



NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy

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Figure 1 Example of the North Falls Onshore Cable Route BNG Footprint

Appendices

Appendix ~~1-A~~ Early Design Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report

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Glossary of Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research Association
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DCO	Development Consent Order
Defra	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPS	European Protected Species
ES	Environmental Statement
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LEMP	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
LPA	Local Planning Authority
L _o WS	Local Wildlife Sites
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
MNG	Marine Net Gain
NERC	The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
NFOW	North Falls Offshore Wind
NPS	National Policy Statements
NRN	Nature Recovery Network
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Impact Report
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SPA	Special Protected Areas
SSSI	Sites of Specific Scientific Interest

Glossary of Terminology

Horizontal directional drill (HDD)	Trenchless technique to bring the offshore cables ashore at the landfall. The technique will also be used for installation of the onshore export cables at sensitive areas of the onshore cable route.
Landfall compound	Compound at landfall within which HDD or other trenchless technique will take place.
Onshore cable route	Onshore cable route within which the onshore export cables and associated infrastructure will be located.
Onshore project area	The boundary in which all onshore infrastructure required for the Project will be located (i.e. landfall; onshore cable route, accesses, construction compounds; onshore substation and National Grid substation extension), as considered within the ES.
Onshore substation	A compound containing electrical equipment required to transform and stabilise electricity generated by the Project so that it can be connected to the National Grid.
The Applicant	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (NFOW).
The Project Or 'North Falls'	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.

1 Introduction

1. Royal HaskoningDHV was commissioned by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd. (NFOW) to prepare a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Strategy for the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm project (herein 'North Falls' or 'the project'), in support of the project's Development Consent Order (DCO) application under the Planning Act 2008.
2. This report sets out the strategy of assessing and securing BNG for onshore elements of the project, and includes the following:
 - A summary of the relevant legal and policy background;
 - The proposed outline approach to delivering BNG for the project;
 - The proposed approach to calculating biodiversity units required to secure BNG for the project, highlighting and justifying instances where this deviates from Defra guidance for applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Defra, 2024); and
 - The deliverables associated with the Project's Early Design BNG Assessment (provided as Appendix ~~1-A~~ of this document).
3. Following the submission of the DCO application, further updates have been undertaken to the document. Table 1.1 provides a summary of the amendments that have been made to date.

Table 1.1 Summary of Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy changes

<u>Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy</u> <u>Revision Number</u>	<u>Summary of Changes</u>	<u>Relevant Section of the Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Local Wildlife Sites acronym changed from 'LWS' to 'LoWS'.</u>	<u>Glossary of Acronyms</u>
	<u>Updated BNG calculations to accommodate changes to the baseline hedgerow dataset and to the length of hedgerow affected by the Bentley Road improvement works and visibility splays.</u>	<u>Annex 1 of Appendix A Early Design Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report</u>

1.1 Biodiversity net gain overview

- ~~3.4.~~ Defra (2023a) define BNG as “a way to contribute to the recovery of nature while developing land. It is making sure the habitat for wildlife is in a better state than it was before development”. BNG allows developers to quantify the biodiversity value of their site and calculate how much compensation is required to improve biodiversity post-development.
- ~~4.5.~~ The Environment Act 2021 (the '2021 Act') gained royal assent on 9 November 2021. Part 6 of the 2021 Act sets out provisions for “Biodiversity gain in planning” for developments in England.

- 5.6.** The statutory provisions relating to BNG in nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) (e.g. section 99 and Schedule 15 of the 2021 Act) are not yet in effect and are not anticipated to come into effect until late 2025. Further details and draft Regulations are awaited from Government to explain how these statutory provisions will apply to NSIPs in future.
- 6.7.** The Defra policy paper *Nationally Significant Infrastructure: action plan for reforms to the planning process* (23 February 2023) states in Section 4.7 that “We will incorporate biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements for all (terrestrial) NSIP projects from November 2025 and develop an approach for marine net gain (MNG). The biodiversity net gain requirement for NSIPs is to achieve at least 10% measurable net gain on all terrestrial and intertidal development, which is to be secured for at least 30 years. Defra is developing a draft biodiversity gain statement, which will set out the detail of the biodiversity net gain requirement for NSIPs. Defra plans to consult on this draft statement in early 2023”.
- 7.8.** As of the time of writing, the draft biodiversity gain statement has not yet been published for consultation.
- 8.9.** In the National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 Sections 4.6.1 – 4.6.3, it is stated that “Environmental net gain is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand. Projects should therefore not only avoid, mitigate and compensate harms, following the mitigation hierarchy, but also consider whether there are opportunities for enhancements. Biodiversity net gain is an essential component of environmental net gain. Projects in England should consider and seek to incorporate improvements in natural capital, ecosystem services and the benefits they deliver when planning how to deliver biodiversity net gain. Currently biodiversity net gain policy in England only applies to terrestrial and intertidal components of projects. Principles for Marine Net Gain are currently being rolled out by the Government, who will provide guidance in due course. There are provisions in the Environment Act 2021 to allow Marine Net Gain to be made mandatory for NSIPs in the future.”
- 9.10.** In the NPS EN-1 Sections 4.6.6 – 4.6.12, applicant assessment of BNG is described as “In England applicants for onshore elements of any development are encouraged to use the latest version of the biodiversity metric to calculate their biodiversity baseline and present planned biodiversity net gain outcomes. This calculation data should be presented in full as part of their application. Where possible, this data should be shared, alongside a completed biodiversity metric calculation, with the Local Authority and Natural England for discussion at the pre-application stage as it can help to highlight biodiversity and wider environmental issues which may later cause delays if not addressed... Biodiversity net gain should be applied after compliance with the mitigation hierarchy and does not change or replace existing environmental obligations, although compliance with those obligations will be relevant to the question of the baseline for assessing net gain and if they deliver an additional enhancement beyond meeting the existing obligation, that enhancement will count towards net gain. Biodiversity net gain can be delivered onsite or wholly or partially off-site. We encourage details of any off-site delivery of biodiversity net gain to be set out within the application for development consent. When

delivering biodiversity net gain off-site, developments should do this in a manner that best contributes to the achievement of relevant wider strategic outcomes, for example by increasing habitat connectivity, enhancing other ecosystem service outcomes, or considering use of green infrastructure strategies. Reference should be made to relevant national or local plans and strategies, to inform off-site biodiversity net gain delivery”.

~~40.11.~~ In addition to mention of BNG within policy applicable to North Falls, BNG assessment in support of the Project’s DCO application has also been requested by stakeholders including Tendring District Council, Essex Council, Natural England, Environment Agency and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) during the project’s Evidence Plan Process (EPP) and through responses to the project’s Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Details of the relevant consultation responses received in relation to BNG and how these have been addressed within the Project’s DCO application can be found in Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.25).

1.2 Purpose of this report

~~41.12.~~ This report seeks to:

- Set out the Project’s approach to exploring opportunities to deliver a minimum 10% BNG;
- Set out the key assumptions that will be used to both deliver BNG and used when utilising the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric (or its successor); and
- Identify and justify any deviations from the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric (or its successor’s) standard guidelines;
- Set out the approach to delivery of BNG for the Project pre- and post-consent.

~~42.13.~~ Based on the principles set out in this strategy, a pre-consent ‘Early Design BNG Assessment’ has been undertaken and is provided in Appendix [A.1](#) Early Design BNG Assessment Report. This Early Design BNG Assessment includes indicative BNG calculations based on the Project’s DCO application design envelope using the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

1.3 Assessor technical competence

~~43.14.~~ Defra’s Statutory Biodiversity Metric user guide (Defra, 2024) states a BNG assessment should be carried out by a competent person. As such, the production of this report has been undertaken by a competent person. Natural England defines a competent person as “*a competent person has the knowledge and skills to perform specified tasks to complete and review biodiversity metric calculations. You obtain this through training, qualifications, experience, or a combination of them.*”

~~44.15.~~ This report was written by Beth Millwater BSc (Hons) MSc, an Ecologist at Royal HaskoningDHV with four years’ experience as a professional ecologist. She is a qualifying member of CIEEM and therefore is familiar with and follows CIEEM’s code of professional conduct (CIEEM, 2022). Beth has experience conducting BNG assessments for a range of project types and sizes.

16. Additional technical review, support and quality assurance was provided by Gordon Campbell BA (Hons) MSc MIEMA ACIEEM CEnv, a Principal Ecologist at Royal HaskoningDHV with 13 years' experience as a professional ecologist.

2 Policy and legislation

15.17. This BNG strategy has been compiled with reference to the following relevant nature conservation legislation, planning policy and the UK Biodiversity Framework, from which the protection of sites, habitats and species is derived in England:

- The Environment Act 2021;
- Planning Act 2008;
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) EN-1 and EN-3 (DESNZ, 2023);
- UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (Defra, 2018);
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure: action plan for reforms to the planning process (Defra, 2023c); and
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

16.18. As referred to above, further to Section 99 the 2021 Act, Schedule 15 makes provisions for BNG in NSIPs by inserting amendment into the Planning Act 2008. At the time of writing, there is no statutory requirement for NSIPs to deliver BNG.

17.19. These amendments to the Planning Act 2008 state that the Secretary of State may not grant the application for an NSIP unless satisfied that the biodiversity gain objective contained in the biodiversity gain statement is met in relation to the development to which the application relates. This amendment applies under sections 104 and 105 of the Planning Act 2008, i.e. whether or not a National Policy Statement has been designated for the development.

18.20. The Defra policy paper (2023c) sets out that, once brought into effect, at least 10% measurable net gain will be required and must be maintained for at least 30 years. Provision will therefore need to be made for maintenance of habitat areas over this period that are essential to the delivery of the project's BNG target.

19.21. EN-1 (the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy) Section 4.6.6 states that applicants should demonstrate that "*Energy NSIP proposals, whether onshore or offshore, should seek opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for biodiversity, and the wider environment where possible*". Finalised versions of EN-1 and EN-3 were published November 2023, following consultation in Autumn 2021. The published version of EN-1 includes several references to BNG, namely in Section 4.6 as stated above in Paragraphs 8 and 9. The published version of

EN-3 also refers to BNG, by way of referring to where BNG is addressed in Section 4.6 of EN-1.

20-22. The 2021 Act outlines Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) as a mandatory requirement for local policy, to contribute to the wider Nature Recovery Network (NRN) across England. County-wide LNRS will reflect local biodiversity priorities and be used to inform targeted off-site compensation for BNG. NPS EN-1 Section 4.6.12 states *“If published, the relevant strategy is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). If an LNRS has not been published, the relevant consenting body or planning authority may specify alternative plans, policies or strategies to use”*. A LNRS does not currently exist for Essex. However, BNG is mentioned in objective four of the Essex Climate Action Commission: Land Use and Green Infrastructure Technical Annex (ECC, 2021), which states *“To ensure the substantial proposed landscape scale changes also delivers multiple benefits such as net gain for biodiversity, improved soil health, improved air quality, reduced flooding, reduced urban heat island effect, and improved amenity, liveability, and wellbeing of Essex communities.”*

3 Delivering biodiversity net gain

3.1 Overview

21-23. BNG is an approach to development activities that leaves the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was before.

22-24. BNG works with and does not replace the mitigation hierarchy. Primarily avoiding impacts on ecological receptors, as per the mitigation hierarchy, minimises the need for providing compensation for losses. If losses are encountered and impacts cannot be avoided, other tiers of the mitigation hierarchy and therefore BNG compensation and enhancement should be sought. Additionally, the mitigation hierarchy applies to all ecological receptors, whilst BNG calculations are based purely on habitat data and would not sufficiently compensate for all potential ecological receptors, for example European Protected Species (EPS).

23-25. BNG does not replace existing legal requirements and it should not be applied to compensate for effects on irreplaceable habitats. Bespoke compensation to address losses and deterioration of irreplaceable habitats needs to be agreed on a case-by-case basis with the determining body or planning authority (in this case ECC). The post-development sheets of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Defra, 2024) cannot include any bespoke compensation to address specific losses and deterioration of irreplaceable habitats.

24-26. The Project will follow industry best practice for BNG, and namely adhere to the ten principles developed by CIEEM, IEMA and CIRIA (2016), summarised in Table 3.1. Even though Table 3.1 is based on guidance produced in 2016, these principles remain relevant to statutory BNG.

Table 3.1 BNG good practice principles for development, taken from CIEEM, CIRIA and IEMA (2016) Biodiversity Net Gain Good Practice Principles for Development.

Principle	Description
Principle 1 – apply the mitigation hierarchy	Primarily avoid and then minimise impacts on biodiversity. Compensation for losses that cannot be avoided should only be used as a last resort, and in agreement with external decision-makers. If compensation for losses is not possible within the development footprint or does not generate the most beneficial outcome for nature conservation, then biodiversity losses should be offset by gains elsewhere.
Principle 2 – avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere	Impacts should be avoided in areas considered to have ‘irreplaceable biodiversity’. Such impacts cannot be offset to achieve no net loss or net gain.
Principle 3 – be inclusive and equitable	Stakeholders should be engaged early on in the project and involved in design, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the approach to net gain. Net gain should be achieved in partnership with stakeholders where possible and the benefits shared fairly among stakeholders.
Principle 4 – address risks	Any difficulties, uncertainties and other risks to achieving net gain will require mitigation. Best practice and industry accepted methods should be used to add contingency when calculating biodiversity losses and gains, to account for risks and compensate for the time period between losses and gains to establish.
Principle 5 – make a measurable net gain contribution	Achieve a measurable, overall net gain of biodiversity and ecosystem services provided while also directly contributing towards nature conservation priorities.
Principle 6 – achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity	Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity by using robust, credible evidence and local knowledge to make clearly justified choices when: • Delivering ecologically proportional compensation which accounts for type, timing, amount, condition and location of losses; • Compensating for losses of on type of biodiversity using a more beneficial type for nature conservation; • Achieving net gain at local, regional and national levels; • Enhancing existing or creating new habitat; and • Enhancing ecological connectivity.
Principle 7 – be additional	Achieve nature conservation outcomes that exceed existing obligations and enhance biodiversity.
Principle 8 – create a net gain legacy	Ensure net gain has long-term benefits by: • Engaging stakeholders when agreeing practical solutions that ensure net gain is achieved; • Plan for the adaptive management and funding for long-term management of net gain sites; • Net gain design should be resilient to external factors, especially climate change; • Avoid displacing negative and harmful activities from one location to another; and • Support local-level management of net gain activities.
Principle 9 – optimise sustainability	BNG should be a priority, as well as optimising wider environmental benefits for a sustainable society and economy.
Principle 10 – be transparent	All net gain activities should be communicated in a transparent and timely manner, sharing findings with stakeholders.

25-27. To adhere to Principle 5 and ensure net gain is ‘measurable’, the Project will be using the most up-to-date version of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Defra, 2024). The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric uses habitat types as an indicator of biodiversity in an area, based on the assumption that if a suitable habitat is present species will colonise it. As a result, use of the Defra Statutory

Biodiversity Metric does not account for species-specific compensation, mitigation and enhancement.

26-28. Along with technical competence highlighted in Section [1.3](#), the competent person will ensure any Metric outputs are interpreted using ecological expertise in order to inform project plans and decisions.

3.2 The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric

27-29. The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric can be used to inform and optimise project planning, design, land management and decision-making. The Defra Biodiversity Metric uses habitats and the 'biodiversity units' they generate as a proxy to indicate the biodiversity value of an area. These biodiversity units are the 'currency' of the Metric that quantify biodiversity.

28-30. There are three types of biodiversity units in the Defra Biodiversity Metric, which are calculated in three separate 'modules' of the Metric:

- **Area units** – habitats modules measured in hectares;
- **Hedgerow units** – linear hedgerows and lines of trees measured in km; and
- **Watercourse units** – rivers, streams and ditches measured in km.

29-31. The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation of the change in biodiversity resulting from a project or development is made by deducting the baseline unit value of a development area from the number of post-development biodiversity units. Post-development units incorporate temporary and permanent losses resulting from the project, along with the value of any mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures also part of the project.

30-32. As well as habitat type and quantity for area, hedgerow and watercourse habitats, various factors and multipliers are considered in order to produce the biodiversity unit values for each module, namely:

- **Habitat distinctiveness:** defined by Defra (2024) as “A measure based on the type of habitat and its distinguishing features. This includes: consideration of species richness and rarity; the extent to which the habitat is protected by designations; and the degree to which a habitat supports species rarely found in other habitats”;
- **Habitat condition:** defined by Defra (2024) as “A measure of the habitat against its ecological optimum state. Condition is a way of measuring variation in the quality of patches of the same habitat type.”;
- **Strategic significance:** defined by Defra (2024) as a factor that “Describes the local significance of the habitat based on its location and the habitat type.”; and
- **Other risks and multipliers:** the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric also accounts for potential risks in the forms of multipliers, including the difficulty, temporal and spatial risks associated with post-development habitat management. This incorporates the feasibility for projects realistically achieving their BNG targets.

~~31-33~~. The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric can be used throughout all stages of a project, however the earlier it is applied, the greater the opportunity and benefit to design for biodiversity and wider ecological benefits.

3.3 Rules and principles of the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric

3.3.1 Defra Biodiversity Metric rules

~~32-34~~. The Defra Biodiversity Metric has four rules which must be followed, otherwise a project cannot claim to have achieved BNG. These rules will be followed by the project and are outlined below in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric rules, taken from Defra's The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Table 2) (2024).

Rule number	Rule description
Rule 1	The trading rules of this biodiversity metric must be followed.
Rule 2	Biodiversity unit outputs, for each type of unit, must not be summed, traded, or converted between types. The requirement to deliver at least a 10% net gain applies to each type of unit.
Rule 3	To accurately apply the biodiversity metric formula, you must use the biodiversity metric calculation tool or small sites biodiversity metric tool (SSM) for small sites. The tools remove the need for a user to manually calculate the change in biodiversity value. The tool will summarise the results of the calculation and inform a user whether the biodiversity net gain objective has been met.
Rule 4	In exceptional ecological circumstances, deviation from this biodiversity metric methodology may be permitted by the relevant planning authority.

~~33-35~~. Rule 1, also referred to as the BNG 'trading rules', set out the minimum level of habitat creation or enhancement in order to compensate for losses of specific habitats based on their distinctiveness. The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric trading rules are set out below in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric Rule 1 trading rules to compensate for habitat losses, taken from Defra's The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Table 3) (2024).

Baseline habitat distinctiveness	Area module (area units)	Hedgerow module (hedgerow units)	Watercourse module (watercourse units)
Very high	Priority should be given to replacing losses with area habitat units of the same habitat type (see below notes on trading).	Losses must be replaced with hedgerow units of the same habitat type.	Priority should be given to replacing losses with watercourse units of the same habitat type (see below notes on trading).
High	Losses must be replaced with area habitat units of the same habitat type.	Losses must be replaced with hedgerow units of the same habitat type or higher distinctiveness band.	Losses must be replaced with watercourse units of the same habitat type.
Medium	Losses must be replaced by area habitat units of either medium band habitats within the same broad habitat type or, any habitat from a higher band from any broad habitat type.	Losses must be replaced with hedgerow units of the same or of a higher band.	Losses must be replaced with watercourse units of the same habitat type.

Baseline habitat distinctiveness	Area module (area units)	Hedgerow module (hedgerow units)	Watercourse module (watercourse units)
Low	Losses must be replaced with area units of the same or higher band.	Losses must be replaced with hedgerow units of the same or of a higher band.	Losses must be replaced with watercourse units of a higher distinctiveness band.
Very low	Not applicable	Losses must be replaced with hedgerow units of the same or of a higher band.	Not applicable

34-36. The trading rules only apply up to the point of no net loss. Once trading rules have been met, biodiversity net gain requirements can be met by the creation and enhancement of any habitat, provided it is within the relevant module.

35-37. Impacts on very high distinctiveness habitats should be avoided in line with planning policy. Some very high distinctiveness habitats may also require bespoke compensation if their losses or deterioration cannot be adequately compensated for. Bespoke compensation of very high distinctiveness habitats should be discussed with the relevant local planning authority.

36-38. If woodland creation is required to compensate for any losses of high distinctiveness woodland, the trading rules set out in Table 3.3 must still be met.

3.3.2 Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric principles

37-39. In addition to the Metric rules set out in Section 3.3.1, there are nine principles set out by Defra which should be used to inform best use of the Metric. These principles will be followed by the Project and are summarised in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4 Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric principles of use, taken from Defra's The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Table 4) (2024).

Principle number	Principle description
Principle 1	The metric assessment should be completed by a competent person.
Principle 2	The use of this biodiversity metric does not override existing biodiversity protections, statutory obligations, policy requirements, ecological mitigation hierarchy or any other requirements. This includes consenting or licensing processes, for example woodlands.
Principle 3	This biodiversity metric should be used in accordance with established good practice guidance and professional codes.
Principle 4	This biodiversity metric is not a complex or comprehensive ecological model and is not a substitute for expert ecological advice.
Principle 5	Biodiversity units are a proxy for biodiversity and should be treated as relative values.
Principle 6	This biodiversity metric is designed to inform decisions in conjunction with locally relevant evidence, expert input, or guidance.
Principle 7	Habitat interventions need to be realistic and deliverable within a relevant project timeframe.
Principle 8	Created and enhanced habitats should be, where practical and reasonable, local to any impact and deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation.
Principle 9	This biodiversity metric does not enforce a minimum habitat size ratio for compensation of losses. Proposals should aim to: - maintain habitat extent - supporting more, bigger, better and more joined up ecological networks - ensure that proposed or retained habitat parcels are of sufficient size for ecological function

3.3.3 Irreplaceable habitats

38.40. If irreplaceable habitats are present within the onshore project area and specific losses or deterioration cannot be avoided, bespoke compensation will be required to address this which also considers all relevant up-to-date policy, legislation and regulations. Such compensation will include stakeholder consultation and will be agreed upon on a case-by-case basis with the determining body or planning authority. All irreplaceable habitats must be recorded in the irreplaceable habitat sheet within the Metric.

39.41. Where irreplaceable habitats are not lost or deteriorated, their subsequent enhancement can be used to contribute towards achieving BNG targets.

40.42. Ancient woodland irreplaceable habitat is not a specific habitat type and is therefore not an option in the habitat categories presented in the Metric. For example it can include ancient semi-natural woodlands, plantations on ancient woodland sites and also ancient woodland pasture / parkland. To ensure accurate recording of ancient woodland habitats, assessors should:

- Check the current Ancient Woodland Inventory Database (Natural England, 2019) and
- If an area of ancient woodland is less than 2 hectares, the assessor should check the criteria set out in the Ancient Woodland Inventory Handbook (Natural England, 2018).

41.43. Individual ancient and veteran trees can be found within a variety of habitats, such as hedgerows, lines of trees, woodland, open habitats and urban settings. Where ancient or veteran trees occur, they should be considered and recorded as irreplaceable habitat.

4 Proposed approach to assessing biodiversity net gain for North Falls

4.1 Overview

42.44. For North Falls to deliver BNG, the proposed approach below will be followed. This approach covers project-specific requirements such as defining key terms, baseline data needs, pre-consent calculations and post-development approach.

43.45. The North Falls Early Design BNG Assessment (Appendix [A1](#)) only applies to terrestrial and intertidal habitats within the onshore project area, namely this includes habitats running onshore down to Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS).

4.2 Defining terms

44.46. In order to utilise the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric for North Falls, there are a number of terms used within the Metric which have a project-specific definition. These are defined below.

4.2.1 Strategic significance

45.47. As part of using the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric, all habitats within each module require the input of a strategic significance value, as defined in Section 3.2. There are three scoring categories for strategic significance, as shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric strategic significance categories, scores and descriptions where an LNRS has not yet been published, taken from Defra's The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Table 8) (2024).

Strategic significance level	Strategic significance score	Description
High	1.15	The habitat type is mapped and described as locally ecologically important within a specific location, within documents specified by the relevant planning authority. • If your project delivers the mapped habitat creation, enhancement or actions set out within specified alternative documents, or enhances an existing habitat identified within specified alternative documents as locally ecologically important, strategic significance can be recorded as high in the post-intervention sheets. • If the specified alternative documents identify existing habitat as locally ecologically important within a specified location, strategic significance may be recorded as high in the baseline. You should record the name of the plan the relevant planning authority has specified in the user comments and record that you have used the specified document in your gain plan.
Medium	1.10	This category can be applied when the LPA has not identified a suitable document for assessing strategic significance. Users should: • explain how the habitat type is ecologically important within a specific location • demonstrate the importance of that habitat in providing ecological linkage to other strategically significant locations • use professional judgement
Low	1.00	Where the definitions for high and medium strategic significance are not met.

46.48. In order to determine strategic significance of each habitat, consideration of a range of local policies, strategies and action plans were used. Defra (2024) identifies the following plans policies and strategies that influence strategic significance:

- Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategies;
- Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans;
- Local Planning Authority Local Ecological Networks;
- Tree Strategies;
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans;
- Biodiversity Action Plans;
- Species conservation and protected sites strategies;
- Woodland strategies;

- Green Infrastructure Strategies;
- River Basin Management Plans;
- Catchment Plans and Catchment Planning Systems;
- Shoreline management plans; and
- Estuary Strategies.

47-49. The specific plans, policies and strategies relevant to the project and BNG strategic significance assessment include:

- The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (1999);
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (2008)
- Tendring's Open Spaces Strategy (2009);
- Tendring's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2017);
- Green Essex Strategy (2019);
- Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy (2020);
- Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond (2021; 2022);
- National Character Area 111: North Thames Basin (2013); and
- Natural England habitat network mapping data (2023).

48-50. At the time of writing this report no other plans, policies or strategies were present that could influence strategic significance of habitats within the onshore project area.

49-51. Following the consideration of local plans, policies and strategies, the definitions in [Table 4.2](#) of each level of strategic significance were made for North Falls. These definitions were used to determine the strategic significance score of each habitat present within the onshore project area.

Table 4.2 Levels of strategic significance

Strategic significance	Habitat criteria
High	• Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Areas (SPA), as identified in PPL 4 of the Tendring District Local Plan; • Locally important. sites, ancient woodland and veteran trees flagged as being important for nature conservation in PPL 4 of the Tendring District Local Plan; • Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS), as they are classed as green infrastructure within the Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy; and • NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitats.
Medium	• Areas and habitats immediately adjacent to the above sites for nature conservation, with potential to support the features of interest of the site or buffer impacts to them; • Areas which meet LoWS selection criteria but are not designated as such; and • Areas of land and habitats identified in Natural England's habitat network mapping data including information on habitat restoration-creation, restorable habitat, plus fragmentation action, and network enhancement and expansion zones.
Low	All remaining habitats which do not meet the above criteria.

4.2.2 'On-site' and 'off-site'

50.52. Habitats are considered within the Metric as either on or off-site. The distinguishment between these two categories allows for accurate calculation of compensation which is proportional to the losses resulting from the project. The difference in weighting of on and off-site habitats creates a hierarchal approach to achieving BNG: giving on-site compensation a higher weighting and a greater benefit, off-site compensation a lower weighting, and biodiversity credits the lowest weighting.

51.53. The Defra (2024) Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide defines the terms 'on-site' and 'off-site' as:

- **On-site:** *"On-site refers to all land within a red line boundary of a development".*
- **Off-site:** *"Off-site, for the purposes of the metric calculation tool, refers to land outside of the on-site boundary, which is dedicated to habitat interventions (habitat enhancement or creation), regardless of proximity or ownership".*

52.54. North Falls has used the 'Rochdale Envelope' as described within the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 9 (Planning Inspectorate, 2018) for its DCO application. This approach allows for flexibility in applications for a DCO in the case of any uncertainties. If the Rochdale Envelope is relied upon to present location options and therefore baseline habitat, the final BNG achieved by the development may change.

53.55. The onshore project area described within North Falls' DCO application and assessed within the Project's ES is larger than the anticipated final project footprint to allow for a degree of design flexibility. Therefore, the onshore project area is not an appropriate baseline against which to measure the final BNG requirements of the Project, as it is likely to change. As a result, on-site and off-site have been defined for the Project specifically, as set out below.

54.56. Pending further guidance from the UK Government, BNG calculations will be repeated post-consent at the detailed design stage. Details of the post-consent approach to BNG delivery is set out in Section 4.5 below.

55.57. Following consultation with key stakeholders, the North Falls' BNG performance has currently been assessed using the below definitions for on-site and off-site areas:

- **On-site:** an illustrative project footprint based on a detailed understanding of the likely construction and operational requirements of the project. This includes:
 - The onshore cable route working width;
 - Temporary construction compound footprints;
 - Onshore substation works area (subject to temporary works, construction of ancillary infrastructure such as access, drainage, landscaping and environmental mitigation);
 - Accesses and Bentley Road improvements works;

- Onshore substation permanent infrastructure footprints, including environmental mitigation, drainage.

An example section of the onshore cable route is provided in Figure 1, Appendix [B2](#) to illustrate how this illustrative footprint relates to the DCO Order limits (i.e. the Rochdale envelope for which the project is seeking consent). This footprint will be updated post-consent as following detailed design. The example shows those habitats which are potentially lost and cannot be returned to their target condition within two years (i.e. 'retained').

- **Off-site:** areas outwith this illustrative footprint, where no effects are predicted. This includes areas avoided through mitigation by design, such as trenchless crossings, but also areas of the onshore project area which fall within the Rochdale envelope but outwith the illustrative working footprint.

4.2.3 Optionality and collaboration with Five Estuaries

[56-58.](#) In addition to optionality in terms of final design for the onshore cable route / onshore substation works, optionality has also been retained by the Project in relation to co-ordinated build out with Five Estuaries. Therefore, the projects have agreed with stakeholders through the Evidence Plan Process to develop Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculations for alternative scenarios to evidence the different BNG outputs for different project build out scenarios.

[57-59.](#) Three grid connection option scenarios have been considered within the North Falls DCO envelope:

- Option 1: Onshore electrical connection at a National Grid connection point within the Tendring peninsula of Essex, with a project alone onshore cable route and onshore substation infrastructure;
- Option 2: Onshore electrical connection at a National Grid connection point within the Tendring peninsula of Essex, sharing an onshore cable route and onshore cable duct installation (but with separate onshore export cables) and co-locating separate project onshore substation infrastructure with Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm project ('Five Estuaries'); or
- Option 3: Offshore electrical connection, supplied by a third party.

[58-60.](#) The project is seeking consent to deliver a project under each of these three options. Option 3 involves no onshore infrastructure, so has not been considered further within these calculations.

[59-61.](#) Under Option 2, NFOW is including the option to build out cable ducting sufficient for onshore cabling for both North Falls and Five Estuaries Offshore. This therefore represents the worst case onshore cable route works included within North Falls DCO Rochdale envelope – as such it has been used as the basis for the pre-consent calculations.

[60-62.](#) At the onshore substation, North Falls and Five Estuaries have developed a co-located design. However for the purposes of pre-consent BNG calculations, North Falls has taken the decision to include half of the onshore substation works area within its project-alone calculation. This decision has been made to ensure that there is no double counting between the North Falls and Five Estuaries project BNG scores at the stage of undertaking pre-consent,

indicative calculations. An indicative plan showing this footprint can be found in the Early Design BNG Assessment Report (Appendix [1A](#), Figure 3).

[61-63](#). In addition to considering the optionality in the North Falls DCO outlined above, it was agreed with stakeholders during the Evidence Plan Process that calculations should be providing showing the cumulative gains and losses for the development of North Falls and Five Estuaries. North Falls has therefore produced calculations to account for the following scenarios:

- **North Falls alone being consented ('project-alone')**: one metric for the North Falls onshore substation works area and onshore cable route; and
- **North Falls and Five Estuaries both being consented ('cumulative')**: one metric for the joint onshore substation works area and onshore cable route of both projects.

[62-64](#). In both the project-alone and cumulative calculations, it has been assumed that temporary works to install cable ducts will be delivered as a single activity, and as such the cable route calculations are the same for both the project alone and cumulative calculations. The differences come at the onshore substation where under the cumulative scenario the full co-located onshore substation works area has been assessed. A plan showing this co-located footprint can be found in the Early Design BNG Assessment Report (Appendix [A1](#), Figure 4).

[63-65](#). North Falls has committed to using trenchless techniques at landfall and other ecologically sensitive locations along the onshore cable route. Use of such techniques follows the mitigation hierarchy by avoiding impacts upon these habitats. As a result, North Falls does not propose to provide 10% BNG for such areas or be required to deliver mitigation/compensation for such areas as they are not impacted by the Project and are fully retained. The BNG Metric User Guide Section 6.1.4 (Defra, 2024) states retention is when *"there is no loss of habitat, habitat is retained in its baseline condition, there is not action to enhance a habitat"*.

4.3 Baseline data collection

[64-66](#). The baseline habitat data used to inform the BNG calculations for the project was collected in April, July, September and October 2021, and in March 2022 and August 2023.

[65-67](#). Habitat data within the onshore project area was collected using JNCC's Phase 1 Habitat (2010) classification system, and subsequently converted UKHab v1.1 classification (most up-to-date version of UKHab at the time of data collection) using the UKHab conversion tool (Butcher *et al.*, 2020). UKHab v2.0 has been released since the original baseline data was collected, thus the baseline data has been updated in line with UKHab v2.0 before being inputted into the Metric (UKHab Ltd., 2023). The condition of these habitats were assessed in accordance with Defra Biodiversity Metric guidance at the time of survey. Full details of the baseline habitat data collected can be found in ES Appendix 23.1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report (Document Reference: 3.3.30).

[66-68](#). The habitat data collected was digitised using GIS, mapping the UKHab habitats present within the onshore project area and their assessed condition.

4.4 Pre-consent approach

4.4.1 Baseline value calculation

4.4.1.1 Initial baseline value calculation

67-69. Following the baseline data collection, assignment of strategic significance scores and agreement on the onshore project area, the baseline biodiversity value and number of biodiversity units potentially lost due to the Project can be calculated using the Defra Biodiversity Metric.

68-70. This initial calculation will be used to identify the approximate extent of land required to meet proposed biodiversity targets at the onshore substation. This will in turn inform the design of the soft landscaping / site boundary extents at the onshore project substation.

69-71. The initial baseline calculations took place in Autumn 2023 following the Project's statutory consultation period on Preliminary Environmental Information and following the Project's onshore design freeze.

4.4.1.2 Revised baseline value calculation

70-72. Once an outline landscape design for the project has been developed, prior to submission of the Project's DCO, an updated baseline calculation was undertaken. This updated calculation reflects the outline landscape design for the Project. This calculation is then used to inform the Early Design BNG Assessment Report (see below).

71-73. In practice, this process was iterative, with updated calculations informing the landscape design, until a settled landscaping scheme was developed in Spring 2024. The revised baseline calculations presented in Appendix **A1** Early Design BNG Assessment Report were undertaken in at the end of this process, in Spring 2024, prior to the Project's DCO submission.

4.4.2 Post-development values calculations

72-74. Post-development biodiversity values for the onshore project area have been calculated based on the outline landscape design and proposed construction footprints at the time of DCO application. GIS tools have been used to map such outcomes, accounting for permanent and temporary habitat losses, habitat enhancement and habitat creation. Each post-development habitat has been assigned a UKHab habitat type and a target condition score.

73-75. Difficulty and temporal multipliers have been applied at this stage to account for potential risks associated with habitat creation feasibility, time taken for the proposed habitat to reach its target condition and delays in implementing compensatory habitat works.

74-76. The post-development calculations took place in parallel to the revised baseline calculations, in Spring 2024.

4.4.3 Strategy for off-site compensation

4.4.3.1 Off-site habitat creation / enhancement

75-77. The design and construction methods of the onshore project elements, where practicable, have avoided impacts on watercourses, in line with the mitigation

hierarchy. However, some small losses of watercourse habitats will likely occur ascribable to proposed haul roads crossings of watercourses, temporary construction compounds and open-cut trenching. Due to the inherent difficulty in creating and enhancing watercourse biodiversity units, the Project is not currently proposing to commit to achieving 10% BNG in the Metric watercourse module. Ditches created on-site as part of the outline landscape design will be considered as part of the BNG Metric, however no further off-site measures will be considered.

76-78. Off-site habitat creation / enhancement as compensation will only be used if there is no suitable alternative on-site, in order to adhere to the mitigation hierarchy. If required, off-site creation / enhancement will be carried out as spatially close to the development as possible. Spatial risk multipliers within the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric apply at different rates for compensation in

- the same Local Planning Authority (LPA) as the Project;
- compensation one LPA away; and
- compensation two or more LPAs away.

77-79. Therefore, off-site compensation in closer proximity to the original onshore project area is favored within the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric and gains a higher yield of biodiversity units.

78-80. If required, mechanisms and locations to offset BNG losses will be identified off-site if the required degree of net gain cannot be achieved within the onshore project area. Possible locations should be identified as early as possible to enable further work to establish their potential feasibility to be completed. This will likely comprise of habitat surveys and condition assessments to establish the baseline value of any off-site areas to be enhanced.

79-81. Off-site areas used as compensation would also be subject to the minimum 30-year monitoring and management plan and would need to be agreed with the relevant landowners.

80-82. Following the consultation response from Natural England on the project's PEIR (July 2023), compensatory planting of hedgerows to reinstate habitat losses would be counted as no net loss of BNG. To explore opportunities to deliver a minimum 10% BNG for hedgerow units, additional planting would be required in addition to this reinstatement planting.

4.4.3.2 Purchase of biodiversity credits

81-83. If bespoke mechanisms of off-site habitat enhancement or creation cannot be achieved in area habitat and hedgerow modules through consultation with relevant bodies and stakeholders on or off-site, biodiversity credits can be purchased through Natural England's register. This register is yet to be published, however indicative prices per credit for each habitat type are summarised in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Statutory biodiversity credit guide prices, taken from Defra (2023b).

Habitat distinctiveness	Broad habitat type	Specific habitat type	Price per credit (excluding VAT)
Low	All	All	£42,000
Medium	• Heathland and shrub	All	£42,000

Habitat distinctiveness	Broad habitat type	Specific habitat type	Price per credit (excluding VAT)
	- Grassland - Individual trees - Urban - Cropland		
	- Woodland and forest - Intertidal sediment	All	£48,000
	Lakes	Reservoirs	£125,000
	Lakes – ponds (non-priority habitat)	Ponds	£125,000
	Sparsely vegetated land	Other inland rocks and scree	£125,000
High	Wetland	Reedbeds	£42,000
	Grassland	Traditional orchards	£42,000
	Grassland	- Lowland calcareous grassland - Tall herb communities - Upland calcareous grassland	£48,000
	Heathland and shrub	- Dunes with sea buckthorn - Lowland heathland - Upland heathland	£48,000
	Urban	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	£48,000
	Woodland and forest	- Wet woodland - Felled - Upland birch woods	£66,000
	Intertidal sediment	- Littoral mud - Littoral mixed sediments - Littoral biogenic reefs – mussels - Littoral biogenic reefs – Sabellaria - Features of littoral sediment - Littoral muddy sand	£66,000
	Wetland mosaic	Floodplain wetland mosaic (Coastal Floodplain Grazing Marsh)	£125,000
	Ponds	- Temporary lakes, ponds and pools - Ponds (priority habitat)	£125,000
	Coastal lagoons	Coastal lagoons	£125,000
	Rocky shore	- High energy littoral rock - Moderate energy littoral rock - Low energy littoral rock - Features of littoral rock	£125,000
	Coastal saltmarsh	Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	£125,000
	Intertidal sediment	Littoral seagrass	£125,000
	Sparsely vegetated land	- Coastal vegetated shingle - Maritime cliff and slopes - Inland rock outcrop and scree	£125,000
	Woodland and forest	Upland mixed ashwoods	£125,000

Habitat distinctiveness	Broad habitat type	Specific habitat type	Price per credit (excluding VAT)
		• Native pine woodlands • Lowland mixed deciduous woodland • Lowland beech and yew woodland • Upland Oakland	
	Lakes	• High alkalinity lakes • Low alkalinity lakes • Marl lakes • Moderate alkalinity lakes • Peat lakes	£650,000
Various	Hedgerow	All	£44,000

82-84. Biodiversity credit prices in Table 4.3 are shown per credit, and do not account for VAT or the spatial risk multiplier that will be applied in the Defra Biodiversity Metric. Defra (2023b) note that applying a spatial risk multiplier will double the number of credits required to compensate biodiversity losses, and therefore two credits must be purchased for every one biodiversity unit needing to be compensated for.

83-85. If biodiversity credits were purchased to offset biodiversity losses, these would still need to adhere to the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric trading rules outlined in Table 3.3, requiring habitats to be compensated for at a certain level depending on their distinctiveness.

84-86. It is anticipated the Natural England credit register and purchasable credits will be published and available once BNG becomes mandatory. As a result, the lead time for credit purchase if required by the Project is unknown at the time of writing this document.

4.4.4 Reporting

85-87. An Early Design BNG Assessment Report has been produced to document the BNG assessment, and is provided in Appendix [A1](#). It includes:

- Details of authors' technical competence;
- Baseline data sources used, with key reports (Extended Phase 1 habitat Survey Report including condition assessments) appended or cross-referenced;
- Baseline biodiversity value calculations, with full Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric appended;
- Post-development calculations, with full Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric appended;
- Description of the approach to off-site mitigation and use of biodiversity credits, should they be required post-consent;
- Details of the proposed management and monitoring of the BNG provision.

~~86-88.~~ The Early Design BNG Assessment Report has been submitted into the DCO application as part of this BNG Strategy, as Appendix ~~A1~~.

4.4.5 Key assumptions

4.4.5.1 Baseline value calculation

~~87-89.~~ The baseline biodiversity value of the onshore project area will be calculated based on the onshore project area boundary used for the Project's DCO application. Pending further guidance from UK Government, it is anticipated that the baseline biodiversity value will be updated at detailed design stage, post-consent.

~~88-90.~~ If mosaic habitats are present which contain more than one UKHab habitat, these should be recorded as their primary Metric habitat type. This includes Urban open mosaics on previously developed land, floodplain wetland mosaic, coastal floodplain grazing marsh, traditional orchards, and wood pasture and parkland.

~~89-91.~~ Hedgerow biodiversity units were recorded as a line measurement along the length of the feature, with all habitats adjacent to the hedgerow being mapped to this line.

~~90-92.~~ Watercourse modules and condition assessments included an assessment of the riparian zone, which included the water channel, channel margin, bank face and 10m from the bank top.

4.4.5.2 Post-development value calculation

~~91-93.~~ The post-development conditions used in this calculation are based on outline landscape designs and the construction footprint described in ES Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7). These are expected to change and be finalised at detailed design stage, post-consent. Accordingly, pending any guidance that is issued by the UK Government, it is anticipated that the post-development biodiversity value of the onshore project area will be recalculated post-consent to ensure an accurate BNG value of the onshore project area is produced.

~~92-94.~~ The construction footprint for the onshore project area which will be subject to temporary losses of habitat includes:

- Cable route working width;
- Temporary construction compounds;
- Construction accesses (including visibility splays);
- Bentley Road improvement works;
- Onshore substation works area; and
- Landfall Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) temporary works area.

~~93-95.~~ The construction programme at the time of writing is as follows:

Table 4.4 Construction worst case scenario timescales

Element of construction	Duration
Onshore cable route (working width and temporary construction compounds)	Overall, 18 – 24 months (including 12 months cable installation, 8 months major HDD, 2 months minor HDD).

Element of construction	Duration
Onshore substation works area	27 months construction
Landfall HDD temporary works area	13 months (of which HDD = 6 months)
Bentley Road improvement works	6 – 9 months

94-96. In instances where the time between habitat loss during construction and full reinstatement post-development exceeds a two year period (i.e. the maximum duration for which a habitat can be ‘temporarily’ lost), this will be classed as habitat loss and subsequent habitat creation within the Metric, to account for the time delay in reaching their target condition. Habitats subject to temporary impacts for less than a two year period will be considered to be temporary loss and will be recorded as ‘retained’ for the purposes of BNG and are therefore omitted from the baseline value calculations. This includes habitats within the onshore project area subject to HDD.

95-97. All habitat interventions will be assumed to take place post-construction with no advanced habitat creation or enhancement, in line with the worst case scenario set out in [Table 4.4](#).

96-98. Permanent habitat losses which will occur within the onshore project area comprises only the onshore substation footprint and associated permanent infrastructure.

97-99. Mitigation and compensation for the permanent habitat losses due to construction of the onshore substation footprint are not yet finalised. However, it is anticipated that mitigation and compensation will be delivered at the onshore substation as well as elsewhere within the onshore project area where required. As a worst-case scenario, all habitat creation/ enhancement in the pre-consent calculations is assumed to be carried out post-construction.

98-100. Any area habitat creation and enhancement which takes place and contributes towards the project’s BNG target will require a minimum 30-year monitoring and maintenance period of its condition. This excludes any habitat reinstatement, as well as arable habitats as they do not receive a condition score within the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric. This is due to the artificial nature of arable habitats, the state of which relies entirely on anthropogenic influences. These influences make it impossible to determine habitat condition as this could vary with crop type, time of year and agricultural practices used.

99-101. Hedgerows will be subject to post re-instatement surveys to ensure successful establishment of habitat and that they have achieved their target condition, up to ten years after scheme completion. After ten years it will be assumed that the landowner will continue to maintain the area as they deem fit. These areas will be specifically excluded from the 30-year monitoring and management plan once they have been confirmed as reaching their target condition. This is because firstly this land is only subject to temporary works, and therefore is returned to landowners' ownership following the completion of construction and reinstatement, and secondly North Falls would not have the appropriate rights to manage the hedgerows in question beyond the 30m extent needed to deliver the Project, therefore meaning different management regimes would be in place along the hedgerow’s length.

- ~~100-102.~~ Hedgerow planting which counts towards the Project's BNG target would need be additional to the planting carried out for reinstatement of hedgerow losses.
- ~~101-103.~~ Retained hedgerows subject to visibility splays will be assumed to fail condition criteria A1 (height) and A2 (width), and then have their reinstatement time incorporated within 5 years in post-project calculation sheet.
- ~~102-104.~~ Trenchless hedgerow crossings are expected to result in removal of 30m of hedgerow. All hedgerows subject to removal to facilitate haul road access will have a 6m swathe removed. The 6m swathe in some cases, for example north of Bentley Road, is additional to that of the 30m lost for trenching. These losses will be considered within the BNG calculations.
- ~~103-105.~~ All watercourses located along the onshore cable route will be subject to HDD and will be recorded as 'retained' in the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric.
- ~~104-106.~~ Providing compensation on-site could allow BNG to be incorporated into other mitigation and compensatory measure of the development, such as habitat-based mitigation for protected species (Defra, 2023d).
- ~~105-107.~~ Land ownership constraints may limit the scope to provide sufficient enhancement to meet the required net gain target within the onshore project area.
- ~~106-108.~~ No stand-off distances have been included for the pre-consent calculations for trenchless crossings, as such standoff distances are not yet known. These will be included in the post-consent calculations at the detailed design stage, if required.

4.5 Post-consent approach

- ~~107-109.~~ Post-consent, the steps outlined in Section 4.4 will be repeated in advance of to the Project's construction.
- ~~108-110.~~ Once detailed design for the Project's onshore infrastructure has been undertaken, then the calculations outlined in Section 4.4.1 will be re-run in order to produce definitive baseline biodiversity values for the onshore project area. The calculation method will remain the same as outlined above, using the most up-to-date version of the Defra Biodiversity Metric available at the time, and using any new documents relevant to the habitat's strategic significance.
- ~~109-111.~~ These revised baseline biodiversity values will then be fed into the development of the Project's detailed written landscaping scheme (secured by DCO Requirement) in order to determine the number of biodiversity units which are required to achieve the Project's biodiversity net gain aims. Once the written landscaping scheme has then been finalised for construction, the calculations outlined in Section 4.4.2 will be re-run to determine the final BNG for the project, and to identify the need for off-site / credit purchase, if required.
- ~~110-112.~~ At this stage, a decision would also be made on the build out approach between North Falls and Five Estuaries. A decision will then be made as to whether a joint or separate BNG calculations will be undertaken for the two projects.

- ~~111.113.~~ 113. A new BNG Assessment Report will be produced detailing the final calculations, the habitat creation plan, and details of any proposed off-site habitat creation or credit purchases.
- ~~112.114.~~ 114. The development of post-consent BNG Assessment Report will be secured through DCO Requirement.

5 References

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NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm

Appendix A Early Design Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report (Tracked)

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Offshore Wind Farm

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Annex 1b North Falls and Five Estuaries ('cumulative') scenario Defra BNG Metric calculation

Annex 2 Figures

Glossary of Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research Association
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DCO	Development Consent Order
Defra	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPS	European Protected Species
ES	Environmental Statement
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LEMP	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LWS	Local Wildlife Sites
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
MNG	Marine Net Gain
NERC	The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
NFOW	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited
NPS	National Policy Statements
NRN	Nature Recovery Network
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Impact Report
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SPA	Special Protected Areas
SSSI	Sites of Specific Scientific Interest

Glossary of Terminology

Horizontal directional drill (HDD)	Trenchless technique to bring the offshore cables ashore at the landfall. The technique will also be used for installation of the onshore export cables at sensitive areas of the onshore cable route.
Landfall compound	Compound at landfall within which HDD or other trenchless technique will take place.
Onshore cable route	Onshore cable route within which the onshore export cables and associated infrastructure will be located.
Onshore project area	The boundary in which all onshore infrastructure required for the Project will be located (i.e. landfall; onshore cable route, accesses, construction compounds; onshore substation and National Grid substation extension), as considered within the ES.
Onshore substation	A compound containing electrical equipment required to transform and stabilise electricity generated by the Project so that it can be connected to the National Grid.
The Applicant	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (NFOW).
The Project Or 'North Falls'	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.

1 Introduction

1. Royal HaskoningDHV was commissioned by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd. (NFOW) to prepare an Early Design Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment Report for the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm project (herein 'North Falls' or 'the project'), in support of the project's Development Consent Order (DCO) application under the Planning Act 2008.

1.1 Purpose of this report

2. This report seeks to:
 - Present preliminary calculations of changes in biodiversity value as a result of the development of the Project, based on the onshore project area boundary used for the ES; and
 - Provide potential options for on and off-site compensation measures, in order to achieve BNG.

1.2 BNG Overview

3. Defra (2023a) define BNG as “a way to contribute to the recovery of nature while developing land. It is making sure the habitat for wildlife is in a better state than it was before development”. BNG allows developers to quantify the biodiversity value to their site and calculate how much compensation is required to improve biodiversity post-development.
4. The Environment Act 2021 (the 2021 Act) gained royal assent on 9 November 2021. Part 6 of the 2021 Act sets out provisions for “Biodiversity gain in planning” for developments in England. The statutory provisions in Section 99 and Schedule 15 of the 2021 Act relating to BNG in nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) are not yet in effect and are not anticipated to come into effect until November 2025. Further details and draft Regulations are awaited from Government to explain how these statutory provisions will apply to NSIPs in future.
5. In addition to mention of BNG within policy applicable to North Falls, BNG assessment in support of the Project's DCO application has also been requested by stakeholders including Tendring District Council, Essex Council, Natural England, Environment Agency and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) during the project's Evidence Plan Process (EPP) and through responses to the project's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).
6. Full details on the Project's approach to BNG are found in the Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Reference: 7.22).

1.3 Relevant policy and legislation

7. This Early Design BNG Assessment has been compiled with reference to the following relevant nature conservation legislation, planning policy and the UK

Biodiversity Framework, from which the protection of sites, habitats and species is derived in England:

- The Environment Act 2021;
 - Planning Act 2008;
 - The Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
 - National Policy Statements (NPS) EN-1 and EN-3 (DESNZ, 2023);
 - UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (Defra, 2018);
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure: action plan for reforms to the planning process (Defra, 2023b); and
 - The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
8. Plans, policies and strategies relevant to the project and BNG strategic significance assessment include:
- The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (1999);
 - UK Biodiversity Action Plan (2008);
 - Tendring's Open Spaces Strategy (2009);
 - Tendring's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2017);
 - Green Essex Strategy (2019);
 - Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy (2020);
 - Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond (2021; 2022);
 - National Character Area 111: North Thames Basin (2013); and
 - Natural England habitat network mapping data (2023).
9. The Environment Act 2021 outlines Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) as a mandatory requirement for local policy, to contribute to the wider Nature Recovery Network (NRN) across England. County-wide LNRS will reflect local biodiversity priorities and be used to inform targeted off-site compensation for BNG. NPS EN-1 Section 4.6.12 states *"If published, the relevant strategy is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). If an LNRS has not been published, the relevant consenting body or planning authority may specify alternative plans, policies or strategies to use"*. A LNR does not currently exist for Essex. However, BNG is mentioned in objective four of the Essex Climate Action Commission: Land Use and Green Infrastructure Technical Annex (ECC, 2021), which states *"To ensure the substantial proposed landscape scale changes also delivers multiple benefits such as net gain for biodiversity, improved soil health, improved air quality, reduced flooding, reduced urban heat island effect, and improved amenity, liveability, and wellbeing of Essex communities."*

2 Methodology

2.1 Field survey

10. Extended Phase 1 Habitat surveys of the onshore project area took place over 2021 – 2023, and comprised of the following survey campaigns:
 - April, July, September, and early-October 2021;
 - March 2022; and
 - August 2023.
11. These months are considered to be within the optimal surveying window for identifying ground flora species and habitat communities. Therefore, it is considered that the surveys (and their findings) are robust in being used to characterise the existing site conditions and in turn be used to inform and support the BNG assessment. The full findings of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey are reported in ES Appendix 23.1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report (Document Reference: 3.3.30).
12. Data collected in regard to BNG during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey included:
 - **Habitat types:** classified using the UK Habitat Classification System (UKHab) v1.1 (Butcher *et al.*, 2020) during the 2021 and 2022 surveys, and UKHab v2.01 for the 2023 surveys (UKHab Ltd., 2023); and
 - **Habitat condition assessment:** data collected using BNG metric 3.0 condition assessment guidance for the 2021 and 2022 surveys (Panks *et al.*, 2021), and BNG metric 4.0 condition assessment guidance for the 2023 survey.

2.2 Statutory Metric rules and principles

13. North Falls will be using the 'Rochdale Envelope' as described within the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 9 (Planning Inspectorate, 2018). This approach allows for flexibility in applications for a DCO in the case of any uncertainties. In these cases, assessors should complete several Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculations in order to represent the potential scenarios that may be reached by the project. North Falls will produce multiple calculations to account for the following scenarios:
 - **North Falls alone being consented ('project-alone'):** one metric for the North Falls onshore substation works area and onshore cable route; and

- **North Falls and Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm ('Five Estuaries') both being consented ('cumulative')**: one metric for the joint onshore substation works area and onshore cable route of both projects¹.

14. The results set out in Section 5 reflect this approach and are split accordingly.

2.2.1 Defra Biodiversity Metric rules and principles

15. The Defra Biodiversity Metric has four rules which must be followed, otherwise a project cannot claim to have achieved BNG. These rules will be followed by the project and are outlined below in [Table 2.1](#).

Table 2.1 Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric rules, taken from) Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Table 2).

Rule number	Rule description
Rule 1	The trading rules of this biodiversity metric must be followed.
Rule 2	Biodiversity unit outputs, for each type of unit, must not be summed, traded, or converted between types. The requirement to deliver at least a 10% net gain applies to each type of unit.
Rule 3	To accurately apply the biodiversity metric formula, you must use the biodiversity metric calculation tool or small sites biodiversity metric tool (SSM) for small sites. The tools remove the need for a user to manually calculate the change in biodiversity value. The tool will summarise the results of the calculation and inform a user whether the biodiversity net gain objective has been met.
Rule 4	In exceptional ecological circumstances, deviation from this biodiversity metric methodology may be permitted by the relevant planning authority.

16. Rule 1, also referred to as the BNG 'trading rules', set out the minimum level of habitat creation or enhancement in order to compensate for losses of specific habitats based on their distinctiveness. The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric trading rules are set out below in [Table 2.2](#)

Table 2.2 Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric Rule 1 trading rules to compensate for habitat losses, taken from Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Table 3).

Baseline habitat distinctiveness	Area module (area units)	Hedgerow module (hedgerow units)	Watercourse module (watercourse units)
Very high	Priority should be given to replacing losses with area habitat units of the same habitat type (see below notes on trading).	Losses must be replaced with hedgerow units of the same habitat type.	Priority should be given to replacing losses with watercourse units of the same habitat type (see below notes on trading).
High	Losses must be replaced with area habitat units of the same habitat type.	Losses must be replaced with hedgerow units of the same habitat type or higher distinctiveness band.	Losses must be replaced with watercourse units of the same habitat type.

¹ Details regarding the construction scenarios between North Falls and Five Estuaries are provided in the BNG Strategy (Document Reference: 7.22) and ES Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference: 3.1.7).

Baseline habitat distinctiveness	Area module (area units)	Hedgerow module (hedgerow units)	Watercourse module (watercourse units)
Medium	Losses must be replaced by area habitat units of either medium band habitats within the same broad habitat type or, any habitat from a higher band from any broad habitat type.	Losses must be replaced with hedgerow units of the same or of a higher band.	Losses must be replaced with watercourse units of the same habitat type.
Low	Losses must be replaced with area units of the same or higher band.	Losses must be replaced with hedgerow units of the same or of a higher band.	Losses must be replaced with watercourse units of a higher distinctiveness band.
Very low	Not applicable	Losses must be replaced with hedgerow units of the same or of a higher band.	Not applicable

17. Some very high distinctiveness habitats may require bespoke compensation if their losses or deterioration cannot be adequately compensated for by a development. Bespoke compensation should be discussed with the local planning authority, in this case Essex County Council.
18. In addition to the Metric rules set out in Section 2.2.1, there are nine principles set out by Defra which should be used to inform best use of the Metric. These principles will be followed by the project and are summarised in [Table 2.3](#).

Table 2.3 Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric principles of use, taken from Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Table 4).

Principle number	Principle description
Principle 1	The metric assessment should be completed by a competent person.
Principle 2	The use of this biodiversity metric does not override existing biodiversity protections, statutory obligations, policy requirements, ecological mitigation hierarchy or any other requirements. This includes consenting or licensing processes, for example woodlands.
Principle 3	This biodiversity metric should be used in accordance with established good practice guidance and professional codes.
Principle 4	This biodiversity metric is not a complex or comprehensive ecological model and is not a substitute for expert ecological advice.
Principle 5	Biodiversity units are a proxy for biodiversity and should be treated as relative values.
Principle 6	This biodiversity metric is designed to inform decisions in conjunction with locally relevant evidence, expert input, or guidance.
Principle 7	Habitat interventions need to be realistic and deliverable within a relevant project timeframe.
Principle 8	Created and enhanced habitats should be, where practical and reasonable, local to any impact and deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation.
Principle 9	This biodiversity metric does not enforce a minimum habitat size ratio for compensation of losses. Proposals should aim to: • maintain habitat extent - supporting more, bigger, better and more joined up ecological networks • ensure that proposed or retained habitat parcels are of sufficient size for ecological function

2.3 Assessor technical competence

19. Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric user guide (Defra, 2024) states a BNG assessment should be carried out by a competent person who is an ecologist. As such, the production of this report and the BNG calculations have been undertaken by a competent person who is an ecologist. Natural England defines a competent person as *"a competent person has the knowledge and skills to perform specified tasks to complete and review biodiversity metric calculations. You obtain this through training, qualifications, experience, or a combination of them."*
20. The calculations and this report were completed by Beth Millwater BSc (Hons) MSc, an Ecologist at Royal HaskoningDHV with four years' experience as a professional ecologist. She is a qualifying member of CIEEM and therefore is familiar with and follows CIEEM's code of professional conduct (CIEEM, 2022). Beth has experience conducting BNG assessments for a range of project types and sizes.
21. Additional technical review, support and quality assurance was provided by Gordon Campbell BA (Hons) MSc MIEMA ACIEEM CEnv, a Principal Ecologist at Royal HaskoningDHV with 13 years' experience as a professional ecologist.

2.4 Limitations

22. Some areas of habitats could not be fully accessed during the 2021 survey due to the presence of physical barriers, such as (but not limited to) dense scrub, which prevented safe entry for the surveyors. However, such areas were small and discrete and were encountered infrequently.
23. In the absence of field survey data, the habitats present within the unsurveyed areas have been digitised using aerial mapping, and these habitats are also shown on ES Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology Figure 23.3 (Document Reference: 3.2.19) using a separate colour scheme to those habitats which have been identified in the field.
24. The 2021 habitat survey was undertaken in April, July, September, and early-October, the 2022 habitat survey in March and the 2023 habitat survey in August. These months are considered to be within the optimal surveying window for identifying ground flora species and habitat communities. Therefore, sufficient evidence of key indicator species was found which in turn has enabled the successful identification of habitat communities and their respective conditions present within the onshore project area. Additionally, the majority of habitats encountered within the survey area are consistent with those expected of agricultural landscapes and colonised by identifiable species, for example scrub dominated by bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and hawthorn *Craetagus monogyna*. Therefore, it is considered that the survey (and its findings) is robust in being used to characterise the existing site conditions and in turn be used to inform and support the BNG assessment.
25. The condition assessments for all habitat surveys were conducted on previous versions of the Defra BNG condition assessment sheets, namely v3.0 and v4.0. The condition assessment sheets differ between each version of the metric and will have therefore differed between survey visits. The conditions of each habitat

have been revisited and compared to those provided by Defra (2024) as part of this assessment, and where applicable the assigned condition scores have been amended to ensure the assessed conditions are standardised.

26. The habitat data presented within this assessment does by its nature not present absolute certainty regarding of the presence or absence of species within given suitable habitat but does represent our best understanding of the baseline environment at the time of writing. The data collected is considered to be adequate to undertake a valid and robust BNG assessment.

3 Baseline conditions

3.1 Important ecological features

27. ES Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology (Document Reference: 3.1.25) assesses the potential impacts from the project on important ecological features. This namely includes protected and notable species, designated sites and UK Habitats of Principal Importance (UKHPI).
28. The influence of important ecological features on the deliverability of BNG has been considered in this BNG assessment where practicable. The UKHPI status and location (i.e. within or outside a designated site) of habitats have been considered and reflected within the assigned strategic significance of each habitat in the metric calculations.
29. The strategic significance of each habitat within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, defined by Defra (2024) as “*the local significance of the habitat based on its location and the habitat type*”, ensures the local ecological importance of habitats are considered as part of the BNG assessment. The parameters used to assign the relevant levels of strategic significance are set out below in [Table 3.1](#).

Table 3.1 Levels of strategic significance

Strategic significance	Habitat criteria
High	- Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Areas (SPA), as identified in PPL 4 of the Tendring District Local Plan; - Locally important. sites, ancient woodland and veteran trees flagged as being important for nature conservation in PPL 4 of the Tendring District Local Plan; - Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS), as they are classed as green infrastructure within the Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy; and - NERC Act 2006 Section 41 priority habitats.
Medium	- Areas and habitats immediately adjacent to the above sites for nature conservation, with potential to support the features of interest of the site or buffer impacts to them; - Areas which meet LoWS selection criteria but are not designated as such; and - Areas of land and habitats identified in Natural England’s habitat network mapping data including information on habitat restoration-creation, restorable habitat, plus fragmentation action, and network enhancement and expansion zones.
Low	All remaining habitats which do not meet the above criteria.

3.2 Baseline habitats

30. The baseline habitat plan, derived from the Extended Phase 1 Habitat surveys took place over 2021 – 2023, is set out in ES Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology Figure 23.3 (Document Reference: 3.2.19).
31. Of the baseline habitats, those that are subject to habitat loss for more than two years and will therefore be recorded as 'lost' within the metric are shown in Figures 1 and 2, Annex 2. 'Retained' habitats which are returned to target condition within two years are not shown on the figures. All habitat losses will be reinstated post-development following the habitat enhancement and creation set out in Section 4.1.

4 Proposed design

4.1 Proposed design and habitat plan

32. Figure 3, Annex 2 shows the proposed indicative habitat plan and landscaping which contribute towards BNG, under the 'project-alone' scenario.
33. Figure 4, Annex 2 shows the proposed indicative habitat plan and landscaping which contribute towards BNG, under the 'cumulative' scenario, where both North Falls and Five Estuaries are constructed.
34. All landscaping under both the calculated scenarios will be carried out at the Project(s)' onshore substation(s).
35. Local and national biodiversity strategies have been considered in the indicative habitat plan by:
 - Ensuring woodland plantation as part of landscaping follows the Essex County Council guidance *Essex Tree Palette: A guide to choosing the most appropriate tree species for Essex sites according to landscape character and soil type* (2018);
 - Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in line with the *Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy* (Essex County Council, 2020);
 - Strategic planting to ensure habitat connectivity is created with the surrounding landscape, in line with the *Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy* (Essex County Council, 2020);
 - Retention of trees and hedgerows where possible, in line with the *Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy* (Essex County Council, 2020); and
 - Planting of lowland meadow UK Habitat of Principal Importance (UKHPI) as listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environments and Rural Communities Act (as amended) 2006.
36. The primary UKHab habitats set out in the proposed indicative habitat plans (Figures 3 and 4, Annex 2) include:
 - Aquatic marginal vegetation (f2d);
 - Lowland meadow (g3a);
 - Other neutral grassland (g3c);

- Native hedgerow (h2a);
 - Species rich native hedgerow (h2a5);
 - Other standing water (r1g);
 - Buildings (u1b5);
 - Other developed land (u1b6); and
 - Other broadleaved woodland (w1g).
37. The secondary UKHab habitat codes applicable to the proposed indicative habitat plans include (Figures 3 and 4, Annex 2):
- Hedgerow with trees (11);
 - Non-priority pond (42);
 - Ditch (50); and
 - SuDS (848).

4.2 Other proposed biodiversity enhancements

38. Other biodiversity enhancements, outside of those included in the BNG assessment, are being proposed at the onshore substation in order to target locally important ecological receptors:
- Reptile and amphibian hibernacula, placed to create transitional areas between areas of woodland and grassland;
 - Scrape creation within open grassland for butterfly and moth species dependent on colonising plant species. Such areas also provide basking habitat for reptiles;
 - SuDS pond design will be tailored to ensure suitability for supporting breeding amphibians, in line with criteria set out in Oldham *et al.* (2000) and the great crested newt conservation handbook (Langton, Beckett and Foster, 2001).

5 Statutory BNG metric calculations

39. Two metric calculations are detailed in Annex 1 of this report, detailing each of the assessed construction scenarios:
- **North Falls alone being consented ('project-alone')**: one metric for the North Falls onshore substation works area and onshore cable route (Annex 1a); and
 - **North Falls and Five Estuaries both being consented ('cumulative')**: one metric for the joint onshore substation works area and onshore cable route of both projects (Annex 1b).
40. Full details of the assumptions followed to inform the BNG calculations are set out in the BNG Strategy (Document Reference: 7.22). Following such assumptions ensures the numbers presented represent a realistic worst-case scenario which will be recalculated post-consent at the detailed design stage.

5.1 North Falls alone ('project alone')

41. On-site post-development habitat creation to compensate for losses within the North Falls alone onshore substation works area have been calculated as all taking place within the boundary of the North Falls alone part of the onshore substation works area. Excess biodiversity units from the North Falls alone onshore substation landscaping will be used to compensate for losses along the onshore cable route.

41.42. Hedgerow reinstatement has been accounted for in the habitat creation tab of the metric, to ensure no net loss of hedgerow length is experienced prior to BNG creation within the North Falls alone onshore substation works area.

42.43. The headline results of the on-site BNG assessment of the North Falls alone scenario are summarised in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 On site BNG summary for the North Falls alone ('project-alone') scenario.

	Baseline biodiversity units	Post-development biodiversity units	Net change in biodiversity units	% BNG
Habitats	45.98	90.49	+44.51	96.81%
Watercourses	0.88	0.63	-0.26	-29.19%
Hedgerows	6.76 <u>11.73</u>	19.65 <u>11.93</u>	+5.18 <u>+7.92</u>	76.63% <u>67.48%</u>

5.2 North Falls and Five Estuaries joint build ('cumulative')

44. On-site post-development habitat creation to compensate for losses within the joint onshore substation works area will all take place within the boundary of the joint onshore substation works area. Excess biodiversity units from the joint onshore substation landscaping will be used to compensate for losses along the onshore cable route.

43.45. Hedgerow reinstatement has been accounted for in the habitat creation tab of the metric, to ensure no net loss of hedgerow length is experienced prior to BNG landscaping within the joint onshore substation works area.

44.46. The headline results of the on-site BNG assessment of the joint onshore cable route are summarised in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 On site BNG summary for the North Falls and Five Estuaries joint ('cumulative') scenario.

Unit type	Baseline biodiversity units	Post-development biodiversity units	Net change in biodiversity units	% BNG
Habitats	203.06	271.91	+68.85	33.91%
Watercourses	0.88	0.63	-0.26	-29.19%
Hedgerows	11.73 <u>6.76</u>	37.26 <u>29.54</u>	+25.52 <u>+22.79</u>	+337.23 <u>217.55%</u>

6 Recommendations to achieve BNG

- 45.47. The 10% BNG target is exceeded by North Falls in both the area habitat and hedgerow modules of the BNG Metric, and therefore no further interventions on these habitats are required.
- 46.48. A net loss is experienced in watercourse module biodiversity units. It is not currently proposed to commit to off-site interventions to compensate for these losses due to the complexity of watercourse enhancement and creation, as well as the Project design already minimising impacts on watercourse habitats as far as practicable within the onshore project area.
- 47.49. The compensation required to offset North Falls' biodiversity unit losses will be recalculated at the detailed design stage post-consent. As set out in the BNG Strategy (Document Reference: 7.22), biodiversity offsets will prioritise utilisation of on-site compensation in the first instance, bespoke off-site compensation where on-site options are not possible, and then Defra biodiversity credit purchase as a last resort (in line with the mitigation hierarchy). All habitat creation and enhancement will be additional to the reinstatement of habitats which will occur during construction.
- 48.50. Any area habitat creation and enhancement which takes place and contributes towards the Project's BNG target will require a minimum 30-year monitoring and maintenance period of its condition. This excludes any habitat reinstatement, as well as arable habitats as they do not receive a condition score within the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric. This is due to the cultivated nature of arable habitats, the state of which relies entirely on anthropogenic influences. These influences make it impossible to determine habitat condition as this could vary with crop type, time of year and agricultural practices used.
- 49.51. Hedgerows located outside of the onshore substation works area will be subject to post re-instatement surveys to ensure successful establishment of habitat and that they have achieved their target condition, up to five years after scheme completion. After five years it will be assumed that the landowner will continue to maintain the area as they deem fit. These areas will be specifically excluded from the 30-year monitoring and management plan once they have been confirmed as reaching their target condition. This is because firstly this land is only subject to temporary works, and therefore is returned to landowners' ownership following the completion of construction and reinstatement, and secondly North Falls would not have the appropriate rights to manage the hedgerows in question beyond the 30m extent needed to deliver the Project, therefore meaning different management regimes would be in place along the hedgerow's length.

7 References

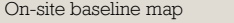
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Annex 1 Defra BNG Metric calculations (project alone and cumulative scenarios)

Annex 1a North Falls alone ('project alone') scenario Defra BNG Metric calculation

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric
Start page

Project details			
Planning authority:	Essex County Council		
Project name:	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm		
Applicant:	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd		
Application type:	DCO		
Planning application reference:			
Completed by:	BM (Royal HaskoningDHV)		
Date of metric completion:	13 March 2025		
Reviewer:	GC (Royal HaskoningDHV)		
Calculation iteration:	2		
Planning authority reviewer:			
Date of planning authority review:			
Target % net gain:	10%		
Irreplaceable habitat present at baseline:	No ✓		
Total site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	22.48	Irreplaceable habitat site area (hectares):	0.00
Total off-site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	N/A	Irreplaceable habitat area off-site (hectares):	N/A

Cell style conventions	
	Attention required
	Input error/rules and principles not met
	Use of this cell is not appropriate
	Enter data
	Automatic lookup
	Result

Main menu

Results

View all

Reset view

On-site baseline map

Insert

On-site baseline map reference number

Off-site baseline map

Insert

Off-site baseline map reference number

On-site post intervention map

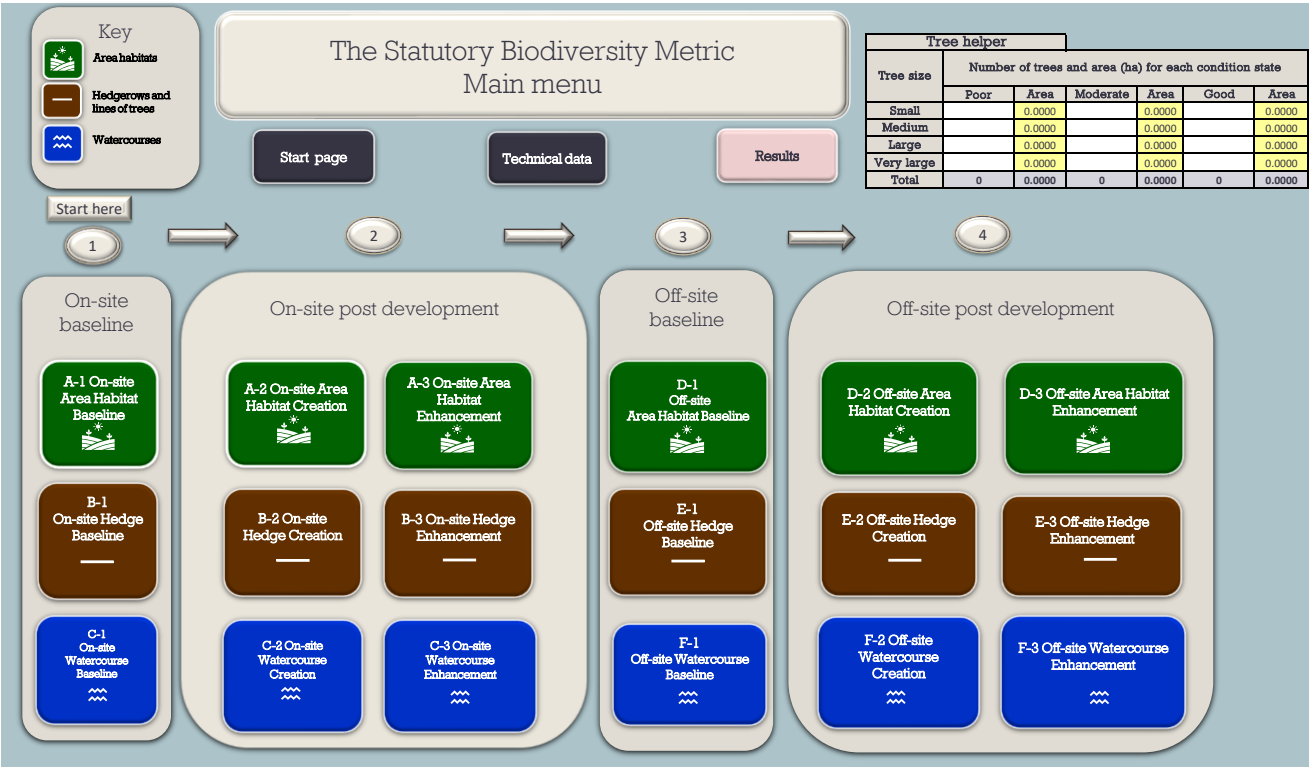
Insert

On-site post-intervention map reference number

Off-site post intervention map

Insert

Off-site post-intervention reference number



The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Results

[Return to start
page](#)

[Headline results](#)

[Detailed results](#)

[Habitat trading
summaries](#)

[Off-site
summary](#)

[Irreplaceable
habitats summary](#)

[Unit shortfall
summary](#)

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm
Headline Results
Scroll down for final results ▲

Return to
results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	45.98
	Hedgerow units	11.73
	Watercourse units	0.88
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	90.49
	Hedgerow units	19.65
	Watercourse units	0.63
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	44.51
	Hedgerow units	7.92
	Watercourse units	-0.26

On-site net gain is less than target set ▲

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	44.51
	Hedgerow units	7.92
	Watercourse units	-0.26
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	44.51
	Hedgerow units	7.92
	Watercourse units	-0.26

Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	96.81%
	Hedgerow units	67.48%
	Watercourse units	-29.19%

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲
--------------------------	--------------------------------

Area created must match area lost for both onsite and offsite ▲

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	45.98	50.58	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	11.73	12.91	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.88	0.97	0.36

No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓

No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓

Input errors/rule breaks present in metric ▲

Project Name: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Map Reference:
A-1 On-Site Habitat Baseline

Condense / Show Columns
Main Menu

Condense / Show Rows

Area habitat summary		
Total Net Unit Change	44.61	
Total Net % Change	88.81%	
Trading Index Factor	Yes /	

Existing area habitats					Distastiveness		Condition		Strategic significance				Ecological baseline	
Ref	Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Irreplaceable habitat	Area (hectares)	Distastiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier	Required Action to Meet Trading Rule	Total habitat size	
1	Chapland	Cereal crops	No	17.374	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Awa/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distastiveness as better habitat required 2:	34.75	
2	Chapland	Cereal crops	No	1.287	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Awa/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distastiveness as better habitat required 2:	2.59	
3	Chapland	Cereal crops	No	0.538	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Awa/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distastiveness as better habitat required 2:	1.58	
4	Chapland	Cereal crops	No	2.879	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Awa/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distastiveness as better habitat required 2:	5.76	
5	Chapland	Cereal crops	No	0.012	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Awa/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distastiveness as better habitat required 2:	0.02	
6	Grassland	Modified grassland	No	0.008	Low	2	Poor	1	Awa/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distastiveness as better habitat required 2:	0.02	
7														
8	Heathland and scrub	Mixed scrub	No	0.004	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Awa/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same forest habitat or a higher distastiveness habitat required 2:	0.03	
9	Heathland and scrub	Mixed scrub	No	0.028	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Awa/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same forest habitat or a higher distastiveness habitat required 2:	0.23	
10	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, mixed	No	0.098	Medium	4	Good	3	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	Same forest habitat or a higher distastiveness habitat required 2:	0.77	
11	Lakes	Ponds (non-priority habitat)	No	0.002	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Awa/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same forest habitat or a higher distastiveness habitat required 2:	0.02	
12	Chapland	Arable field margins tussocky	No	0.032	Medium	4	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	Same forest habitat or a higher distastiveness habitat required 2:	0.15	
13	Grassland	Other neutral grassland	No	0.042	Medium	4	Poor	1	Awa/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same forest habitat or a higher distastiveness habitat required 2:	0.17	
14														
15														
16														
17														
18														
				Total habitat area										48.88
				Site Area (excluding area of individual trees, green walls, intertidal hard structures)										

MP to hectare conversion tool:		
Select a unit	Hectares	M²

Baseline compensation agreed for losses of VNR or Irreplaceable habitat						Comments		
Area retained	Area enhanced	Baseline units retained	Baseline units enhanced	Area habitat lost	Units lost		Planning authority comments	Habitat reference number
0	0	0.00	0.00	17.37	34.75		Polygon = CSD ID 186: UHhab c/c cereal crops at the North Falls proposed CWS Temporary Construction Compound (TCC) and building footprint locations.	189
0	0	0.00	0.00	1.30	2.58		Polygon = CSD ID 181: UHhab c/c cereal crops at the North Falls proposed CWS Sustainable Drainage System (SDS) and location.	181
0	0	0.00	0.00	0.54	1.06		Polygon = CSD ID 186: UHhab c/c cereal crops at the North Falls proposed CWS SDS pond location.	185
0	0	0.00	0.00	3.88	5.76		Polygon = CSD ID 208: UHhab c/c cereal crops at the North Falls proposed CWS across road location.	208
0	0	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.42		Polygon = CSD ID 188: UHhab c/c cereal crops	188
0	0	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02		Polygon = CSD ID 209: UHhab g/c modified grassland	209
0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		Polygon = CSD ID 136: UHhab h/c mixed scrub	
0	0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.23		Polygon = CSD ID 129: UHhab h/c mixed scrub	
0	0	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.77		Polygon = CSD ID 147: UHhab w/g 20 Other broadleaved woodland (plantation). Medium strategic significance as the woodland type is not recognised in local policy but provides connectivity to riparian and adjacent woodland habitat nearby.	
0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02		Polygon = CSD ID 148: UHhab r/g 41 Other standing water (non-priority ponds)	
0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15		Polygon = CSD ID 163: UHhab c/c arable field margins. High strategic significance as a Section 41 NVC habitat.	
0	0	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.17		Polygon = CSD ID 212: UHhab g/c other neutral grassland	
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.48	48.88			
				Total area lost (excluding area of individual trees, green walls and intertidal hard structures)	88.48			

Project Name: North Palla Offshore Wind Farm Map Reference: A-2 On-Site Habitat Creation				Area habitat summary				Note: Habitat selected has a time to target condition greater than 30 years. Non standard agreement may be required.																
Coordinates / Show Columns				Coordinates / Show Rows				Total Net Hect Change		44.81		Total Net % Change		Trading Rules Satisfied		Area Check		Error - Area created does not equal area lost ▲						
								Year 1																
Main Menu																								
Post intervention habitat																								
Ref	Broad Habitat	Proposed habitat	Area (hectares)	Disturbance		Condition		Strategic significance		Strategic significance multiplier	Standard time to target condition (years)	Habitat created in advance (years)	Delay in starting habitat creation (years)	Temporal multiplier		Difficulty multipliers				Habitat units delivered	Comments			
				Disturbance	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance					Standard or adjusted time to target condition	Standard difficulty of creation	Applied difficulty multiplier	Final difficulty of creation	Difficulty multiplier applied						
1	Urban	Developed land, sealed surface	0.08	V Low	0	N/A - Other	0	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	1.000	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.00	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
2	Urban	Developed land, sealed surface	0.114	V Low	0	N/A - Other	0	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	1.000	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.00	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
3	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.029	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	1.41	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
4	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.008	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.51	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
5	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.020	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.54	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
6	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.126	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.85	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
7	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.112	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.89	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
8	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.008	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.54	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
9	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.001	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.40	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
10	Grassland	Lowland meadows	4.12	V High	6	Moderate	2	Primarily classified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.00	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	High	Standard difficulty applied	High	0.33	17.50	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
11	Urban	Sustainable drainage systems	0.139	Low	2	Moderate	2	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	0.999	Medium	Standard difficulty applied	Medium	0.02	0.20	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
12	Urban	Sustainable drainage systems	0.17	Low	2	Moderate	2	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	0.999	Medium	Standard difficulty applied	Medium	0.02	0.41	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
13	Grassland	Other central grassland	7.39	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	0.921	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	46.47	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
14	Grassland	Other central grassland	0.069	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	0.921	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.44	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
15	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.018	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	1.12	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
16	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	1.594	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	8.02	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
17	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.779	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	4.02	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
18	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.002	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.01	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
19	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	0.040	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.988	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	1.26	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
20	Grassland	Other central grassland	0.009	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	0.907	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.26	North Palla Allow OffS landseeping habitat		
21																								
22	Heathland and scrub	Mixed scrub	0.004	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	0.907	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.03			
23	Heathland and scrub	Mixed scrub	0.009	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	0.907	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.19			
24	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, mixed	0.008	Medium	4	Good	3	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.900	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.24			
25	Lake	Ponds (reciprocity habitat)	0.002	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	0.999	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.01			
26	Cropland	Arable field margins (arable)	0.006	Medium	4	Condition Assessment: Ark	1	Primarily classified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.00	1	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	1	0.985	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.14			
27	Grassland	Other central grassland	0.040	Medium	4	Poor	1	Awaken/compensation not in local strategy not local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	0.901	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.16			
28																								
29																								
30																								
31																								
32	Total habitat area			88.81																		Total Urban	80.48	
Site Area (Excluding area of individual trees, green walls, intertidal hard structures)			88.81																					
M² to hectares conversion tool:			Enter a value	Enter area	M²																			

[illegible]

Hedgerow summary	
Total Net Unit Change	7.9%
Total Net % Change	87.48%
Trading Rules Satisfied	Yes ✓

Project Name: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Map

C-1 On-Site WaterC^o Baseline

Condense / Show Columns

Condense / Show Rows

Main Menu

Watercourse summary	
Total Net Unit Change	-0.38
Total Net % Change	-39.19%
Trading Rules Satisfied	No - check trading summary A

Existing watercourse type			Disturbances		Condition		Strategic significance			Watercourse encroachment		Riparian encroachment		Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline Total watercourse units	Net-gross compensation agreed for losses of VHDH	Comments								
Ref	Watercourse type	Length (km)	Disturbances	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier	Extent of encroachment	Multiplier	Extent of encroachment for both banks	Multiplier				User Comments	Planning authority comments	Habitat reference number						
1	Ditches	0.327	Medium	4	Poor	1	Area compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	Minor	0.8	Major/Major	0.75	Same habitat required =	0.78	Polyline + CIE ID 38, 100m x 150m rip 100m standing water (static) at the North Falls proposed CDD building location.									
2																									
3	Ditches	0.015	Medium	4	Poor	1	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	Minor	0.8	Major/Major	0.75	Same habitat required =	0.04	Polyline + CIE ID 38, 100m x 150m rip 100m standing water (static). Medium strategic significance due to connectivity provided between Great Holland Pits LWS (both known OCN populations) and other ponds, however no OCN presence confirmed in the ditch (and 32m LoRD Special Chinese 15 - Great Chained Islands).			35						
4	Other ditches and streams	0.015	High	6	Poor	1	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	Minor	0.8	Major/Major	0.75	Same habitat required =	0.06										
5																Polyline + CIE ID 38, 100m x 150m rip 100m standing water. Tributary to 'Teaching Brook'. Medium strategic significance due to potential to provide habitat for FISH, in line with Great Lifford criteria.			84						
6																									
7																									
8																									
9																									
10		0.38													0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.39				

Project Name: North Farm Outcrops Wind Farm															RSP				
Reference:																			
C-2 On-Site Water ^C Creation																			
Condensed / Show Columns					Condensed / Show Rows														
Main Menu:																			

Project Name: North Pole Offshore Wind Farm						WATERCOURSE SUMMARY																						
F-2 Off-Site Water Course Creation						Total Wet Wet Change				-1.00																		
						Total Net W Change				-0.99																		
						Trading Risk Estimated				No - check trading summary A																		
Calculate / Show Columns						Calculate / Show Rows																						
Main Menu																												
Proposed habitat		Disturbance		Condition		Strategic significance		Temporal multiplier		Effectivity multipliers		Watercourse assessment		Significant watercourse		Spatial risk multiplier		Watercourse delivered		Comments								
Ref	Watercourse type	Length (m)	Disturbance #	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier	Reward Time to target condition (years)	Habitat created in target condition (years)	Delay to starting habitat creation	Reward or adjusted time to target condition	Real time in target condition per year #	Real time to target condition multiplier	Reward quality of creation	Applied delivery multiplier	Real delivery multiplier of creation	Delivery multiplier applied	Rating of watercourse at t	Rating of watercourse at end of bank	Multiplier	Spatial risk category	Watercourse delivered	User comments	Funding authority comments	Subsidy reference number	Off-site reference	Baseline ref
1																												
2																												
3																												
4																												
5																												
6																												
		0.00																										
		0.00																										

Annex 1b North Falls and Five Estuaries ('cumulative') scenario Defra BNG Metric calculation

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric

Start page

Project details

Planning authority:	Essex County Council		
Project name:	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm		
Applicant:	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd.		
Application type:	DCO		
Planning application reference:			
Completed by:	BM (Royal HaskoningDHV)		
Date of metric completion:	13 March 2025		
Reviewer:	GC (RoyalHaskoningDHV)		
Calculation iteration:	2		
Planning authority reviewer:			
Date of planning authority review:			
Target % net gain:	10%		
Irreplaceable habitat present at baseline:	No ✓		
Total site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	100.75	Irreplaceable habitat site area (hectares):	0.00
Total off-site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	N/A	Irreplaceable habitat area off-site (hectares):	N/A

[Main menu](#)[Results](#)

Cell style conventions

▲	Attention required
▲	Input error/rules and principles not met
	Use of this cell is not appropriate
	Enter data
	Automatic lookup
	Result

[View all](#)[Reset view](#)

On-site baseline map

[Insert](#)

On-site baseline map reference number

Off-site baseline map

[Insert](#)

Off-site baseline map reference number

On-site post intervention map

[Insert](#)

On-site post-intervention map reference number

Off-site post intervention map

[Insert](#)

Off-site post-intervention reference number

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Main menu



Start page

Technical data

Results

Start here

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2

3

4

On-site
baseline

A-1 On-site
Area Habitat
Baseline



B-1
On-site Hedge
Baseline



C-1
On-site
Watercourse
Baseline



On-site post development

A-2 On-site Area
Habitat Creation



A-3 On-site Area
Habitat
Enhancement



B-2 On-site
Hedge Creation



B-3 On-site Hedge
Enhancement



C-2 On-site
Watercourse
Creation



C-3 On-site
Watercourse
Enhancement



Off-site
baseline

D-1
Off-site
Area Habitat Baseline



E-1
Off-site Hedge
Baseline



F-1
Off-site Watercourse
Baseline



Off-site post development

D-2 Off-site Area
Habitat Creation



D-3 Off-site Area Habitat
Enhancement



E-2 Off-site Hedge
Creation



E-3 Off-site Hedge
Enhancement



F-2 Off-site
Watercourse
Creation



F-3 Off-site Watercourse
Enhancement



Tree helper

Tree size	Number of trees and area (ha) for each condition state					
	Poor	Area	Moderate	Area	Good	Area
Small		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000
Medium		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000
Large		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000
Very large		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000
Total	0	0.0000	0	0.0000	0	0.0000

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Results

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[Headline results](#)

[Detailed results](#)

[Habitat trading
summaries](#)

[Off-site
summary](#)

[Irreplaceable
habitats summary](#)

[Unit shortfall
summary](#)

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm
Headline Results
Scroll down for final results ▲

Return to
results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	203.06
	Hedgerow units	11.73
	Watercourse units	0.88
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	271.91
	Hedgerow units	37.26
	Watercourse units	0.63
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	68.85
	Hedgerow units	25.52
	Watercourse units	-0.26

On-site net gain is less than target set ▲

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	68.85
	Hedgerow units	25.52
	Watercourse units	-0.26
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	68.85
	Hedgerow units	25.52
	Watercourse units	-0.26

Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	33.91%
	Hedgerow units	217.55%
	Watercourse units	-29.19%

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲
--------------------------	--------------------------------

Area created must match area lost for both onsite and offsite ▲

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	203.06	223.36	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	11.73	12.91	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.88	0.97	0.36

No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓

No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓

Input errors/rule breaks present in metric ▲

Trading
summary
watercourses

Very High Distinctiveness Summary		
Very High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	30.54	✓
Remaining losses; Like for like not satisfied	0.00	

High Distinctiveness Summary	
High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	5.63 ✓
Remaining losses; Like for like not satisfied	0.00

Medium Distinctiveness Summary		
Medium Distinctiveness Units available to offset Lower Distinctiveness Deficit	142.97	✓
Medium Distinctiveness Broad Habitat Losses to be offset by trading up	-0.06	▲
Higher Distinctiveness Surplus Units minus Medium Distinctiveness Broad Habitat Deficit	36.13	✓
Overall Distinctiveness of units	179.10	

Low Distinctiveness Summary	
Low Distinctiveness net change in units	-110.00 
Cumulative surplus of units	60.00 

Low Distinctiveness Summary	
Low Distinctiveness net change in units	-110.25
Cumulative, absolute of units	550.95

Return to results menu

Trading summary area habitats

Trading summary watercourses

Trading Summary		
Distinctiveness Group	Trading Rule	Trading Satisfied?
Very High	Same habitat required =	Yes ✓
High	Like for like or better	Yes ✓
Medium	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	Yes ✓
Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	Yes ✓
Very Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	Yes ✓

Very High Distinctiveness			
Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project-wide unit change
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00

High Distinctiveness			
Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	1.46	0.00	1.46 ✓
Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
	1.46	0.00	1.46

Medium Distinctiveness			
Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change
Species-rich native hedgerow	0.10	0.00	0.10 ✓
Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow with trees	26.97	0.00	26.97 ✓
Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
	26.97	0.00	26.97

Low Distinctiveness			
Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change
Native hedgerow	-2.91	0.00	-2.91 ⚠
Line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
	-2.91	0.00	-2.91

Very Low Distinctiveness			
Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00

Very High Distinctiveness Summary	
Very High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	0.00
Remaining losses; Like for like not satisfied	0.00

High Distinctiveness Summary	
High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	1.46 ✓
High Distinctiveness losses to be offset by trading up	0.00
Higher Distinctiveness surplus units minus any high distinctiveness deficit	0.00

Medium Distinctiveness Summary	
Units available from higher distinctiveness habitats	1.46 ✓
Medium Distinctiveness net change in units	26.97 ✓
Cumulative availability of units	28.43 ✓

Low Distinctiveness Summary	
Low Distinctiveness net change in units	-2.91 ⚠
Cumulative availability of units	25.52 ✓

Very Low Distinctiveness Summary	
Very Low Distinctiveness net change in units	0.00
Cumulative availability of units	25.52 ✓

Return to results menu

Trading summary area habitats

Trading summary hedgerows

Trading Summary		
Distinctiveness Group	Trading Rule	Trading Satisfied?
Very High	Same habitat required – bespoke compensation option ▲	Yes ✓
High	Same habitat required =	No ▲
Medium	Same habitat required =	No ▲
Low	Better distinctiveness habitat required	Yes ✓

Very High Distinctiveness			
Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project-wide unit change
Priority habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00

Very High Distinctiveness Summary	
Very High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	0.00
Remaining losses; Like for like not satisfied	0.00

High Distinctiveness			
Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project-wide unit change
Other rivers and streams	-0.06	0.00	-0.06 ▲
	-0.06	0.00	-0.06

High Distinctiveness Summary	
High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	0.00
Remaining losses; Like for like not satisfied	-0.06 ▲

Medium Distinctiveness			
Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change
Ditches	-0.20	0.00	-0.20 ▲
Canals	0.00	0.00	0.00
	-0.20	0.00	-0.20

Medium Distinctiveness Summary	
Medium Distinctiveness Units available to offset Lower Distinctiveness Deficit	0.00
Remaining losses; Like for like not satisfied	-0.20 ▲

Low Distinctiveness			
Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change
Culvert	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00

Low Distinctiveness Summary	
Low Distinctiveness net change in units	0.00
Cumulative availability of units	0.00

take account of trading
take account of trading

Project Name: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Map Reference:

B-2 On-Site Hedge Creation

Condense / Show Columns

Condense / Show Rows

Main Menu

Hedge row summary	
Total Net Unit Change	20.00
Total Net % Change	117.88%
Trading Rules Satisfied	Yes ✓

		Proposed habitats		Disturbances		Condition		Strategic significance			Temporal multiplier					Difficulty risk multipliers					Hedge value delivered	Comments		
Ref	New hedge number	Habitat type	Length (m)	Disturbances	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier	Standard Time to target condition -reach	Habitat created in advance -reach	Delay in starting habitat creation -reach	Standard or adjusted time to target condition	Final time to target condition -reach	Final time to target multiplier	Standard difficulty of creation	Applied difficulty multiplier	Final difficulty of creation	Difficulty multiplier applied	User comments	Planning authority comments	Habitat reference number	
1	2	Native hedgerow with trees	0.243	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	1.56	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 3. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		2
2	3	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.183	High	6	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	1.76	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 3. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		3
3	4	Native hedgerow with trees	0.54	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	3.45	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 4. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		4
4	6	Native hedgerow with trees	0.75	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	4.83	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 6. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		5
6	6	Native hedgerow with trees	1.128	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	7.27	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 6. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		6
6	7	Native hedgerow with trees	0.284	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	1.83	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 7. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		7
7	8	Native hedgerow with trees	0.023	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.14	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 8. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		8
8	9	Native hedgerow with trees	0.032	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.21	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 9. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		9
9	10	Native hedgerow with trees	0.035	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.23	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 10. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		10
10	11	Native hedgerow with trees	0.049	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.32	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 11. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		11
11	12	Native hedgerow with trees	0.052	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.34	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 12. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		12
12	13	Native hedgerow	0.247	Low	2	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	6	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	6	0.837	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.95	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 13. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		13
13	14	Native hedgerow with trees	0.082	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.53	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 14. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		14
14	16	Native hedgerow with trees	0.351	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	2.26	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 15. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		15
15	16	Native hedgerow with trees	0.048	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.30	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 16. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		16
16	17	Native hedgerow with trees	0.389	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	1.96	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 17. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		17
17	18	Native hedgerow with trees	0.041	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.26	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 18. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		18
18	19	Native hedgerow with trees	0.222	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	10	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	1.43	GRID ID = Post dev polygon 19. URHdb hda 11 native hedgerow (hedgerow with trees). High strategic significance due to status as Section 41 NERC habitat.		19
19																								
20	21	Native hedgerow	1.041	Low	2	Good	3	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	12	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	12	0.652	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	4.58	Hedgerow reinstatement along cable route		21
21	22	Native hedgerow with trees	0.247	Medium	4	Good	3	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	20	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	20	0.492	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	1.57	Hedgerow reinstatement along cable route		22
22	23	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.096	High	6	Good	3	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	20	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	20	0.492	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.87	Hedgerow reinstatement along cable route		23
23	24	Species-rich native hedgerow	0.054	Medium	4	Good	3	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	12	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	12	0.652	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.49	Hedgerow reinstatement along cable route		24
24																								
25																								
26																								
27																								
28																								
																				5.03				
																				37.48				

Project Name: North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Map

C-1 On-Site WaterC² Baseline

Condense / Show Columns

Condense / Show Rows

Main Menu

Watercourse summary	
Total Net Unit Change	-0.38
Total Net % Change	-38.19%
Trading Rules Satisfied	No - check trading summary A

Existing watercourse type			Disturbances		Condition		Strategic significance			Watercourse encroachment		Riparian encroachment		Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline	Net-gross compensation agreed for losses of VHDH	Comments						
Ref	Watercourse type	Length (km)	Disturbances	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier	Extent of encroachment	Multiplier	Extent of encroachment for both banks	Multiplier		Total watercourse units	User Comments		Planning authority comments	Habitat reference number					
1	Ditches	0.327	Medium	4	Poor	1	Area compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy	Low Strategic significance	1	Minor	0.8	Major/Major	0.75	Same habitat required =	0.78		Polyline = CED B 58. 182mab rig 50 other standing water (ditch) at the North Falls and Five Exhausted Estimated OCHN building footprint						
2																							
3	Ditches	0.015	Medium	4	Poor	1	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	Minor	0.8	Major/Major	0.75	Same habitat required =	0.04		Polyline = CED B 58. 182mab rig 50 other standing water (ditch). Medium strategic significance due to connectivity provided between Great Inland Flia LAR (with known OCHN populations) and other ponds, however no OCHN presence confirmed in the ditch itself. Stone LARPS Special Character 15 - Great Channel Mapfile						
4	Other dries and streams	0.015	High	6	Poor	1	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	Minor	0.8	Major/Major	0.75	Same habitat required =	0.06		Polyline = CED B 34. 182mab rig other stream and stream. Tributary to Trenching Brook. Medium strategic significance due to potential to provide habitat for EPRs (in line with EPRP criteria).						
5																							
6																							
		0.38														0.88		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.88

Project Name: North Falls Onshore Wind Farm

Map

C-2 On-Site WaterC' Creation

Coordinates / Show Columns

Coordinates / Show Rows

Main Menu

Watercourse summary	
Total Net Unit Change	-0.18
Total Net % Change	-25.15%
Trading Rules Relieved	No - check trading summary A

Proposed habitats			Disturbances		Condition		Strategic significance				Temporal multiplier					Difficulty multipliers				Watercourse encroachment		Riparian encroachment		Comments			
Ref	Watercourse type	Length (km)	Disturbances	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier	Standard Time to target condition (years)	Habitat created in advance (years)	Delay in starting habitat creation (years)	Standard or adjusted time to target condition (years)	Final time to target condition (years)	Final Time to target multiplier	Standard difficulty of creation	Applied difficulty multiplier	Final difficulty of creation	Difficulty multiplier applied	Extent of encroachment	Multiplier	Extent of encroachment for both banks	Multiplier	User comments	Planning authority comments	Habitat reference number	
1	Ditches	0.243	Medium	4	Poor	1	Recreation/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	1	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	1	0.865	Medium	Standard difficulty applied	Medium	0.67	No Encroachment	1	No Encroachment/No Encroachment	1	0.63	Offsite rty 50 other standing water (ditch) Proposed ditch recreation between both OWS loadings		1
2																											
3																											
4																											
5																											
		0.84																						0.63			

[illegible]

Distintiveness categories		
Distinctiveness level	Distinctiveness level	Associated action
High	High	Review the business plan and strategy
High	Medium	Review the business plan and strategy
High	Low	Review the business plan and strategy
Medium	High	Review the business plan and strategy
Medium	Medium	Review the business plan and strategy
Medium	Low	Review the business plan and strategy
Low	High	Review the business plan and strategy
Low	Medium	Review the business plan and strategy
Low	Low	Review the business plan and strategy

[illegible]

Learning Community Program Summary

[illegible]

Services	
Asset Balance	Non-Financial Asset Balance
1. Cash	1. Cash
2. Accounts receivable	2. Accounts receivable
3. Inventory	3. Inventory
4. Prepaid expenses	4. Prepaid expenses
5. Other assets	5. Other assets
6. Total	6. Total
7. Cash	7. Cash
8. Accounts receivable	8. Accounts receivable
9. Inventory	9. Inventory
10. Prepaid expenses	10. Prepaid expenses
11. Other assets	11. Other assets
12. Total	12. Total

[illegible]

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Data

Return to start
page

All area habitats

Area habitat groups

Multipliers

Temporal multipliers

Enhancement
temporal multipliers

Hedgerow data

Phase 1 - metric
habitat translation tool

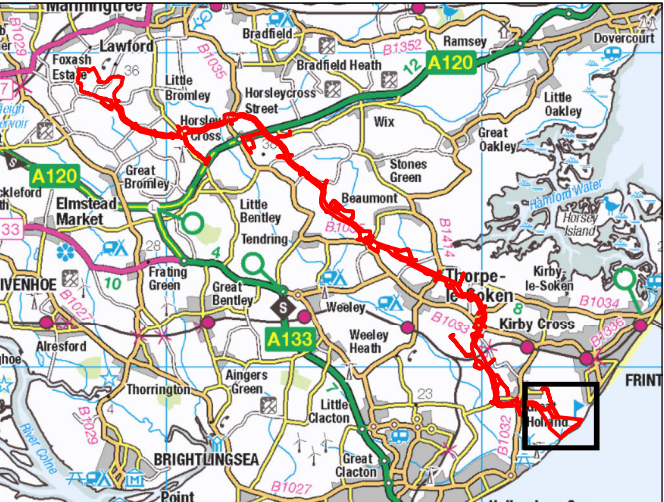
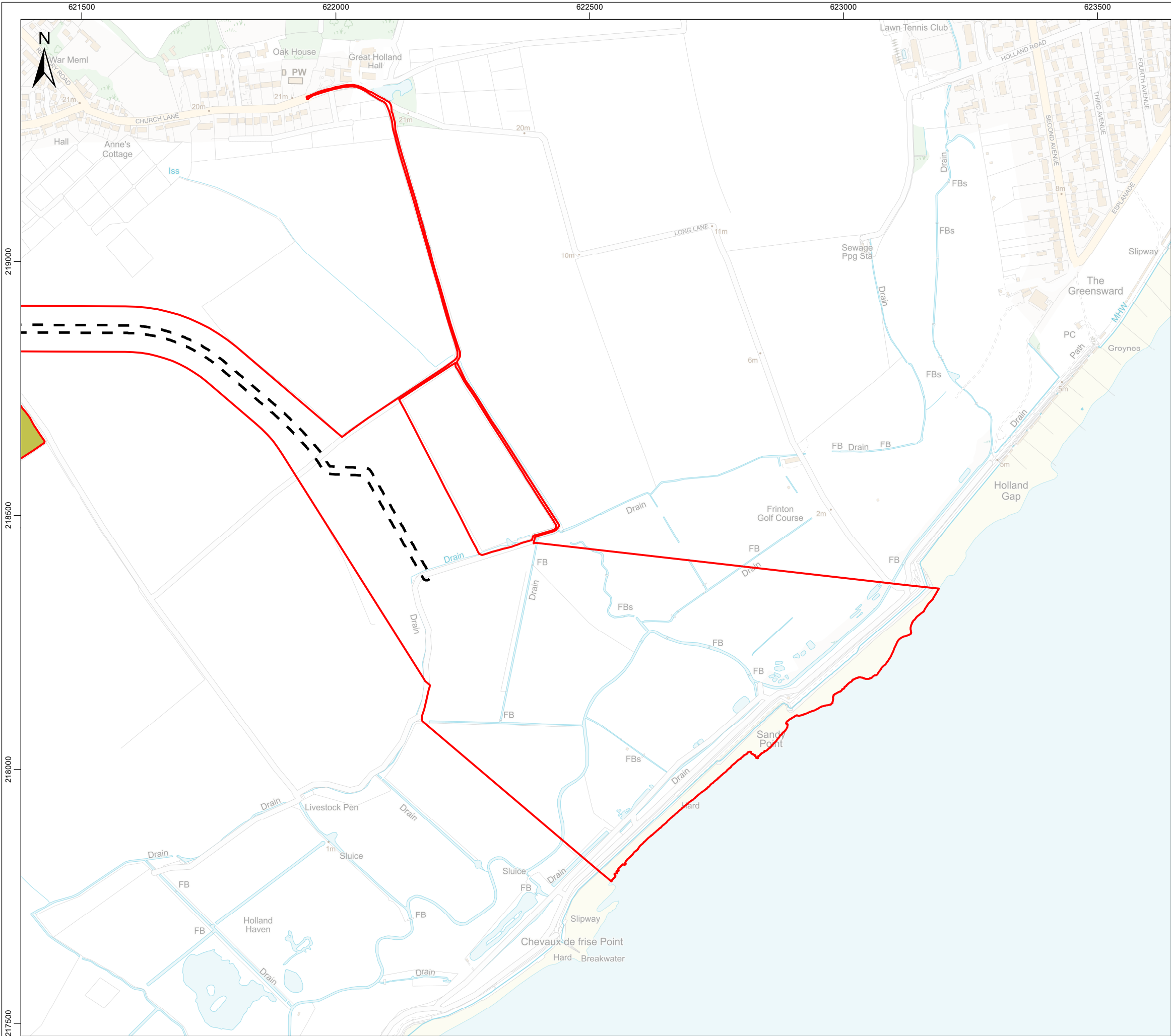
Watercourse data

Condition data

Unit shortfall
calculations

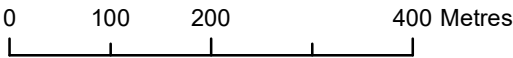
Main menu

Annex 2 Figures



Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe



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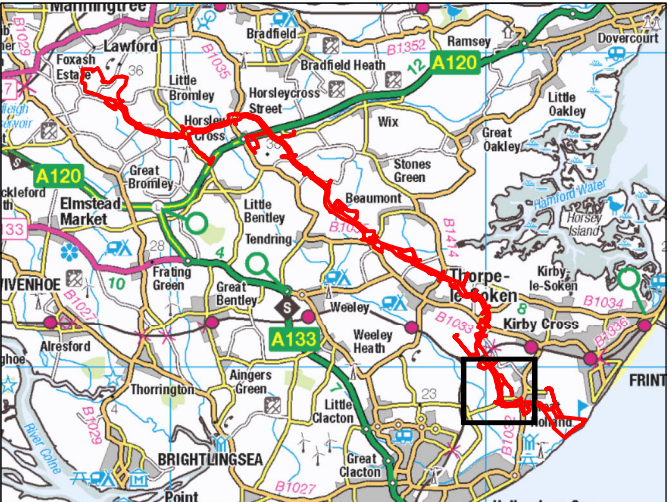
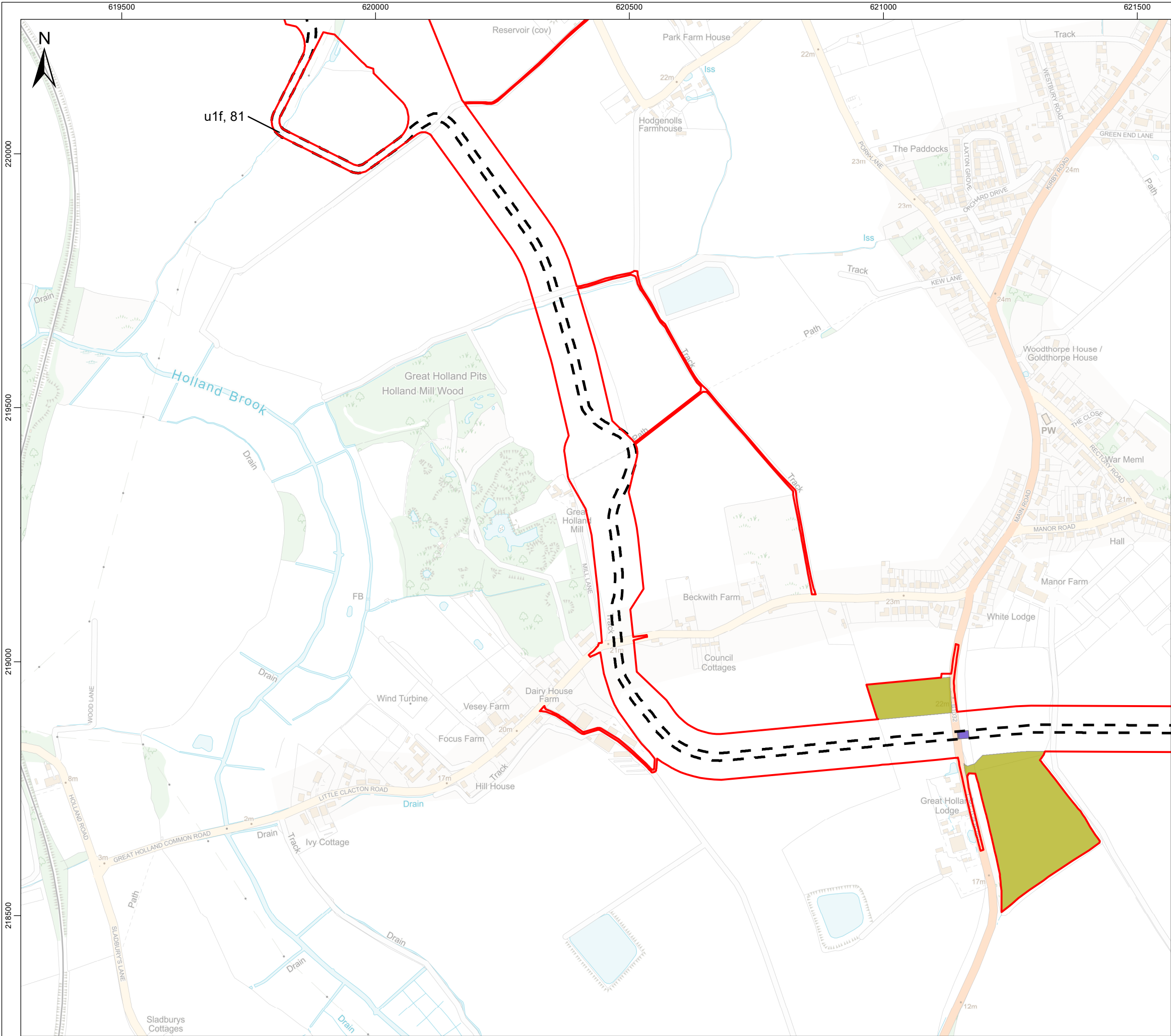
**North Falls Alone Scenario
Baseline BNG Footprint**

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02	01/07/2024	Second issue	JH	GC

Drawing Number	Figure Number
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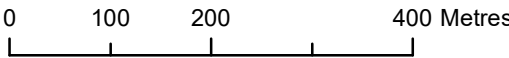
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Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe
- UK Hab Primary Habitat**
- h3h - Mixed Scrub



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Drawing Title

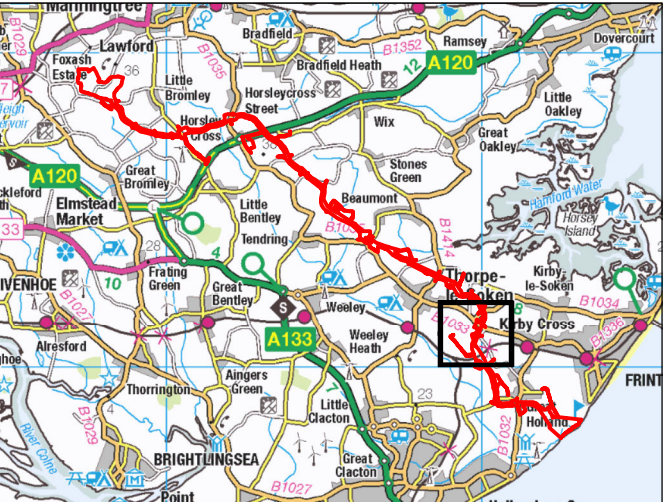
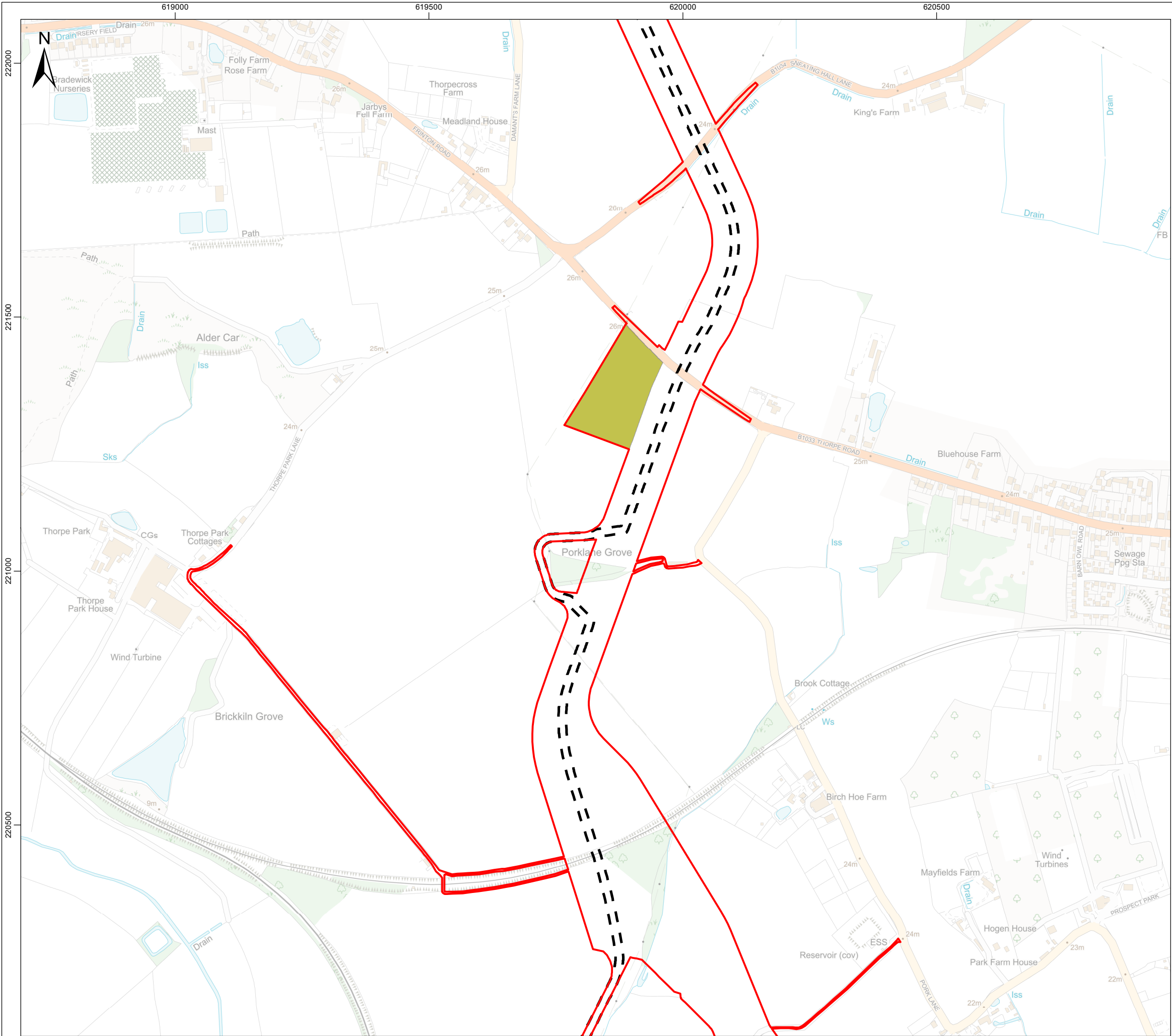
North Falls Alone Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

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02	01/07/2024	Second issue	JH	GC

Drawing Number **PB9244-RHD-ZZ-ON-DR-GS-0555** Figure Number **1b**

Scale 1:7,500 Plot Size A3 Datum OSGB36 Projection BNG



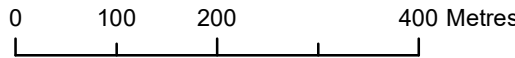


Legend

Onshore Project Area

TCC

Haul Road 15m Swathe



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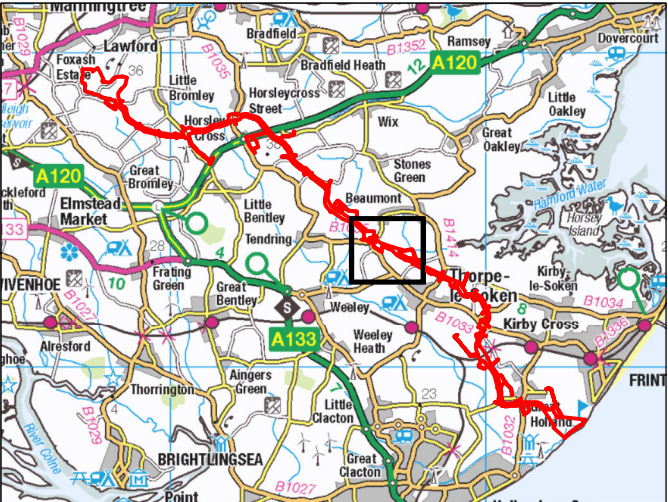
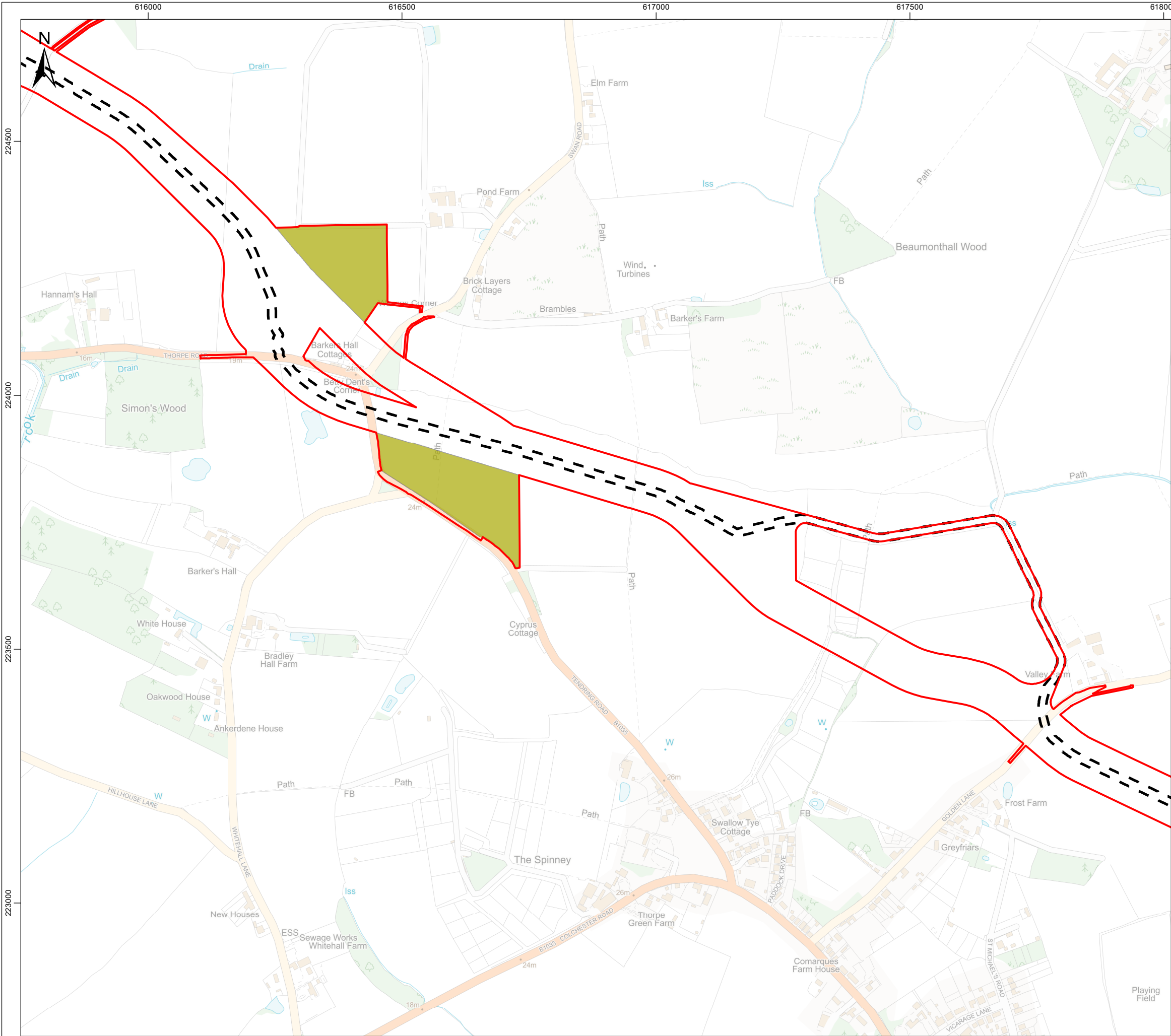
**North Falls Alone Scenario
Baseline BNG Footprint**

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02	01/07/2024	Second issue	JH	GC

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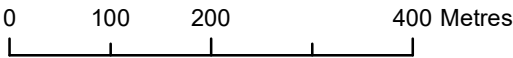
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Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe



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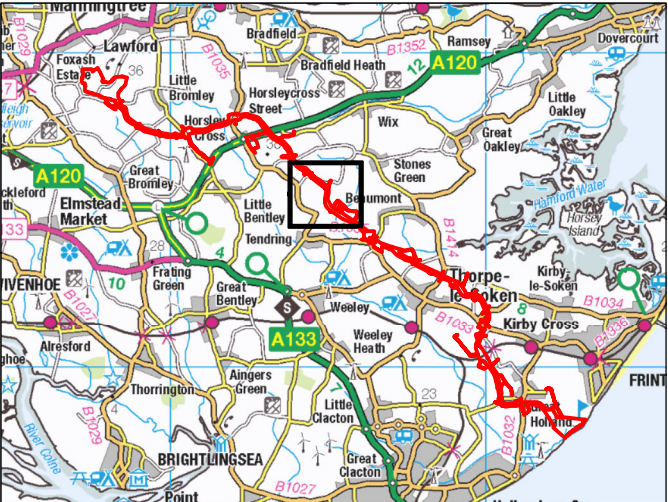
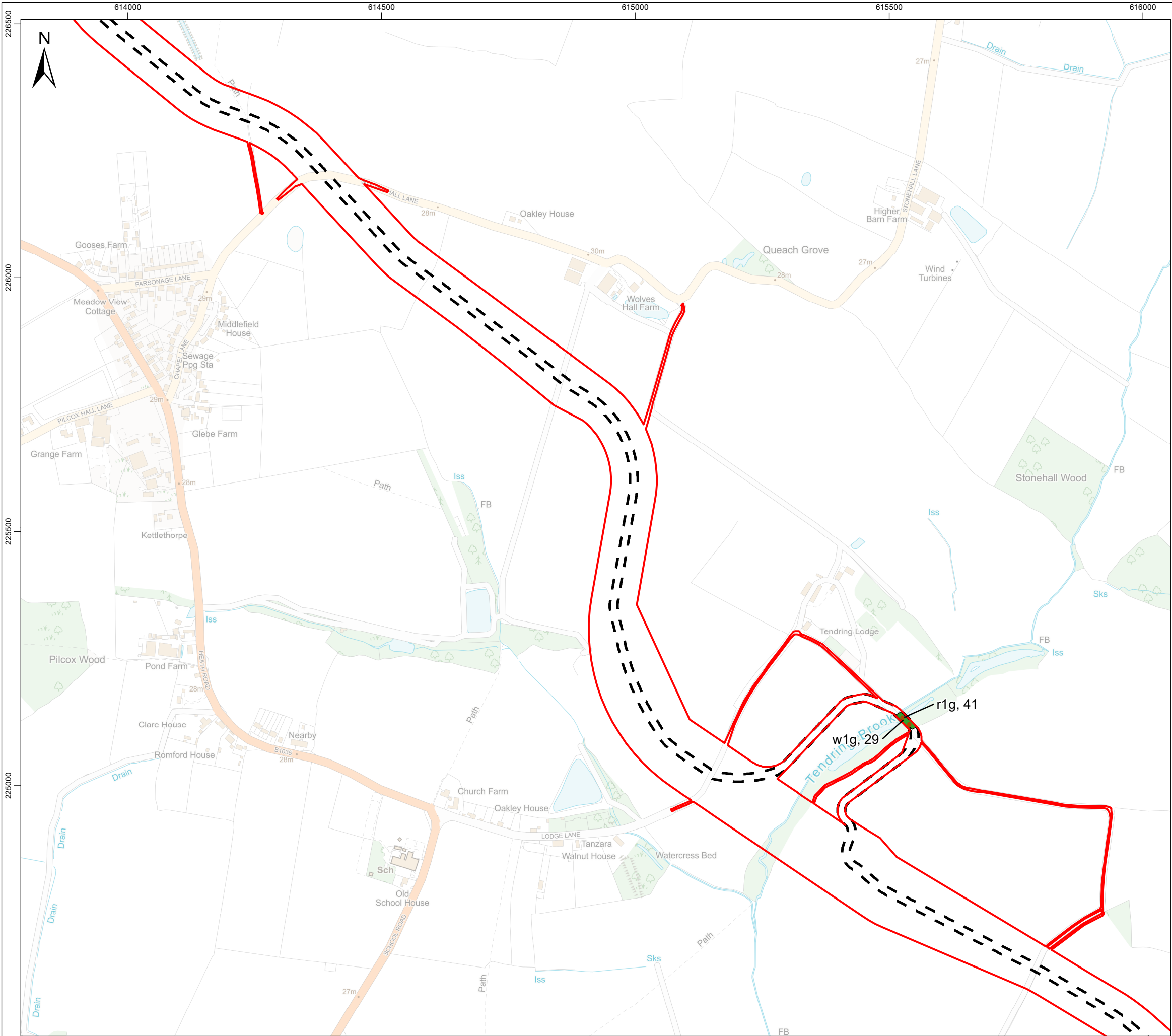
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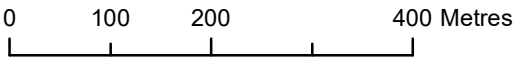
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Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe
- UK Hab Primary Habitat**
- r1g - Other Standing Water
- w1g - Other Woodland, Broadleaved
- Secondary Habitat Code**
- 29 - Plantation
- 41 - Pond (Non-Priority)



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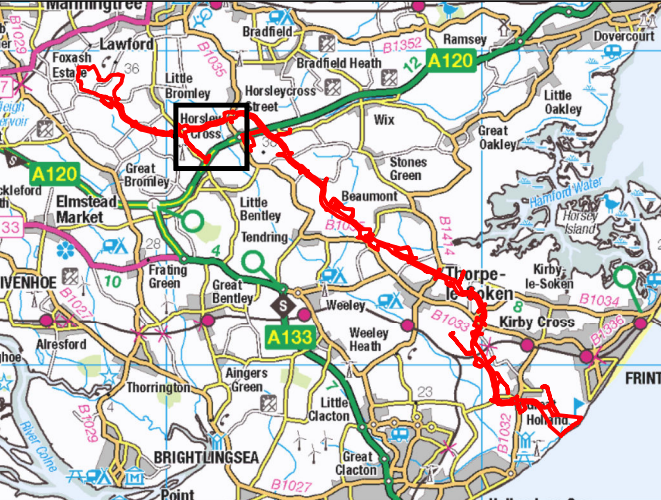
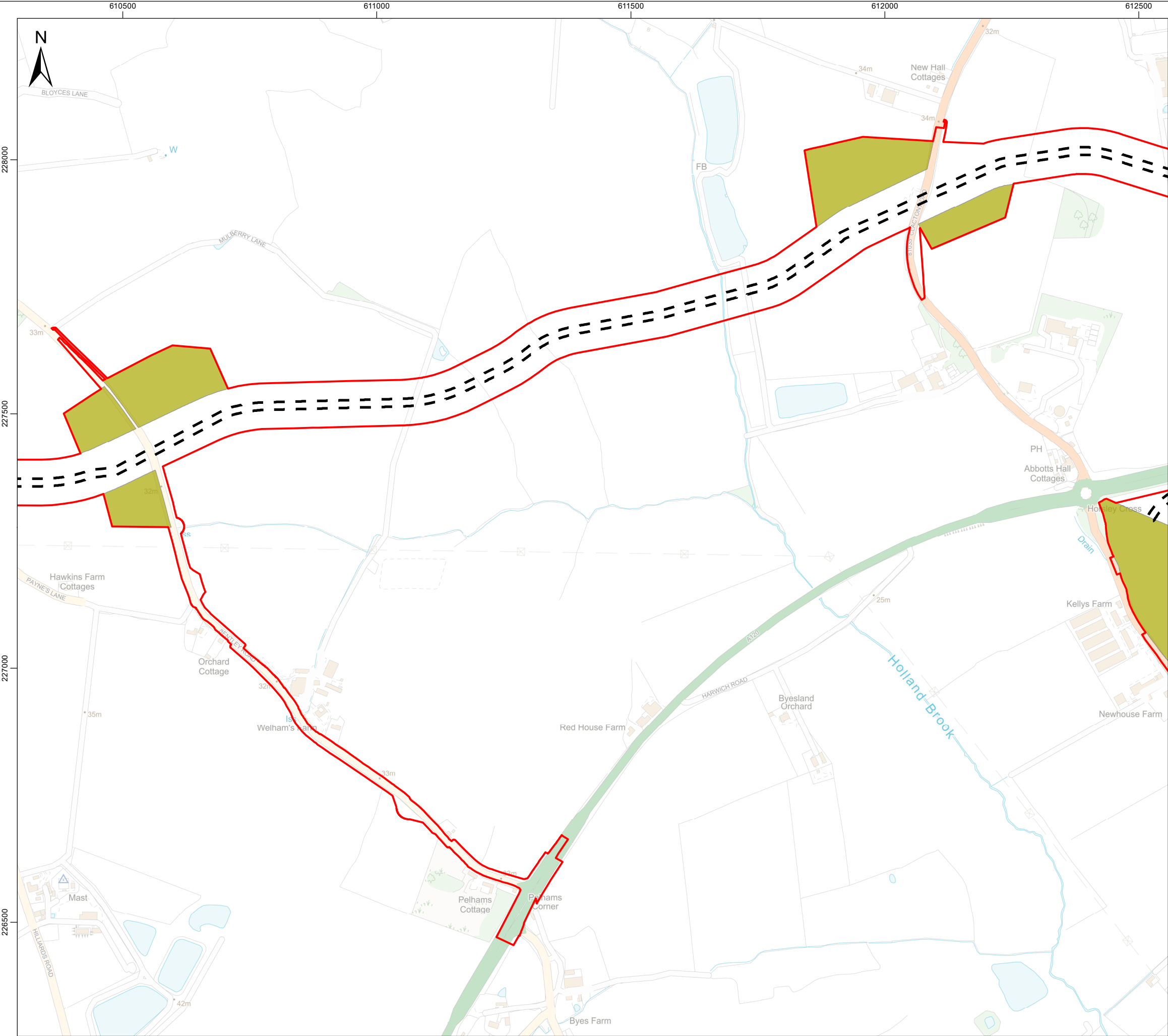
**North Falls Alone Scenario
Baseline BNG Footprint**

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02	01/07/2024	Second issue	JH	GC

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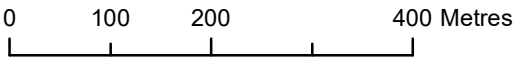
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Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe



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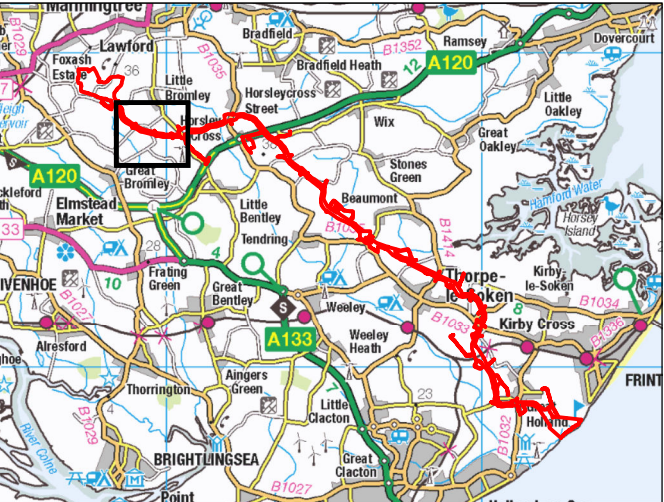
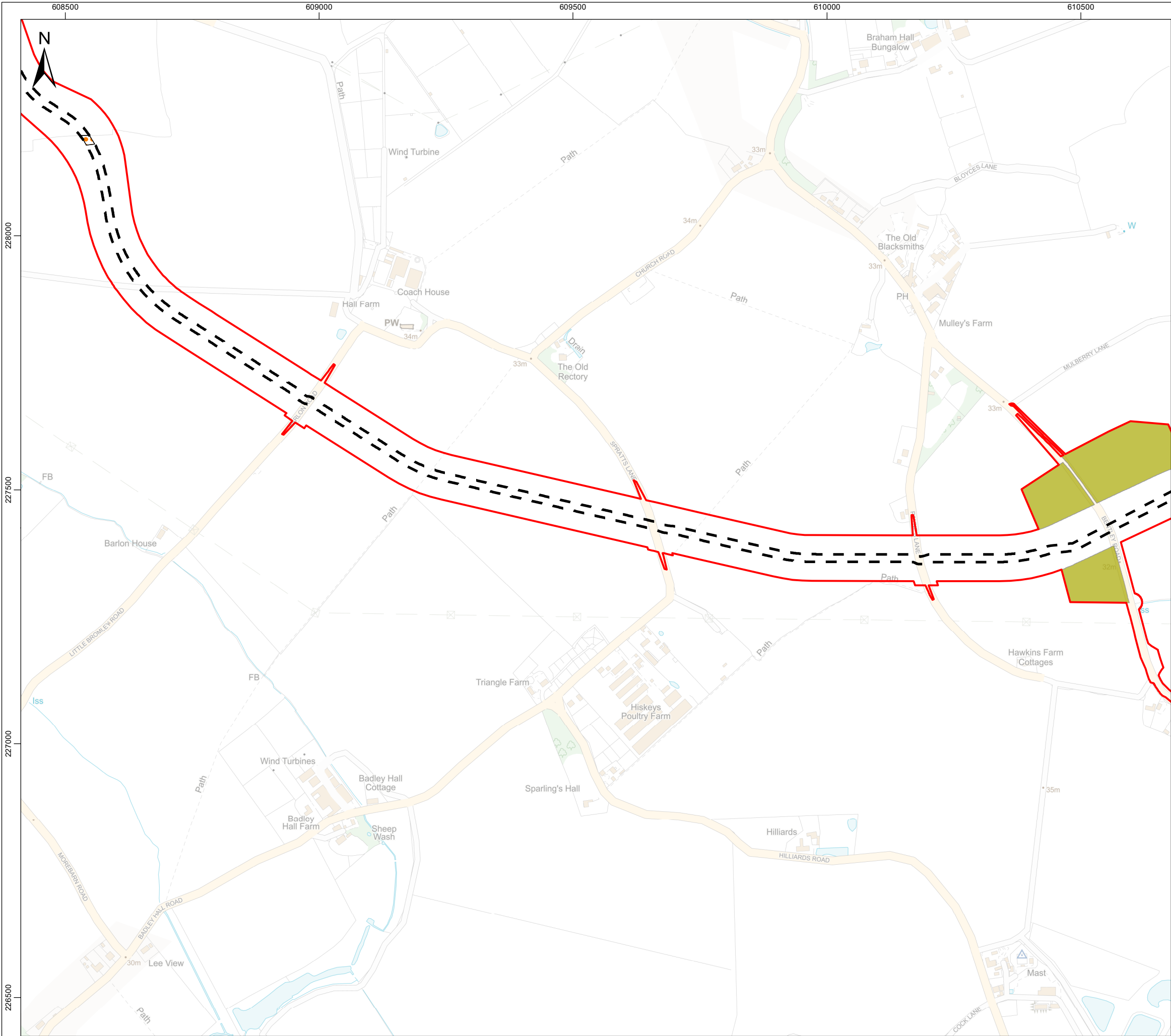
North Falls Alone Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

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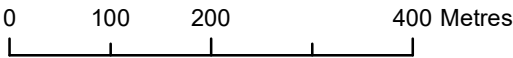
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Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe
- UK Hab Primary Habitat**
 - c1a - Arable Field



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Drawing Title

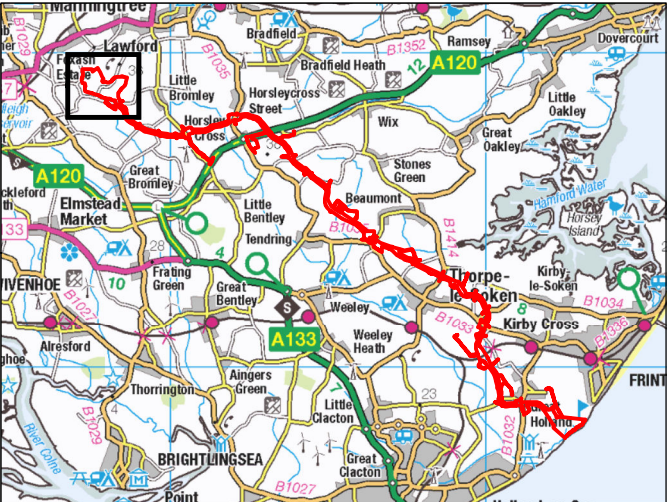
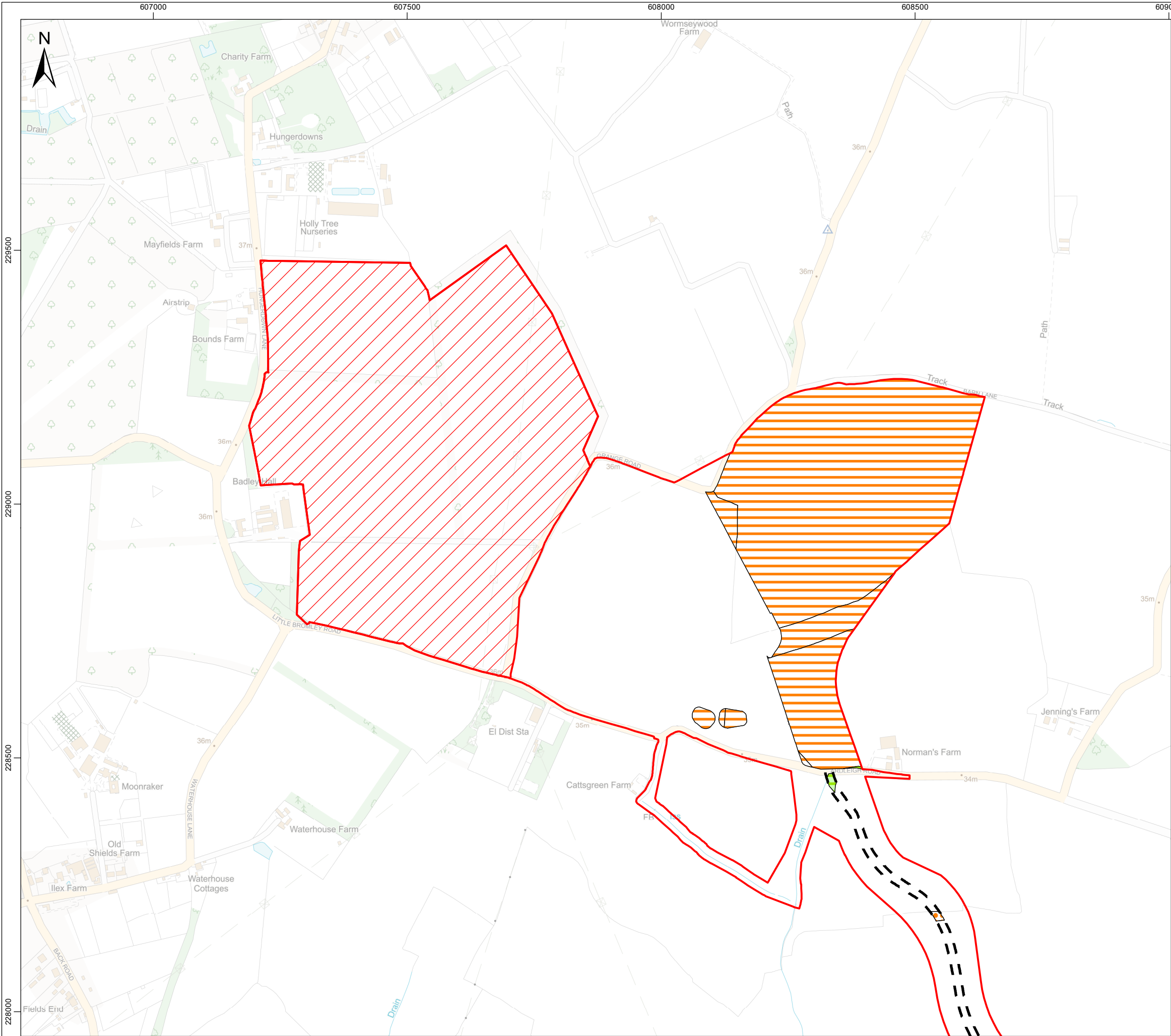
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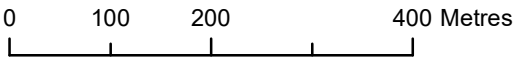
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- Legend**
- Onshore Project Area
 - East Anglia Connection Node (EACN)
 - TCC
 - Haul Road 15m Swathe
 - UK Hab Primary**
 - c1a - Arable Field
 - g3c - Other Neutral
 - c1c - Cereal Crops
 - g4 - Modified Grassland



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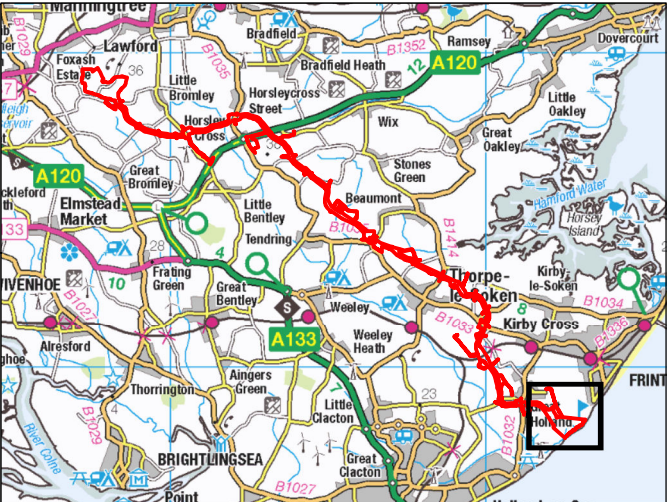
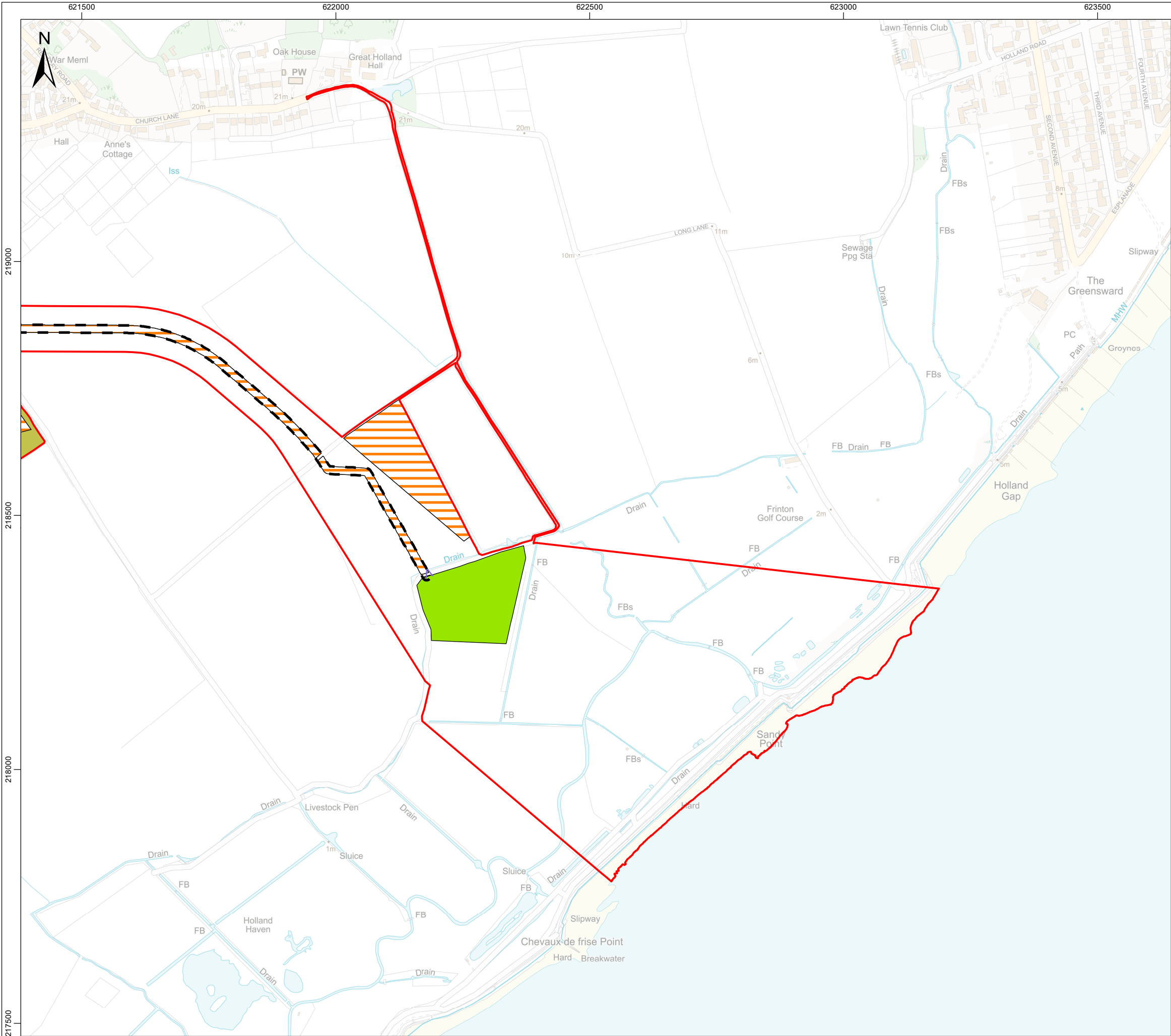
North Falls Alone Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

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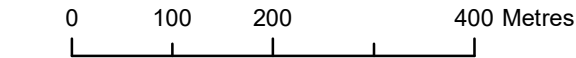
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- Legend**
- Onshore Project Area
 - TCC
 - Haul Road 15m Swathe
 - UK Hab Primary Habitat**
 - c1c - Cereal Crops
 - g4 - Modified Grassland
 - h2a6 - Other Native Hedgerow



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Drawing Title

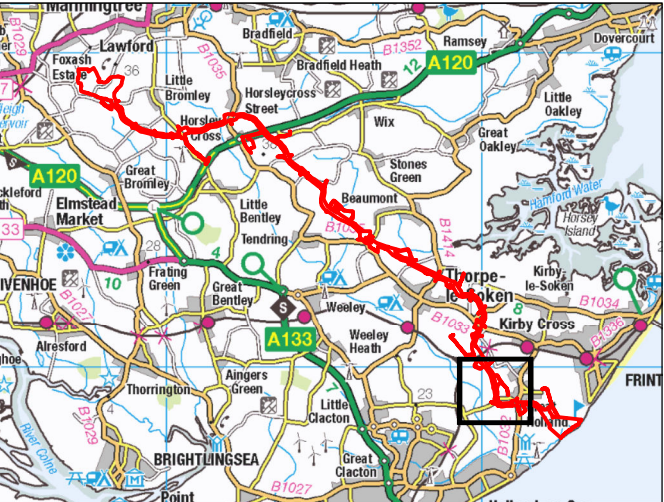
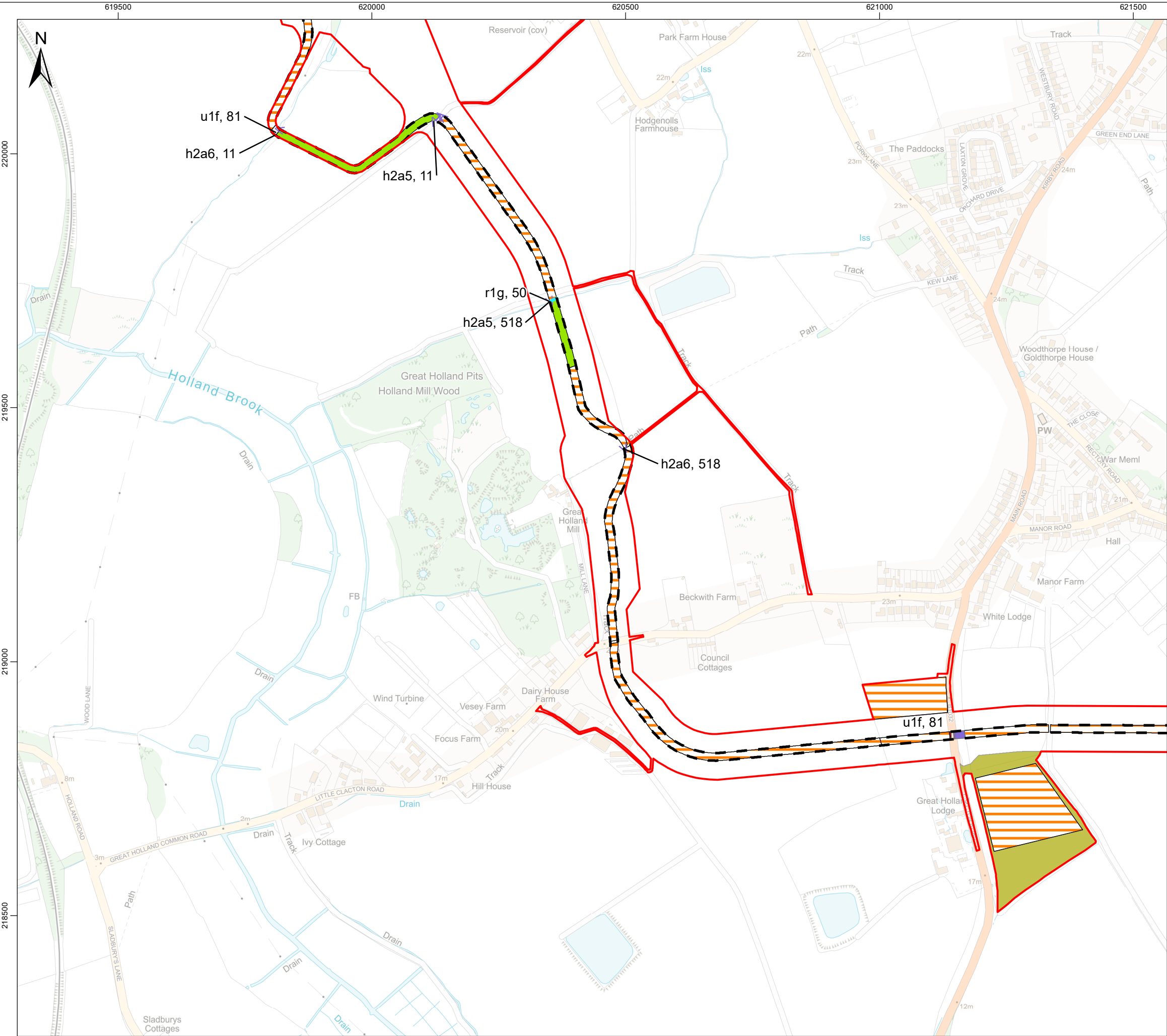
North Falls - Five Estuaries Joint Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

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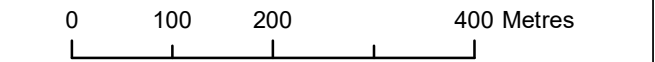
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- Legend**
- Onshore Project Area
 - TCC
 - Haul Road 15m Swathe
 - UK Hab Primary Habitat**
 - c1c - Cereal Crops
 - g4 - Modified Grassland
 - h3h - Mixed Scrub
 - u1f - Sparsely Vegetated Urban Land
 - h2a5 - Species-Rich Native Hedgerow
 - h2a6 - Other Native Hedgerow
 - r1g - Other Standing Water
 - Secondary Habitat Code**
 - 11 - Hedgerow With Trees
 - 50 - Ditch
 - 518 - Neglected
 - 81 - Ruderal Or Ephemeral



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Drawing Title

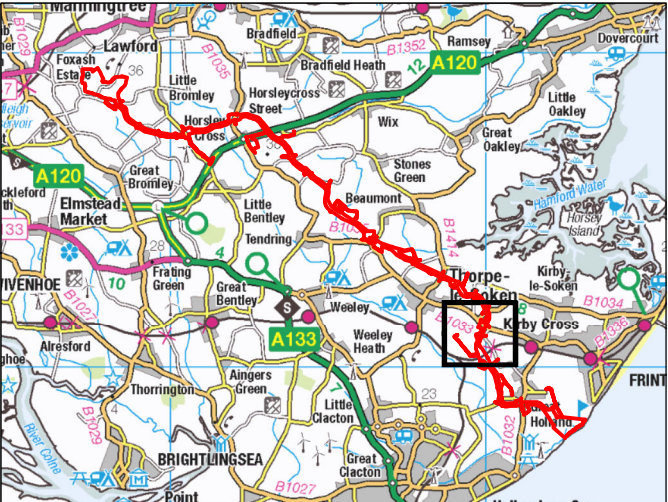
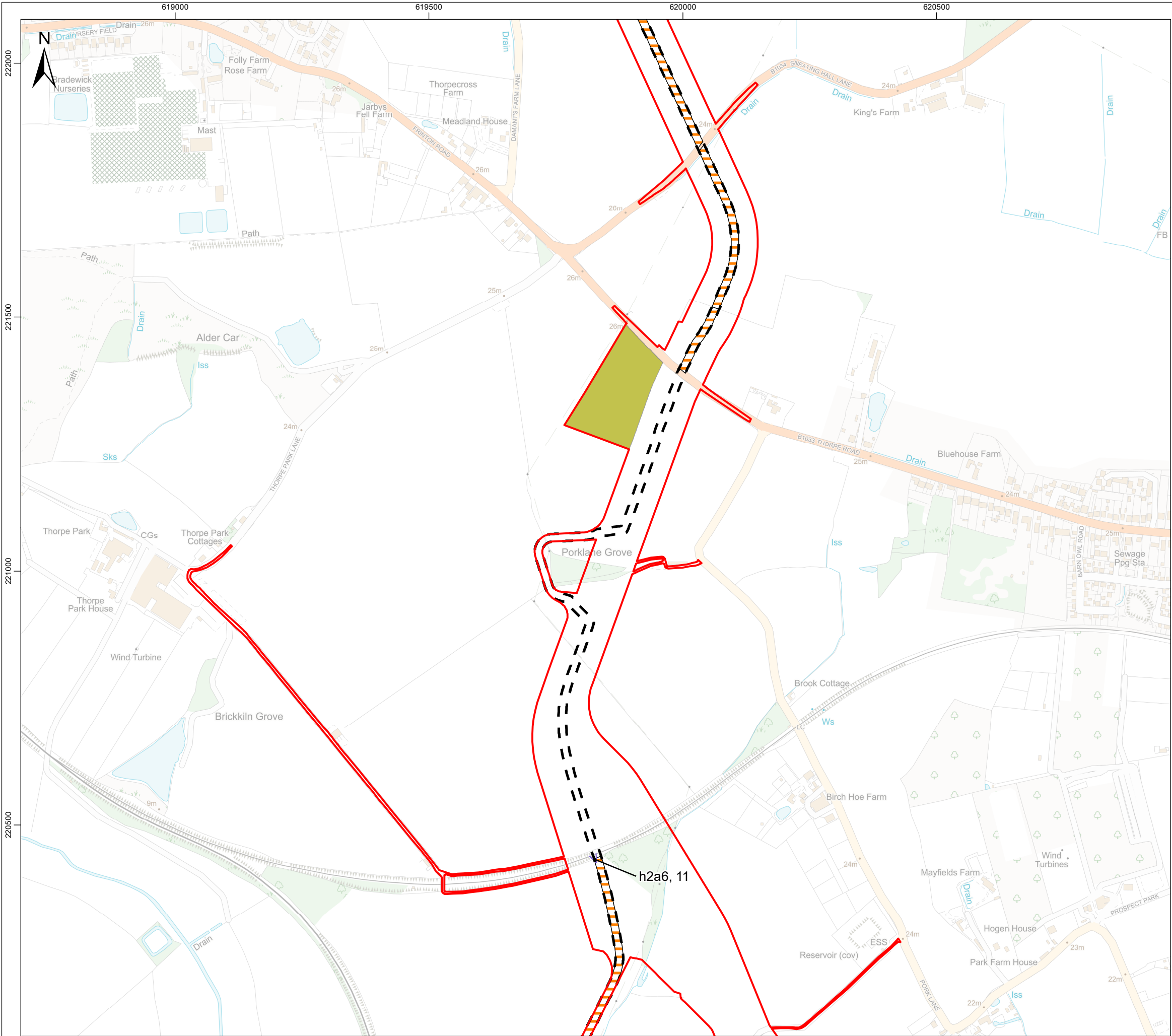
North Falls - Five Estuaries Joint Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

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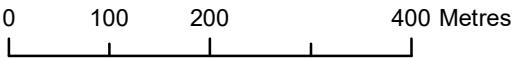
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- Legend**
- Onshore Project Area
 - TCC
 - Haul Road 15m Swathe
 - UK Hab Primary Habitat
 - c1c - Cereal Crops
 - h2a6 - Other Native Hedgerow
 - Secondary Habitat Code**
 - 11 - Hedgerow With Trees



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Drawing Title

North Falls - Five Estuaries Joint Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

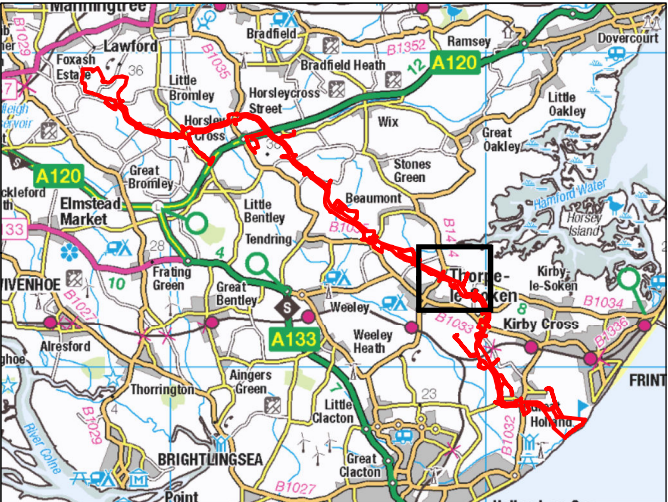
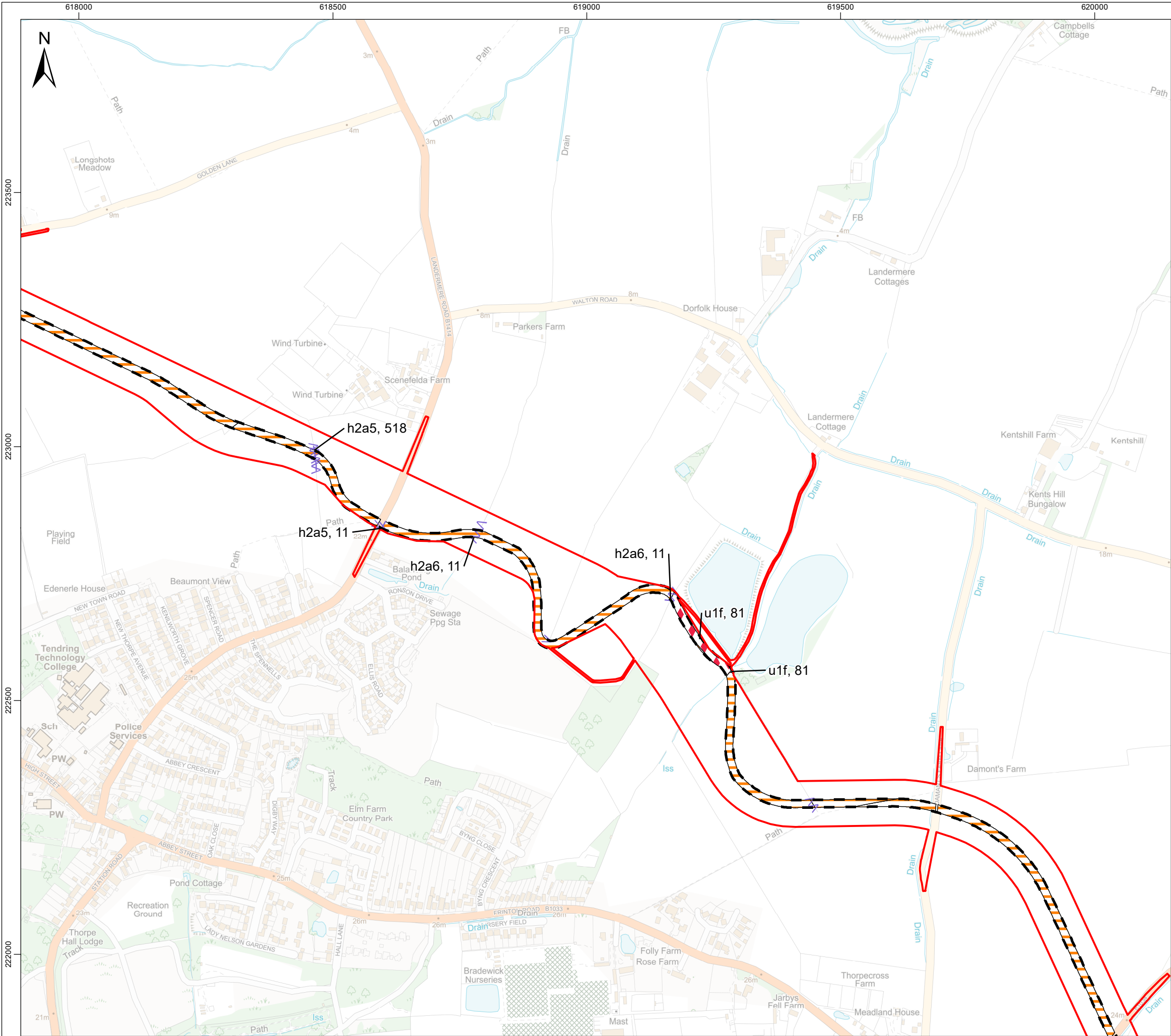
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Drawing Number	Figure Number
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Scale	Plot Size	Datum	Projection
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NORTH FALLS
Offshore Wind Farm

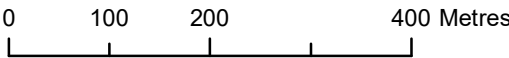


Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe
- UK Hab Primary Habitat**
- c1c - Cereal Crops
- u1f - Sparsely Vegetated Urban Land
- h2a5 - Species-Rich Native Hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other Native Hedgerow

Secondary Habitat Code

- 11 - Hedgerow With Trees
- 518 - Neglected
- 81 - Ruderal Or Ephemeral



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Drawing Title

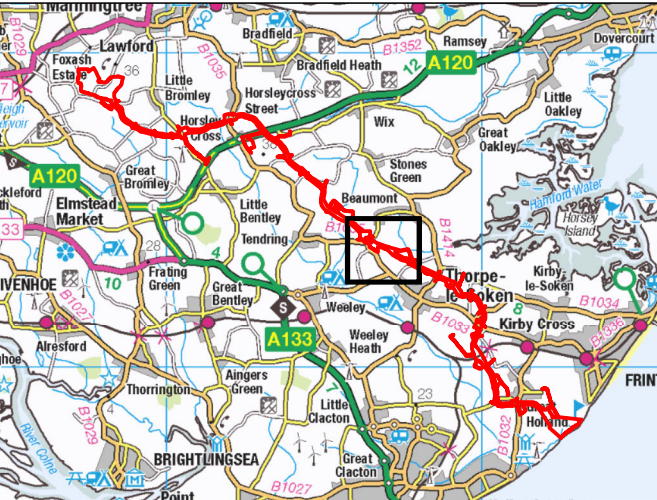
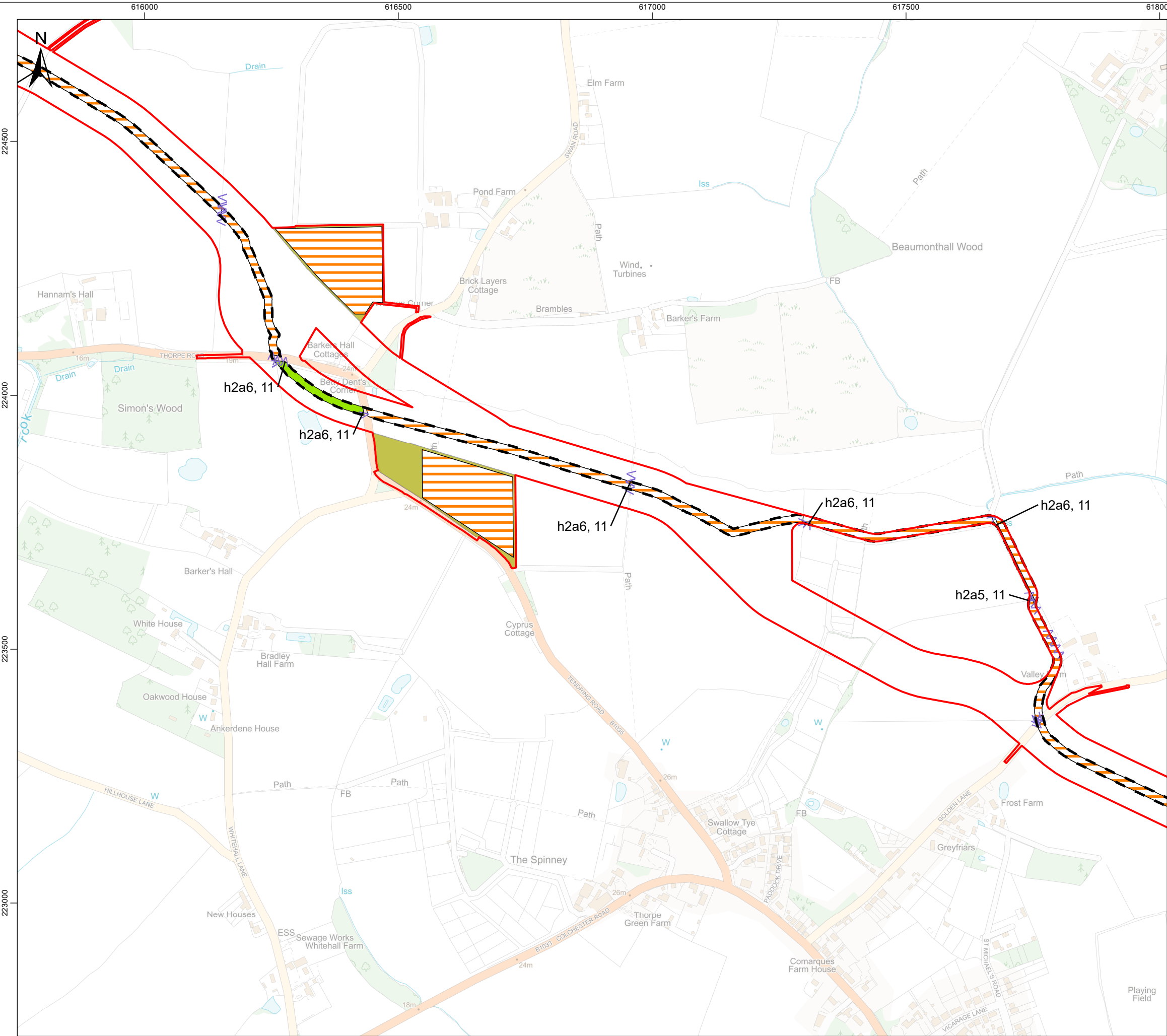
North Falls - Five Estuaries Joint Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

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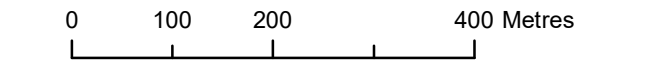
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Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe
- UK Hab Primary Habitat**
- c1c - Cereal Crops
- g4 - Modified Grassland
- h2a5 - Species-Rich Native Hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other Native Hedgerow
- r2b - Other River/Stream
- Secondary Habitat Code**
- 11 - Hedgerow With Trees



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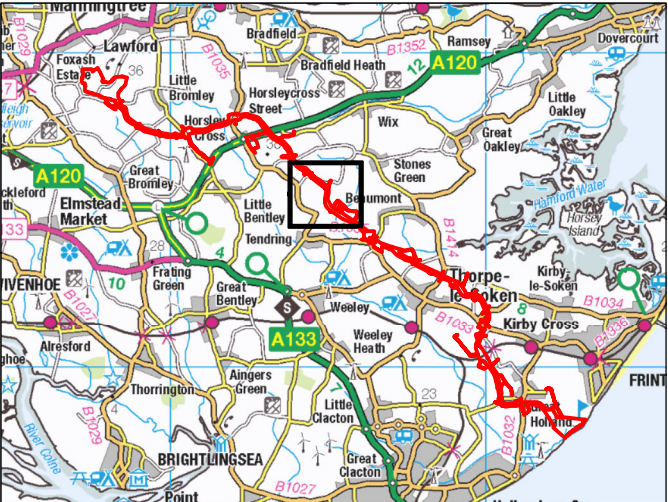
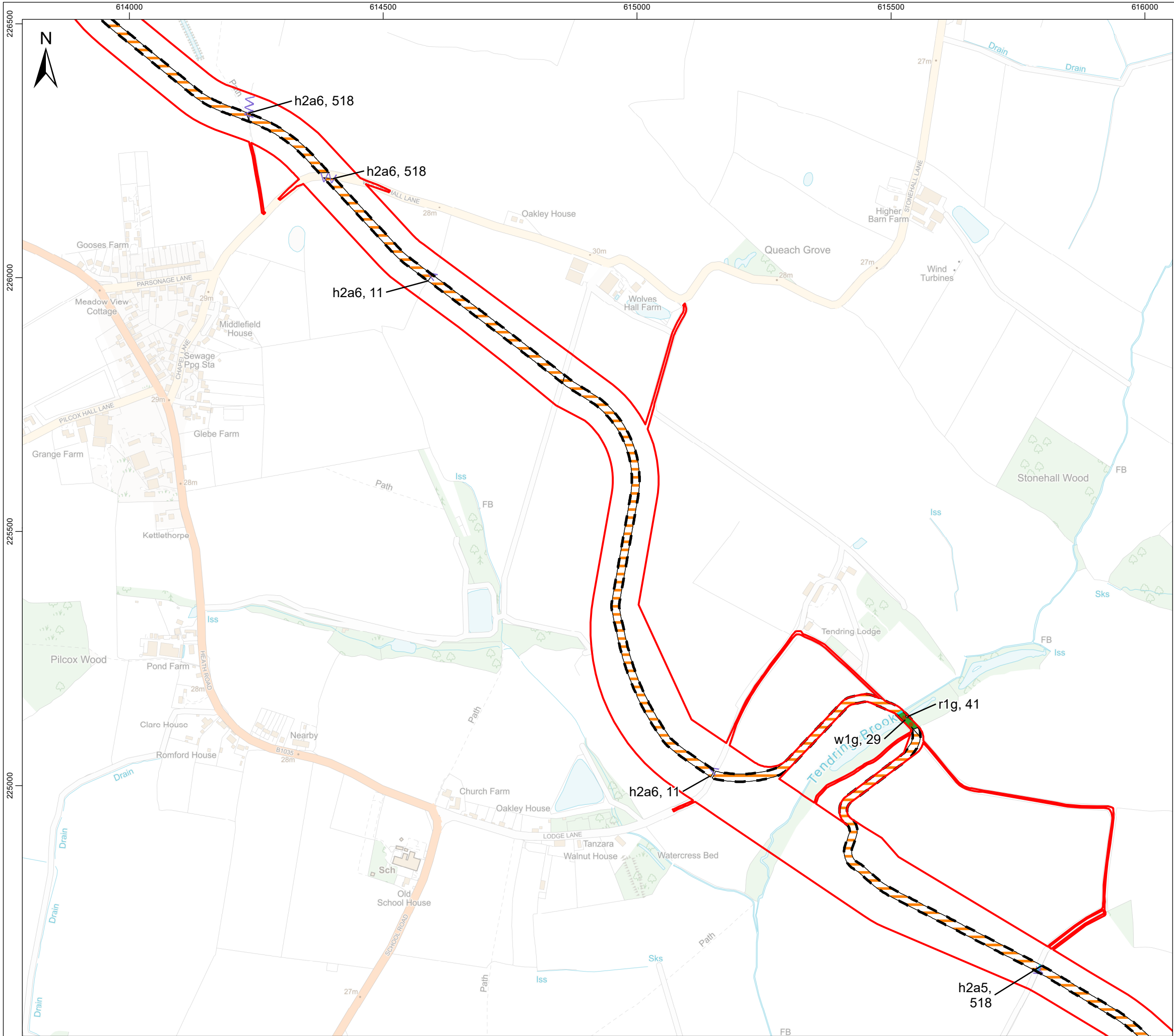
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North Falls - Five Estuaries Joint Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

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Drawing Number	Figure Number
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Scale	Plot Size	Datum	Projection
1:7,500	A3	OSGB36	BNG



Legend

Onshore Project Area

TCC

Haul Road 15m Swathe

UK Hab Primary Habitat

c1c - Cereal Crops

r1g - Other Standing Water

r2b - Other River/Stream

w1g - Other Woodland, Broadleaved

h2a5 - Species-Rich Native Hedgerow

h2a6 - Other Native Hedgerow

r2b - Other River/Stream

Secondary Habitat Code

11 - Hedgerow With Trees

518 - Neglected

29 - Plantation

41 - Pond (Non-Priority)

0 100 200 400 Metres

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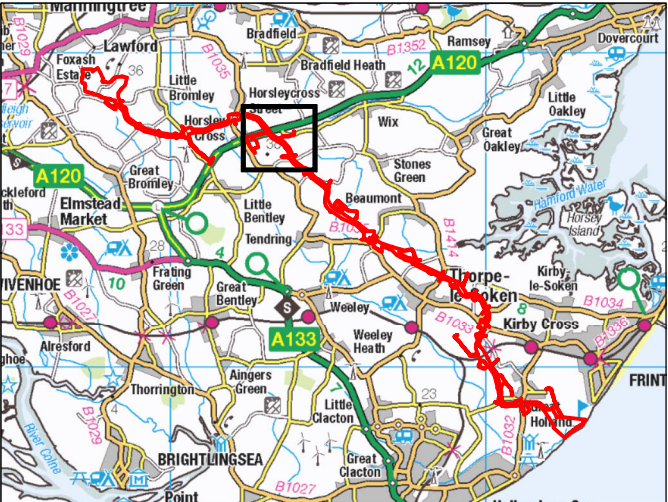
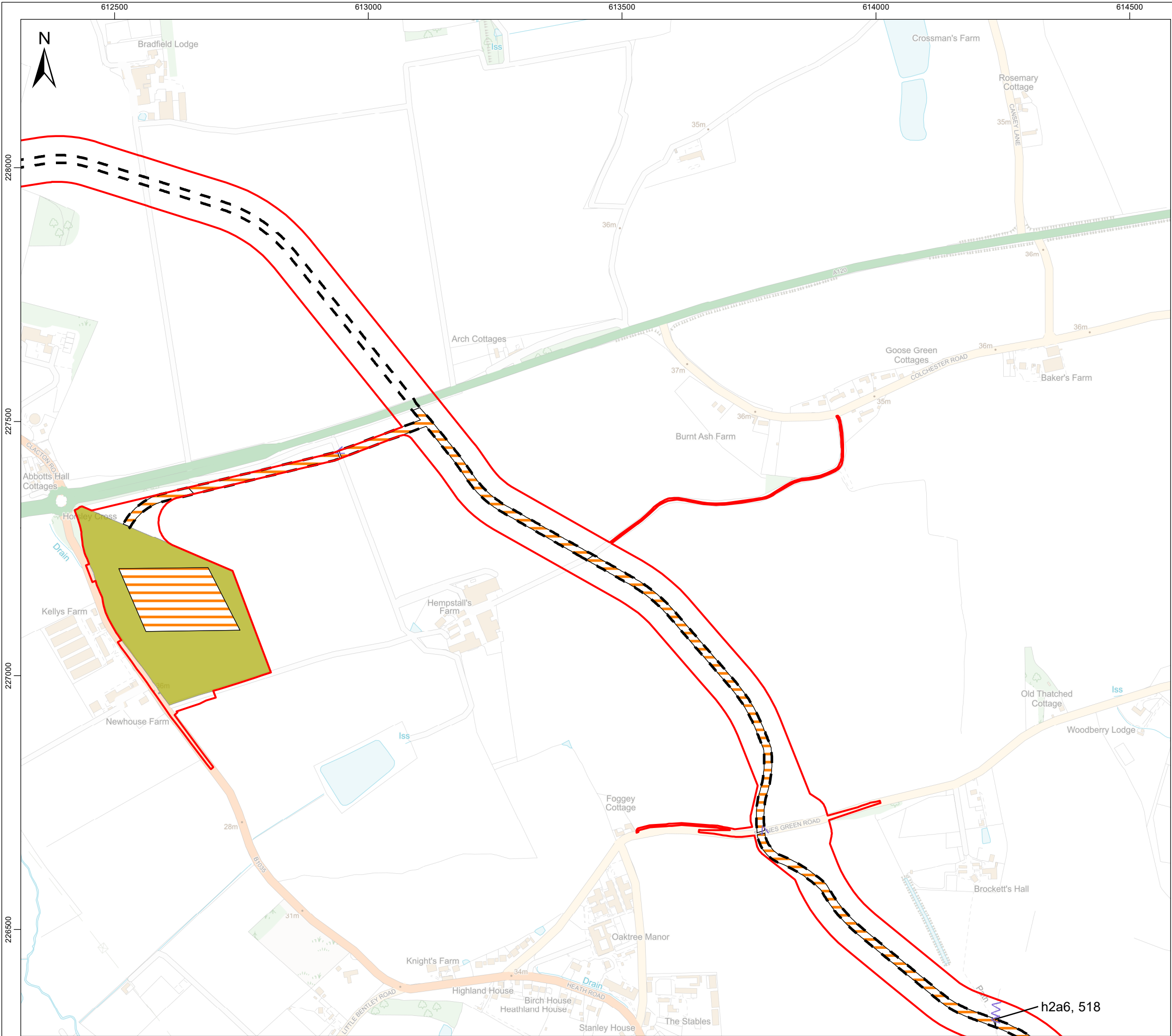
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North Falls - Five Estuaries Joint Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

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Drawing Number	Figure Number
PB9244-RHD-ZZ-ON-DR-GS-0547	2f

Scale 1:7,500	Plot Size A3	Datum OSGB36	Projection BNG
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Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe
- UK Hab Primary Habitat**
- c1c - Cereal Crops
- h2a6 - Other Native Hedgerow
- Secondary Habitat Code**
- 518 - Neglected

0 100 200 400 Metres

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Drawing Title

North Falls - Five Estuaries Joint Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

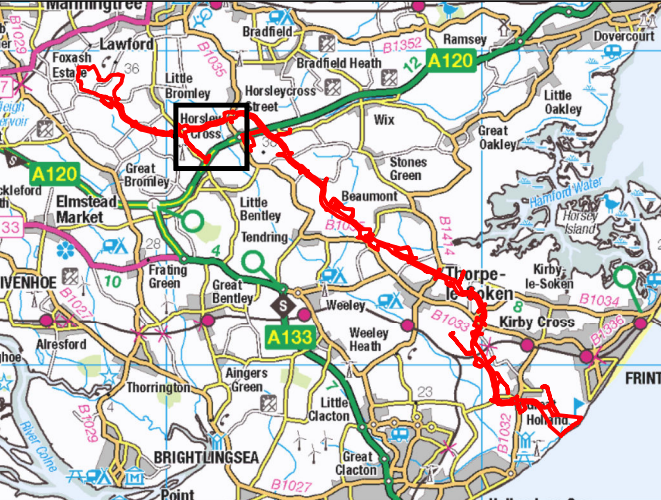
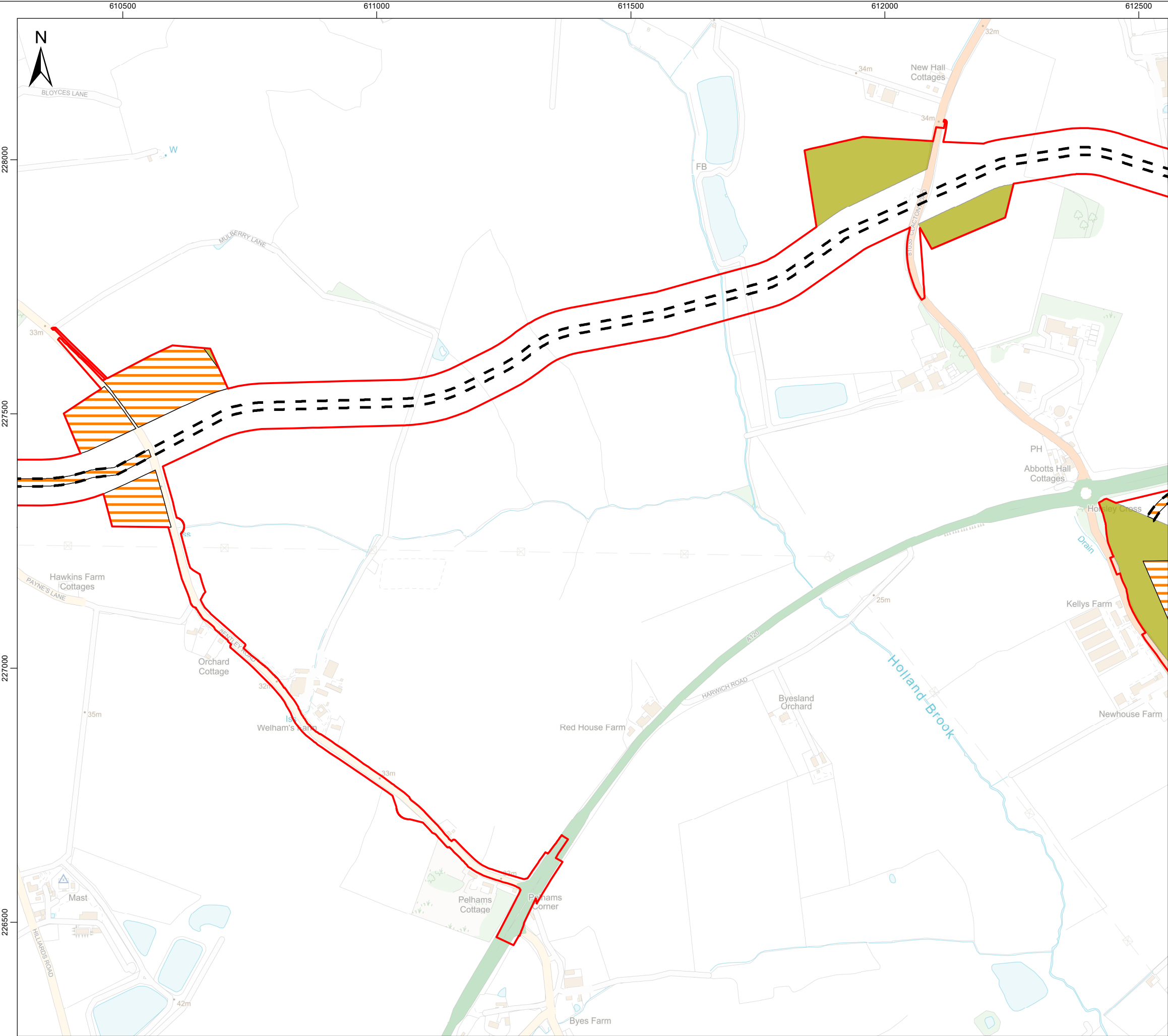
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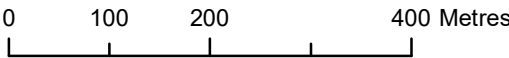
Royal HaskoningDHV
Enhancing Society Together

NORTH FALLS
Offshore Wind Farm



Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe
- UK Hab Primary Habitat**
- c1c - Cereal Crops



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Drawing Title

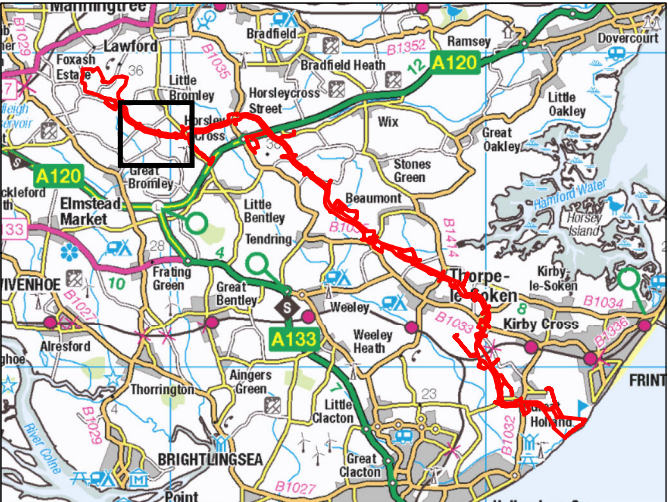
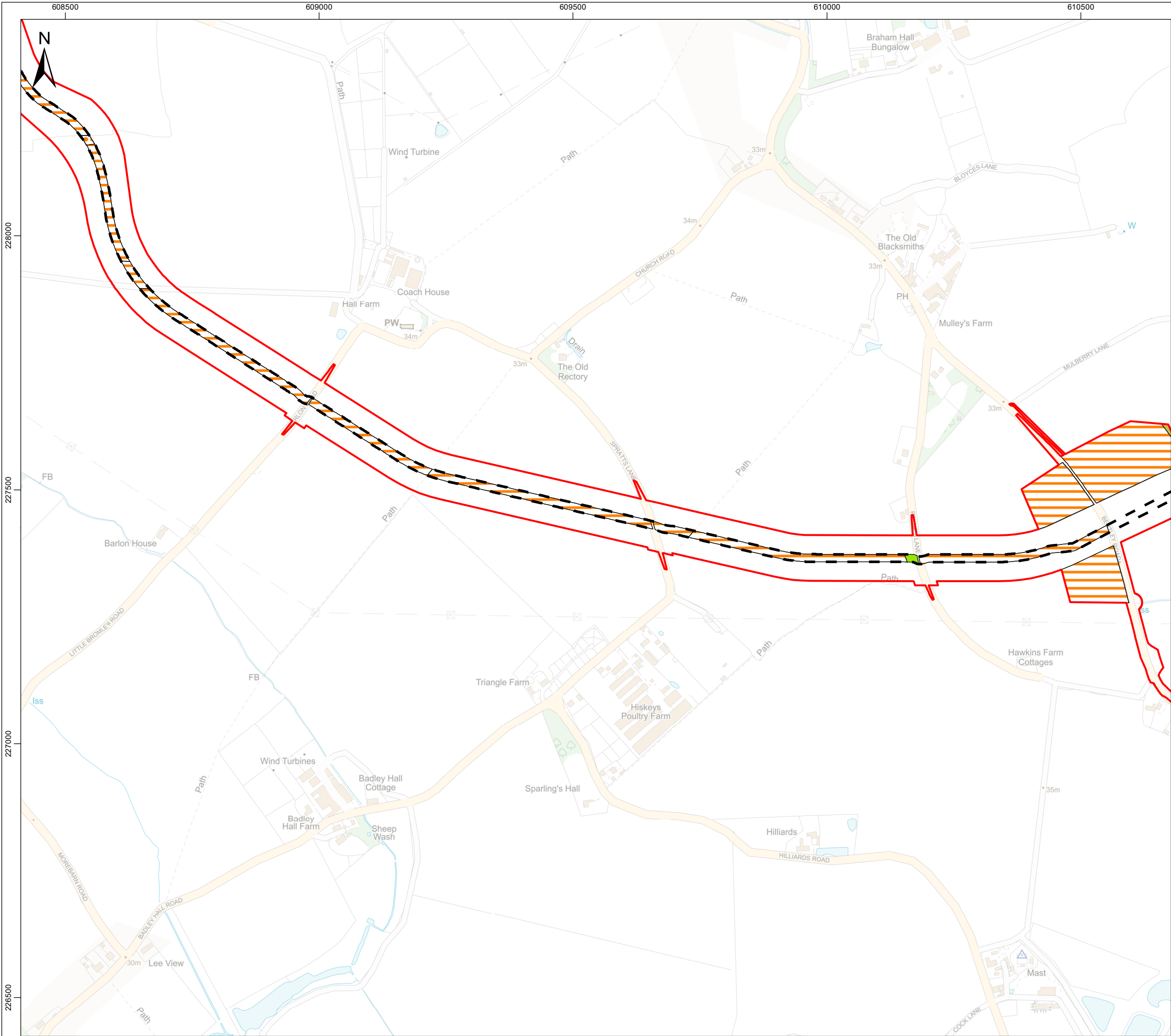
North Falls - Five Estuaries Joint Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

Rev	Date	Remarks	Drwn	Chkd
01	13/06/2024	First issue	JH	GC
02	01/07/2024	First issue	JH	GC

Drawing Number	Figure Number
PB9244-RHD-ZZ-ON-DR-GS-0547	2h

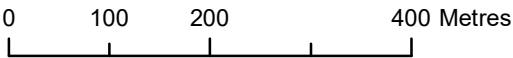
Scale 1:7,500	Plot Size A3	Datum OSGB36	Projection BNG
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Legend

- Onshore Project Area
- TCC
- Haul Road 15m Swathe
- UK Hab Primary Habitat
 - c1a - Arable Field Margins
 - c1c - Cereal Crops
 - g4 - Modified Grassland



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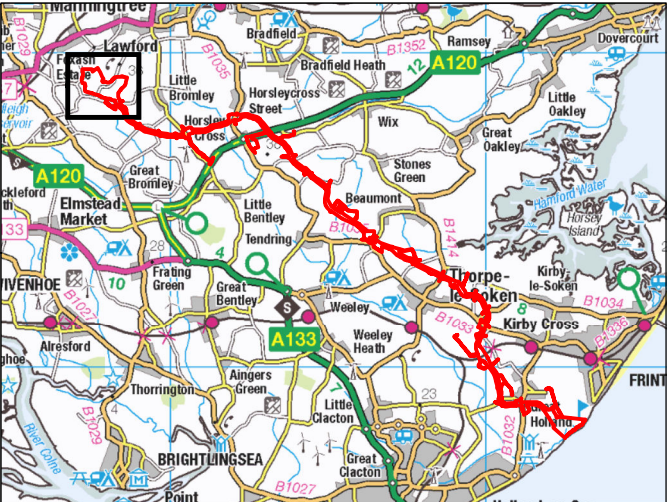
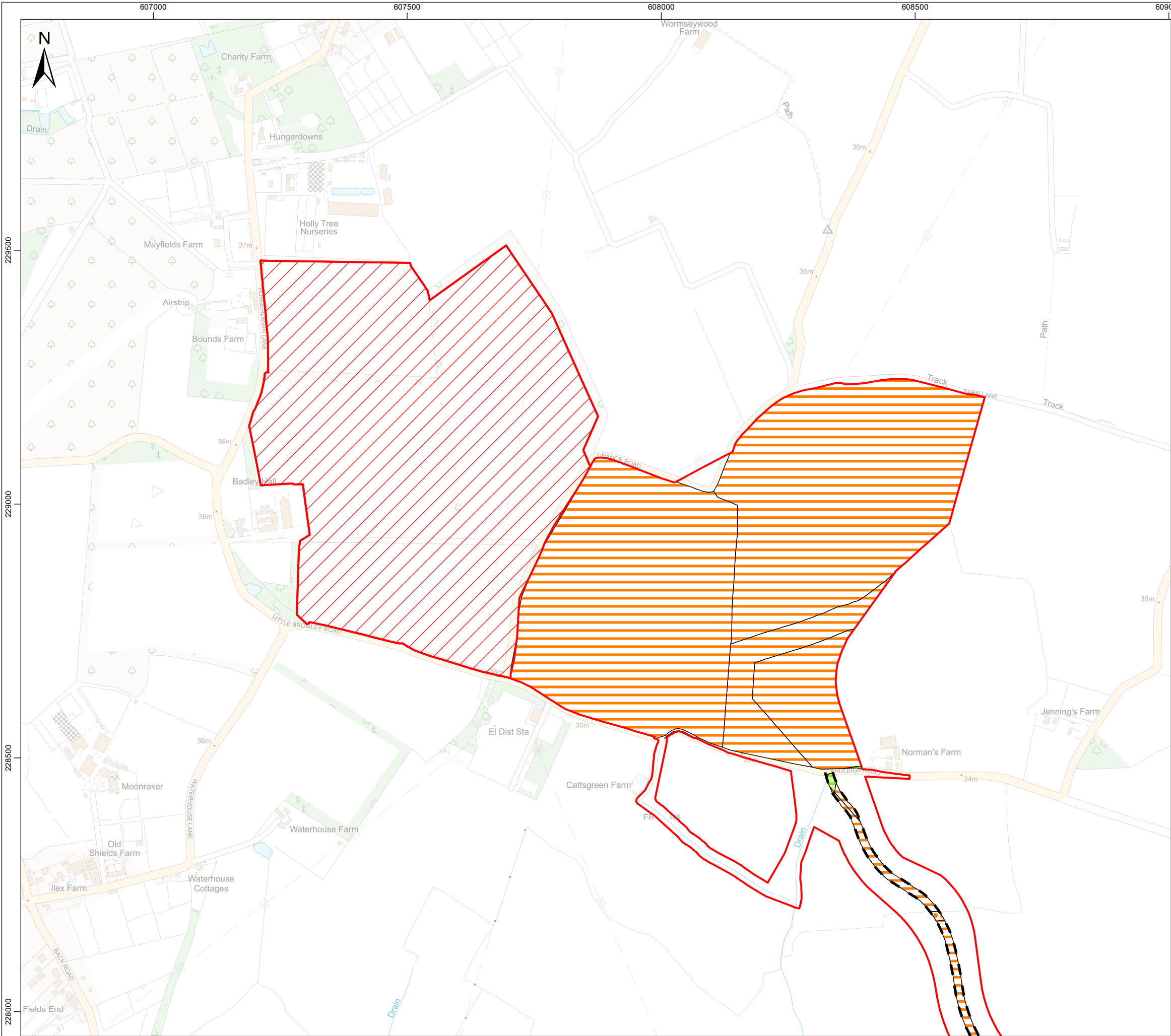
North Falls - Five Estuaries Joint Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

Rev	Date	Remarks	Drwn	Chkd
01	13/06/2024	First issue	JH	GC
02	01/07/2024	First issue	JH	GC

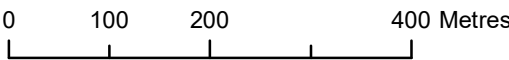
Drawing Number	Figure Number
PB9244-RHD-ZZ-ON-DR-GS-0547	2i

Scale 1:7,500	Plot Size A3	Datum OSGB36	Projection BNG
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- Legend**
- Onshore Project Area
 - East Anglia Connection Node (EACN)
 - TCC
 - Haul Road 15m Swathe
 - UK Hab Primary Habitat**
 - c1a - Arable Field Margins
 - c1c - Cereal Crops
 - g3c - Other Neutral Grassland



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Drawing Title

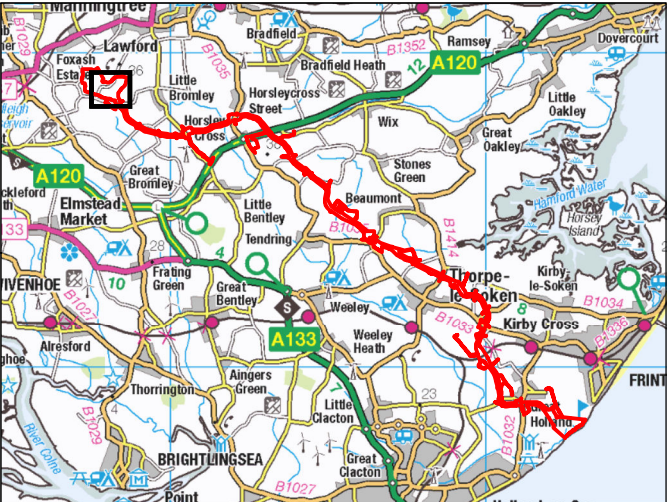
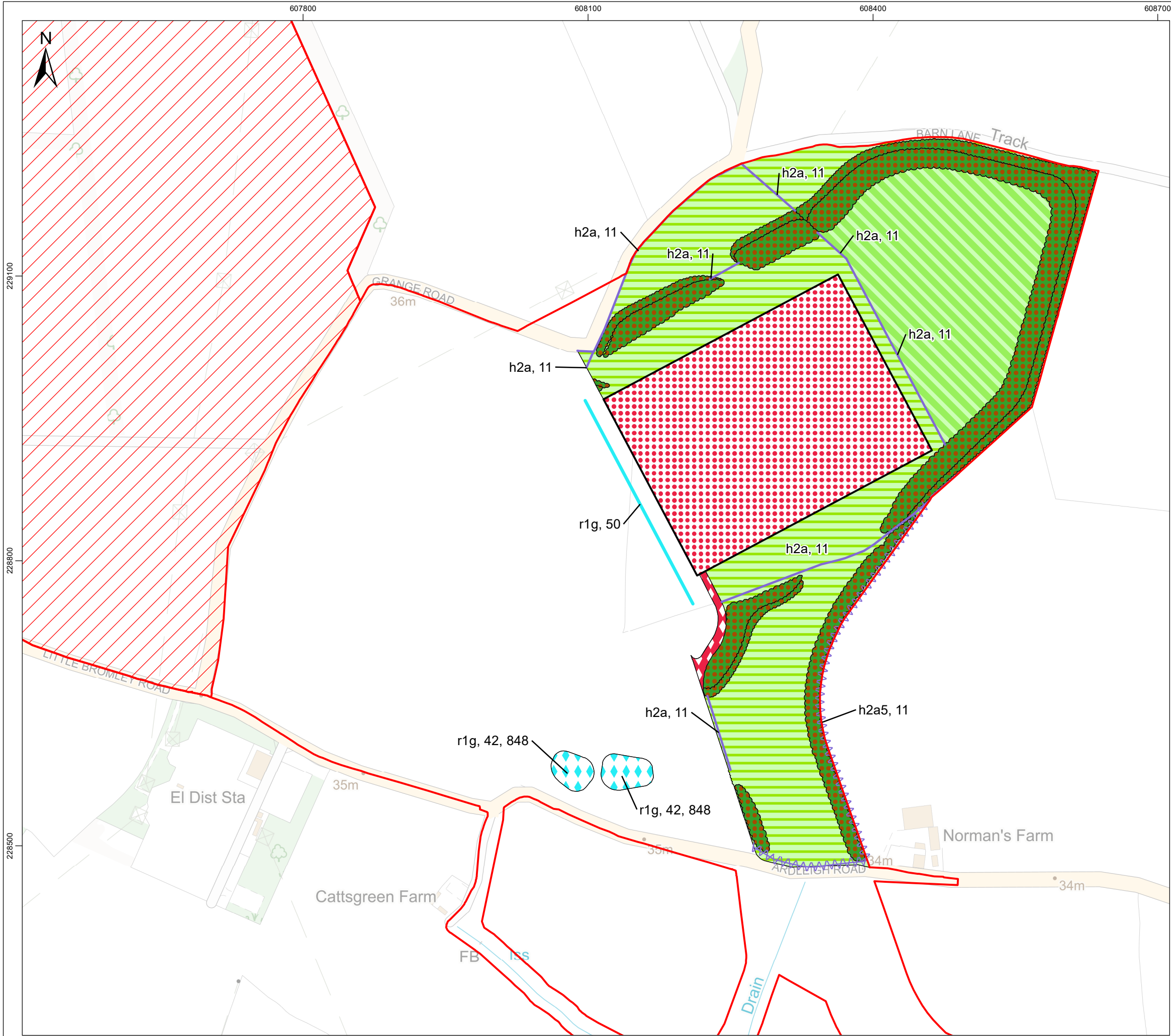
North Falls - Five Estuaries Joint Scenario Baseline BNG Footprint

Rev	Date	Remarks	Drwn	Chkd
01	13/06/2024	First issue	JH	GC
02	01/07/2024	First issue	JH	GC

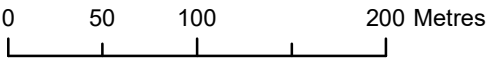
Drawing Number	Figure Number
PB9244-RHD-ZZ-ON-DR-GS-0547	2j

Scale	Plot Size	Datum	Projection
1:7,500	A3	OSGB36	BNG





- Legend**
- Onshore Project Area
 - Onshore Substation
 - East Anglia Connection Node (EACN)
 - UK Hab Primary Habitat**
 - g3a - Lowland Meadows
 - g3c - Other Neutral Grassland
 - r1g - Other Standing Water
 - u1b5 - Buildings
 - u1b6 - Other Developed Land
 - w1g - Other Woodland, Broadleaved
 - h2a - Hedgerow (Priority Habitat)
 - h2a5 - Species-Rich Native Hedgerow
 - r1g - Other Standing Water
 - Secondary Habitat Code**
 - 11 - Hedgerow With Trees
 - 42 - Pond
 - 50 - Ditch
 - 848 - Sustainable Drainage System



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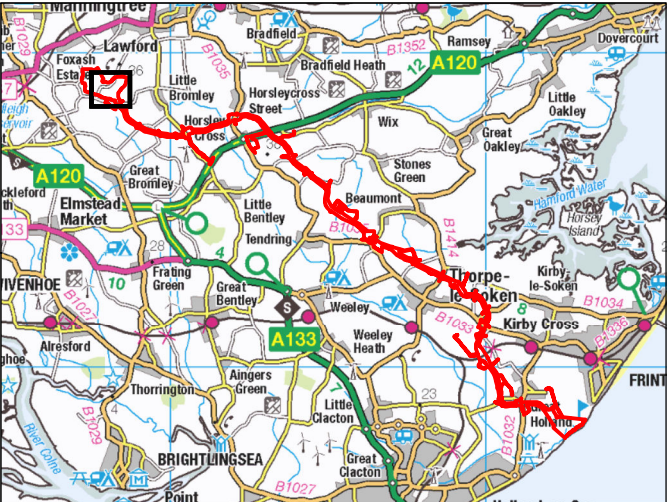
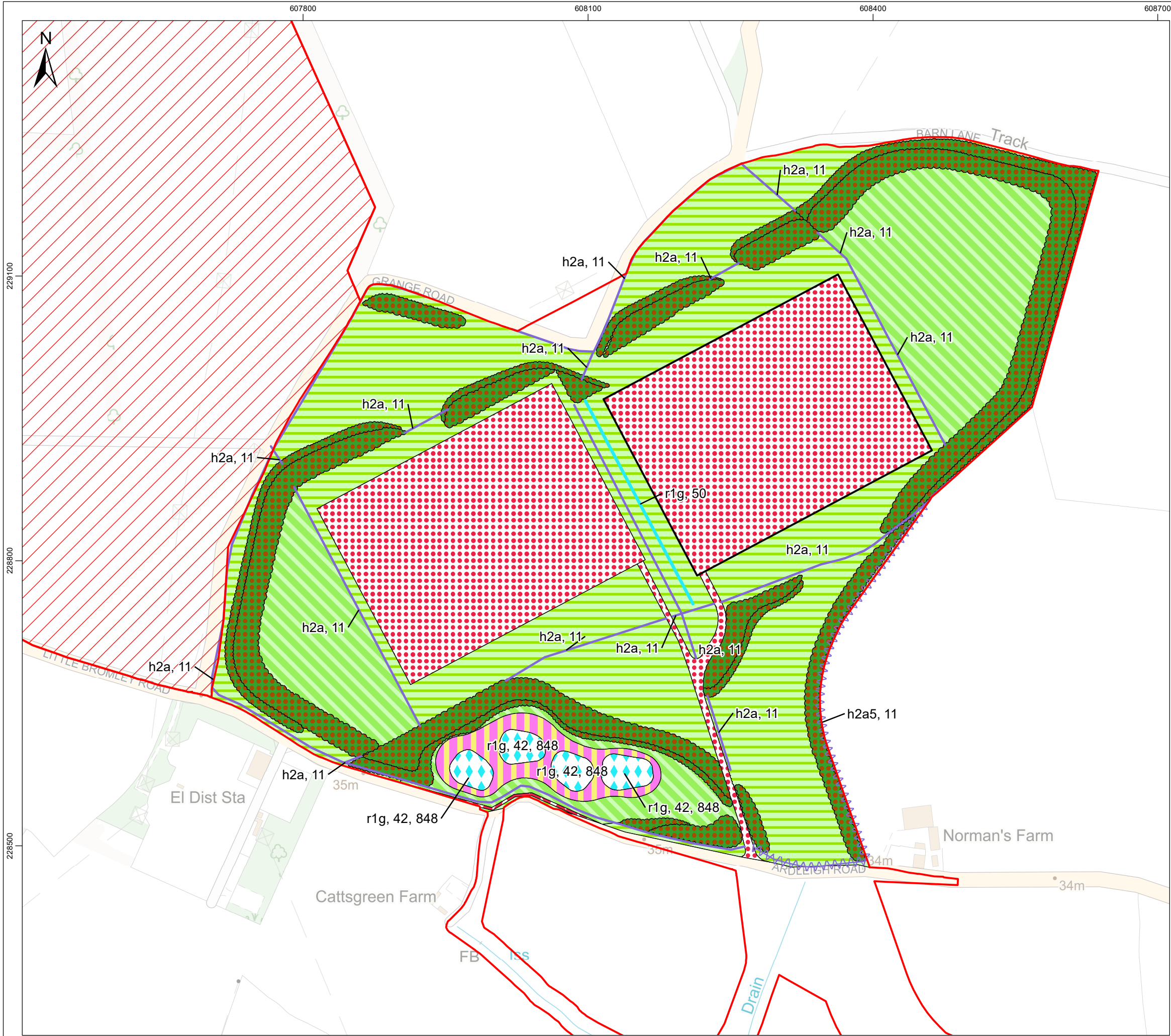
Drawing Title

North Falls Alone Onshore Substation Landscaping

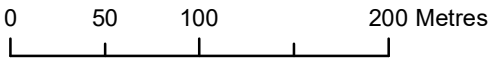
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01	13/06/2024	First issue	JH	GC
02	01/07/2024	Second issue	JH	GC

Drawing Number		Figure Number	
PB9244-RHD-ZZ-ON-DR-GS-0548		3	
Scale	Plot Size	Datum	Projection
1:4,000	A3	OSGB36	BNG





- Legend**
- Onshore Project Area
 - Onshore Substation
 - East Anglia Connection Node (EACN)
 - UK Hab Primary Habitat**
 - f2d - Aquatic Marginal
 - g3a - Lowland Meadows
 - g3c - Other Neutral Grassland
 - r1g - Other Standing Water
 - u1b5 - Buildings
 - u1b6 - Other Developed Land
 - w1g - Other Woodland, Broadleaved
 - h2a - Hedgerow (Priority Habitat)
 - h2a5 - Species-Rich Native Hedgerow
 - r1g - Other Standing Water
 - Secondary Habitat Code**
 - 42 - Pond
 - 50 - Ditch
 - 848 - Sustainable Drainage System



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Drawing Title

North Falls and Five Estuaries Joint Onshore Substation Landscaping

Rev	Date	Remarks	Drwn	Chkd
01	13/06/2024	First issue	JH	GC
02	01/07/2024	Second issue	JH	GC

Drawing Number		Figure Number	
PB9244-RHD-ZZ-ON-DR-GS-0549		4	
Scale	Plot Size	Datum	Projection
1:4,000	A3	OSGB36	BNG



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Appendix B Example of the North Falls Onshore Cable Route BNG Footprint

Document Reference:	7.22
Volume:	7
APFP Regulation:	5(2)(q)
Date:	July 2024
Revision:	0

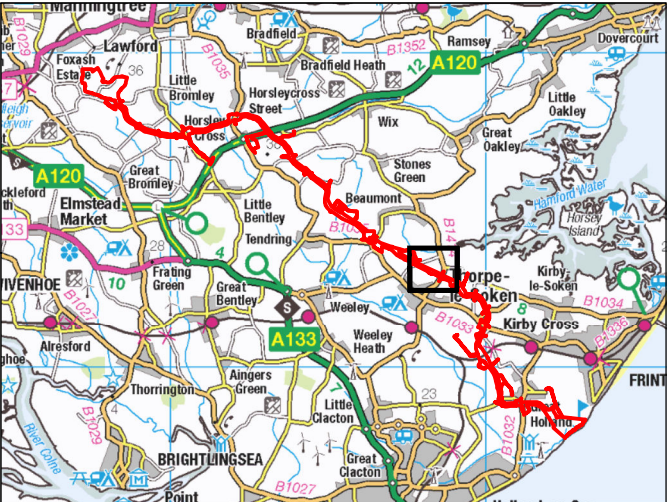
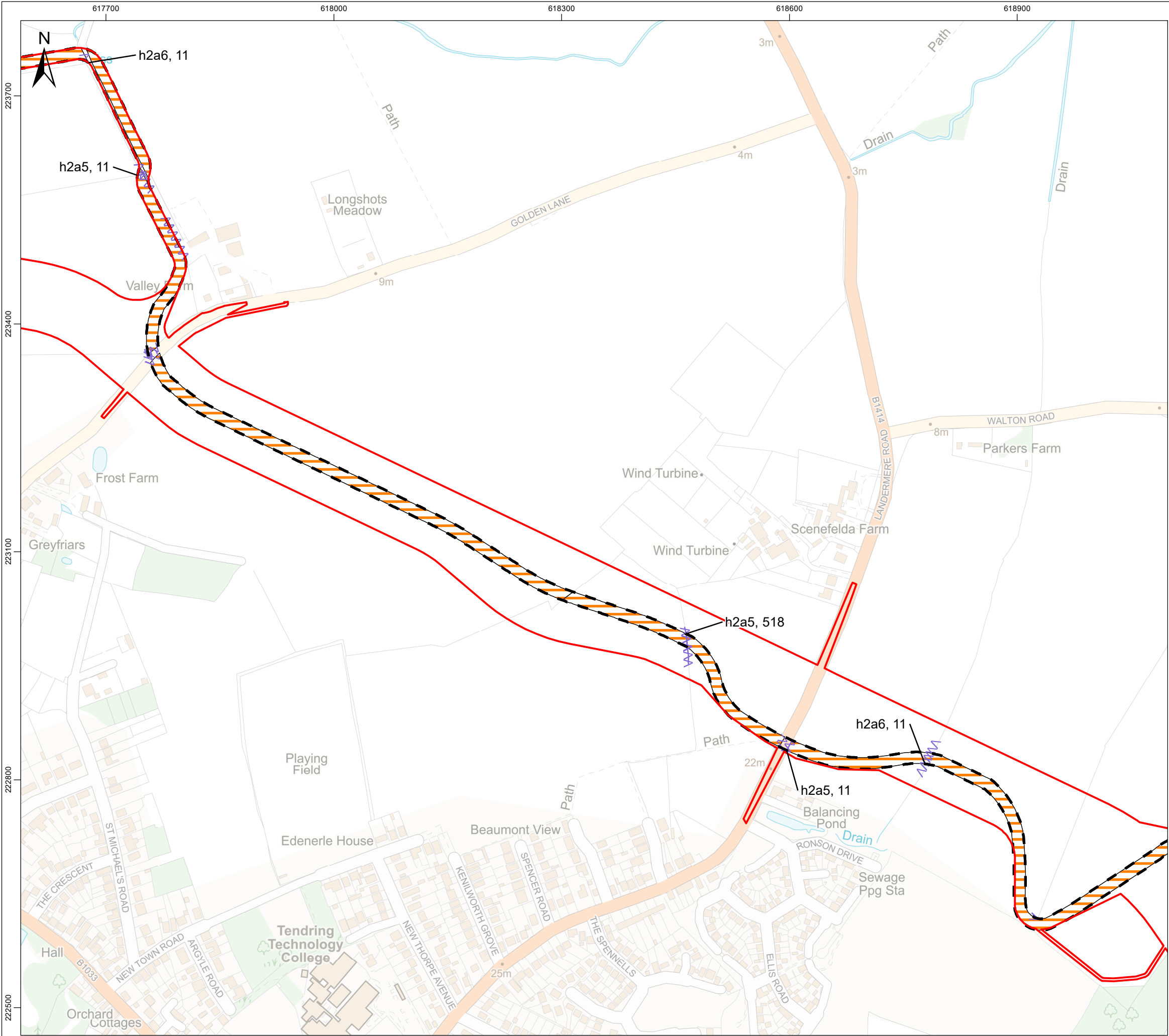
Project Reference: EN010119



Project	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm
Document Title	Appendix B Example of the North Falls Onshore Cable Route BNG Footprint
Document Reference	7.22
APFP Regulation	5(2)(q)
Supplier	Royal HaskoningDHV
Supplier Document ID	PB9244-RHD-ZZ-ON-DR-GS-0546

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Revision	Date	Status/Reason for Issue	Originator	Checked	Approved
0	July 2024	Submission	RHDHV	NFOW	NFOW



Legend

Onshore Project Area

Haul Road 15m Swathe

UK Hab Primary Habitat

c1c - Cereal Crops

g4 - Modified Grassland

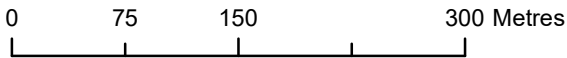
~~~~~ h2a5 - Species-Rich Native

~~~~~ h2a6 - Other Native

Secondary Habitat Code

11 - Hedgerow With

518 - Neglected



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Example of the North Falls Onshore Cable Route BNG Footprint

| Rev | Date | Remarks | Drwn | Chkd |
|-----|------------|-------------|------|------|
| 01 | 17/06/2024 | First issue | JH | GC |
| | | | | |
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|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Drawing Number | Figure Number |
| PB9244-RHD-ZZ-ON-DR-GS-0546 | 1 |

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Scale
1:5,000 | Plot Size
A3 | Datum
OSGB36 | Projection
BNG |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|





NORTH FALLS

Offshore Wind Farm



HARNESSING THE POWER OF NORTH SEA WIND

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Ltd

A joint venture company owned equally by SSE Renewables and RWE.

To contact please email contact@northfallsoffshore.com

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