the 'East Anglia zone'). These rights were granted through a Zone Development Agreement (ZDA). EAOW Ltd. is a 50:50 joint venture owned by Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd (VWPL) and ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited (SPR).
- 3. Under the ZDA, the joint venture consented East Anglia ONE, and commenced the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for East Anglia THREE (prior to the project being taken forward to submission by SPR) and East Anglia FOUR (up to submission of a request for Scoping Opinion in 2012).
- 4. In December 2014, a decision was taken to split the zone, with VWPL having development rights within the north of the former East Anglia Zone, and SPR continuing to develop the southern part. In agreement with The Crown Estate, the ZDA was effectively dissolved in 2016. New Agreement for Lease (AfL) areas have been awarded by The Crown Estate within the former Zone, separately to VWPL and its affiliate companies, and SPR and its affiliates.
- 5. VWPL are now developing plans for the northern half of the zone, which is split into two development areas: Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas. Norfolk Vanguard will have a capacity of 1800MW which is enough to power 1.3 million UK households¹. Norfolk Vanguard Limited (an affiliate company of VWPL) is now undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Statement (ES) for Norfolk Vanguard and a Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2016 (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2016).
- 6. Norfolk Vanguard is a National Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and as such is subject to a Development Consent Order (DCO) process in order to obtain planning permission. An EIA is required as part of a DCO application under the Planning Act

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¹ assuming a load factor of 34.88 http://www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEDExplained





2008. In order to inform the ES, ecological baseline data is required with respect to the onshore project area. This report represents part of that ecological baseline.

22.1.2 Site Description

- 7. The onshore electrical infrastructure works for the project currently consists of the following key elements:
 - Landfall;
 - Cable relay station (CRS) (no longer required);
 - Onshore cable corridor;
 - Onshore substation; and
 - Extension to the existing Necton National Grid substation including overhead line modifications.
- 8. The location of the onshore project area is shown on Figure 1, Annex A: Figures. During the development of the project, the onshore Scoping Area that was initially defined has been refined, to identify three landfall options, associated CRS zones, as well as an onshore substation search zone in proximity to the Necton National Grid substation, and modifications to the existing overhead lines. A 200m wide onshore cable corridor has been identified, within which the cable will be located, and trenchless crossing techniques (e.g. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)) zones and mobilisation zones have been identified along the onshore cable corridor. The surveys undertaken for Water Vole were designed and based on the project infrastructure and search zones at that time (March 2017). As the project design is further refined, these search zones will decrease in size, and the final options for the siting of infrastructure (i.e. one landfall, refined onshore cable route, one onshore project substation) will be taken forward.
- 9. For more details of the project as submitted for the ES, see Chapter 5 Project Description. Norfolk Vanguard Limited have selected the High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) technology, removing the requirement for the CRS from the project, however as this report details a survey done at a specific moment in time, reference to these areas remains in this document.

22.1.3 Purpose and Scope of this Report

10. An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the project area was undertaken during February 2017. The findings are reported Appendix 22.1. The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey identified the potential for legally protected species located within the project area plus a 50m buffer surrounding the onshore project area (herein the 'Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey area').





- 11. The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey involved a preliminary assessment of all watercourses within the survey area for their potential to support water voles. A total of 38 watercourses were assessed during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, of which 31 were identified as being of optimal habitat and the remaining seven were assessed as being sub-optimal. Those assessed as sub-optimal were classified in this way primarily due to the watercourse having very little bank for burrowing, very poor water quality observed, very shallow banks, low flows, evidence of regular channel maintenance or isolation from any connecting habitat. Following the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, a detailed water vole presence/absence survey of the 31 watercourses identified as providing optimal suitability to support water voles was proposed.
- 12. This report presents the findings of the Water Vole Survey conducted by Royal HaskoningDHV ecologists in May and June 2017. This report has been prepared in order to inform the project PEIR.
- 13. The scope of this Water Vole Survey included the 31 watercourses identified during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, plus two additional watercourses for which survey access has been granted since the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey.

 Therefore, in total 33 watercourses have been scoped into this Water Vole Survey.
- 14. The findings of this report will provide details of the water vole resource present within the Water Vole Survey area. This will be used to inform the ongoing environmental impact assessment (EIA) process for the project and to identify any outline mitigation measures and licensing requirements which may be required.
- 15. This report has been prepared in line with the guidelines as set out in the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing (2nd Edition, December 2015).

22.1.4 Consultation

- 16. The methodology set out in this report was issued on 17th March 2017, as part of the project Evidence Plan Process to the following stakeholders for comment:
 - Natural England;
 - Environment Agency;
 - Breckland Council;
 - Norfolk County Council; and
 - Norfolk Wildlife Trust.
- 17. Feedback was received from Norfolk County Council and Natural England on the 23rd March 2017 and 3rd April 2017 confirming that the methodology and approach to surveys was appropriate and acceptable.





22.2 Legislation and Policy

18. Table 22.1 summarises the relevant information regarding the legal protection afforded to water voles. However it should be noted that this is for information only and is not intended to be comprehensive or to replace specialised legal advice.

Table 22.1 Summary of the key legislation and policy relevant to water voles

Legislation	Relevance
Wildlife and Countryside Act	This Act makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any animal
1981 (as amended)	listed in Schedule 5 of the Act and protects occupied and unoccupied places
	used for shelter or protection.
	Water voles are listed on Schedule 5.
Natural Environment and	Section 41 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to compile a list of
Rural Communities Act 2006	habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of
	biodiversity in England.
	Decision makers of public bodies, in the execution of their duties, must have
	regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, and the list is intended
	to guide them.
	Natural England have compiled a list of species of Principal Importance. Water
	voles are on this list.
Policy	Relevance
UK Post-2010 Biodiversity	Supersedes the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), which fulfilled legal
Framework	obligation under the Convention on Biological Diversity to identify and
	produce action plans for produce priority habitats and species.

22.3 Methodology

22.3.1 Survey Area

19. The Water Vole Survey covered all watercourses identified during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey as suitable for supporting water voles. The survey area for each watercourse included the extent within the onshore project area plus a 50m buffer upstream and downstream. Collectively, the surveys areas for each watercourse are referred to as the survey area (as shown on Figure 2, Annex A: Figures).

22.3.2 Survey Methodology

20. A Water Vole Survey was undertaken on four dates between mid-May and mid-June 2017, with surveys conducted on the 17th May, 18th May, 1st June and the 20th June 2017.





- 21. A total of 31 watercourses were subject to a water vole presence/absence survey (out of 33 scoped into the survey) in order to confirm whether or not water voles are present. These included 29 watercourses identified during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey as having the potential to support water voles plus two watercourses identified using the Norfolk Living Map as potentially suitable for water voles. Two watercourses were not surveyed due to landowners restrictions encountered during the Water Vole Survey (discussed further in section 22.3.5).
- 22. The Water Vole Survey was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in the Water Vole Conservation Handbook (3rd Ed.) (Strachan, Moorhouse and Gelling, 2011) and as modified by The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (Dean et al., 2016). Surveys were conducted on one bank for the full length of each optimal watercourse within the survey area (i.e. within the project area, plus 50m upstream and 50m downstream). Each watercourse was assessed in 100m sections. Each 100m section was walked by an ecologist, and all field signs of water vole were recorded. This included sightings, burrows, latrines, feeding stations, lawns, nests, footprints and runways. The field sign type, its location were recorded and a photograph taken for each field sign observed. In additional to all water vole field signs, field signs of other aquatic mammals (e.g. rats, otter and mink) were recorded. The habitats adjacent to the survey area were recorded and mapped. Detailed information on bankside species and watercourse characteristics were recorded for each watercourse during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, and this information has been revised and updated during the Water Vole Survey where conditions have changed.
- 23. The survey involved one visit during the mid-April June survey season, when water voles are breeding but vegetation is not too dense to observe field signs. A second visit was not considered to be required for any of the watercourses surveyed, as the assessment of the effects on water voles can be made on a precautionary basis for all watercourses assessed, and all surveys were conducted during the optimum period within the water survey season (mid-April June), when vegetation was low but weather conditions had allowed for a consistent period of activity prior to surveys.
- 24. Weather conditions were recorded during the survey.

22.3.3 Surveyors

25. The Water Vole Surveys were conducted by a team of four Royal HaskoningDHV ecologists. The survey team was led by Gordon Campbell, BA. (Hons) MSc, Associate Member of CIEEM (ACIEEM). Gordon has 4 years' experience of water vole surveying. The survey team included:





- Thomas Chillcott, BSc. MSc. Graduate Member of CIEEM (GradCIEEM);
- Maria Walentek, BSc. MSc. Associate Member of the Institute of Environmental Assessment (AIEMA);
- Charlotte Clements, BSc. Affiliate Member of the IEMA; and
- Jack Douglas, BSc. (Hons).

22.3.4 Weather Conditions

26. Table 22.2 summarises the weather conditions encountered during the survey period.

Table 22.2 Weather conditions

Date	Weather conditions
17 th May 2017	Humid, overcast, warm (20°C)
18 th May 2017	Dry, clear, warm (24°C)
1 st June 2017	Dry, overcast, warm (22°C).
20 th June 2017	Dry, overcast, warm (20°C).

22.3.5 Survey Limitations

- 27. To date, the survey team has covered all land to which landowner access permission has been granted. This included 31 of the 33 watercourses assessed as suitable to support water voles (as outlined in section 22.1.3). Surveys have not been possible to the remaining two watercourses (WV16 and WV25) due to landowner access restrictions. If landowner access becomes available for these watercourses during the 2017 survey season (mid-April to October inclusive), surveys will be undertaken at these watercourses.
- 28. There are estimated to be a further 10 watercourses which fall within the survey area but to which landowner access has not been granted. It should be noted that these watercourses will be surveyed during future survey seasons, when full landowner access is obtained.
- 29. For a further six watercourses (namely WV04, WV06, WV12, WV13, WV20, WV30), some areas of the watercourse could not be fully accessed during the Water Vole Survey, due to physical barriers preventing entry (i.e. dense vegetation cover). However these areas were encountered infrequently and where they were, they were recorded as potentially providing field signs which could not be picked up during the Water Vole Survey.





- 30. Heavy rain on the evening of 17th May 2017 may have affected the number of field signs present during surveys in the 18th May 2017. Fields signs of water vole were still successfully recorded during surveys on the 18th May 2017, so the impact of the rain of field sign integrity is unlikely to have been severe.
- 31. Whilst the survey team made the utmost effort to pick up all field signs present during the field survey, on occasion due to human error some field signs can be missed or overlooked. However despite this, the data presented in this report is considered to provide an accurate description of the habitats within the survey area and provide a robust understanding of the survey area's water vole population.

22.4 Results

22.4.1 Field Signs

- 32. Field signs of water vole were found in seven of the 31 watercourses surveyed during the 2017 Water Vole Survey. Field signs found included latrines, burrows, pathways, footprints and feeding remains.
- 33. In addition, a water vole sighting was made on 16th May 2017 during separate great crested newt surveys undertaken by the survey team adjacent to watercourse WV13.
- 34. Field signs of otter were observed at two watercourses, and field signs of rat were observed at two watercourses also.
- 35. No field signs of mink were observed during the survey.
- 36. A total of 11 watercourses were found to be completely dry during the Water Vole Survey and were reassessed as not suitable for supporting water voles. Consequently no surveys were undertaken of these watercourses.
- 37. Table 22.3 summarises the findings of the Water Vole Survey which has been undertaken to date. The full results from the Water Vole Survey are contained with Table 22.7 in Annex B: Water Vole Survey Results. The location of all the field signs recorded during the Water Vole Survey are shown on Figure 2, Annex A: Figures.

Table 22.3 Summary of the 2017 Water Vole surveys

Water - course	Latrines	Burrows	Sightings	Footprints	Pathways	Feeding remains	Other field signs	Comments
WV01		1						None
WV02								None





Water -	atrines-	Burrows	Sightings	Footprints	Pathways	Feeding remains	Other iield signs	Comments	
course	Lat	Bu	Sig	Fo	Pat	Fee	Oth		
WV03								None	
WV04								Ditch mostly overgrown, most areas inaccessible. Runs observed in bank side, too large for water vole.	
WV05		1						None	
WV06								Ditch running through woodland. Mostly overgrown, overhanging branches and dense scrub. Mostly inaccessible. Low water levels (c5cm), rocky banks and substrate, limited burrowing opportunity	
WV07	Ditch	now 1	fully dr	y and	not su	itable fo	r water vole. No	o detailed survey undertaken.	
WV08	Ditch	now 1	fully dr	y and	not su	itable fo	r water vole. No	o detailed survey undertaken.	
WV09	Ditch	now 1	fully dr	y and	not su	itable fo	r water vole. No	o detailed survey undertaken.	
WV10								None	
WV11	Ditch	now 1	fully dr	y and	not su	itable fo	r water vole. No	o detailed survey undertaken.	
WV12								Water level very low at time of survey. Not all areas accessible for survey due to dense vegetation.	
WV13		2	1					No detailed survey undertaken due to dense vegetation cover. One sighting recorded in pond adjacent to watercourse during related survey on 16th May 2017. Further surveys will be attempted in 2017.	
WV14						1		None	
WV15	2	3			1	2	1 otter spraint	None	
WV32	15	5		1		14	2 rat feeding signs	None	
WV16	Landowner access not possible at the time of survey. Further surveys will be attempted in 2017 if landowner access granted.								
WV17	Ditch	now 1	fully dr	y and	not su	itable fo	r water vole. No	o detailed survey undertaken.	
WV18	Ditch now fully dry and not suitable for water vole. No detailed survey undertaken.								





Water - course	Latrines	Burrows	Sightings	Footprints	Pathways	Feeding remains	Other field signs	Comments		
WV19	Ditch now fully dry and not suitable for water vole. No detailed survey undertaken.									
WV20							2 rat feeding signs	Majority of watercourse surveyed from within, however large sections impenetrable due to dense vegetation.		
WV21	Ditch	now	fully dr	y and	not su	itable fo	r WV. No detail	ed survey undertaken.		
WV22		1			2		1 otter spraint	Cows present in field on opposite bank. Runs may have been caused by swans/geese observed in the area.		
WV33	Ditch	unsui	table f	or wat	er vol	e. No de	tailed survey ur	ndertaken.		
WV23								Water quality is poor.		
WV24								Upper reaches not surveyed due to dense vegetation.		
WV25			access			e at the	time of survey.	Further surveys will be attempted in 2017 if		
WV26				_				This ditch was mostly dry, with water in areas where scraping of channel has been undertaken.		
WV27								Signs of recent scraping on bank edges. Bank substrate appears mostly too compacted to allow for WV burrowing.		
WV28	Ditch	now 1	fully dr	y and	not su	itable fo	r water vole. No	o detailed survey undertaken.		
WV29	Ditch	now 1	fully dr	y and	not su	itable fo	r water vole. No	o detailed survey undertaken.		
WV30								Survey undertaken from both banks. Access west of point reference for site is difficult due to dense vegetation.		
WV31	Ditch	now 1	fully dr	y and	not su	itable fo	r water vole. No	o detailed survey undertaken.		

22.4.2 Relative Population Size

38. The numbers of latrines found during each survey can be used to calculate an indication of population size (Dean *et al.*, 2016). Table 22.4 shows the values of latrine density which can be used to give an estimate of population size (note that





these values are most useful more indicating where the key areas within a survey area are).

Table 22.4 Calculation of estimated population size based on latrine numbers (adapted from Dean et al., 2016)

Reference	Approximate number of latrines per 100m of bankside habitat								
Number	First half of survey season (mid-April to end of June)	Second half of survey season (July to September)							
High	10 or more	20 or more							
Medium	3-9	6-19							
Low	≤2 (or none, but with other confirmatory field signs)	≤5 (or none, but with other confirmatory field signs)							

39. Using the guidelines in Table 22.4, an estimate to the population density of each 100m section of each watercourse surveyed has been undertaken. The results are shown in Table 22.5 below. Only watercourses where presence was recorded have been included.

Table 22.5 Water vole population density

Water- course	Maximum number of latrines with a 100m section	Other field signs	Highest population density recorded within watercourse
WV01	0	Yes	Low
WV05	0	Yes	Low
WV13	0	Yes	Low
WV14	0	Yes	Low
WV15	2	Yes	Low
WV32	15	Yes	High
WV22	0	Yes	Low

40. One watercourse (WV32, the River Wensum at Elsing) returned a maximum estimated high population density, while the other six watercourses where evidence of water voles has been recoded returned a maximum estimated high population density. Within watercourse WV32, the population density varied between low and high throughout the area surveyed.





22.4.3 Habitats

- 41. The adjacent habitats found throughout the survey area were typically agricultural in nature, with arable crops and cattle grazing being the most common adjacent land use types recorded. The function of the watercourses surveyed also reflected the predominantly agricultural nature of the environmental, as the majority were artificial field drainage ditches. Natural watercourses such as the River Wensum (at Dillington and at Swanton Morley) and the River Bure were also surveyed, as were other artificial watercourses (such as the Dilham Canal). Bankside habitat varied, with short grasses banks in areas of pastoral grazing, dense scrub and hedgerow covers at some drainage ditches and a mixture of marginal vegetation in other areas. A full summary of the habitat types found during the survey is contained within Table 22.7 in Annex B: Water Vole Survey Results.
- 42. The habitats adjacent to each survey area recorded during the Water Vole Survey are shown on Figure 2, Annex A: Figures.

22.5 Recommendations

43. The results of the Water Vole Survey, as outlined in section 22.4, showed that there are seven watercourses within the survey area in which presence of water voles has been confirmed. Of these, one contained areas where relative water vole population density is high; the other six watercourses contained only areas of low or lower water vole density.

22.5.1 Potential Impacts

- 44. Given the population of water voles recorded during the Water Vole Survey, consideration of the potential impacts of the project upon water voles will be required in order to ensure that adequate steps are taken to minimise the risk of killing or injuring any water vole or damaging any water vole burrows during construction. Specifically, the following potential impacts should be considered in detail:
 - Habitat loss and deterioration;
 - Habitat fragmentation;
 - Incidental mortality during site clearance and construction;
 - Damage to burrows;
 - Introduction of domestic predators;
 - Change in management regime;
 - Pollution; and
 - Change in water level.





- 45. If any impacts are identified, the options for mitigating these at the design stage will be considered. Options for avoiding the areas of water vole presence will be considered first, followed by on-site mitigation, and finally offsite mitigation.
- 46. If mitigation is required in order to ensure there is no adverse impact on the water vole population identified due to the project, the Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (Dean *et al.*, 2016) should be used to inform any mitigation design and any licensing requirements for the project.

22.5.2 Further Surveys

- 47. For those watercourses surveyed as part of the Water Vole Survey, no further surveys are recommended at this stage (see section 22.3.2). Depending on the works planned within the survey area, pre-construction surveys (within the survey season prior to construction) may be required and if this is the case an ecologist will be consulted.
- 48. For those watercourses where landowner access was not granted during the Water Vole Survey, a Water Vole Survey will need to be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction in order to effectively characterise the baseline environment. This includes those watercourses which have not been visited during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (estimated to be a further 10 watercourses). The methodology for these surveys will follow the methodology set out in section 22.3.

22.6 Conclusions

- 49. A Water Vole Survey of 31 watercourses located within 50m of the project onshore infrastructure to which survey access has been granted was undertaken during May and June 2017.
- 50. Evidence of water vole presence was found in seven watercourses within the survey area. Of these, one watercourse (the River Wensum) contained a high relative population density, and six contained a low relative population density.
- 51. All further watercourses located within the survey area to which access permission has not yet been granted (estimated to be a further 12 watercourses in total) will require a Water Vole Survey prior to any construction activity for the project.





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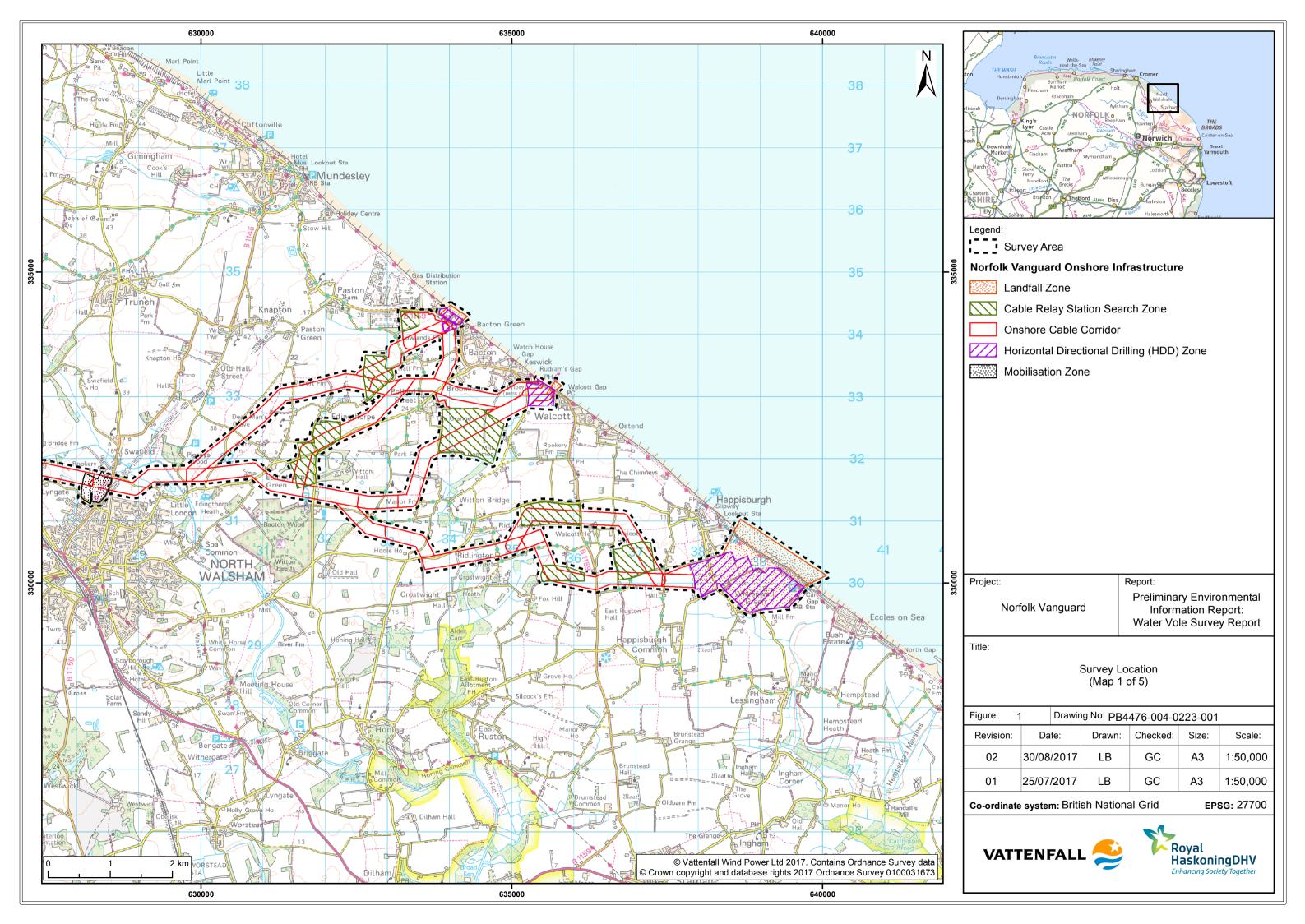
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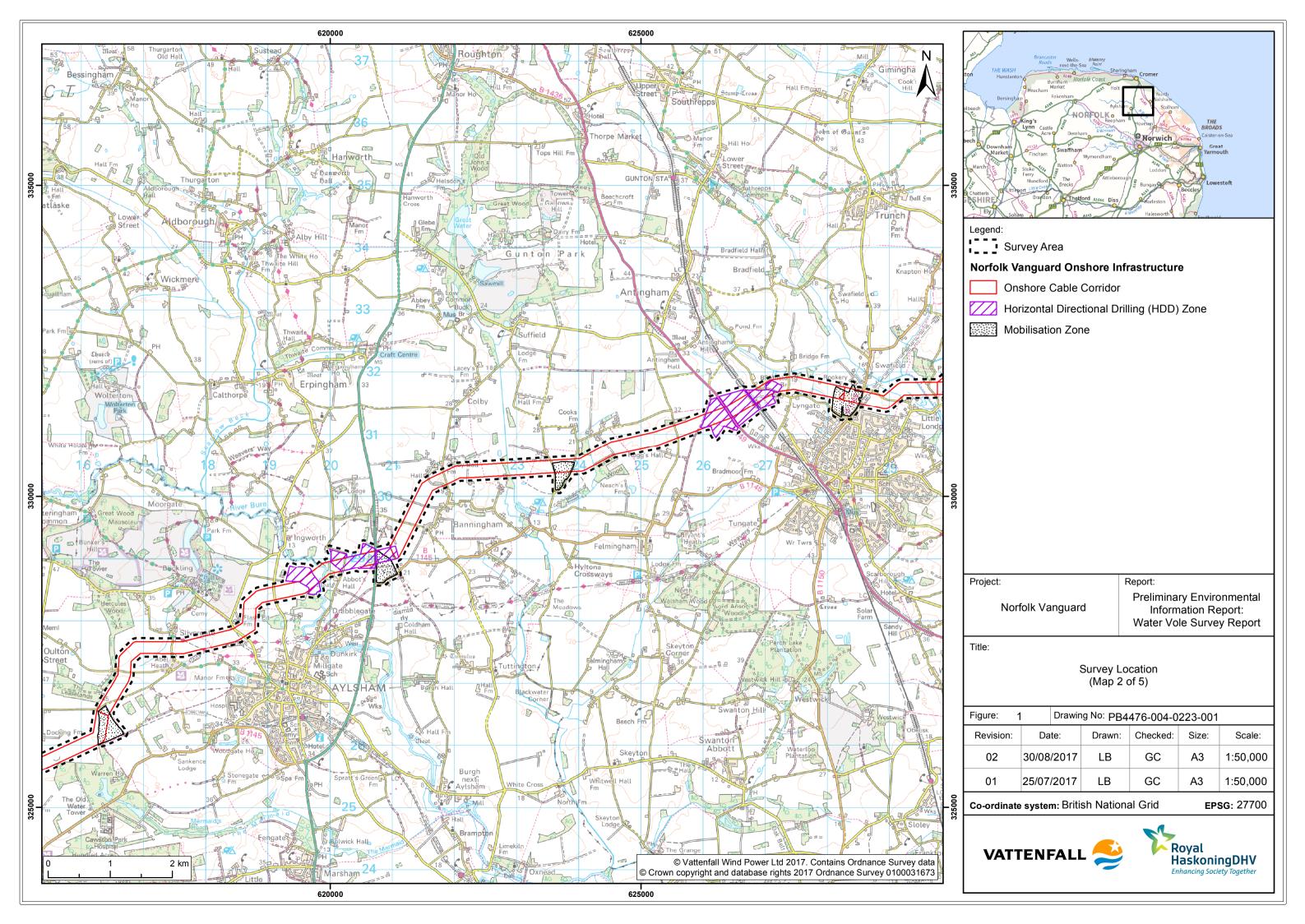
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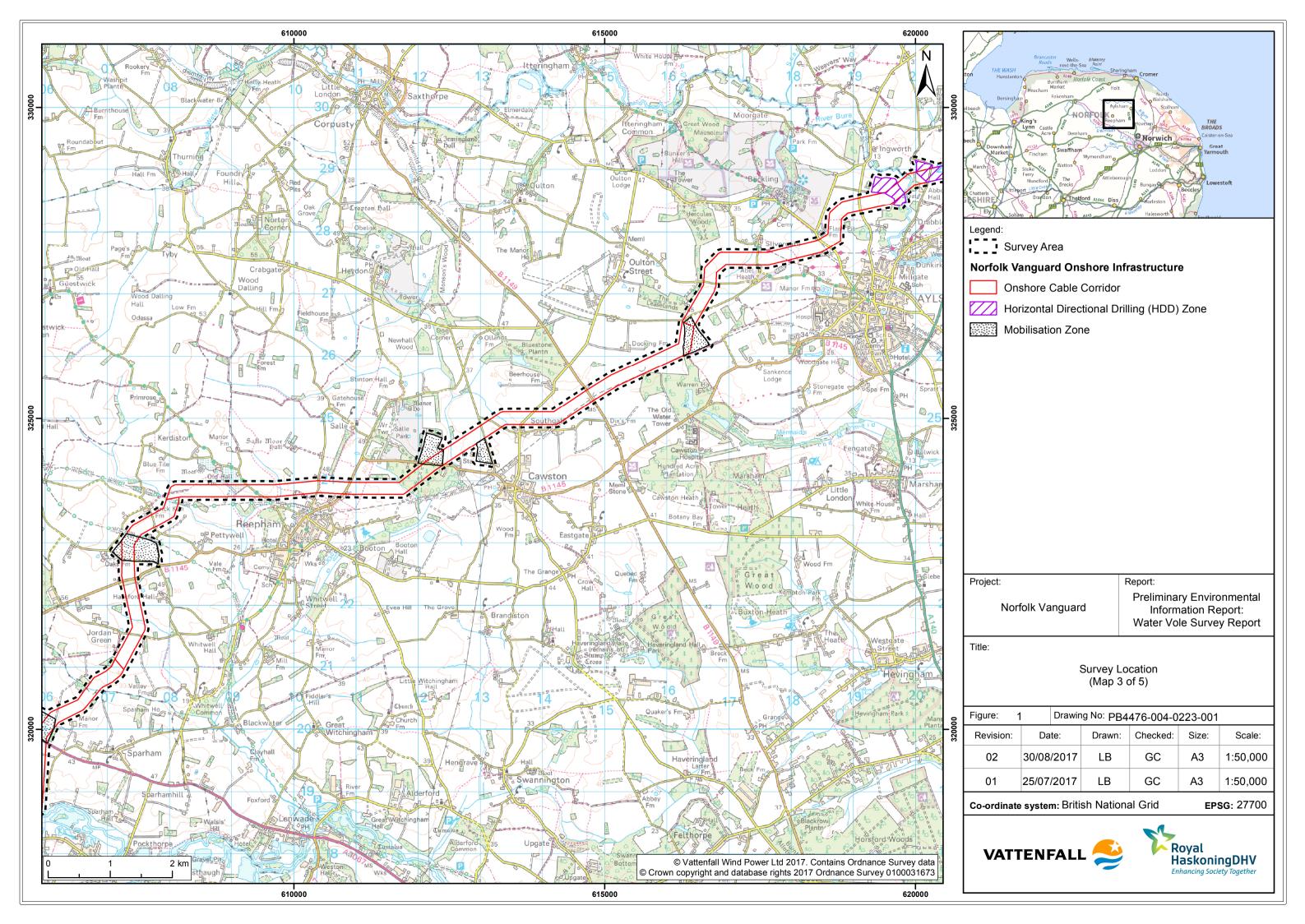


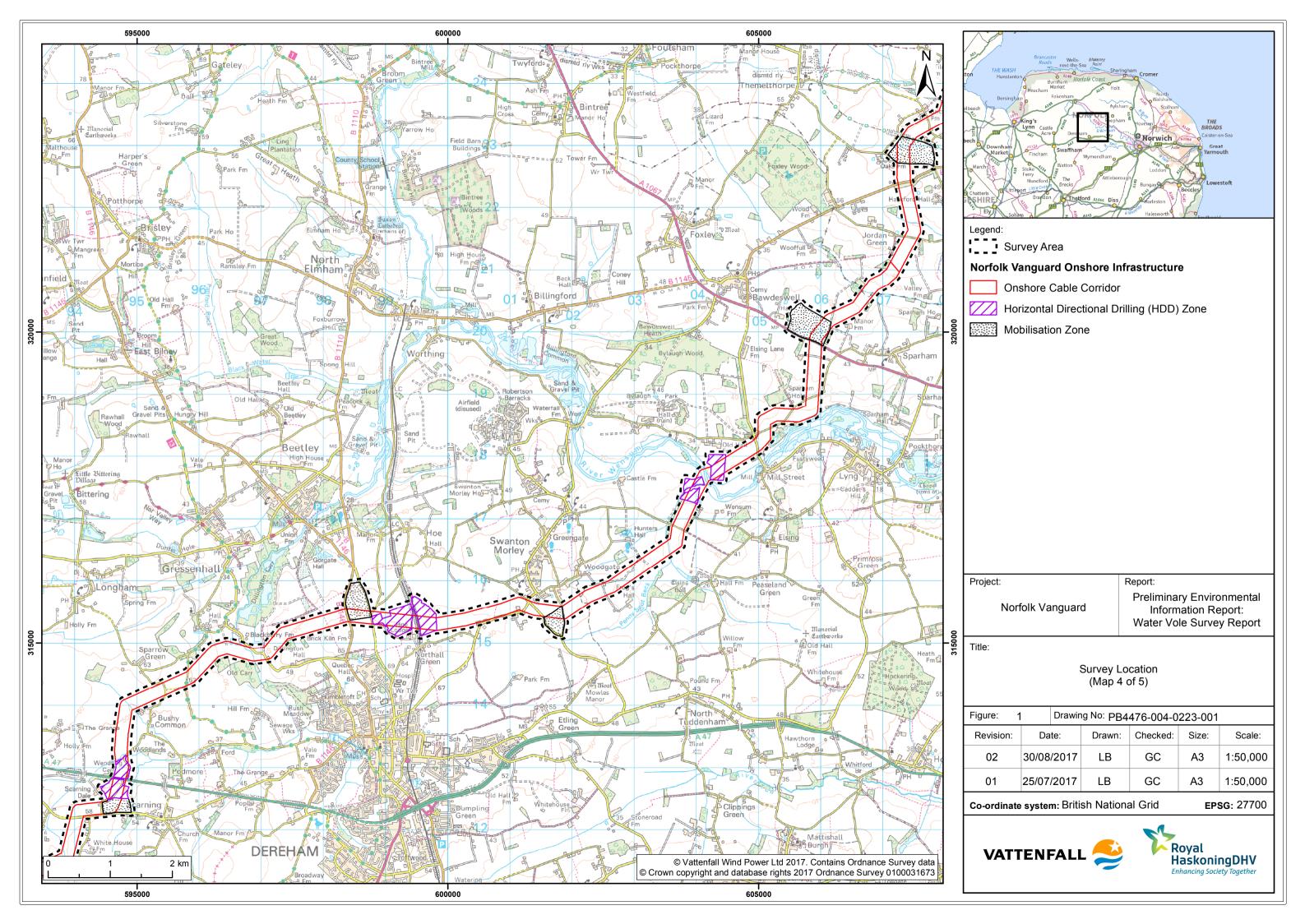


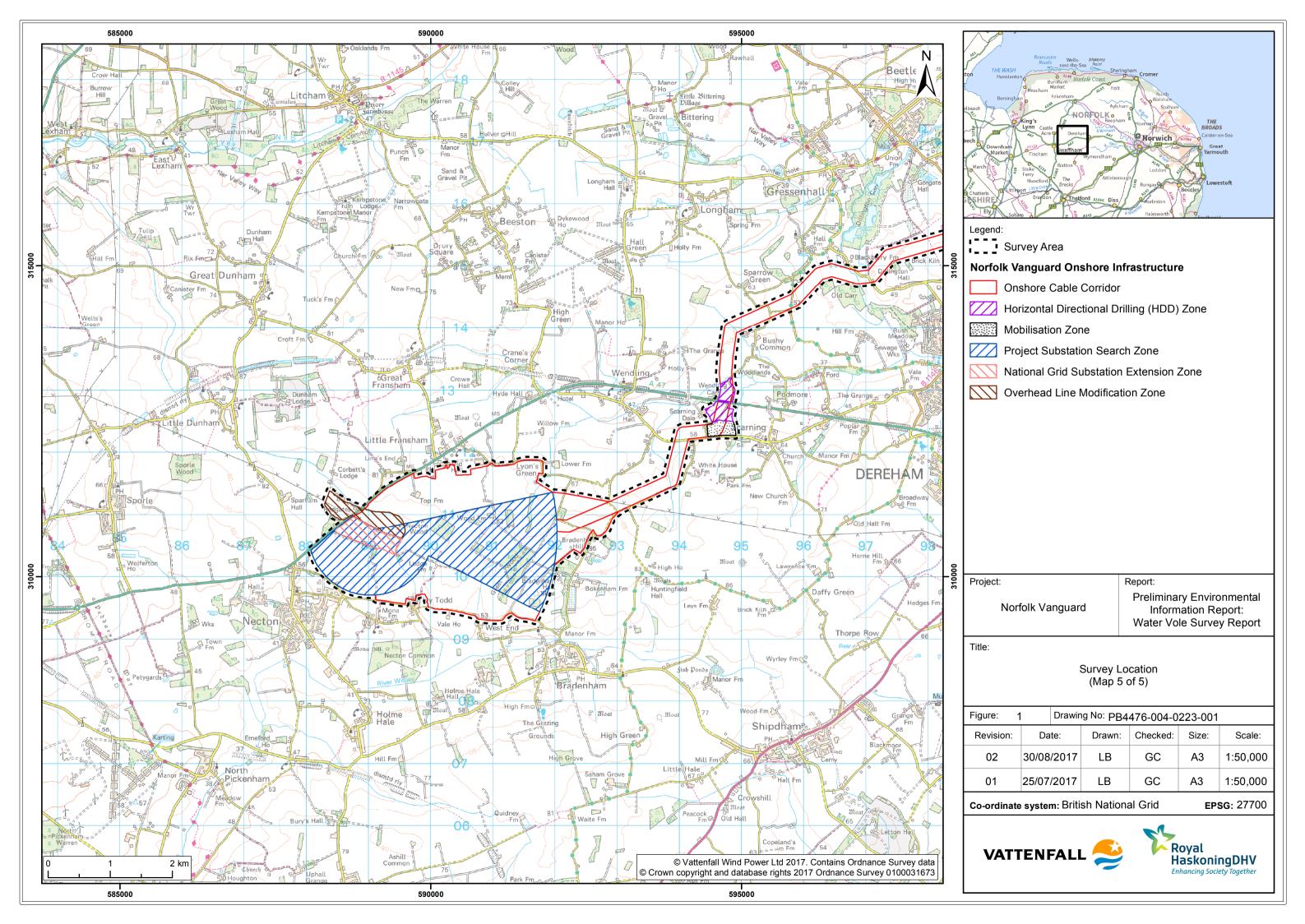
22.8 Annex A: Figures

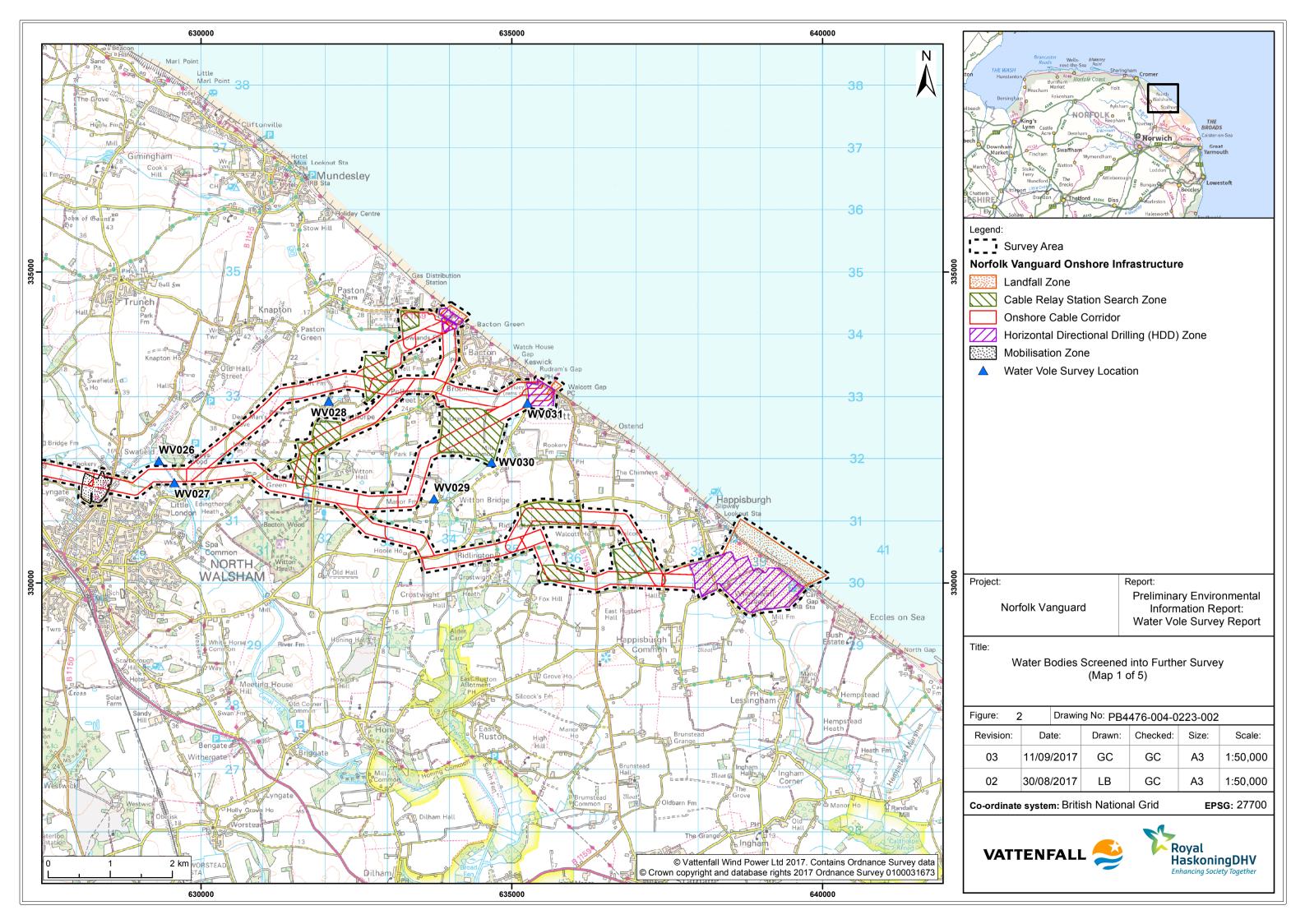


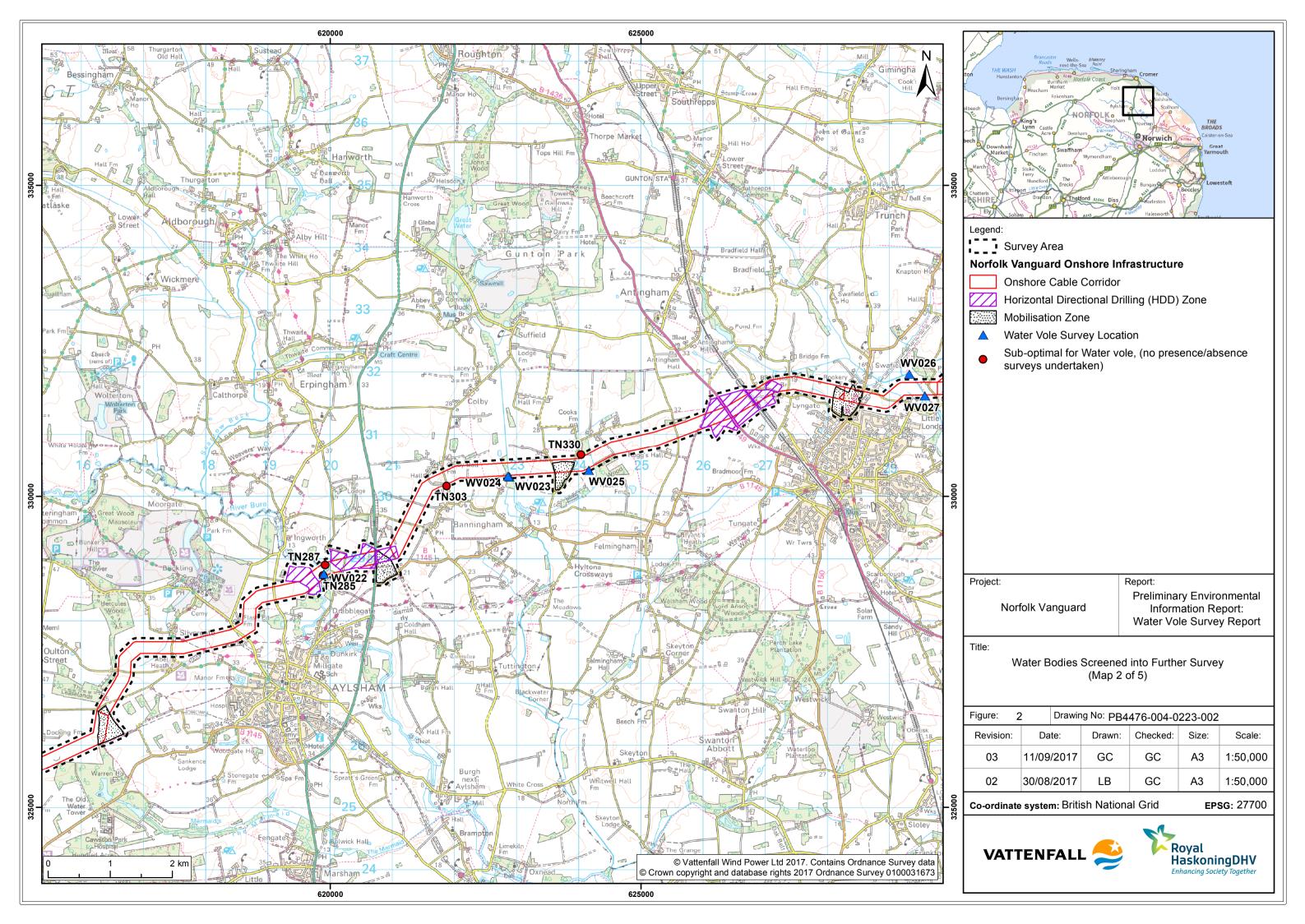


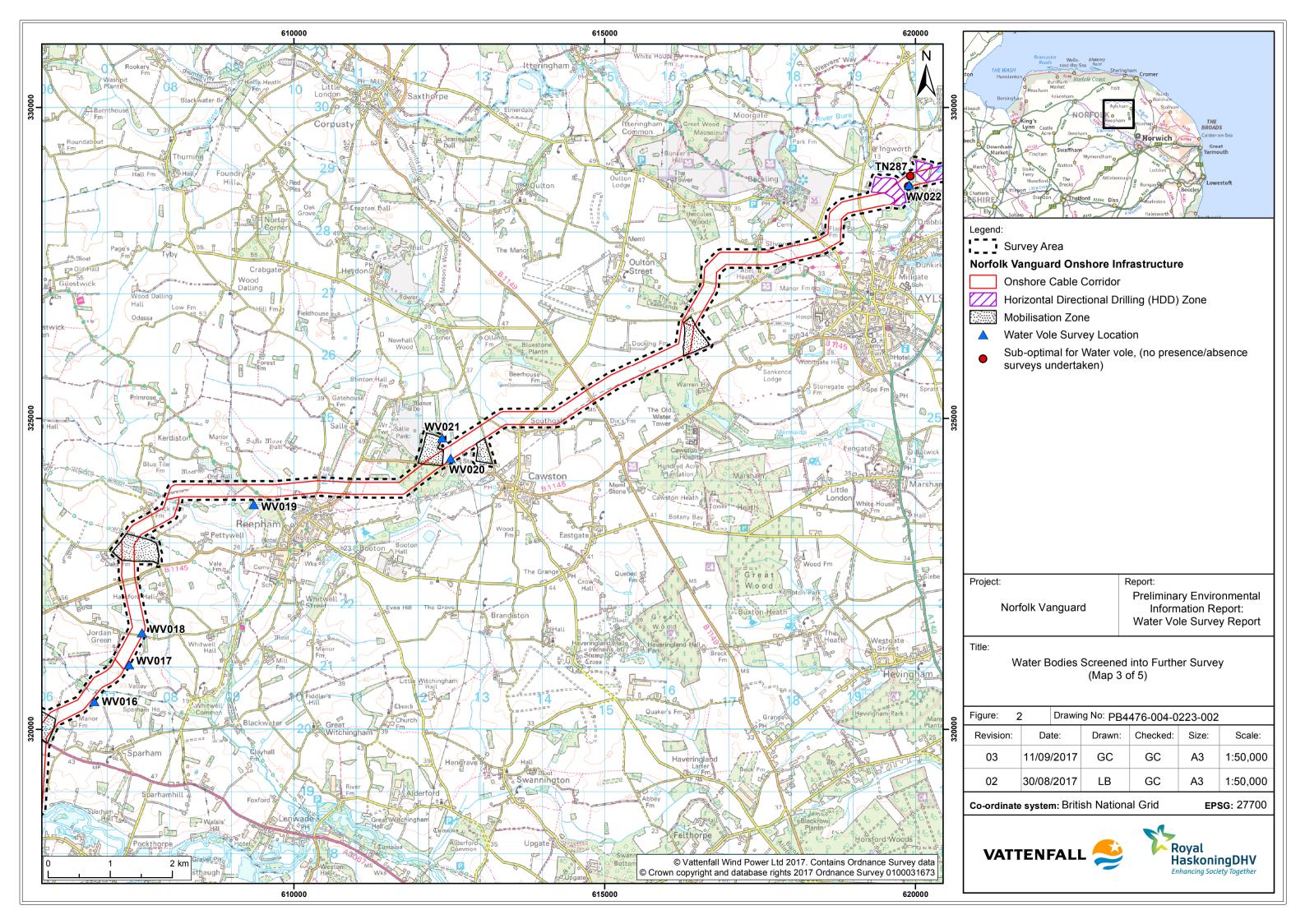


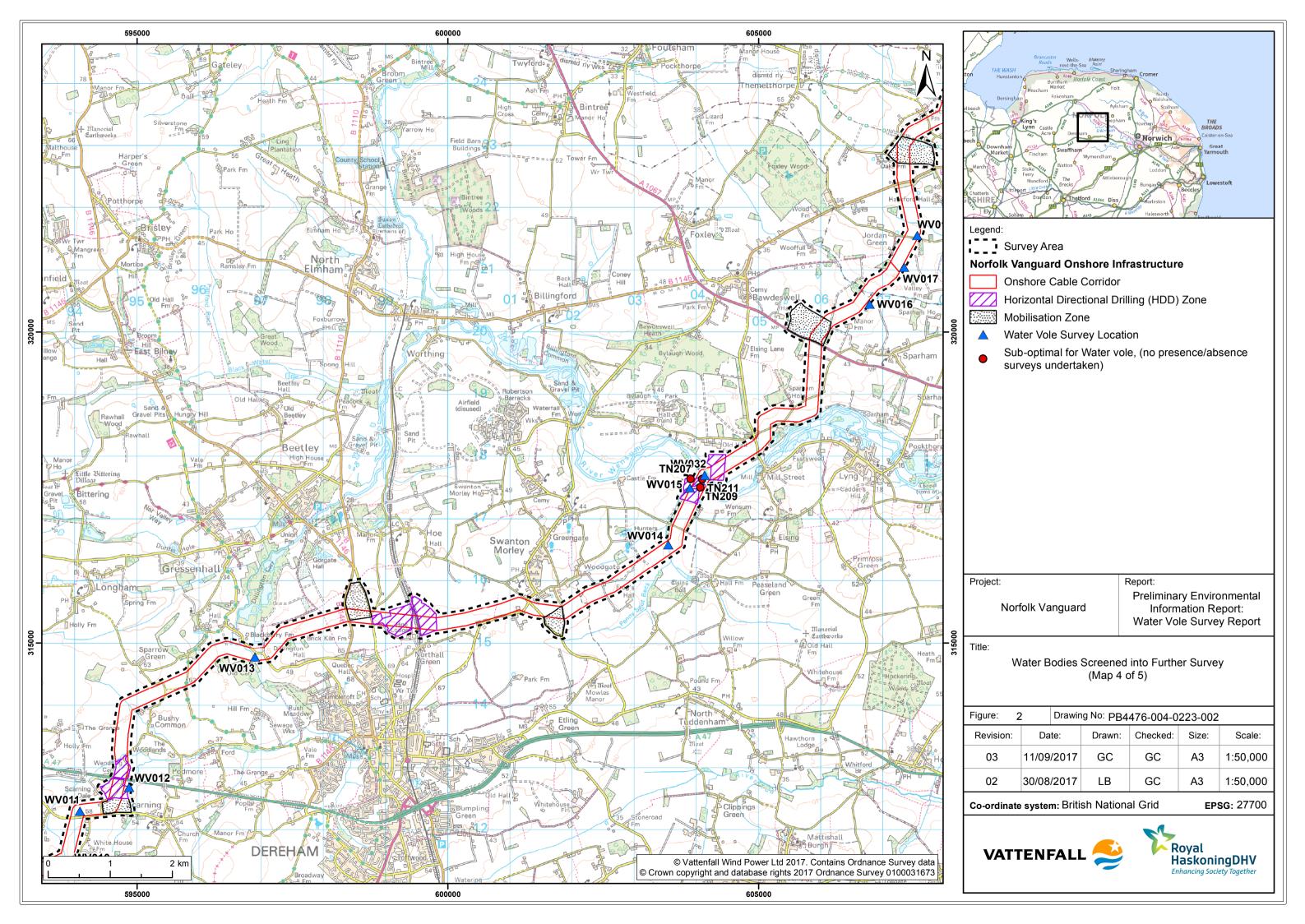


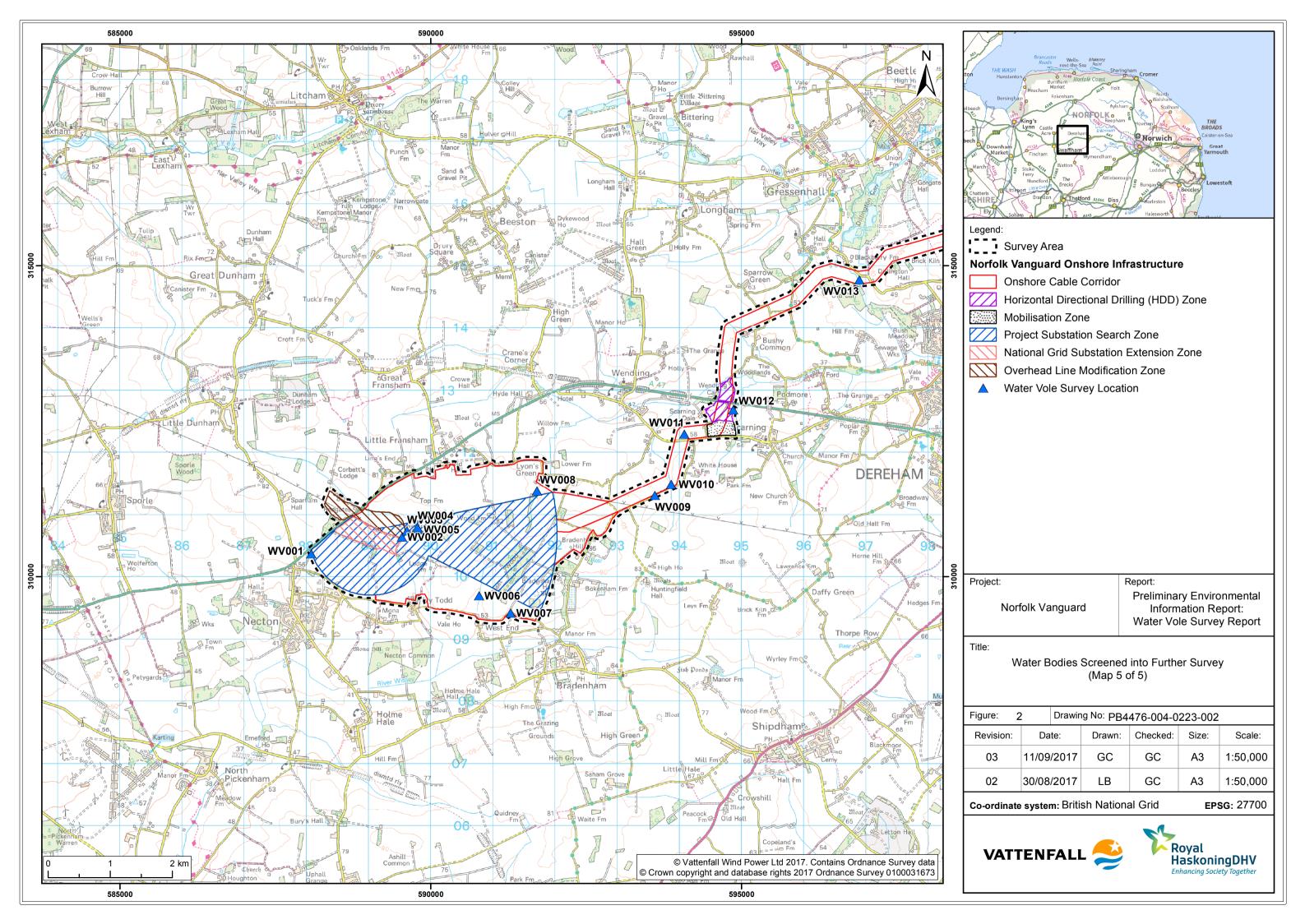


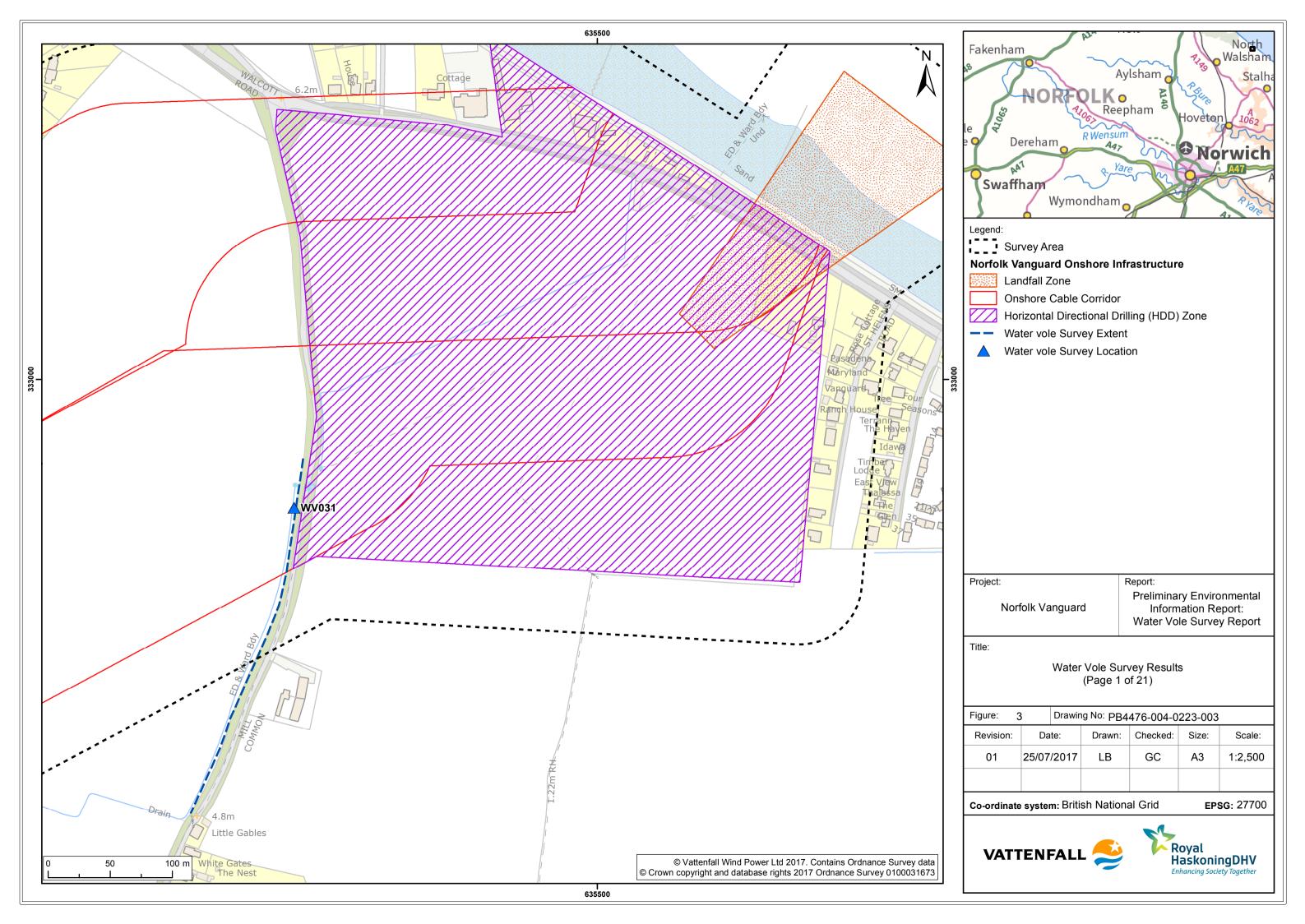


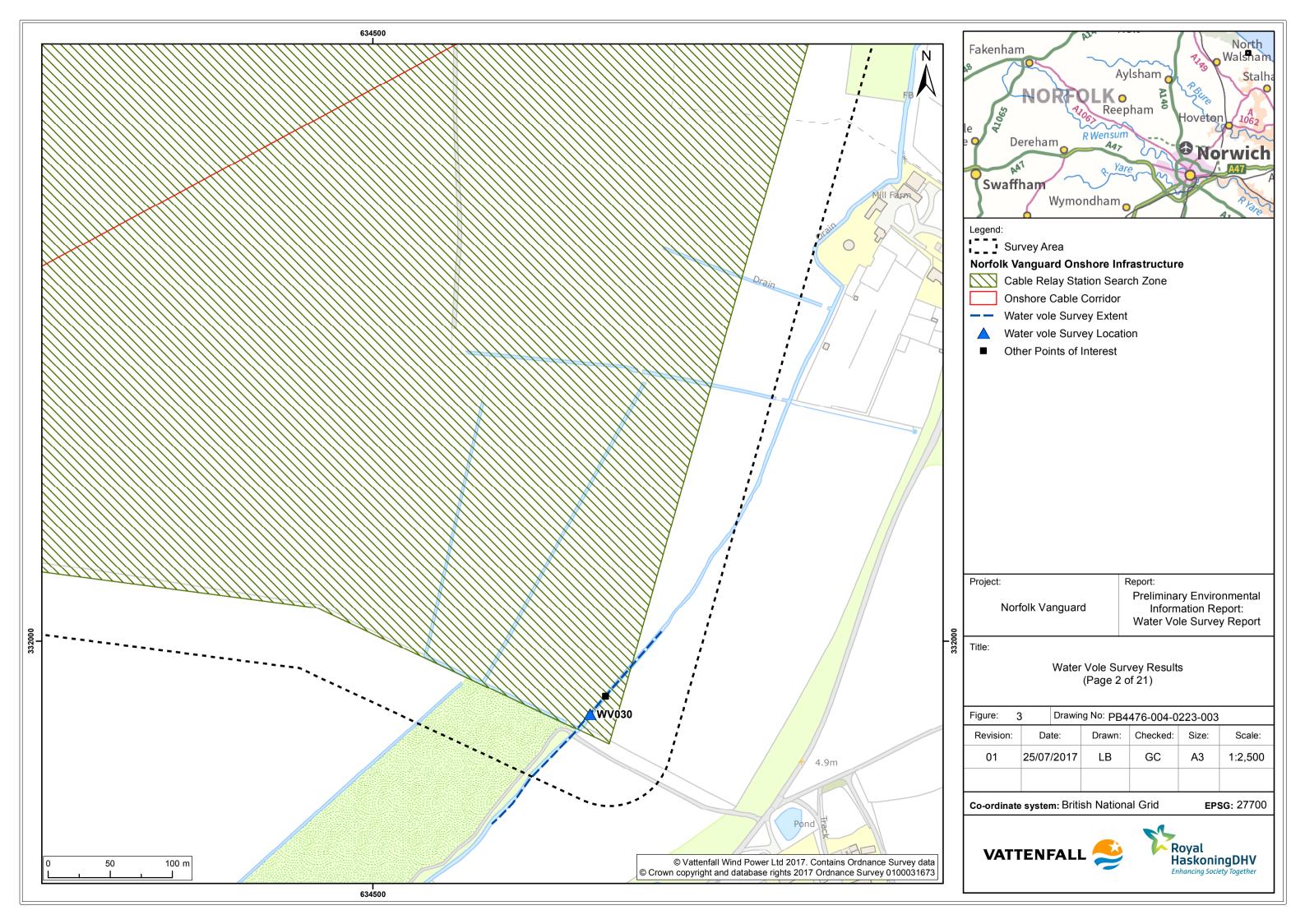


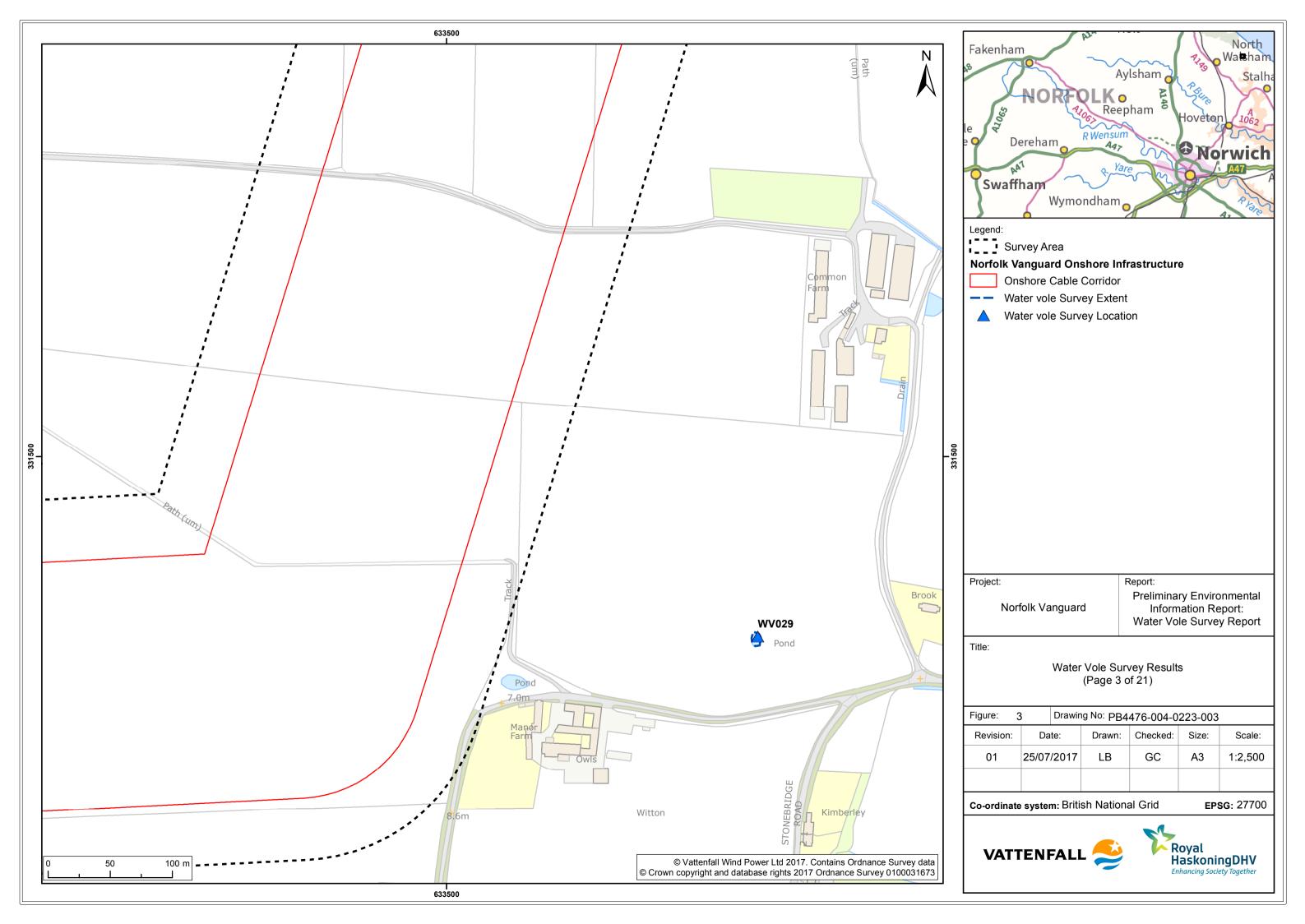


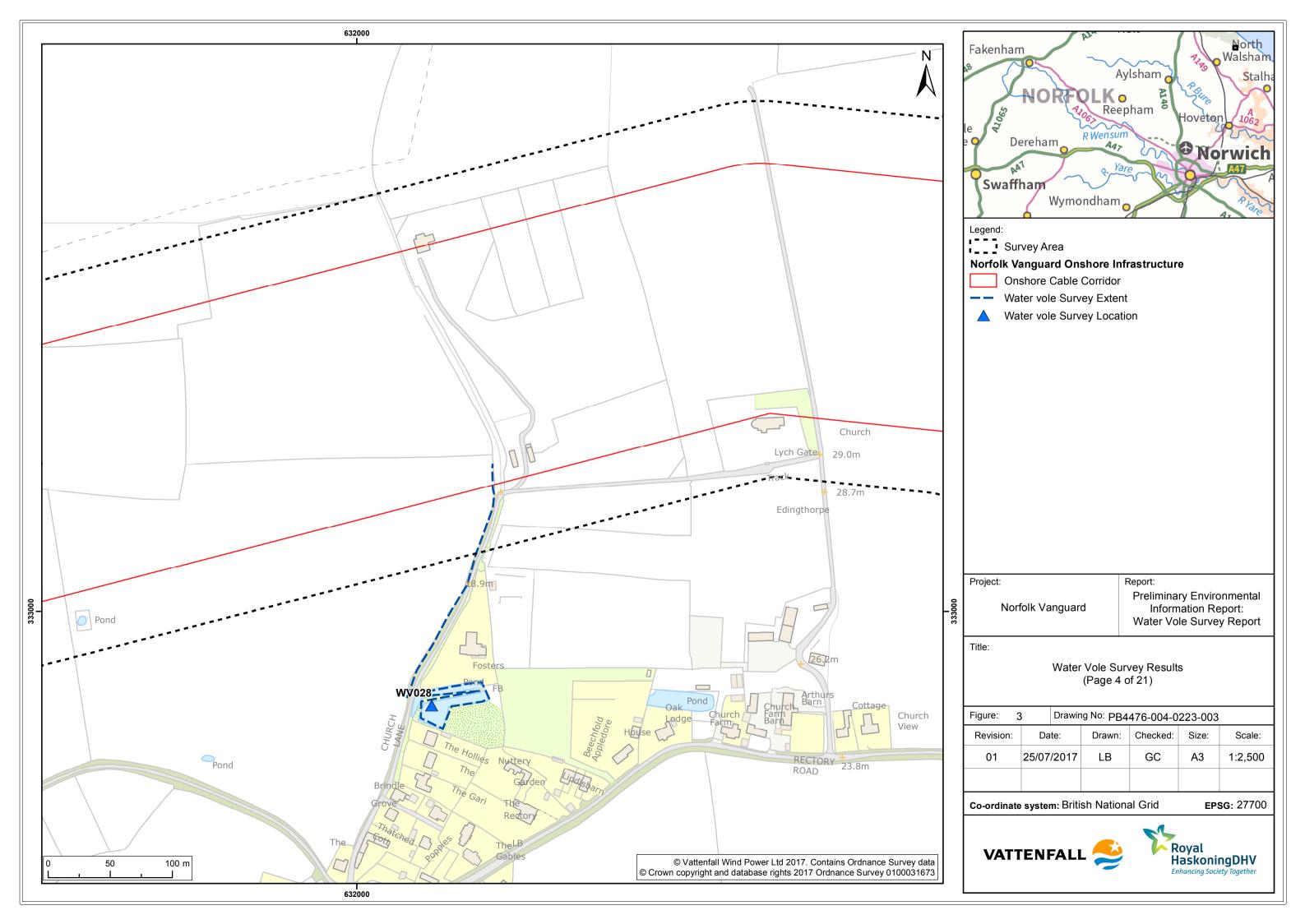


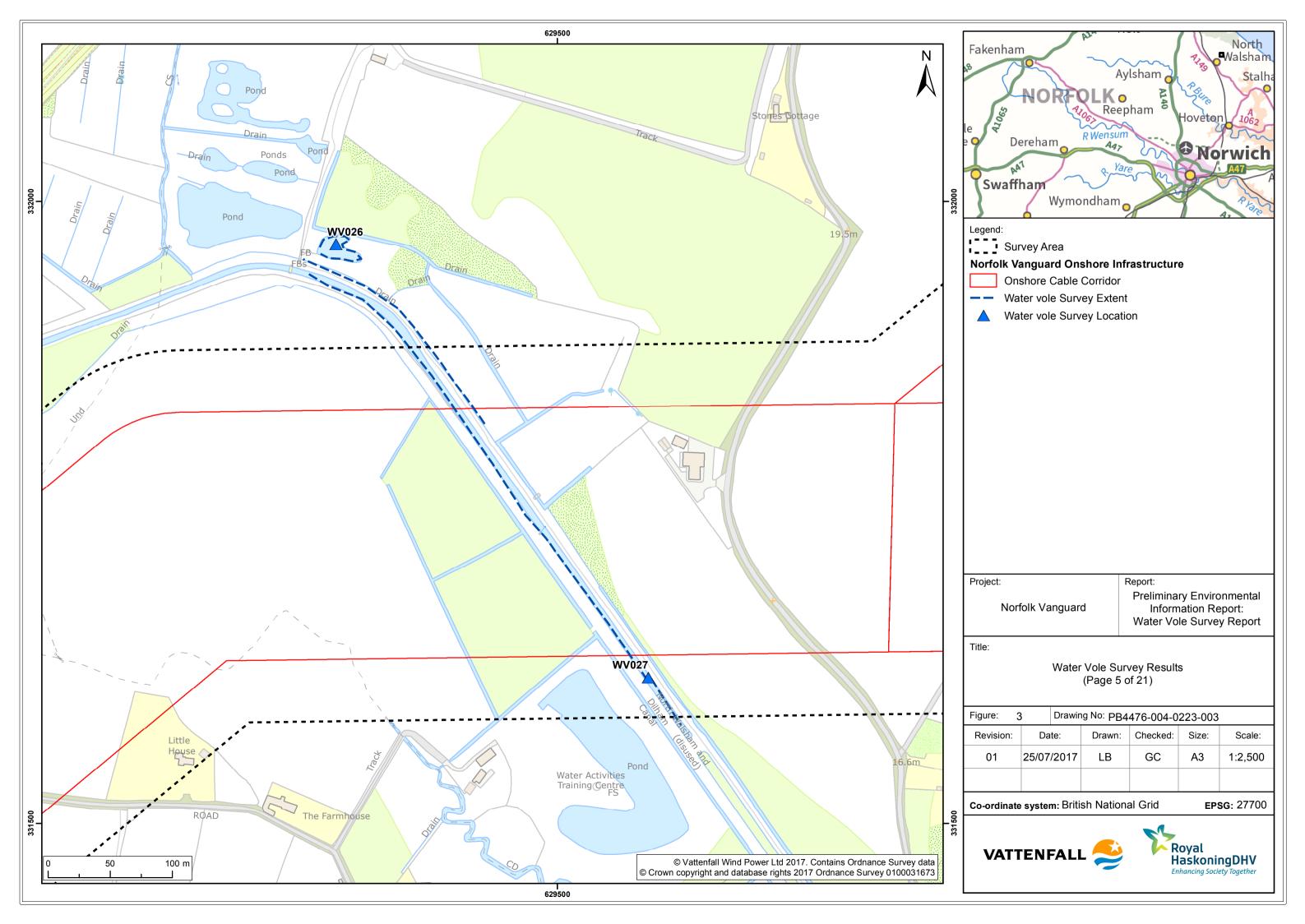


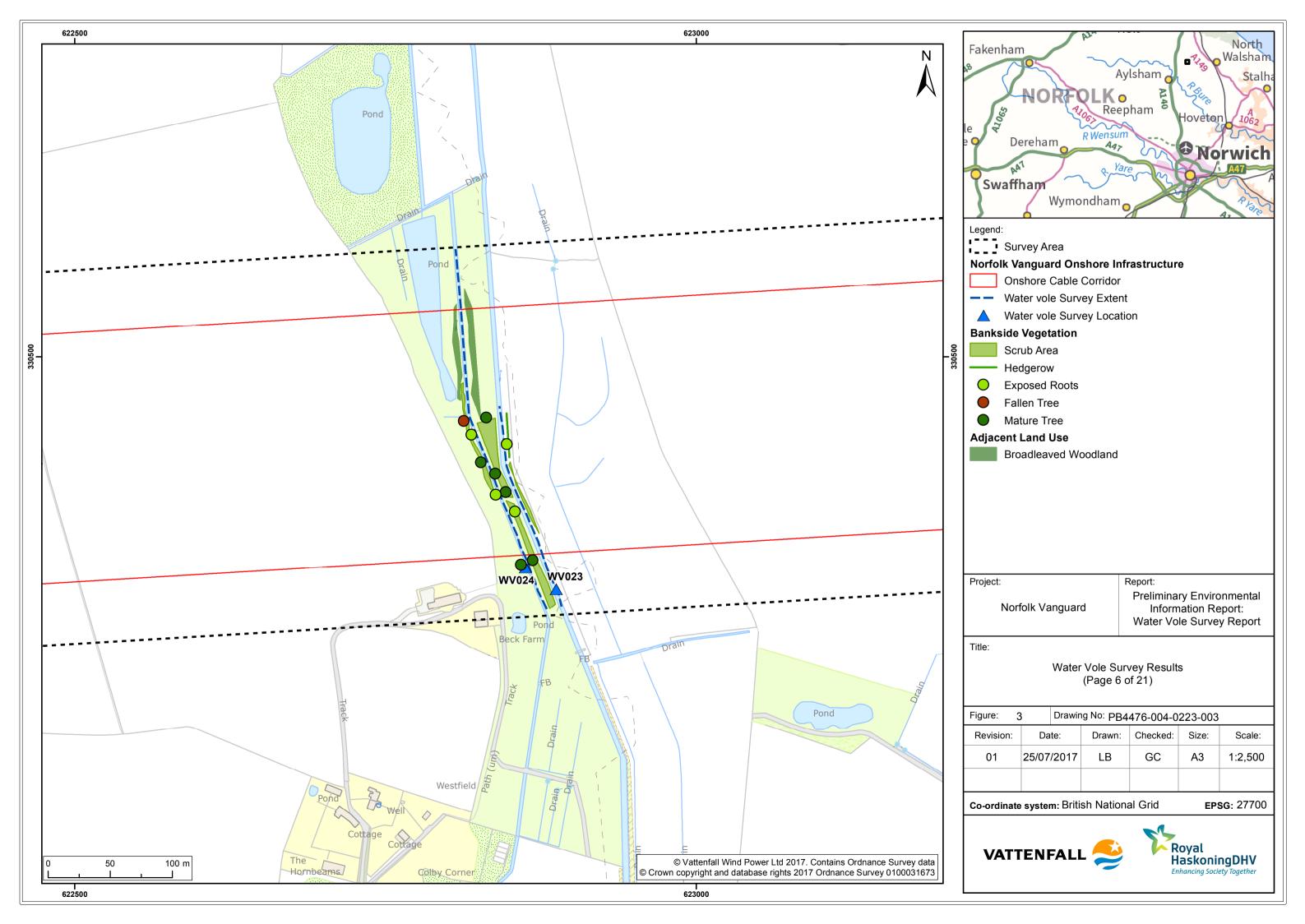


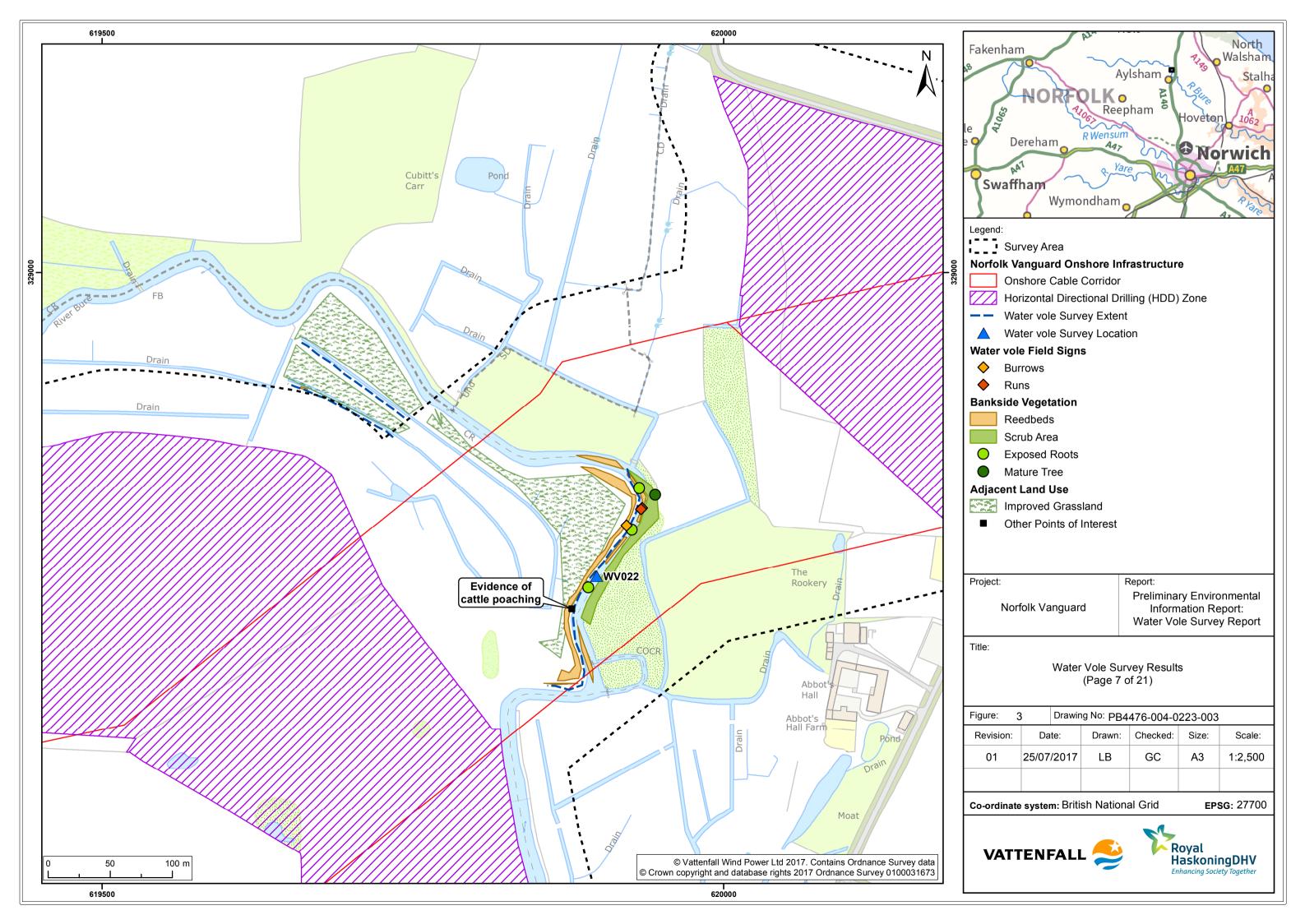


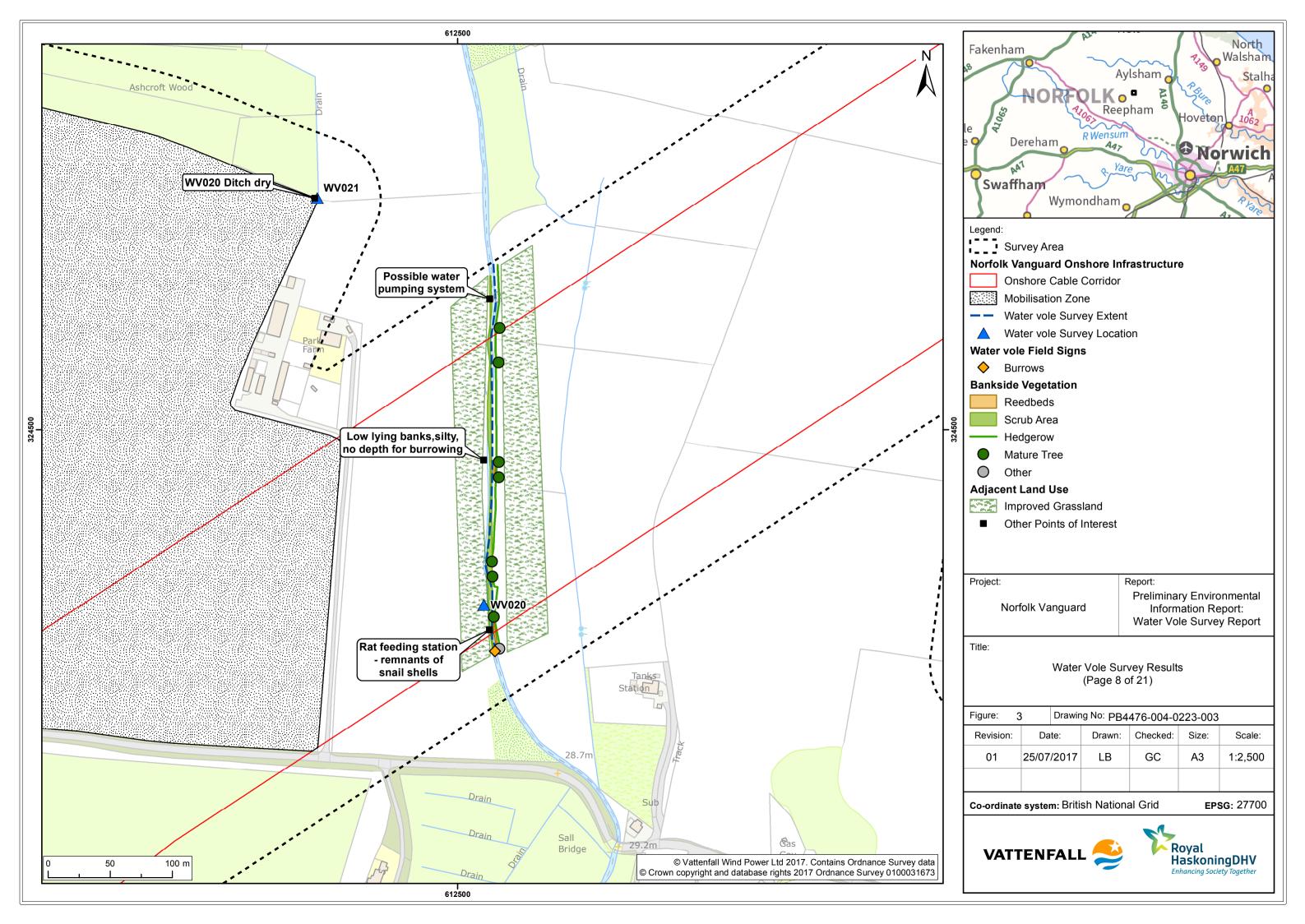


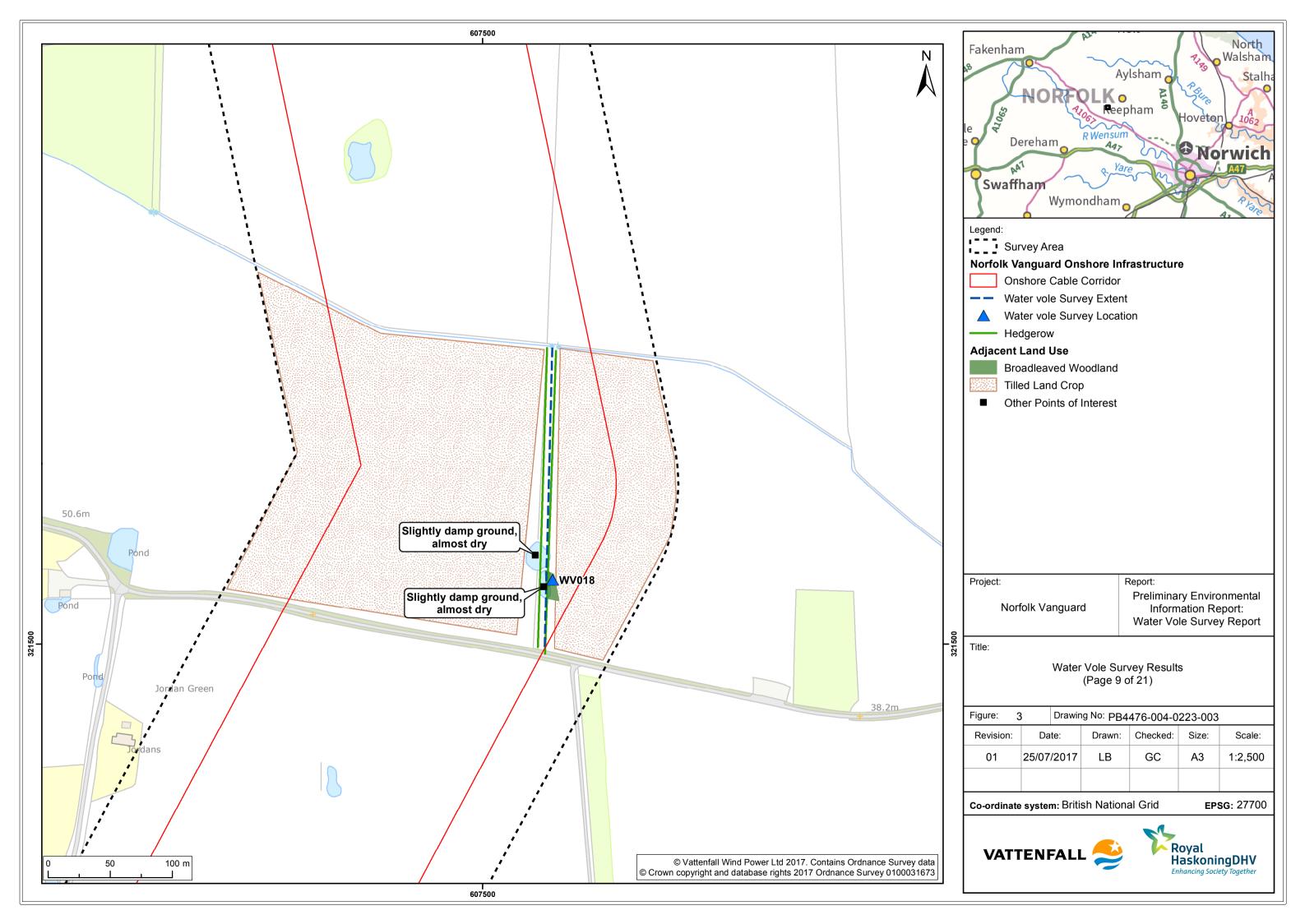


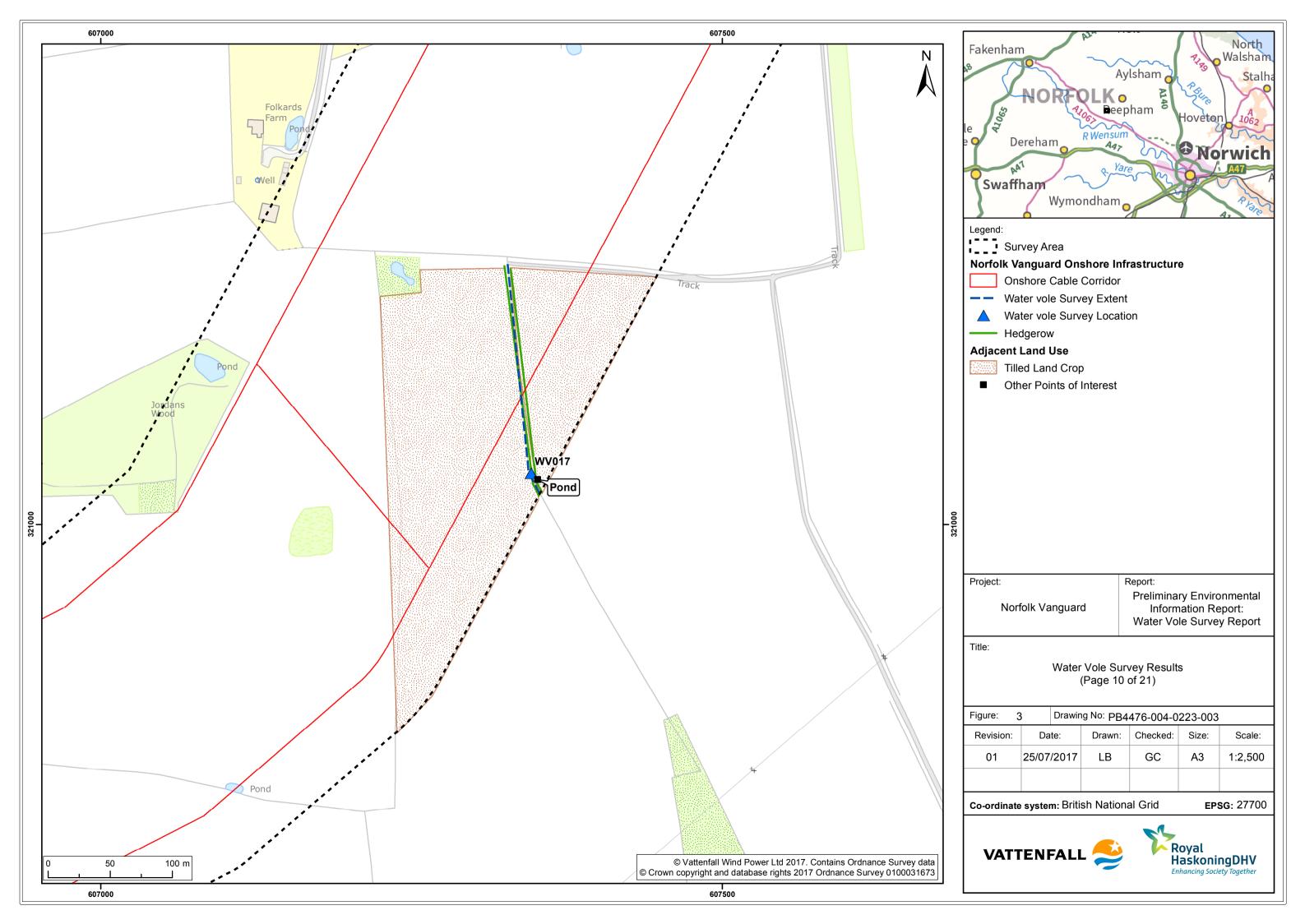


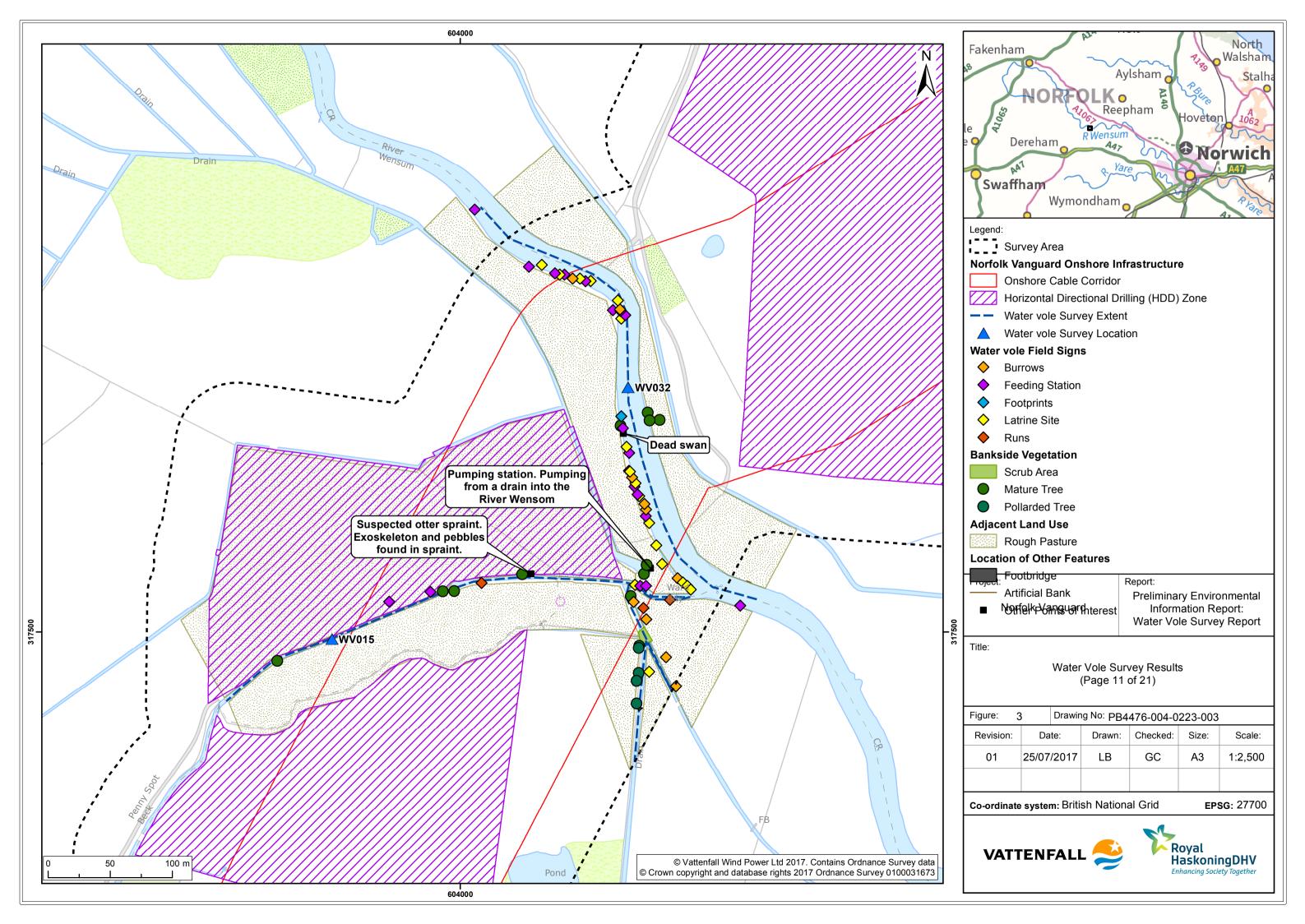


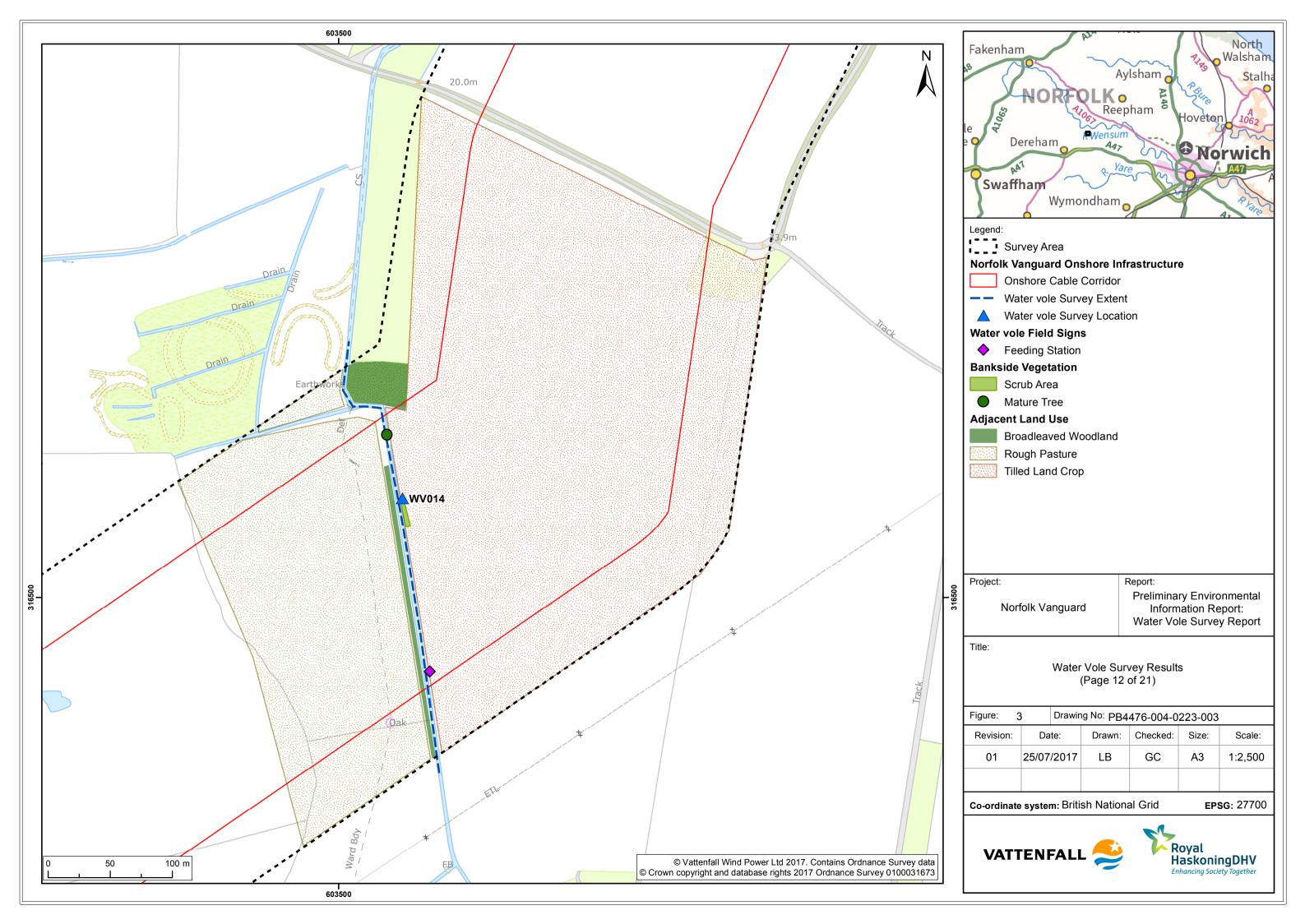


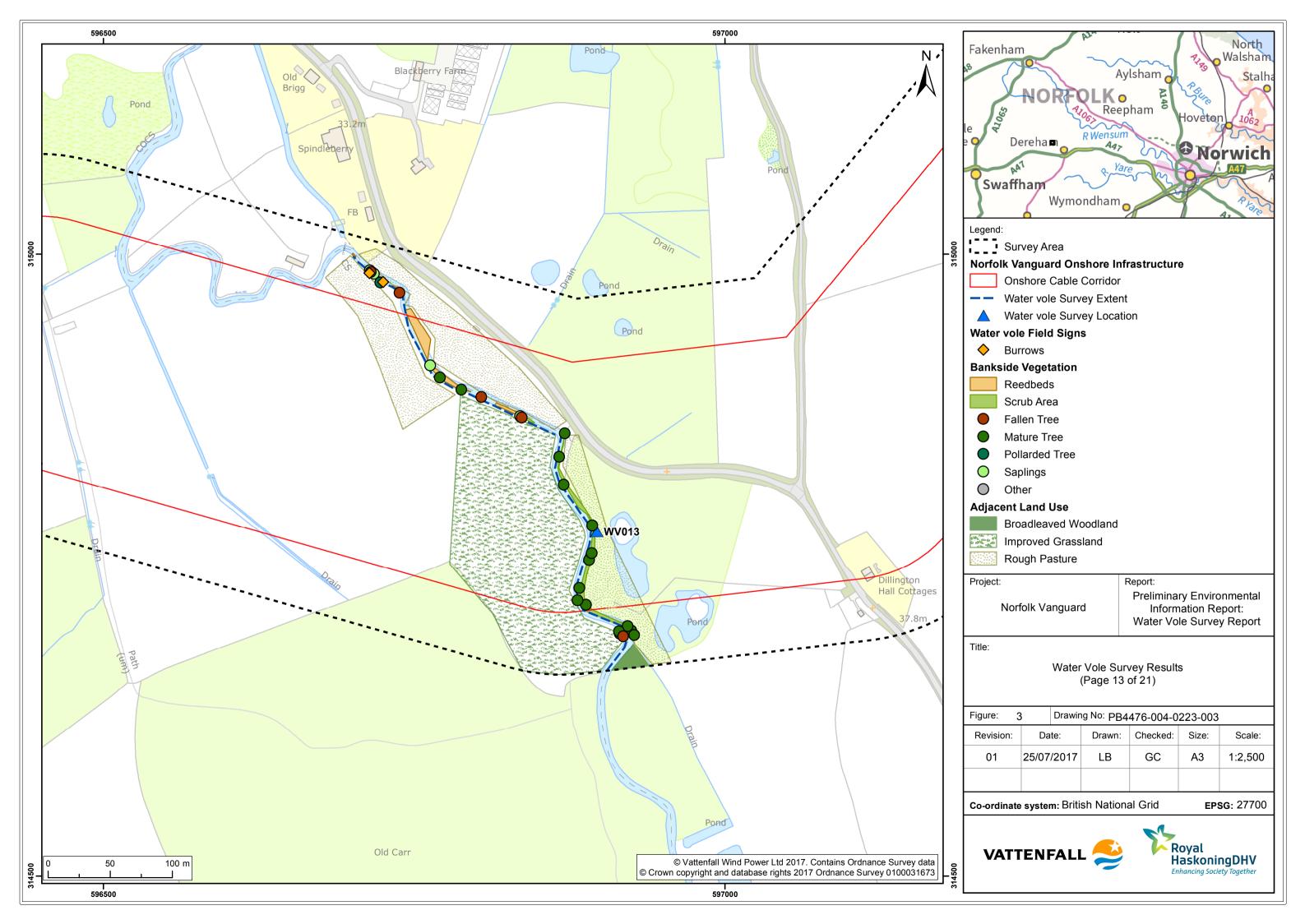


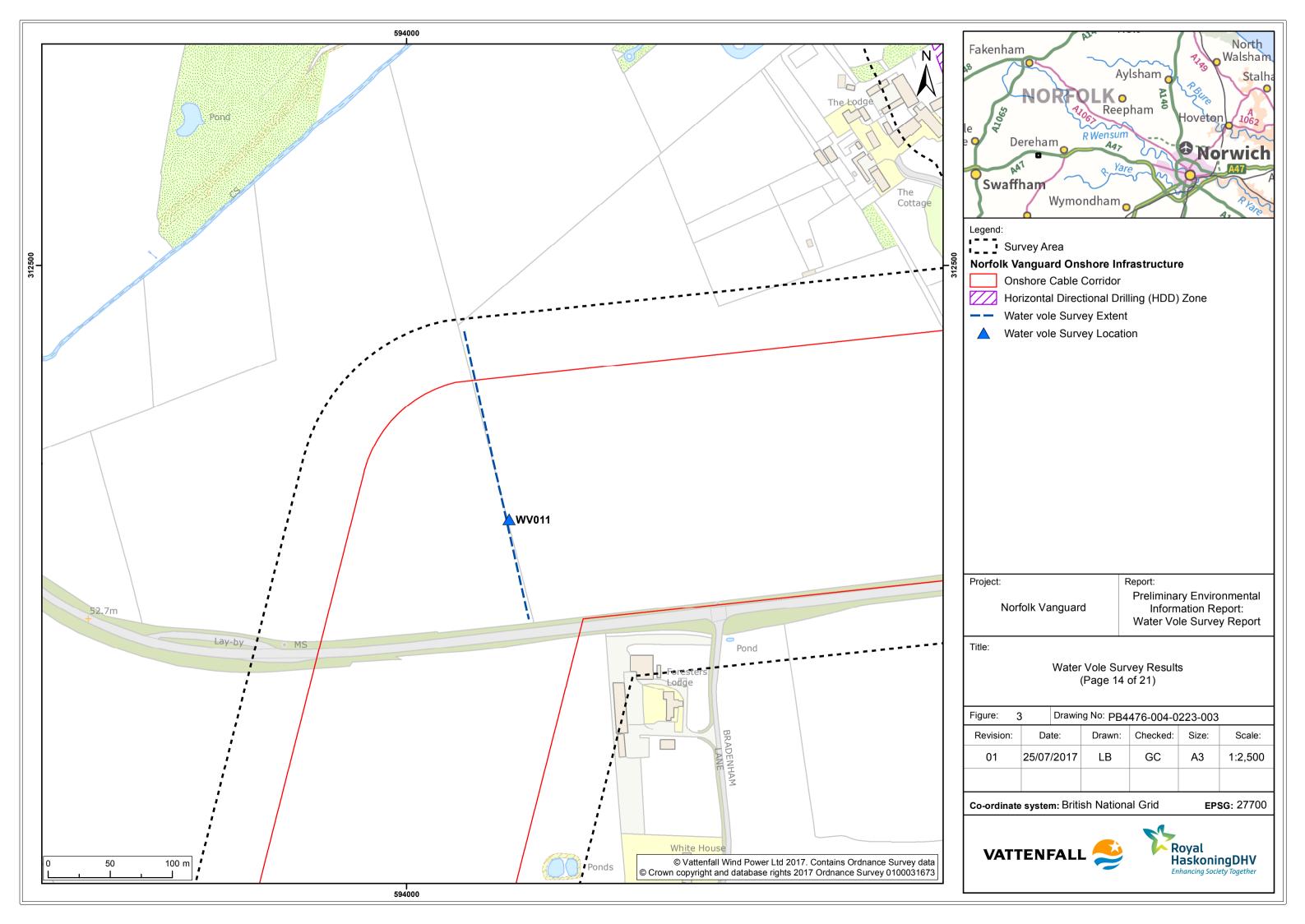


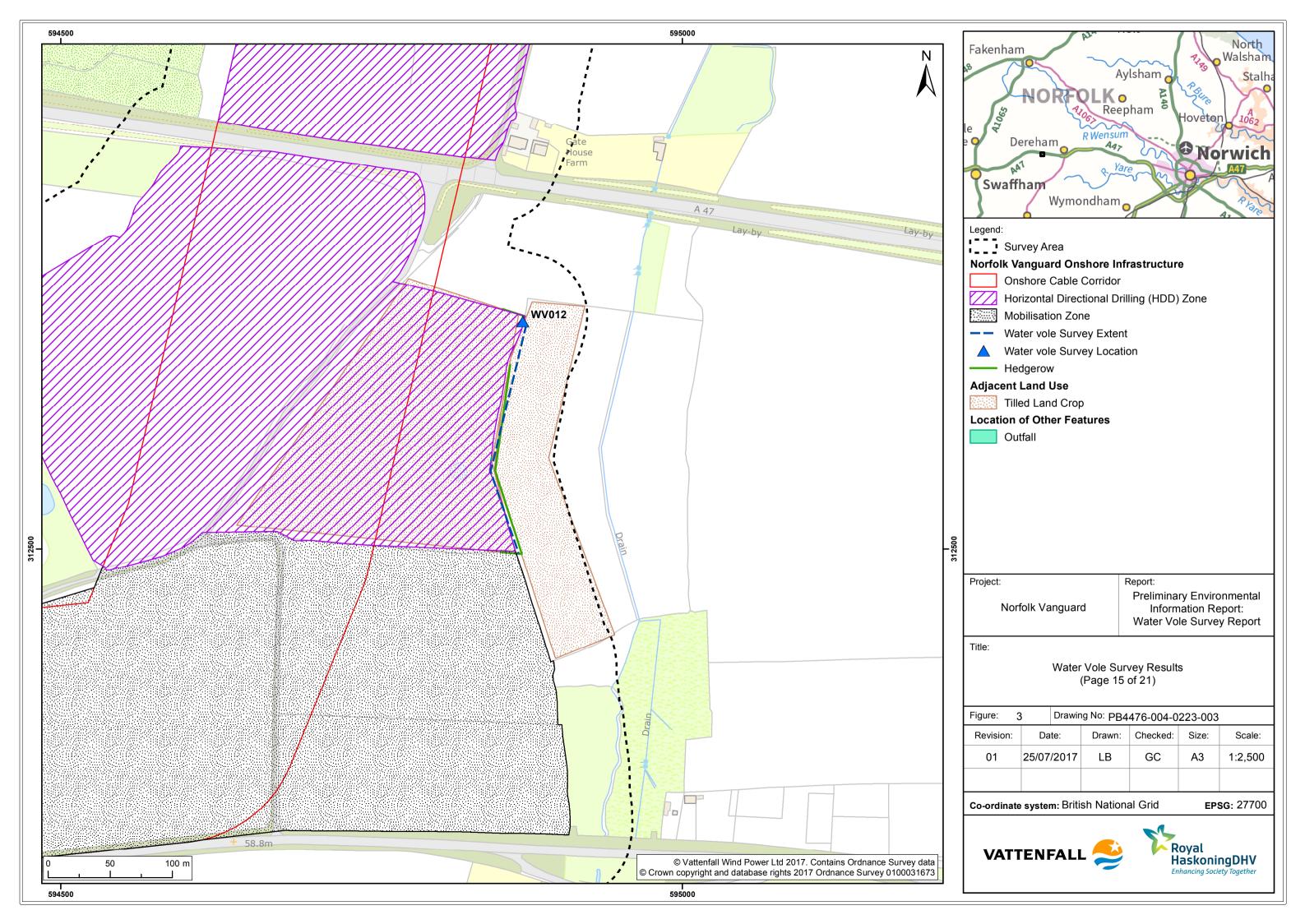


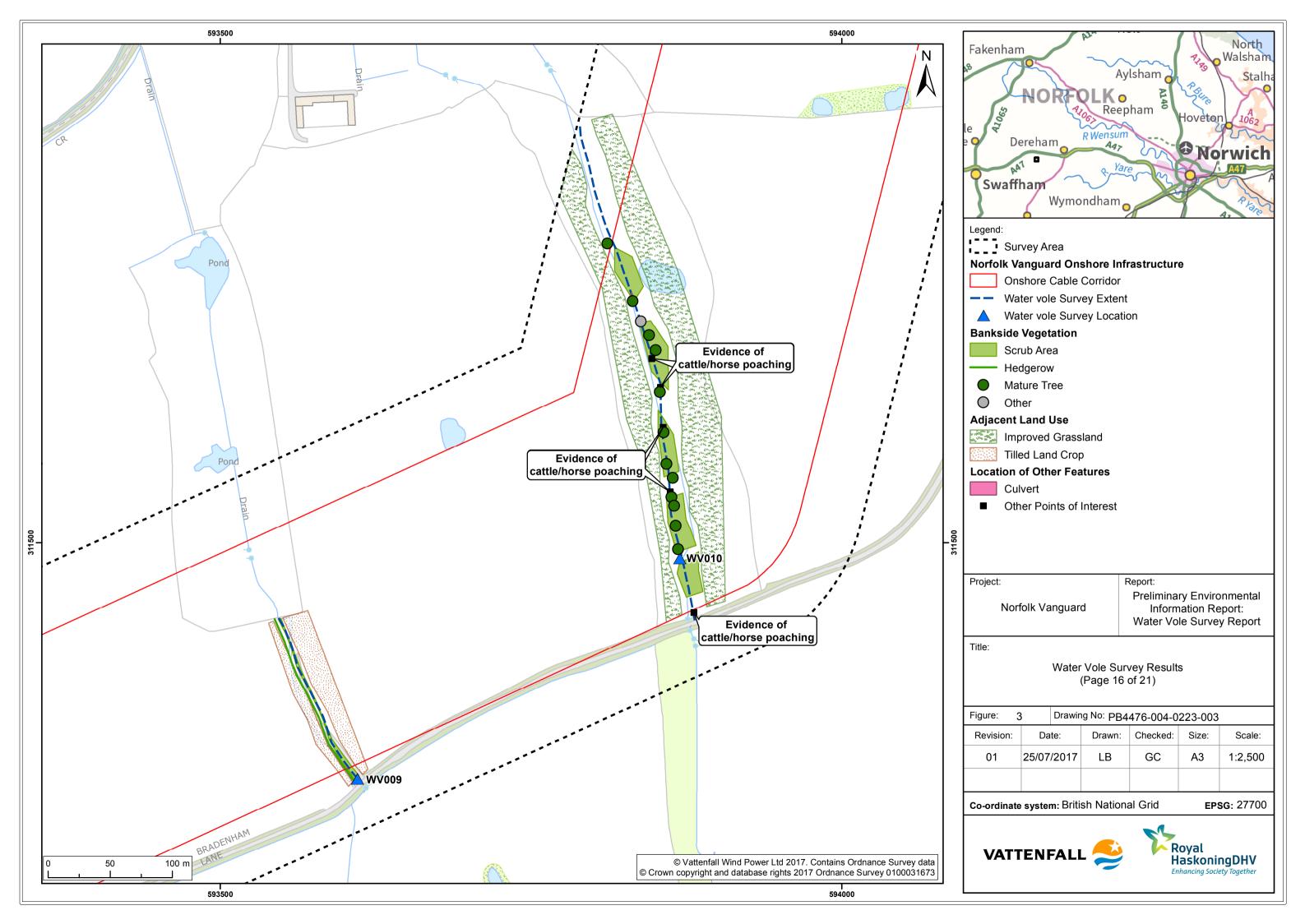


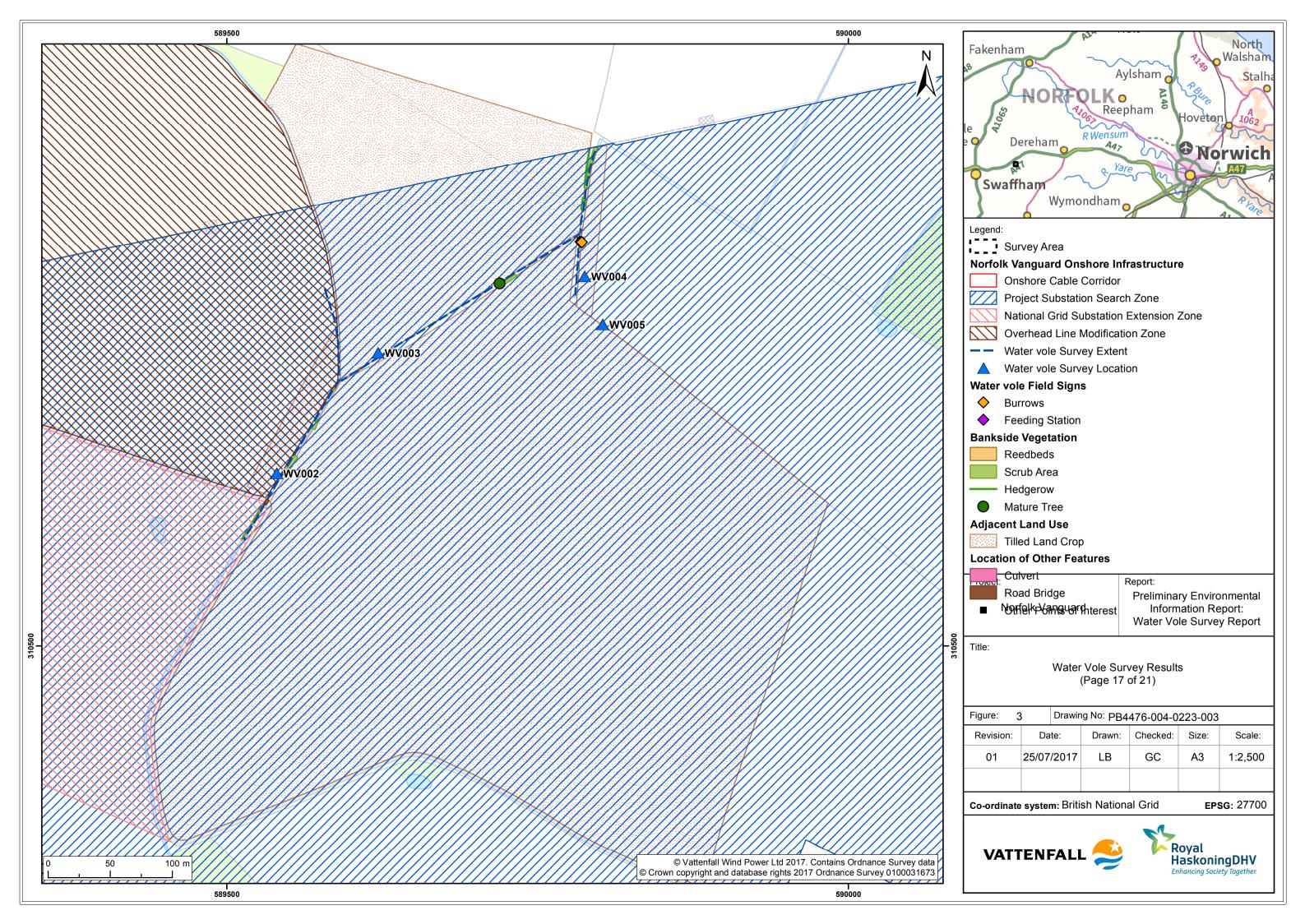


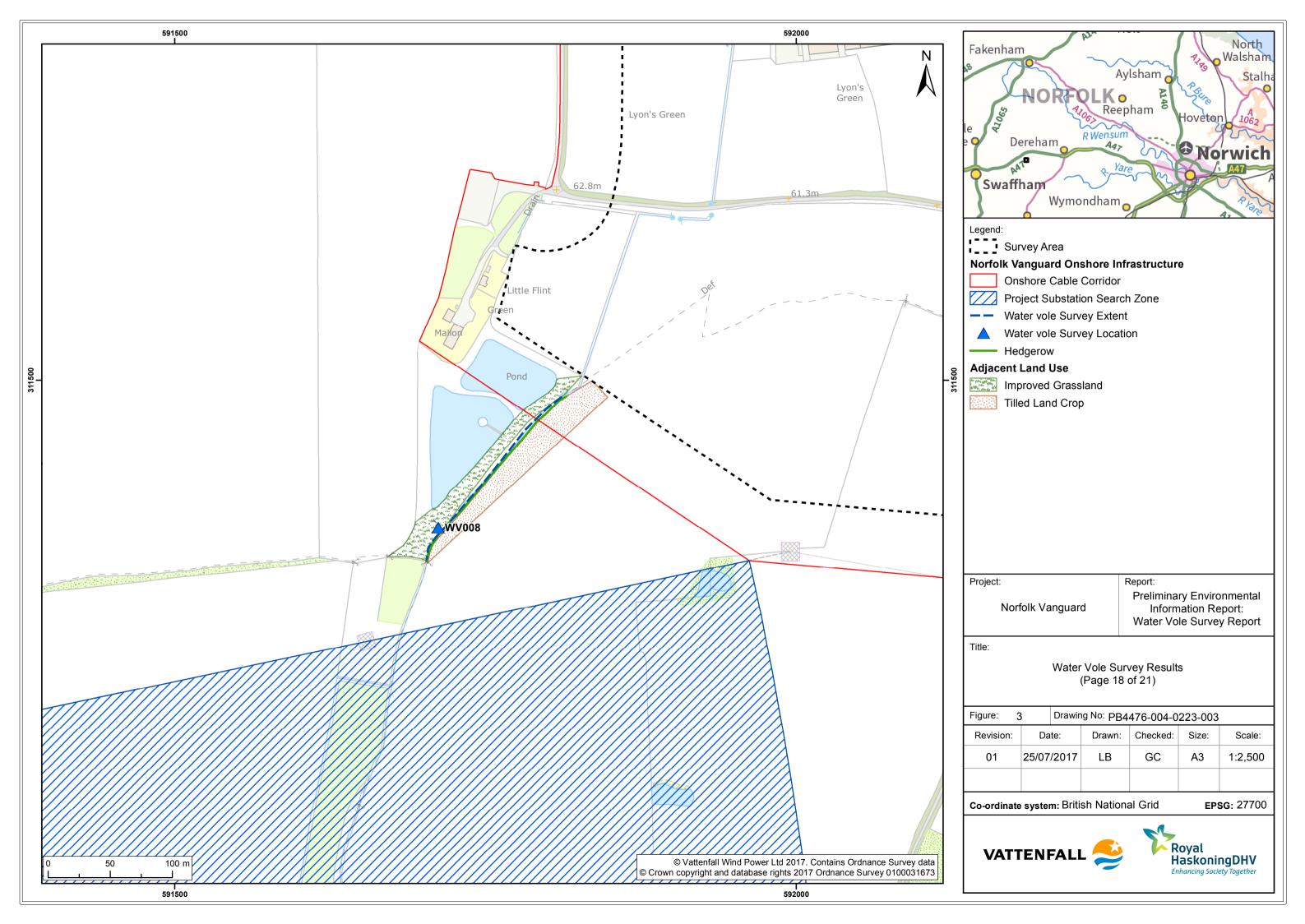


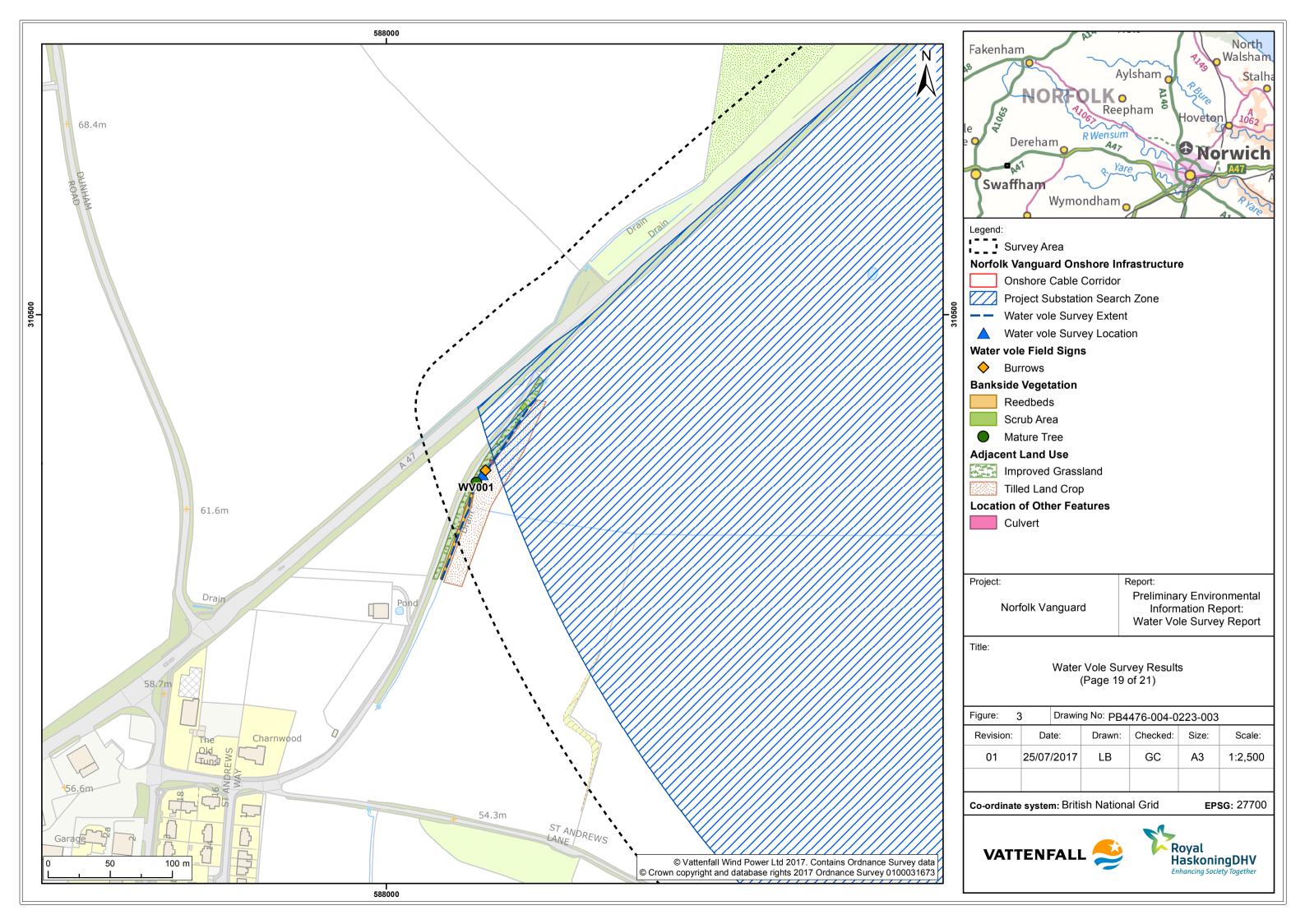


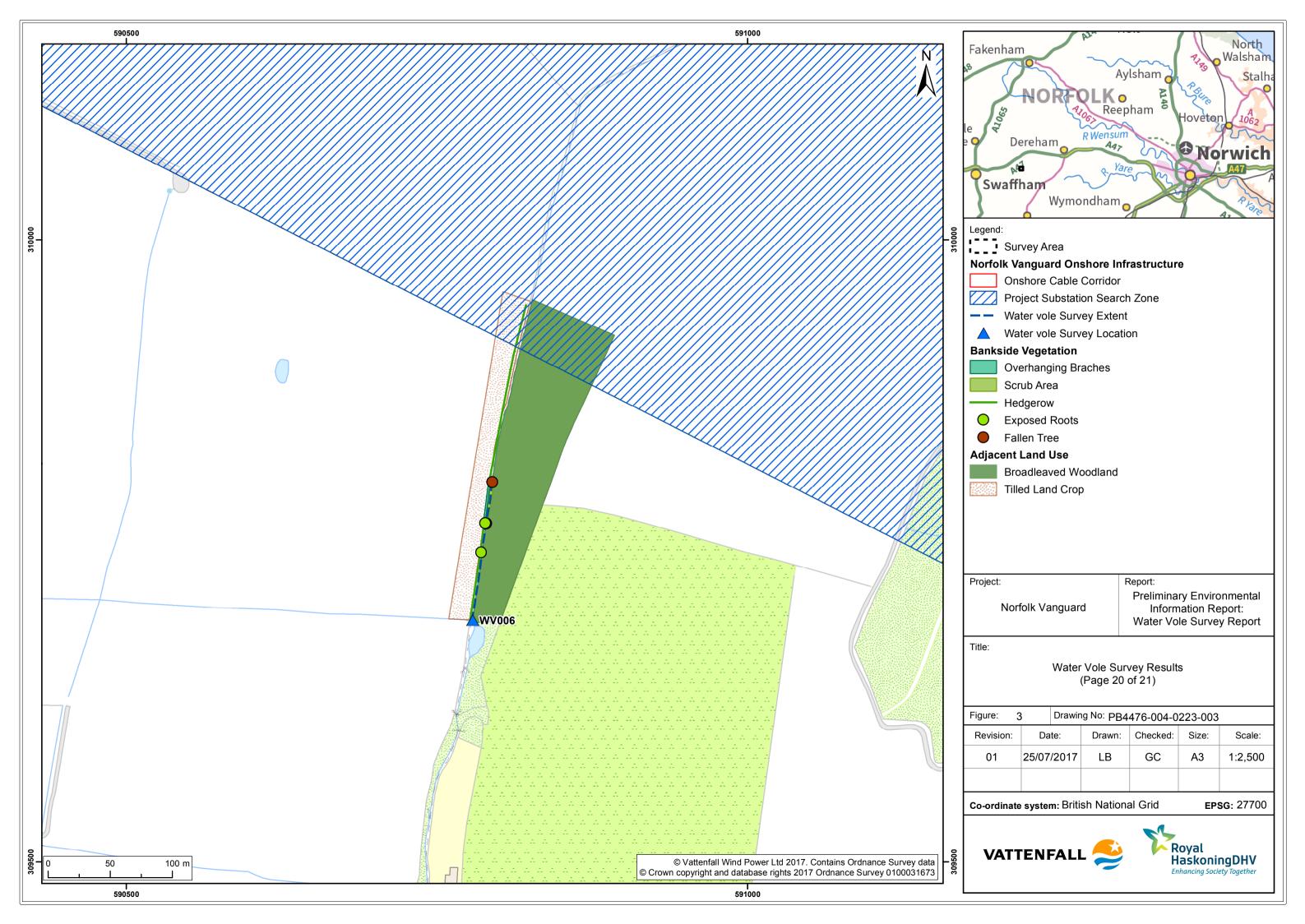


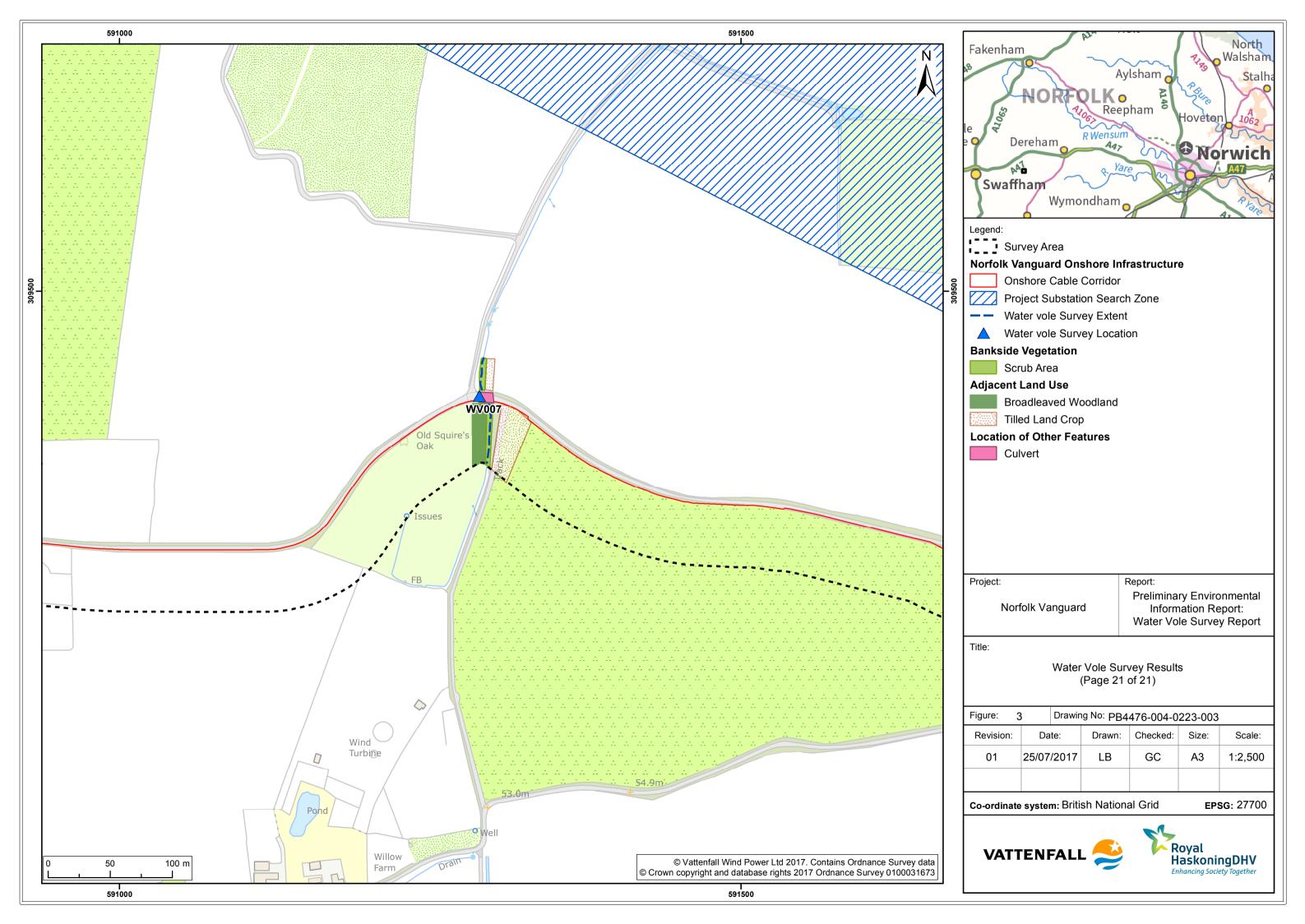
















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22.9 Annex B: Full Water Vole Survey Results

Table 22.6 shows the full watercourse assessment results for all watercourses surveyed.

Table 2	2.6 Ful	ll Wa	ter Vole	Survey re	esults																							
Watercourse	Surveyors	Date	Weather	Waterbody Type	Bank Composition	Land Use	Bankside trees	Bushes	Herbs Submerged weed	Reeds/sedges	Tall grass	Disturbance	Bank profile	Depth	Width	Current	Latrines	Burrows	Sightings	Footprints	Pathways	Feedings remains	Lawns	Rat field signs	Otter field signs	Mink field signs	Survey distance (km)	Additional comments
WV01	CC/ CG	17/05/17	Wet, humid warm (18C)	Ditch, running water	Earth	Arable crop, upland grass	Rare	Rare	Occasional	Rare	Frequent		Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Fast	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Burrow in bank, no other field sings
WV02	cc/ cg	17/05/17	Wet, humid warm (18C)	Ditch	Earth, silt, sand	Arable crop	Rare	Occasional	Occasional Rare	Rare	Abundant		Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Slow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WV03	cc/	17/05/17	Wet, humid warm (18C)	Ditch	Earth, silt, sand	Arable crop	Rare	Occasional	Occasional Rare	Rare	Abundant		Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Slow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WV04	CC/ CG	17/05/17	Wet, humid warm (18C)	Ditch	Earth, silt	Arable crop	Occasional	Occasional	Rare	Rare	Frequent		Steep > 450	w <u>2</u> .0 >	1-2m	Fast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0		Ditch mostly overgrown, most areas inaccessible. Runs observed in bank side, too large for water vole; rat feeding remains also observed
WV05	cc/ cg	17/05/17	Dry, fine warm (22C)	Ditch	Earth, silt	Arable crop	Occasional	Occasional	Rare Occasional	Rare	Frequent		Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Fast	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WV06	CC/ CG	17/05/17	Dry, fine warm (22C)	Running water	Earth, silt, sand, gravel	Arable crop, mixed broadleaf woodland	Dominant	Occasional	Rare	Rare	Rare		Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Fast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Ditch running through woodland. Mostly overgrown, overhanging branches and dense scrub. Mostly inaccessible. Low water levels (c5cm), rocky banks and substrate, limited burrowing opportunity
WV07	CC/ CG	17/05/17	Dry, fine warm (22C)	Running water	Earth, silt, sand, gravel	Arable crop, mixed broadleaf woodland	Dominant	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare	P 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	Vertical/un dercut	< 0.5m	1-2m	Fast												Mostly dry with sections of standing water. Mostly inaccessible due to dense scrub along banks, no survey undertaken.
WV08	CC/ CG	17/05/17	Dry, fine warm (22C)	Ditch	Earth, silt	Arable crop	Rare	Dominant	Frequent	Occasional	Rare	To a control of the c	Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Fast												Dry in patches on both sides of the road culvert, dense vegetation, access difficult, no survey undertaken.
WV09	CC/ CG	17/05/17	Dry, fine warm (22C)	Ditch, running water	Earth, silt, sand, gravel	Arable crop	Dominant	Abundant	Frequent	Rare	Abundant	on the state of th	Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Fast												Dry ditch, no survey undertaken.





Watercourse	Surveyors	Date	Weather	Waterbody Type	Bank Composition	Land Use	Bankside trees	Bushes	Herbs Submerged weed	Reeds/sedges	Tall grass	Disturbance	Bank profile	Depth	Width	Current	Latrines	Burrows	Sightings	Footprints	Pathways	Feedings remains	Lawns	Rat field signs	Otter field signs	Mink field signs	Survey distance (km)	Additional comments
WV10	CC/ CG	17/05/17	Dry, fine warm (22C)	Ditch, running water	Earth, silt, poach ed	Arable crop, upland grass	Abundant	Dominant	Frequent	Rare	Frequent		Shallow < 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Fast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WV11	GC / TC	17/05/2017	Damp, humid warm (20C)	Ditch, running water	Earth	Upland grass	Rare	Rare	Rare Frequent	Rare	Abundant		Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Fast												Ditch now fully dry and not suitable for WV. No detailed survey undertaken.
WV12	GC / TC	17/05/2017	Damp, humid warm (20C)	Ditch	Earth	Arable crop	Occasional	Occasional	Occasional Frequent	Rare	Abundant	Maintained ditch. No evidence of maintenance in last 5 years	Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Static	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Water level very low at time of survey (approx less than 5cm). Not all areas accessible for survey due to dense vegetation
WV13	CC / TC	20/06/2017	Damp, humid warm (20C)	Running water	Earth	Mixed broadleaf woodland, cattle/grazing	Abundant	Frequent	Frequent Rare	Rare	Occasional	Watercourse adjacent to area of cattle grazing. No evidence of poaching.	Steep > 450	1-2m	2-5m	Slow	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		No field signs observed, horse grazing in adjacent field, vegetation dense in places making watercourse difficult to access. 16/05/17 - water vole observed during newt survey at pond -157 near to watercourse.
WV14	GC/ TC	17/05/2017	Damp, humid warm (20C)	Running water	Earth	Arable crop, cattle/grazing, conifer wood	Abundant	Rare	Abundant Rare	Frequent	Frequent	Stock-proof fence between pastoral field and watercourse banks. No disturbance.	Shallow < 450	0.5-1m	1-2m	Slow	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		Dense woodland cover adjacent to watercourse. Some sections not fully accessible, but majority of watercourse is accessible
WV15	GC / TC	17/05/2017	Damp, humid warm (20C)	Running water	Earth	Permanent/tem porary grass, cattle/grazing	Rare	Rare	Occasional Occasional	Frequent	Frequent	Cattle poaching on left hand bank	Steep > 450	0.5-1m	1-2m	Slow	2	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0		Heavy rain on evening before survey may affect field signs
WV32	GC / TC	17/05/2017	Damp, humid warm (20C)	Running water	Earth	Permanent/tem porary grass, cattle/grazing	Occasional	Occasional	Frequent	Abundant	Abundant	Evidence of cattle poaching	Shallow < 450	2-5m	30m	Slow	15	5	0	1	0	14	0	2	0	0		Survey conducted from right hand bank
WV16				Running water	Earth	Permanent/tem porary grass, arable crop, mixed broadleaf woodland	Occasional	Rare	Frequent	Occasional	Frequent	Channel artificially straightened. Not within the last 5 years.	Steep > 450	0.5-1m	2-5m	Rapid												Not surveyed due to landowner restriction.





Watercourse	Surveyors	Date	Weather	Waterbody Type	Bank Composition	Land Use	Bankside trees	Bushes	Herbs Submerged weed	Reeds/sedges	Tall grass	Snort grass Disturbance	Bank profile	Depth	Width	Current	Latrines	Burrows	Sightings	Footprints	Pathways	Feedings remains	Lawns	Rat field signs	Otter field signs	Mink field signs	Survey distance (km)	Additional comments
WV17	GC/ TC	18/05/2017	Dry, clear warm (24C)	Running water	Earth	Mixed broadleaf woodland	Abundant	Occasional	Abundant Occasional	Rare	Frequent	Ditch managed, but no evidence of recent excavation. Subject to arable runoff.	Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Rapid												Drain is completely dry. No survey undertaken
WV18	GC/ TC	18/05/2017	Dry, clear warm (24C)	Ditch	Earth, silt, sand, gravel	Arable crop	Dominant	Frequent	Abundant Rare	Rare	Abundant	Abundant	Steep > 450	< 0.5m	2-5m	Fast												Ditch is completely dry. No survey undertaken
WV19	GC/ TC	18/05/2017	Dry, clear warm (24C)	Ditch	Earth, silt, sand	Arable crop, mixed broadleaf woodland	Dominant	Occasional	Frequent	Rare	Frequent	No No	Steep > 450	< 0.5m	2-5m	Fast												Ditch not present, small pond only. No surveys undertaken.
WV20	CC/ CoC	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Running water	Earth, silt, sand	Upland grass	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant Rare	Occasional	Dominant	Possible water abstraction in upper reaches	Shallow < 450	0.5-1m	5-10m	Fast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		Majority of watercourse surveyed from within, however large sections impenetrable due to dense vegetation.
WV21	CC/ CoC	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Ditch	Earth, silt, sand	Upland grass, mixed broadleaf woodland	Dominant	Rare	Frequent	Rare	Rare	Freduent	Shallow < 450	< 0.5m	2-5m	Static												Dry ditch, no survey
WV22	CC/ CoC	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Ditch	Earth	Mixed broadleaf woodland, cattle/grazing	Abundant	Rare	Occasional	Abundant	Frequent	requent	Steep > 450	0.5-1m	2-5m	Sluggish	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0		Surveyed from RHB only, water too deep and substrate too silty to access. Cows present in field on opposite bank. Runs spotted in vegetation, alongside areas of flattened grass at water's edge. Potentially caused by swans/geese observed in the area
WV33	CC/ TC	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Ditch	Earth	Cattle/grazing	Rare	Rare	Frequent Rare	Frequent	Frequent	Extensive poaching	Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Static												Ditches west of River Bure, not suitable for water vole. Cattle present, evidence of poaching, poor water quality, lack of in channel vegetation and minimal bank side vegetation diversity. No survey undertaken.
WV23	CC/ CoC	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Ditch, running water	Earth	Permanent/tem porary grass, mixed broadleaf woodland	Abundant	Rare	Frequent Occasional	Frequent	Frequent	No evidence of recent drain maintenance	Steep > 450	0.5-1m	1-2m	Slow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Majority of watercourse surveyed from banks, too steep to access in places. No WV evidence observed, water quality is poor.





Watercourse	Surveyors	Date	Weather	Waterbody Type	Bank Composition	Land Use	Bankside trees	Bushes	Herbs Submerged weed	Reeds/sedges	Tall grass	Disturbance	Bank profile	Depth	Width	Current	Latrines	Burrows	Sightings	Footprints	Pathways	Feedings remains	Lawns	Rat field signs	Otter field signs	Mink field signs	Survey distance (km)	Additional
WV24	CC/ CoC	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Running water	Earth	Permanent/tem porary grass, mixed broadleaf woodland, cattle/grazing	Frequent	Occasional	Occasional	Abundant	Frequent	Artificial, but no evidence of recent maintenance	Steep > 450	1-2m	2-5m	Rapid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		As previous, surveyed from bank as too steep to access, water also too deep for waders. Upper reaches not surveyed due to dense vegetation.
WV25				Ditch, running water	Earth	Arable crop	Occasional	Rare	Occasional	Rare	Dominant	Artificial, but no evidence of recent maintenance	Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1m	Rapid												Not surveyed due to landowner restriction
WV26	JD/ MW	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Ditch	Earth, silt, sand	Permanent/tem porary grass	Rare	Rare	Abundant Frequent	Abundant	Abundant	Evidence of recent clearance of channel by bucket	Steep > 450	0.5-1m	5-10m	Slow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		This ditch was mostly dry, with water in areas where scraping of channel has been undertaken (assumed for drainage purposes). No evidence of water vole noted. NB: actual watercourse is located north of the marker shown on the survey plan.
WV27	JD/ MW	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Ditch	Earth, silt, sand	Arable crop	Rare	Dominant	Abundant Occasional	Dominant	Frequent	Evidence of recent clearance of channel by bucket	Steep > 450	< 0.5m	2-5m	Slow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Canal too deep to access. Survey undertaken from either side of watercourse. No evidence of water voles. Signs of recent scraping on bank edges. Bank substrate appears mostly too compacted to allow for WV burrowing.
WV28	JD/ MW	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Ditch	Earth, silt	Mixed broadleaf woodland, arable crop	Dominant	Abundant	Frequent	Abundant	Frequent	D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D	Steep > 450	< 0.5m	2-5m	Static												Ditch fully dry and not suitable for WV. Water body where marker shows on pdf map is not suitable for WV. No detailed survey undertaken.
WV29	JD/ MW	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Ditch	Earth, silt, sand	Arable crop	Rare	Occasional	Frequent	Abundant	Occasional		Steep > 450	< 0.5m	2-5m	Static												Water body fully dry and not suitable for WV. No detailed survey undertaken.
WV30	JD/ MW	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Ditch	Earth, silt	Arable crop	Rare	Rare	Occasional	Rare	Abundant		Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Static	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Unable to enter water body due to deep silts. Survey undertaken from both banks. No evidence of WV noted. Access west of point reference for site is difficult due to dense vegetation.
WV31	JD/ MW	01/06/2017	Dry, clear, warm (20C)	Ditch	Earth, silt, sand	Arable crop, cattle/grazing	Rare	Rare	Occasional	Occasional	Frequent		Steep > 450	< 0.5m	1-2m	Static												Ditch fully dry and not suitable for WV. No detailed survey undertaken.





22.10 Annex C: Plates

Table 22.7 contains the plates recorded for each watercourse surveyed.

Table 22.7 Population density

Water-	7 Population density NGR of plate	Plate
WV01	588079, 310374	
WV02	-	-
WV03	-	-
WV04	-	-
WV05	589784, 310825 589785, 310824	
WV06	-	-
WV07	-	-
WV08	-	-
WV09	-	-
WV10	-	-
WV13	-	-
WV14	603573, 316440	





Water- course	NGR of plate	Plate
WV15	603942, 317524	
	603975, 317532	
	604017, 317539	
WV32	604225, 317521	
	to	
	604151, 317468	





Water- course	NGR of plate	Plate





Water- course	NGR of plate	Plate





Water- course	NGR of plate	Plate
WV20	-	-
WV21	612529, 324322	And the state of t
WV22	619934, 328810 619933, 328809 619921, 328796	
WV33	-	-
WV23	-	-
WV24	-	-
WV25	-	-
WV26	-	-
WV27	-	-
WV28	-	-
WV29	-	-
WV30	-	-
WV31	-	-





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