

RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited

Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

Environmental Statement

Volume 7

Appendix 18-2 Habitat Survey Report (Revision 3) (Clean)

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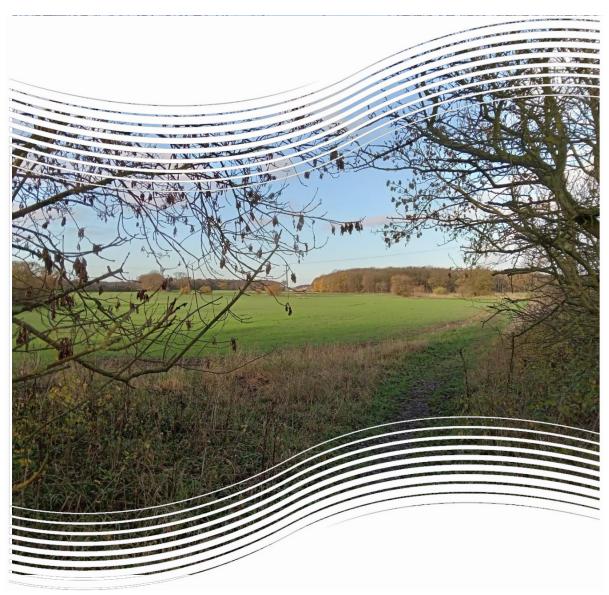
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Revision Change Log			
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01	N/A	N/A	Final for DCO Submission
02	N/A	Appendix C	Appendix C: Habitat Survey Map has been updated at the request of the ExA in the Rule 4, 6, 9, 13 and 17 Letter [PD-010] to enable the verges to be more easily identified.
03	Various	Various	Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology Appendix 18-2 Habitat Survey Report has been updated at the request of the Examining Authority within the Rule 17 [PD-018] to accurately reflect the proposed development and contains all the updated information within the chapter as a result of Project Change Request 2 (document reference 10.53).





Habitat Survey 2022 & 2023 Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

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The information and advice contained in this report has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

Peak Ecology is accredited under ISO9001 and as such this report follows the styles and formatting template set out within our Quality Management Form.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared by Peak Ecology Ltd with Royal HaskoningDHV on behalf of RWE Renewables UK. It provides the results of habitat surveys within the Onshore Survey Area associated with the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms.

RWE Renewables is developing the proposed Dogger Bank South (DBS) East and Dogger Bank South (DBS) West Offshore Wind Farm Projects. The wind farm will require a buried onshore export cable between the landfall location and the onshore grid connection points at Creyke Beck, west of Beverley, this area with associated infrastructure is referred to as the Onshore Development Area.

A desk-based assessment was carried out to identify records of statutory and non-statutory designated sites, priority habitats, ancient woodland, and any other defined areas considered to have substantive nature conservation value.

The survey of the Onshore Survey Area was undertaken between 2022 and 2023. All surveys were undertaken in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification Version 1.1 (UKHab) survey methodology and guidance (Butcher *et al*, 2020). Habitat data was collected covering an area of approximately 451.2ha within the Onshore Survey Area¹. The habitats are presented in full in the main body of the report and summarised below.

Volume 7, Chapter 18 Terrestrial Ecology (application ref: 7.18) and Volume 7, Appendix 18-2 Habitat Survey Report (application ref: 7.18.18.2) have been updated at the request of the Examining Authority within the Rule 17 [PD-018] to accurately reflect the proposed development and contains all the updated information within the appendix as a result of **Project Change Request 2** (document reference 10.53).

Summary Habitat Table

Area Habitats	Area of Habitat	Percentage
c - Cropland	391.94ha	86.87%
f - Wetland	1.871ha	0.41%
g - Grassland	29.965ha	6.64%
h – Heathland and shrub	0.533ha	0.12%
r – Rivers and lakes	0.370ha	0.08%
s - Sparsely vegetated land	0.168ha	0.04%
t – Marine inlets and transitional waters	14.369ha	3.18%

¹ The total area within the Onshore Survey Area as reported according to habitat classification is greater than that reported in Volume 7, Chapter 21 Land Use (application ref: 7.21) as the habitat classification includes the area of intertidal habitat associated with the emergency beach access.

Area Habitats	Area of Habitat	Percentage
u - Urban	6.586ha	1.46%
w – Woodland and forest	3.782ha	0.84%
No access - verge	1.594ha	0.35%
Linear Habitats	Length of Habitat	
h – Hedgerows	16,561m	N/A
r – Rivers and lakes	4,678m	N/A
w – Line of trees	613m	N/A

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APPENDIX B: Statutory and non-statutory designations.

APPENDIX C: Habitat Survey Map

APPENDIX D: Priority Habitats Map

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of Report

This report has been prepared by Peak Ecology Ltd with Royal HaskoningDHV on behalf of RWE Renewables UK. It provides the results of habitat surveys within the Onshore Survey Area associated with the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms.

The purpose of this report is to:

- Detail the methods used to undertake the habitat surveys;
- Include the survey details, surveyors, weather conditions and any constrains to the surveys;
- Provide the results of the surveys including classification and condition assessment of habitat types present;
- Present the findings of the desk study considered relevant to the habitat survey;
- Identify priority and notable habitats in terms of botanical value or importance on a landscape scale; and
- Identify any need for additional survey work.

As a data report, this will not include an evaluation of impacts or details of mitigation; this will be addressed in the EIA.

The approach to this survey follows best practice published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2013) and the British Standards Institution (BSI, 2013). In general, standard accepted survey methods have been followed, details of methods are included in section 2.2.

This latest issue, Issue 9, reflects a change in the Onshore Development Area as a result of **Project Change Request 2** (document reference 10.53), which reduces the overall area of habitats that could be impacted by the Projects. Changes to the habitat areas as a result of **Project Change Request 2** (document reference 10.53), have been incorporated into the Summary Habitats Table in the Executive Summary and Table 3.

1.2 Proposed Works

RWE Renewables is intending to develop the proposed DBS East and DBS West offshore wind farm Projects, collectively known and referred to as Dogger Bank South (DBS) offshore wind farms (herein referred to as 'the Projects'). The Projects will require a buried onshore export cable between the landfall location and the onshore grid connection points at Creyke Beck, west of Beverley, this area with associated infrastructure is referred to as the Onshore Development Area.

1.3 Survey Area

The survey area falls within the Holderness National Character Area; an area of glaciated lowland comprising a low-lying, open landscape of arable farmland, with underlying boulder clay and alluvium deposition producing seasonally wet, fertile, loamy and clayey soils. The

landscape is intersected by drainage ditches, minor watercourses, and hedgerows, with scattered pockets of woodland and alluvial floodplain pasture.

This report is based on the final Onshore Development Area agreed in October 2023. An overview map of the Onshore Development Area has been included in **Figure 1**, below.

mbling Ulrome **Development Overview** Onshore Development Area Castle Brow Southburn Brigham North 17 Hutton Frodingham Cranswick Bainton Rotsea Dunnington Hempholme Watton Kilnwick Lund Burshill HORNS Beswick / Brandesbur M Seaton M ockington 🖟 Aike V Sigglesthorne Rolstor Scorborough Etton 十十 Little Hatfield Leconfield Cherry Rise Long Riston Tickton BEVERLEY New Ellerby Meaux Bishop Burton Weel Skirlaugh Woodmansey Source: Walkington © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 0100031673. 10 km

Figure 1: Onshore Development Area

1.4 Legislation

In order to support the DCO application an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required within which all potential impacts on biodiversity will need to be taken into consideration.

In practice, this means that potential impacts on designated sites, priority species and habitats such as those listed as habitats of principal importance in England (see Appendix A for details) and species that receive legal direct protection (typically via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and/or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)) are all material planning considerations.

2 <u>METHODOLOGY</u>

2.1 Desk Study

A desk-based assessment was carried out to identify records of statutory and non-statutory designated sites, priority habitats, ancient woodland, and any other defined areas considered to have substantive nature conservation value. A data request was made to North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC) for details of non-statutory, locally designated sites, and a "Site Check Report" was carried out using the online interactive mapping tools on the MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside) website to identify any statutory designated sites, priority habitats or ancient woodland within the search radius.

2.2 Habitat Survey

The surveys were undertaken between May- November 2023. All surveys were undertaken according to the methodology set out below.

The surveys comprised a walkover of the site according to the Onshore Development Area at the time of survey. Where the Onshore Development Area was updated over time, additional land parcels were incorporated into the survey area. The habitat types were classified based on the identification of individual plant species, according to the UK Habitat Classification Version 1.1 (UKHab) survey methodology and guidance (Butcher *et al*, 2020). This classification system was updated in July 2023 to Version 2.0; however, as the majority of habitat data had been collected prior to this release, it was considered appropriate to continue to define habitats based on Version 1.1 for consistency. The UKHab system allows data to be presented in a format suitable for input into the BNG metric.

The BNG metric requires most habitats to be assessed for their condition, in order to differentiate between areas of the same habitat type of varying quality relative to the ecological optimum state. The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Technical Annexe 1 (Panks, et al., 2023) was used to determine each condition, with a category of 'poor', 'moderate' or 'good' assigned to each area. Some habitat conditions have been listed as "N/A" as these habitats do not require a condition assessment within the Biodiversity Metric. Where condition assessments have been carried out, the category is displayed as an abbreviated 'P', 'M', or 'G', overlaid onto the relevant polygon or linear feature on the habitat maps.

Hedgerows were assessed according to criteria described under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, legislation providing additional legal protection to hedgerows considered 'Important'. Hedgerows qualify as Important when certain features are present within or in association with the hedgerow, such as sufficient woody species within the canopy, presence of adjacent walls, banks, standard trees, parallel hedgerows and connecting hedgerows.

Surveyors worked in pairs; each pair with a lead surveyor experienced in the identification of vascular plants and the use of the UKHab survey methodology.

The Onshore Development Area has been refined during the course of the survey programme. Results of survey work undertaken during 2022, where relevant to the Onshore Development Area, are included within this report. Some of the habitat data collected during

2022 represents areas no longer included within the Onshore Development Area; this data has been displayed on habitat maps for reference but has not been presented or quantified within this report.

2.3 Limitations

2.3.1 Third Party Data

Desk study data obtained for this assessment is provided and validated by third parties therefore the quality and accuracy cannot be guaranteed. This is not a definitive data set and a lack of data in any particular area does not necessarily denote an absence of notable habitats.

2.3.2 Access

All areas within the Onshore Development Area could be accessed to allow a thorough survey, with the exception of inaccessible road verges. These areas are mapped as "No Access - verge".

2.4 Lifespan of Data

The results contained within this report are considered to be valid for up to two years from the date of survey, assuming that there are no significant changes to the site condition or management within this period. After this period, or should the site conditions change, an update may be required in order to inform ecological constraints to development proposals and/or accompany a planning submission.

The desk study data remains valid for any subsequent report; however, additional data may become available and would serve to compliment the information already generated. It is recommended that after a two-year period all data is updated to inform any future reporting and evaluation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

Table 1 below provides information relating to statutory designated sites present within 2km of the Onshore Development Area. Internationally important sites are included where they fall within 10km of the Onshore Development Area. Detailed descriptions for each site, where provided, are included in the following text.

Locations of sites in relation to the Onshore Development Area are shown on a series of maps included in Appendix B (Figures 1A to 1F).

Table 1: Statutory designated sites identified during the desk study

Site name	Status	Approximate distance from Onshore Development Area
Statutory Sites		
Greater Wash	SPA (Special Protection Area)	Within Development Area
Burton Bushes	SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)	0.12km
Withow Gap	SSSI	0.46km
Beverley Parks	LNR (Local Nature Reserve)	0.62km
Skipsea Bail Mere	SSSI	0.75km
Pulfin Bog	SSSI	1.13km
Leven Canal	SSSI	1.72km
Hornsea Mere	SPA SSSI	2.54km
Humber Estuary	Ramsar SAC (Special Area of Conservation) SPA SSSI	9.19km

Greater Wash SPA

The Greater Wash SPA lies along the east coast of England in the mid–southern North Sea and extends between the counties of Yorkshire and Suffolk. The site is important for both breeding and non-breeding sea birds and is particularly important for species such as red-throated diver *Gavia stellata* and little gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*.

Burton Bushes SSSI

This site holds its designation for the presence of ancient woodland and rich woodland species, dominated by oak, mainly *Quercus robur*, with a well-developed understorey.

Withow Gap SSSI

A geological SSSI with underlying late Devensian and Flandrian measures, some of which are exposed in a coastal section. The site has a valuable record of pollen, plant macrofossils and molluscs.

Beverley Parks LNR

Designated for its mixed broadleaved woodland, the largest recently planted non-commercial orchard of traditional northern apple varieties, and two fields being restored as traditional parkland.

Skipsea Bail Mere SSSI

A geological site important for the underlying lake deposits. Its ecological importance lies with the pollen and macrofaunal record that extends from the Devensian Late Glacial period.

Pulfin Bog SSSI

This site is one of the last remnants of a fenland reedswamp community in the Hull Valley. It is valued both for its botanical interest and for the extensive reedbed habitat which supports various breeding birds including reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* and sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

Leven Canal SSSI

Designated for its habitats and plant species; it supports a good range of emergent and riparian plants with extensive beds of common reed *Phragmites australis* and common clubrush *Schoenoplectus lacustris*.

Hornsea Mere SPA SSSI

A large shallow waterbody with associated fen, carr woodland and reedswamp with a rich aquatic macrophyte assemblage. The reedbeds support a diverse insect fauna with several local fenland species. The site is of particular value for various bird species, particularly over-wintering gadwall *Anas strepera*. The site is also important for over-wintering golden eye *Bucephala clangula*, pochard *Aythya ferina*, shoveller *Anas clypeata* and tufted ducks *Aythya fuligula*. The site is also important for post-breeding mute swan *Cygnus olor*, breeding reed warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and roosts of starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

3.1.2 Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Table 2 below provides descriptions of non-statutory designated sites present within 2km of the Onshore Development Area.

Table 2: Non-statutory designated sites identified during the desk study

Site name	Status	Designation	Approximate distance from Onshore Development Area
Beeford- Dunnington Road Verge	LWS	Presence of a good quality, established semi-natural grassland verge.	Within Onshore Development Area
Nunkeeling Lane	LWS	Good quality road verge and ditch habitats, and speciesrich, important hedgerow.	Within Onshore Development Area
Catwick-Seaton Road	LWS	Good quality, important hedgerow.	Adjacent (<0.01km) to an access road and a TCC within the Onshore Development Area
Raventhorpe Embankment	LWS	Good quality, established semi-natural grassland.	Within Onshore Development Area
Bentley Moor Wood	LWS	Ancient semi-natural woodland.	Within Onshore Development Area
Swine Moor	LWS	Mosaic of grassland and wetland habitats.	Adjacent (<0.01km) to an access road and a TCC within the Onshore Development Area
Newbald Road	LWS	Good quality important hedgerow.	0.4km
Beverley Westwood Waxcaps	LWS	Site supports an assemblage of eight or more species of waxcap.	0.08km
Moor Lane	LWS	Good quality important hedgerow.	0.15km
Birkhill Wood	LWS	Ancient semi-natural woodland.	0.17km
Driffield Road	LWS	Good quality important hedgerow.	0.19km
Catwick and Brandesburton Pits	cLWS (Candidate Local Wildlife Site)	Standing water.	0.24km
Jillywood Lane	LWS	Good quality hedgerow, medieval boundary and ancient woodland boundary.	0.41km
Beverley Limekilns	LWS	Old, established semi-natural neutral and calcareous grassland.	0.44km
Low Farm Routh	LWS	Good quality hedgerow	0.49km

Site name	Status	Designation	Approximate distance from Onshore Development Area
Leconfield Low Parks	cLWS	Grassland, scrub and standing water.	0.54km
Scrub Wood Lane	LWS	Good quality important hedgerow.	0.55km
Fishpond Wood, Risby Estate	LWS	Mosaic of semi-natural habitats including woodland wetland; supporting evidence of features of ancient or long-standing acid woodland.	0.61km
Skipsea Brough	LWS (Local Wildlife Site)	Presence of old, established semi-natural neutral and calcareous grassland.	0.8km
Risby Park	LWS	Mosaic of semi-natural habitats including woodland and grassland.	0.97km
Rise- Huddlecross	LWS	Good quality road verge habitat with species-rich important hedgerow.	1.1km
Cote Wood	LWS	Ancient semi-natural woodland	1.15km
Drove Road	cLWS	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	1.62km
Mill Beck and Fields	LWS	Old, established semi-natural neutral grassland	1.69km

A total of 44 "Deleted" and "Historic" LWSs were present within the search area, for which no citation was provided. These were; Billings Hill, Lord Mayor's Win, Clubley's Plantation, Newcome Plantation, Seaton Whin Common, Bewholme Lane, Catfoss Manor, Brandesburton Pits, Catfoss Gravel Pits, New Drain, B1243-Sigglesthorne, Huddlecross Plantation, Wassand Wood, Monk Dyke Wood, Monk Dyke, Routh, Meaux Lane, Little Decoy, Arram Carrs, Ings Road Field, Lambfold Wood, Killingwold Graves Plantation, Beverley Westwood, Newbegin Pits, Keldgate Road, Shorthill Hag, Swadgery Mere Wood, Beverley Queensgate, Fields South of Westwood, Walkington Road, Keldmarsh, Beverley Barracks, Beverley Barracks Disused Pit, Risby Corner, 11 Acre Plantation, A164 Bypass, Wanlass Substation, Poplar Farm Drain, Long Lane Dunswell, Dunswell Road, North Farm Path, Creyke Beck, Mill Beck Path and Woodhill Path.

3.1.3 **Priority Habitats**

The online search using MAGIC identified three records of Priority Habitats within the Onshore Development Area; Maritime Cliffs and Slopes, present along the coastal stretch of the site; Deciduous Woodland located north of the A1035; and Floodplain Grazing Marsh along the River Hull.

3.2 Habitat Survey

Habitat data was collected covering an area of approximately 451.2ha within the Onshore Survey Area; this area includes road verges that were not accessible to surveyors, listed as "no access – verge". The most frequently recorded habitat type was 'cropland'; making up 86% of the survey area. A summary of the habitat types recorded is provided below, with details of the extent of each habitat and associated condition category provided in Appendix C.

Priority Habitats (see Appendix D) recorded within the survey area included Arable Field Margins (including those which are managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife), Lowland Fen, Hedgerows, Rivers, and Maritime Cliff and Slopes. These habitats are indicated in **Table 3** below with the symbol "*".

Approximately 25% of the total number of hedgerows surveyed were considered to be Important under the Hedgerow Regulations.

No further botanical surveys were considered necessary.

Table 3: Onshore Survey Area Survey Results

Habitat	Condition Assessment	Area of Habitat / Length of Habitat	Percentage of Total Survey Area
Area Habitats			
c - Cropland		391.94ha	86.87%
c1 - Cropland	N/A	4.286ha	0.95%
c1a – Arable field margins*	N/A	2.069ha	0.46%
c1a5 – Arable margins sown with tussocky grasses*	N/A	1.826ha	0.40%
c1a6 – Arable margins sown with wild flowers or a pollen and nectar mix*	N/A	1.834ha	0.41%
c1a8 – Game bird mix strips and corners*	N/A	0.276ha	0.06%
c1b – Temporary grass and clover leys	N/A	18.146ha	4.02%
c1c - Cereal crops	N/A	123.867ha	27.45%
c1c7 – Other cereal crops	N/A	157.840ha	34.98%
c1d – Non-cereal crops	N/A	48.253ha	10.69%
c1d8 – Other non-cereal crops	N/A	33.541ha	7.43%
f - Wetland		1.871ha	0.41%

Habitat	Condition Assessment	Area of Habitat / Length of Habitat	Percentage of Total Survey Area
f2a - Lowland fens*	Poor	1.711ha	0.38%
f2f – Other swamps	Moderate	0.160ha	0.04%
g - Grassland		29.965ha	6.64%
g3 - Neutral grassland	Good	0.169ha	0.04%
g3 - Neutral grassland	Moderate	0.314ha	0.07%
g3 - Neutral grassland	Poor	0.431ha	0.10%
g3c – Other neutral grassland	Good	5.164ha	1.14%
g3c – Other neutral grassland	Moderate	1.573ha	0.35%
g3c – Other neutral grassland	Poor	2.463ha	0.55%
g3c5 – <i>Arrhenatherum</i> neutral grassland	Good	0.038ha	0.01%
g4 - Modified grassland	Good	0.267ha	0.06%
g4 - Modified grassland	Moderate	2.909ha	0.64%
g4 - Modified grassland	Poor	16.637ha	3.69%
h - Heathland and shrul	•	0.533ha	0.12%
h3d – Bramble scrub	N/A	0.420ha	0.09%
h3f – Hawthorn scrub	Moderate	0.039ha	0.01%
h3h – Mixed scrub	Moderate	0.061ha	0.01%
h3h – Mixed scrub	Poor	0.013ha	0.00%
r - Rivers and lakes		0.370ha	0.08%
r1 - Standing open water and canals	N/A	0.135ha	0.03%
r2a – Rivers*	N/A	0.236ha	0.05%
s - Sparsely vegetated I	and	0.168ha	0.04%
s2a – Maritime cliff and slopes*	Moderate	0.168ha	0.04%
t – Marine inlets and tra waters	t – Marine inlets and transitional waters		3.18%
t2h - Beach	Good	14.369ha	3.18%
u - Urban		6.586ha	1.46%
u1 – Built-up areas and gardens	N/A	0.138ha	0.03%
u1b – Developed land; sealed surface	N/A	4.427ha	0.98%
u1b5 – Buildings	N/A	0.006ha	0.00%

Habitat	Condition Assessment	Area of Habitat / Length of Habitat	Percentage of Total Survey Area
u1b6 – Other developed land	N/A	1.413ha	0.31%
u1c – Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	N/A	0.219ha	0.05%
u1d – Suburban/ mosaic of developed/ natural surface	N/A	0.384ha	0.09%
w - Woodland and fores	st	3.782ha	0.84%
w1g – Other woodland; broadleaved	Good	2.617ha	0.58%
w1g7 – Other broadleaved woodland types	Good	0.129ha	0.03%
w1g7 – Other broadleaved woodland types	Moderate	0.105ha	0.02%
w1h5 – Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved	Moderate	0.928ha	0.21%
w1h5 – Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved	Poor	0.003ha	0.00%
Other			
No access - verge	N/A	1.594ha	0.35%
Linear Habitats		,	
h – Hedgerows		16,561m	N/A
h2a – Hedgerows*	Good	8,312m	N/A
Good condition (h2a) hedgerows also qualifying as Important		[2,724m]	N/A
h2a – Hedgerows*	Moderate	6,657m	N/A
Moderate condition (h2a) hedgerows also qualifying as Important		[1,389m]	N/A
h2a – Hedgerows*	Poor	1,561m	N/A
h2b – Other hedgerows	Good	31m	N/A
r – Rivers and lakes		4,678m	N/A
r1 – Standing open water	N/A	4,678m	N/A
w – Woodland and forest		613m	N/A
w1g6 – Line of trees	Moderate	395m	N/A

Habitat	Condition Assessment	Area of Habitat / Length of Habitat	Percentage of Total Survey Area
w1g6 – Line of trees	Poor	175m	N/A
w1g6 – Line of trees	Good	43m	N/A

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Overview

The most frequently recorded habitat type was 'cropland'; making up 86% of the survey area.

4.2 Priority Habitats

Priority Habitats are a focus for conservation action across England and should be prioritised when considering areas within the Onshore Development Area that should be avoided. Where impacts are unavoidable, the mitigation hierarchy should be adhered to and measures to reduce adverse impacts should be demonstrated.

The importance of Priority Habitats is recognised within the BNG metric; such habitats are assigned a greater "distinctiveness" value based on the level of conservation action required for their protection. The determining criteria for the categorisation of these habitats also include the overall rarity of the habitat across the England, and the proportion of the remaining habitat that is protected within SSSIs. This allows the quantification of any impacts to Priority Habitats.

4.3 Important Hedgerows

Approximately 25% of the total number of hedgerows surveyed were considered to be Important under the Hedgerow Regulations, a total length of 4,113m of hedgerow.

4.4 Irreplaceable Habitats

Irreplaceable habitats are defined within the National Planning Policy Framework 2023 as habitats which would be:

"technically difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen."

Irreplaceable habitats (as defined under The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024) recorded within the BNG Study Area include small (below 3ha per habitat block) areas of lowland fen and ancient woodland. All areas of irreplaceable habitat, specifically areas of ancient woodland and lowland fen will be retained. The lowland fen is classified as an irreplaceable habitat, regardless of the condition it is in. Trenchless crossing, such as HDD or other trenchless crossing technique, will be used to avoid any impacts on the lowland fen habitat.

5 REFERENCES

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Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2023) *National Planning Policy Framework*.

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Panks, S. et al., 2023. Biodiversity Metric 4.0 - User Guide., Natural England.

APPENDIX A: Additional Relevant Legislation

Priority Habitats

Priority Habitats are habitats of principal importance in England, originally included under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), identified as under threat and requiring specific conservation action. The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework succeeded the UK BAP; however, the Priority Habitats remain as a published list for reference, as required under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

Protected Sites

A network of protected sites, at varying levels, have been put in place across the UK. Further details are provided below;

International importance

Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is the name of the European Union-wide network of nature conservation sites established under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives. This network will comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive. The Directive applies to the UK and the overseas territory of Gibraltar. SACs are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety within the European Union of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive. SACs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are designated under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended). New and/or amended Habitats Regulations are shortly to be introduced to provide a mechanism for the designation of SACs and SPAs in UK offshore waters (from 12-200 nm).

National importance

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The SSSI series has developed since 1949 as the national suite of sites providing statutory protection for the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features. Most SSSIs are privately-owned or managed; others are owned or managed by public bodies or non-government organisations. The SSSIs designation may extend into intertidal areas out to the jurisdictional limit of local authorities, generally Mean Low Water in England and Northern Ireland; Mean Low Water of Spring tides in Scotland. In Wales, the limit is Mean Low Water for SSSIs notified before 2002, and, for more recent notifications, the limit of Lowest Astronomical Tides, where the features of interest extend down to LAT. There is no provision for marine SSSIs beyond low water mark. Originally notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, SSSIs have been renotified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Improved provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs

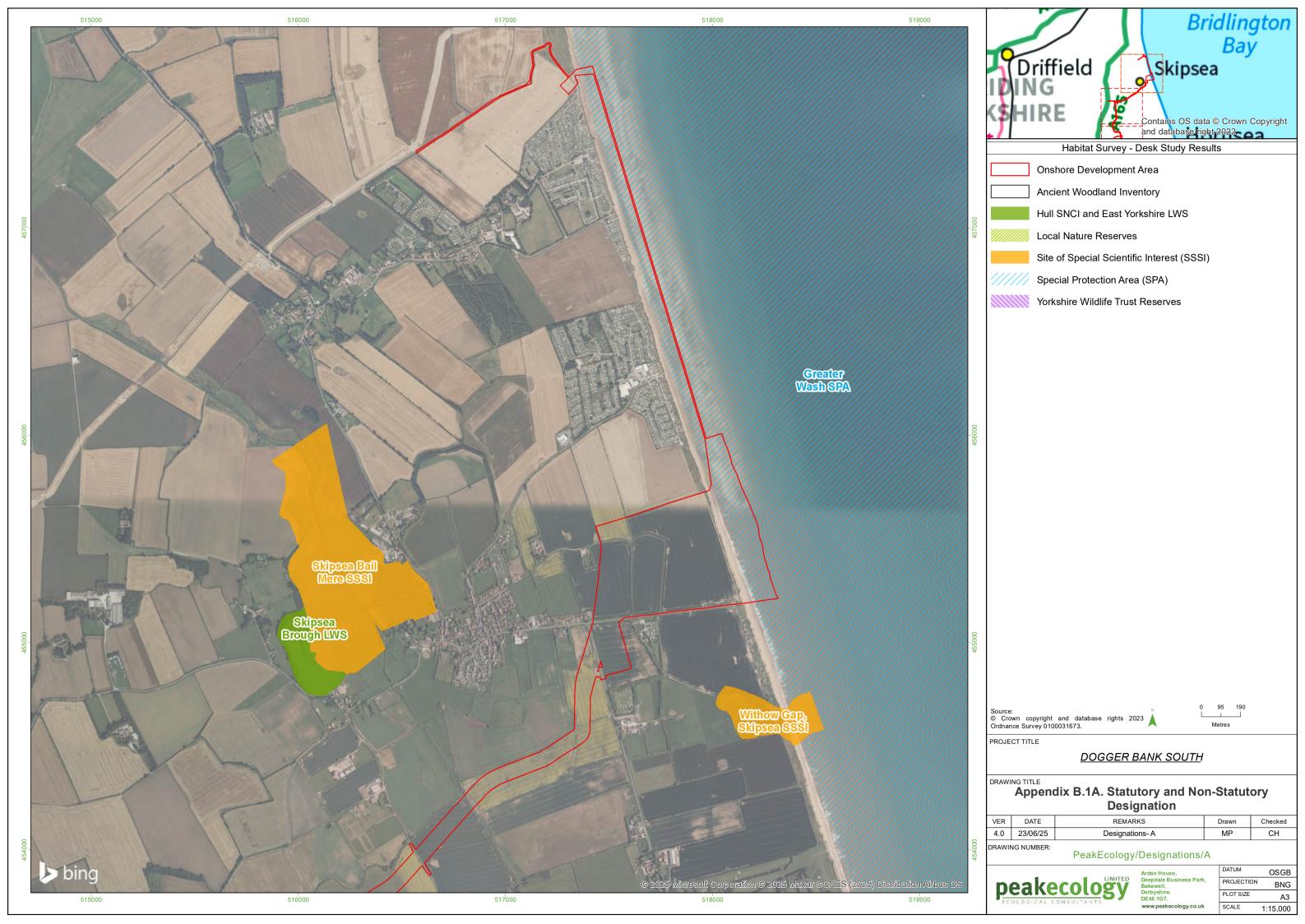
were introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (in England and Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

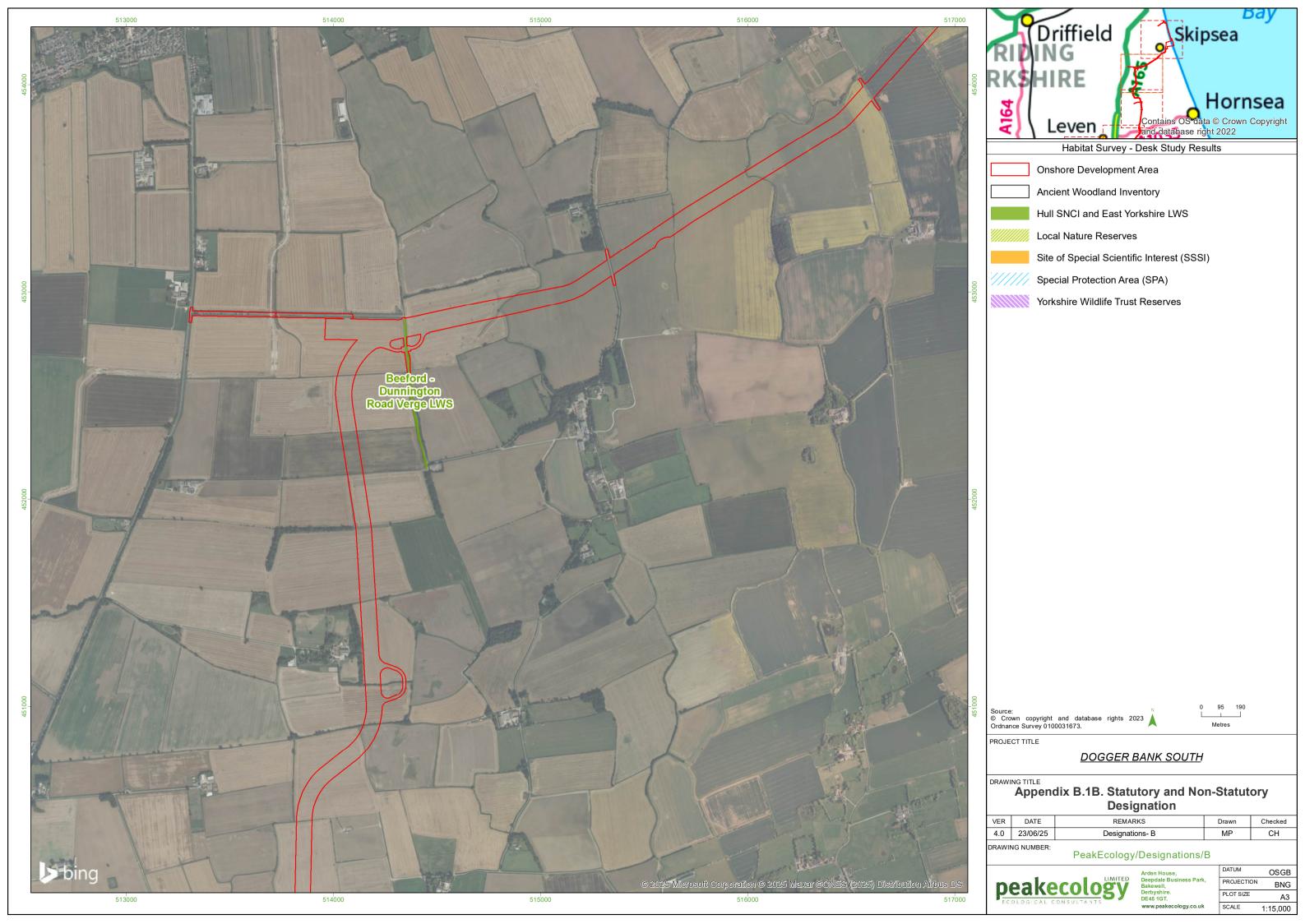
Regional/local importance

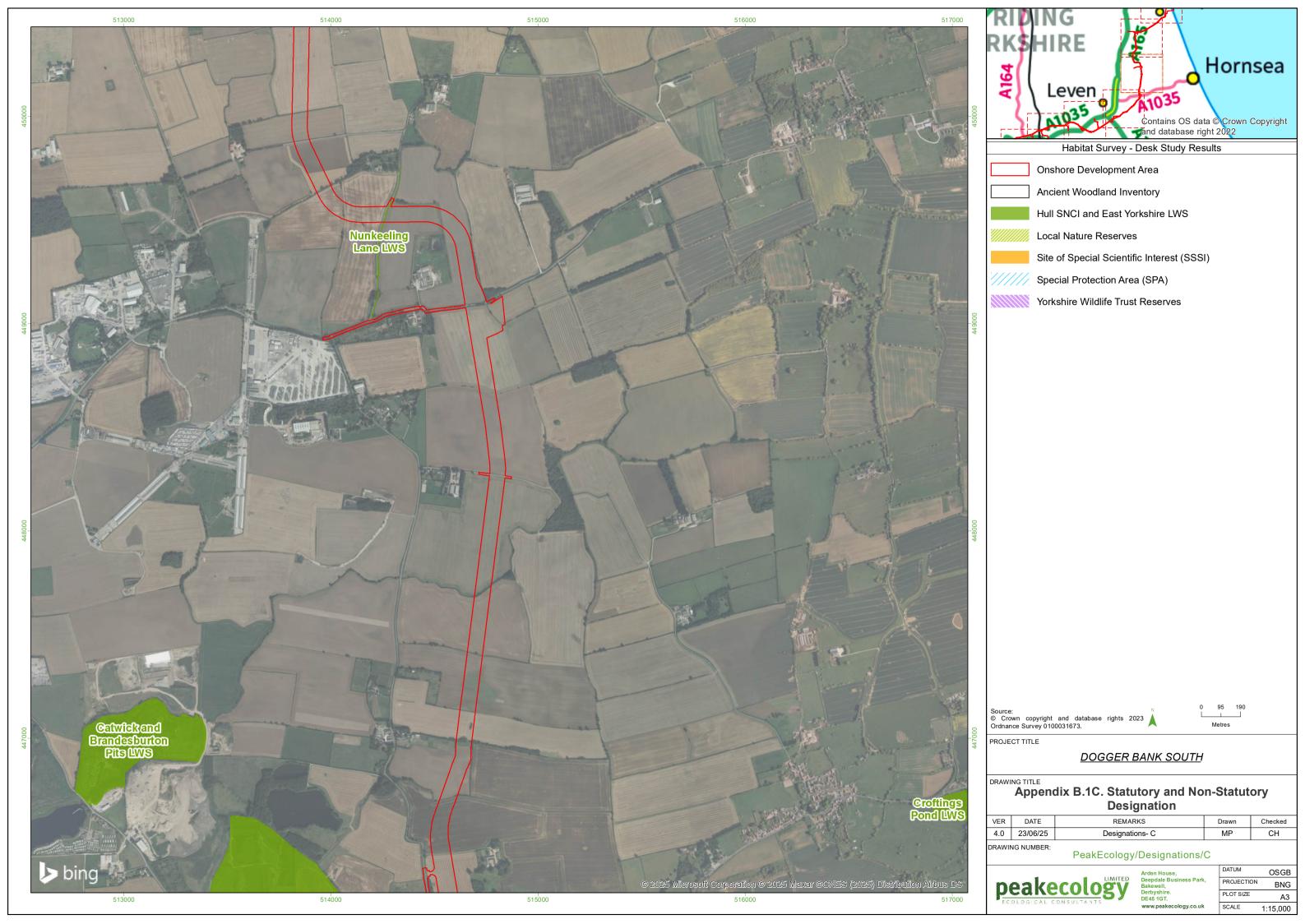
- Wildlife Sites

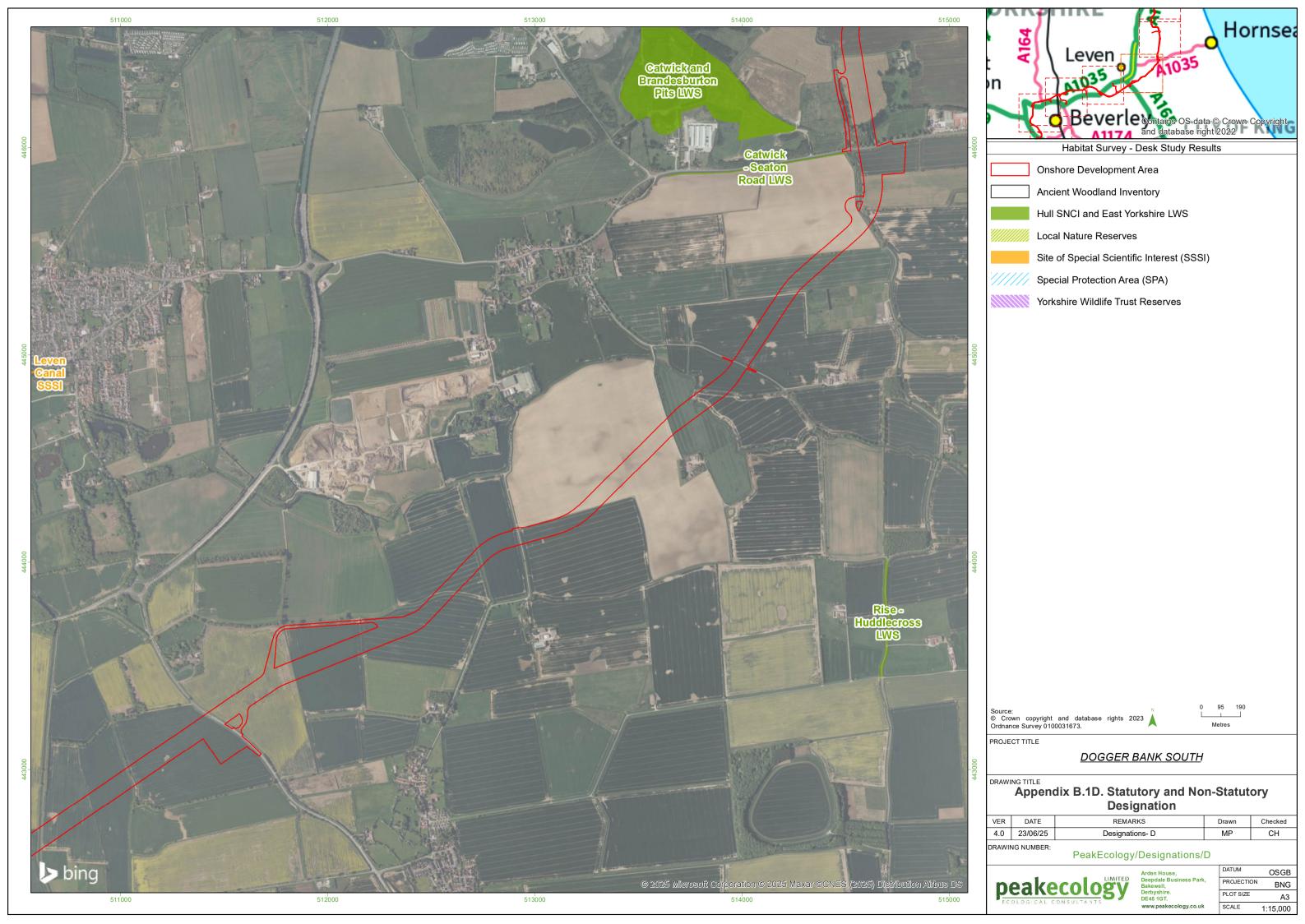
Local authorities for any given area may designate certain areas as being of local conservation interest. The criteria for inclusion, and the level of protection provided, if any, may vary between areas. Most individual counties have a similar scheme, although they do vary. These sites, which may be given various titles such as 'Listed Wildlife Sites' (LWS), 'County Wildlife Sites' (CWS), 'Local Nature Conservation Sites' (LNCS), 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' (SINCs), or Sites of Nature Conservation Importance' (SNCls), together with statutory designations, are defined in local and structure plans under the Town and Country Planning system and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

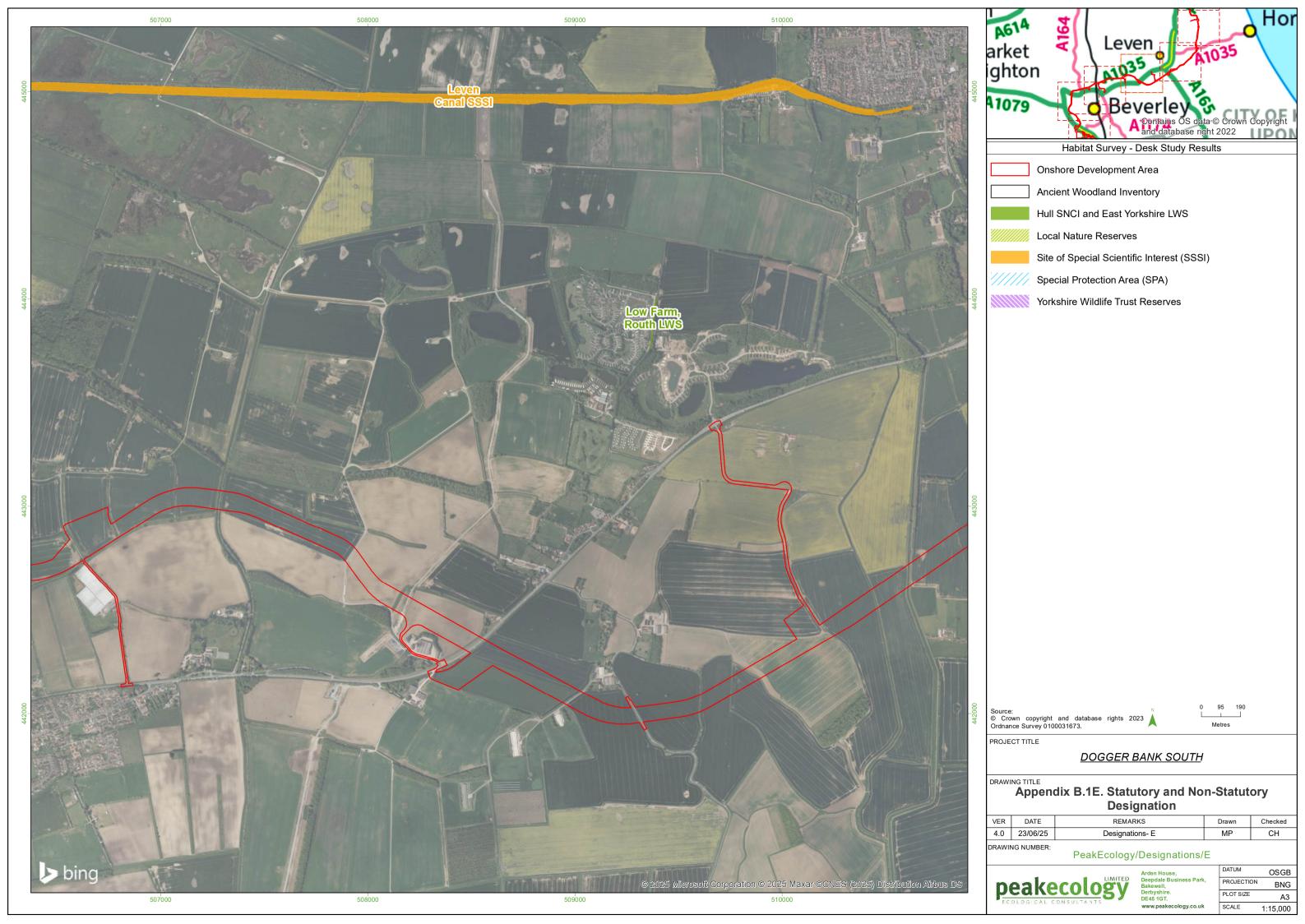
APPENDIX B: Statutory and non-statutory designations.				

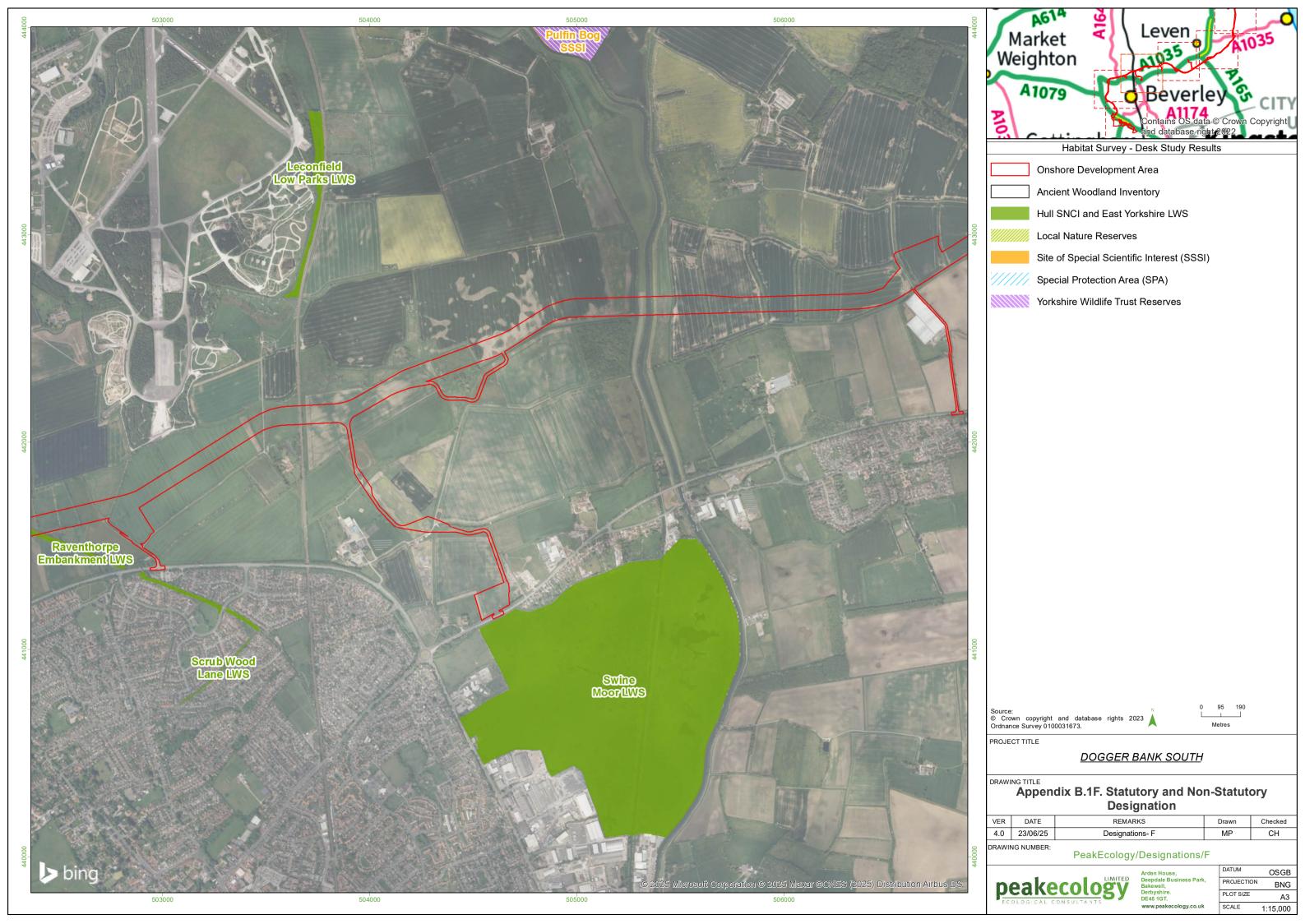


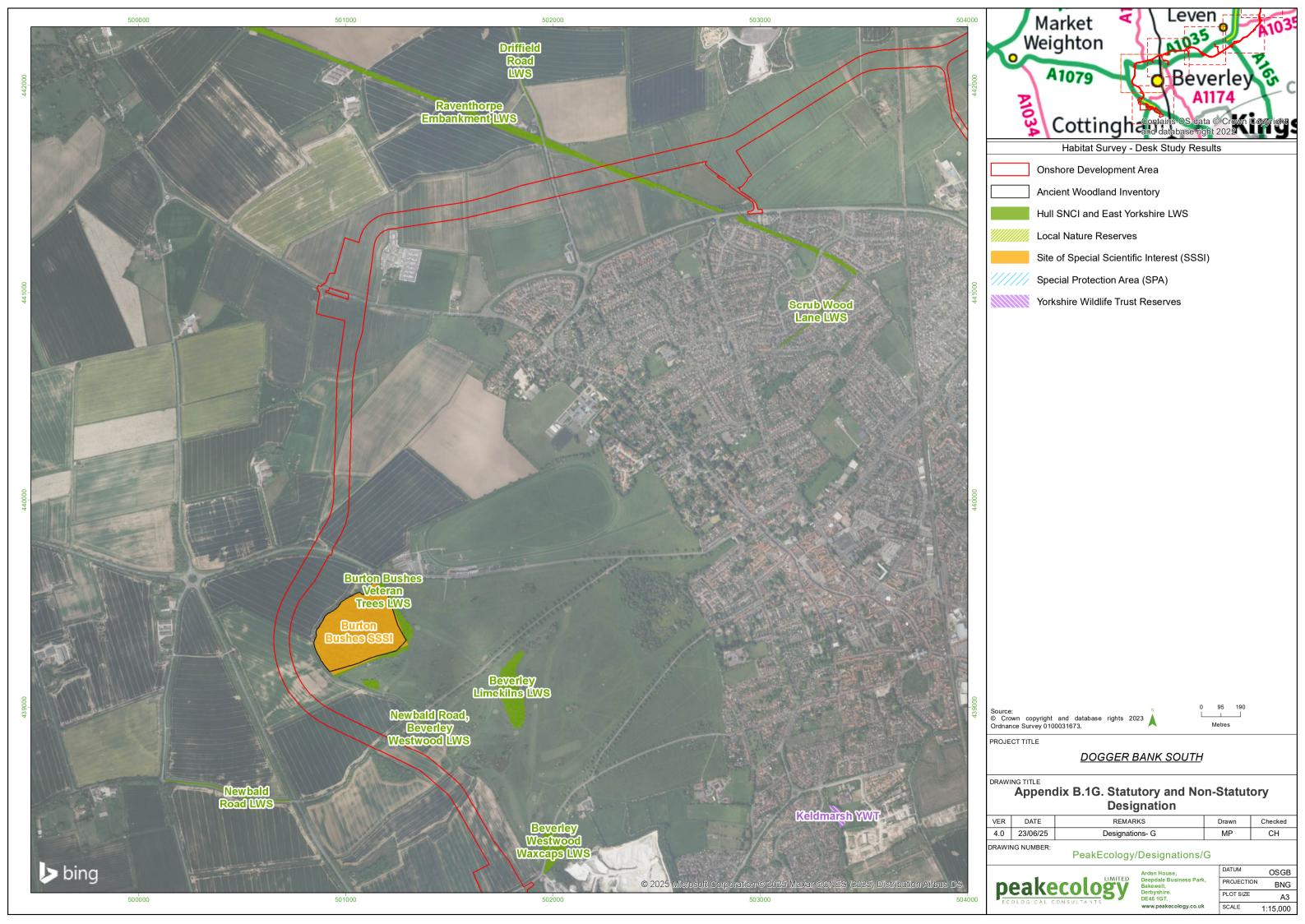


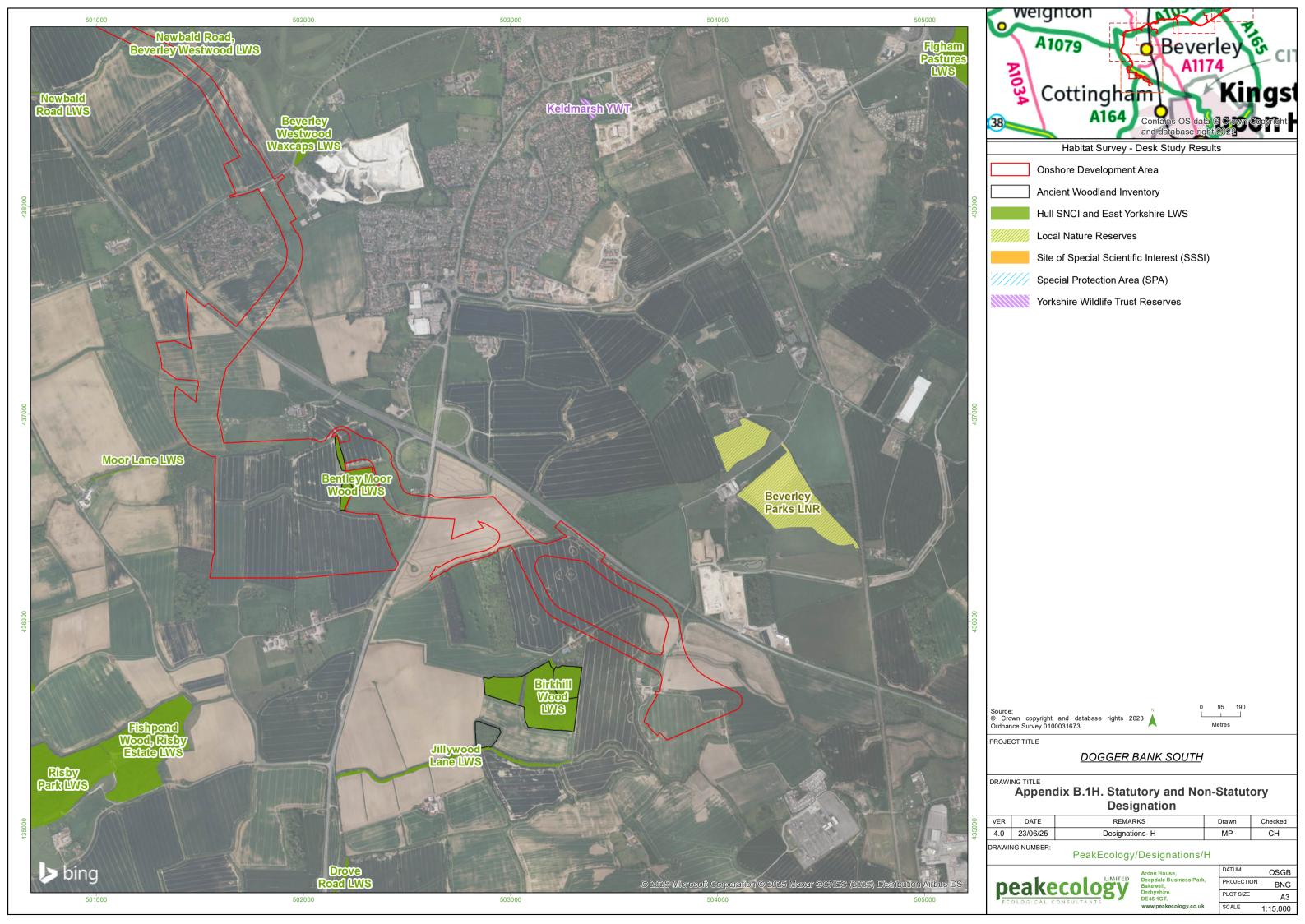




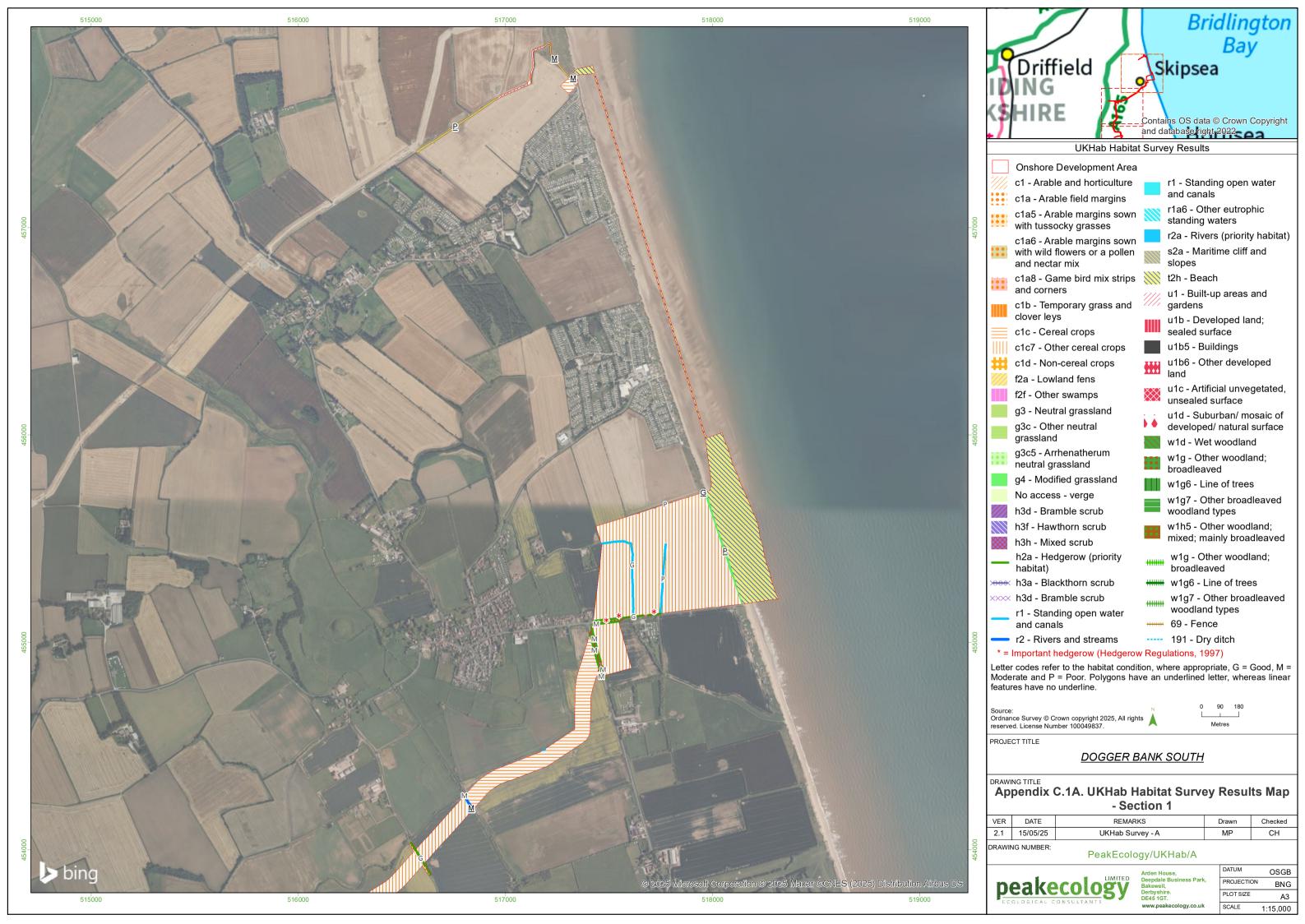


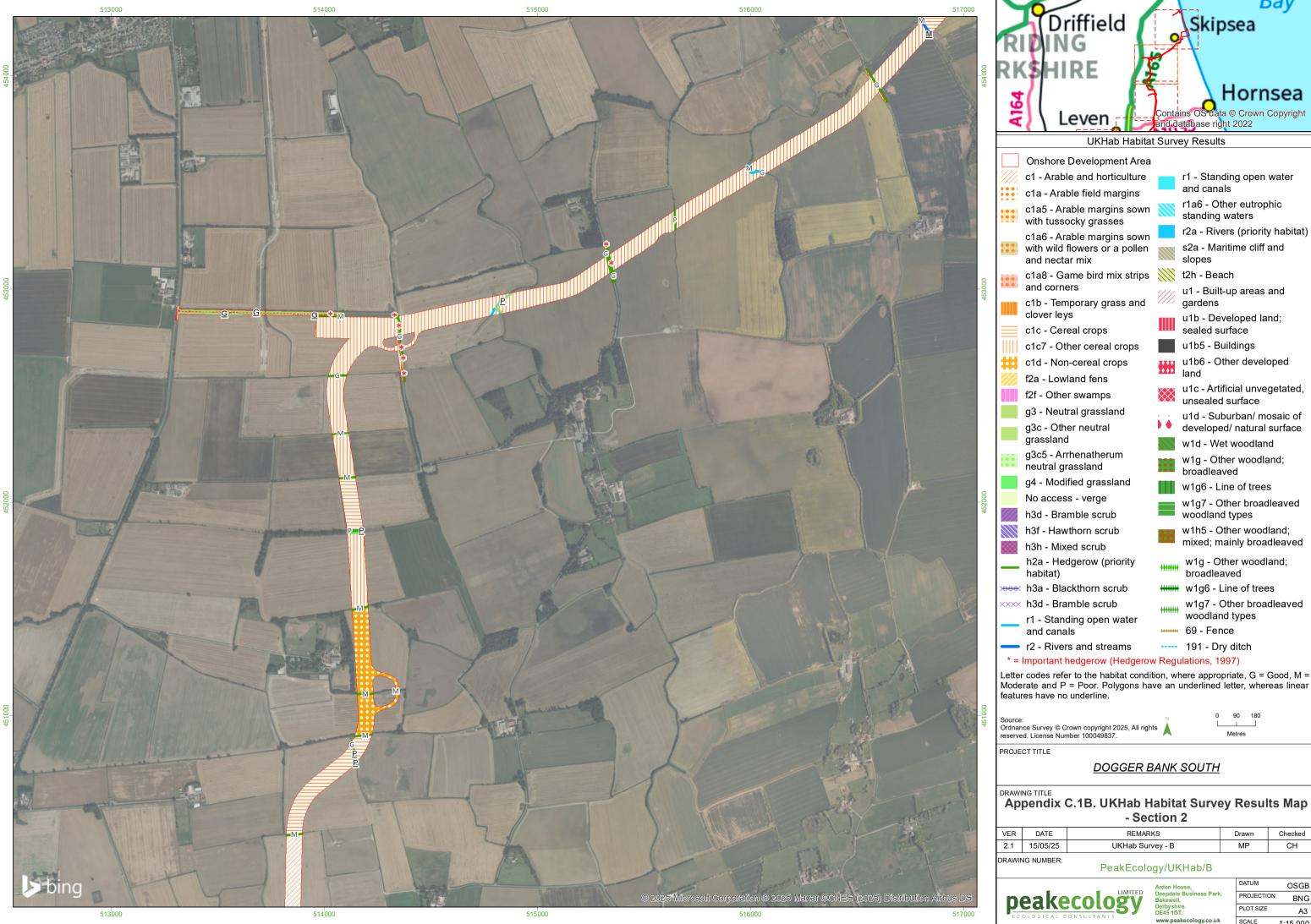






APPENDIX C: Habitat Survey Map







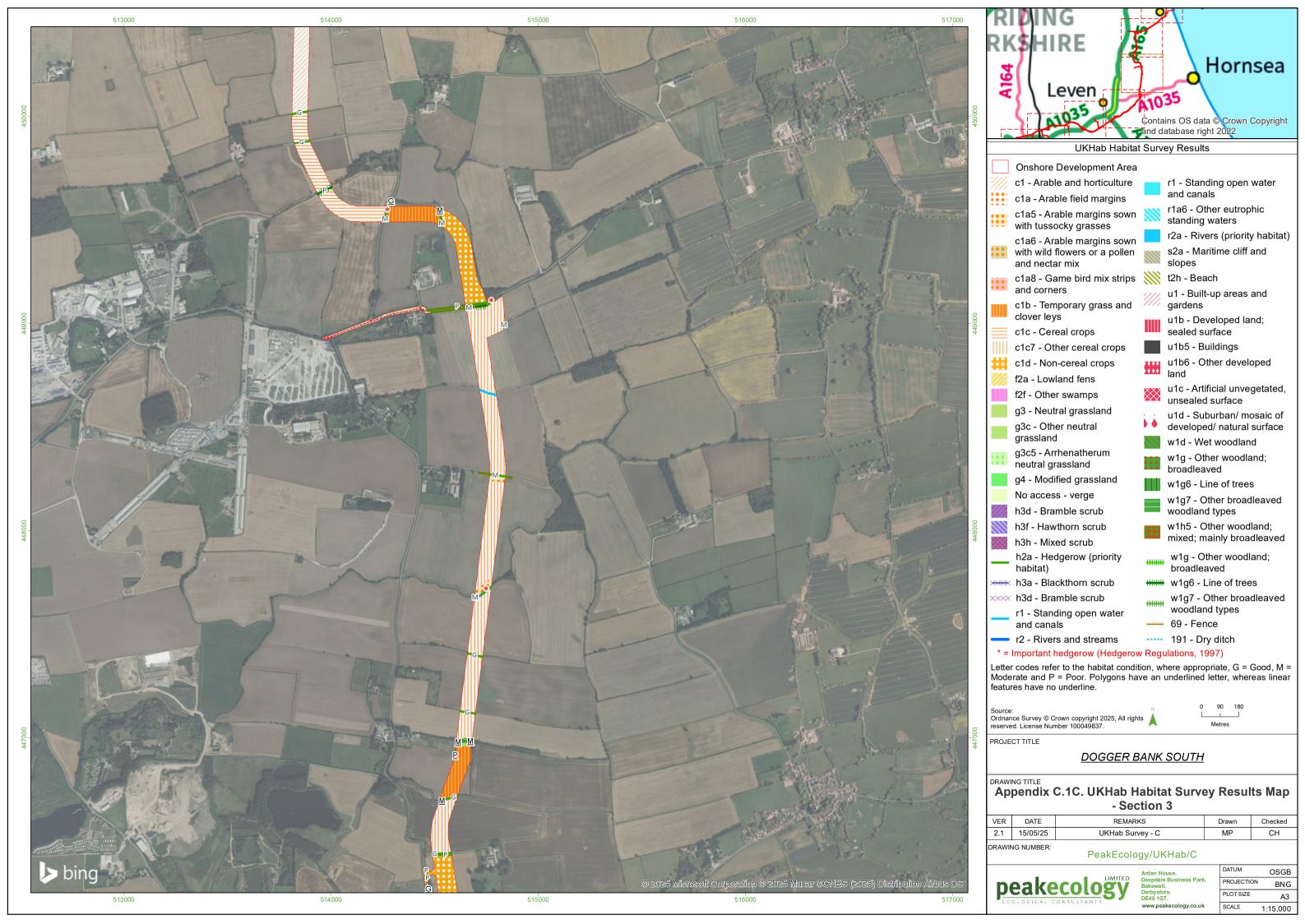
UKHab Habitat Survey Results

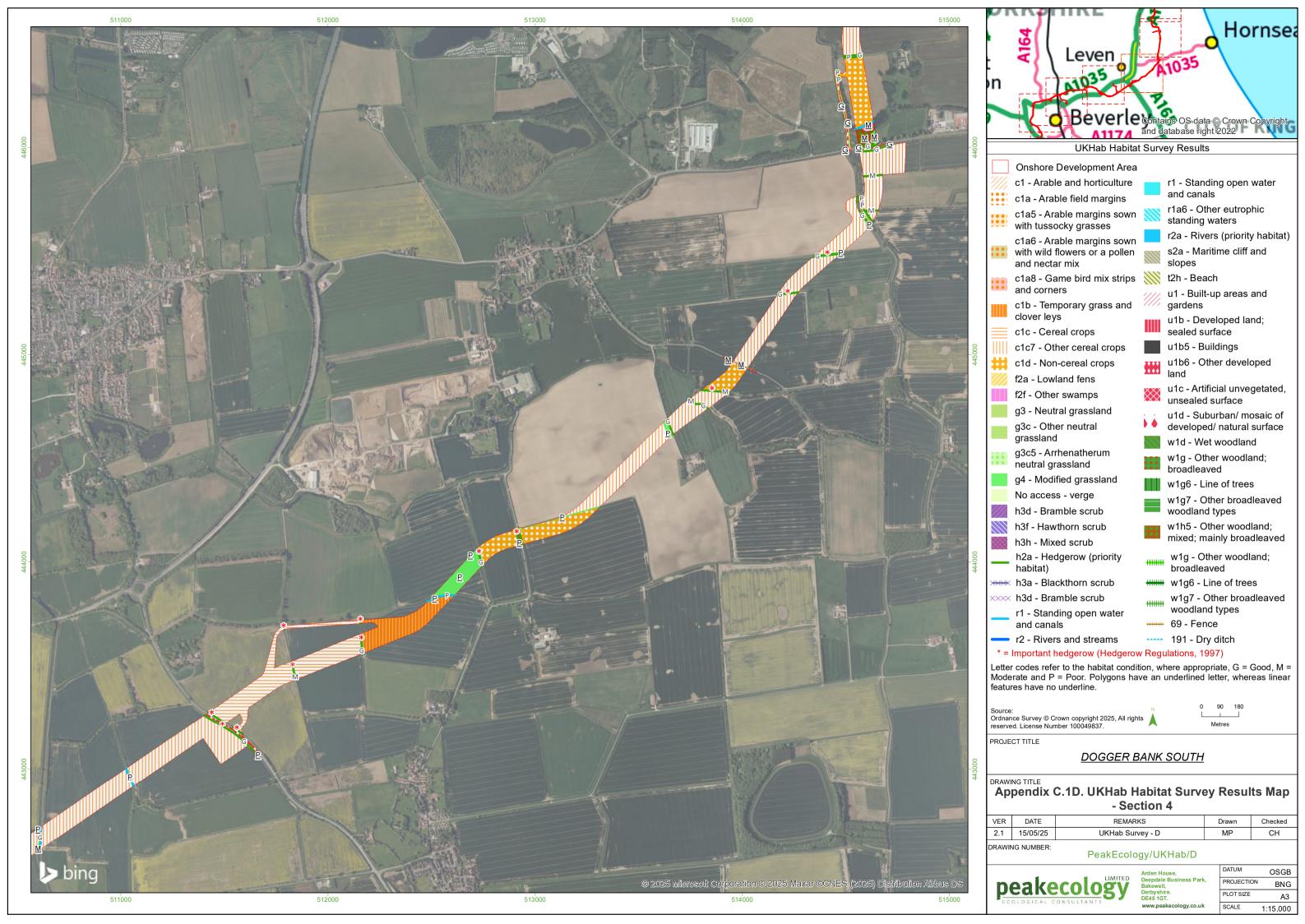
Moderate and P = Poor. Polygons have an underlined letter, whereas linear

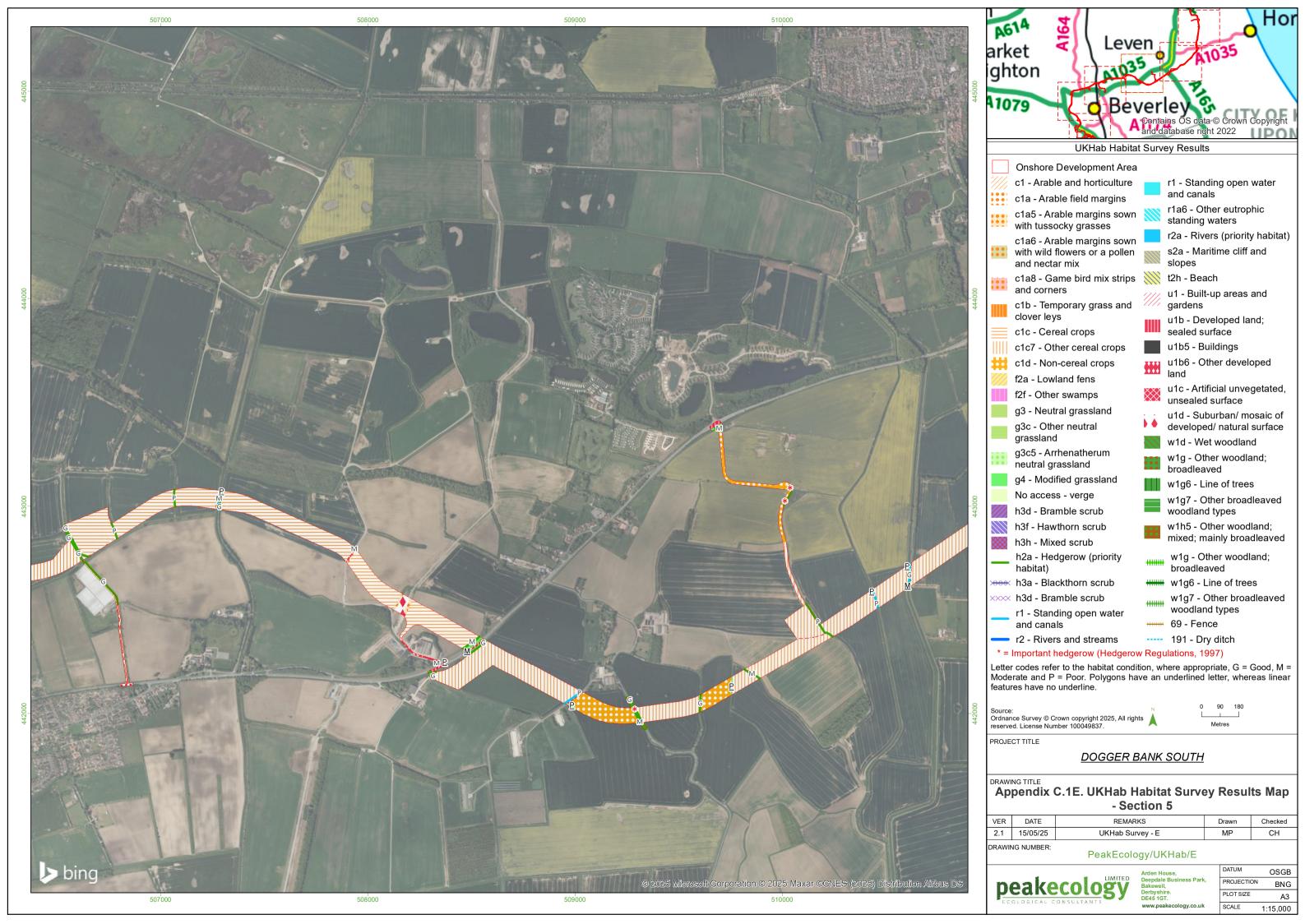
Appendix C.1B. UKHab Habitat Survey Results Map

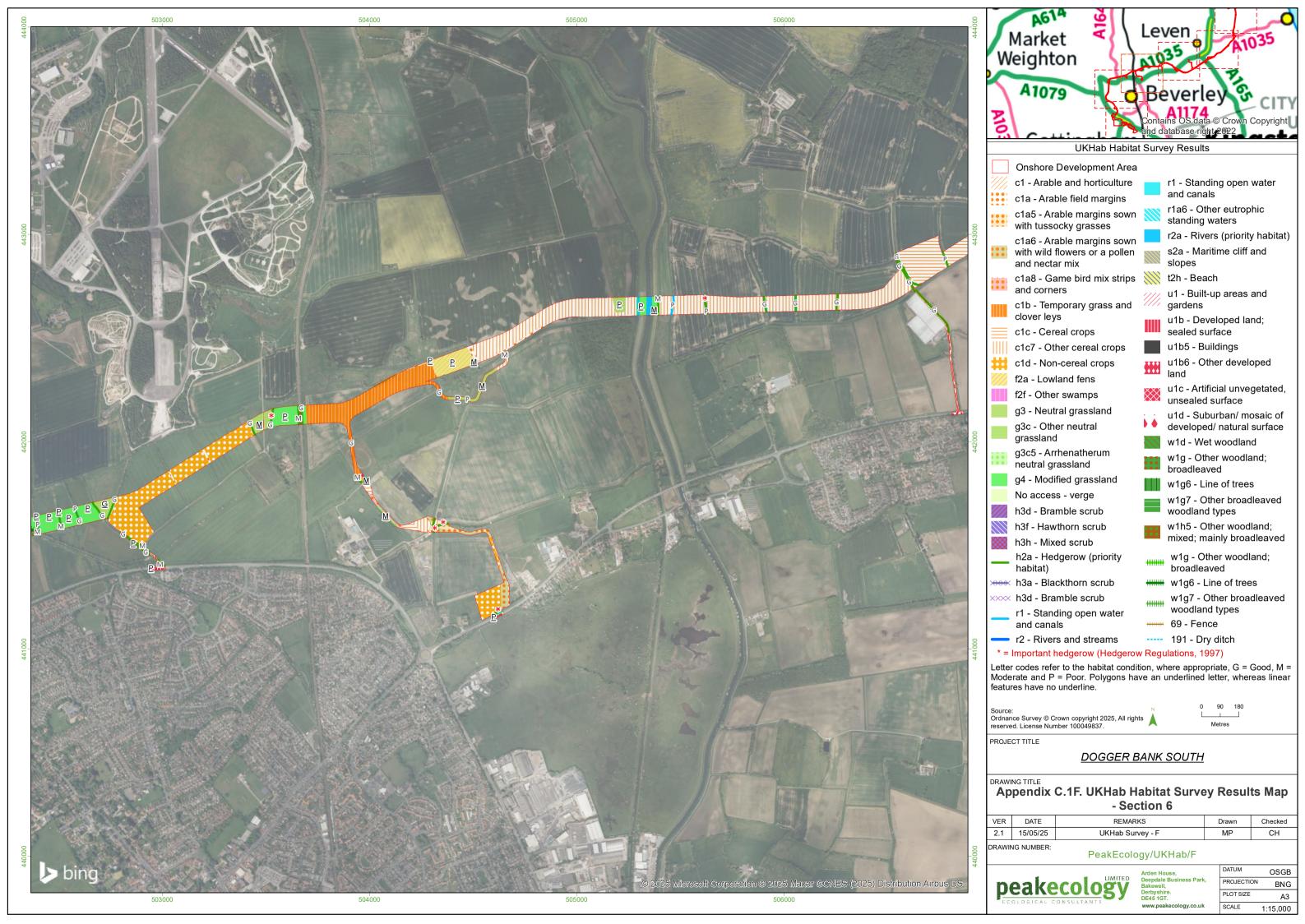
VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
2.1	15/05/25	UKHab Survey - B	MP	CH

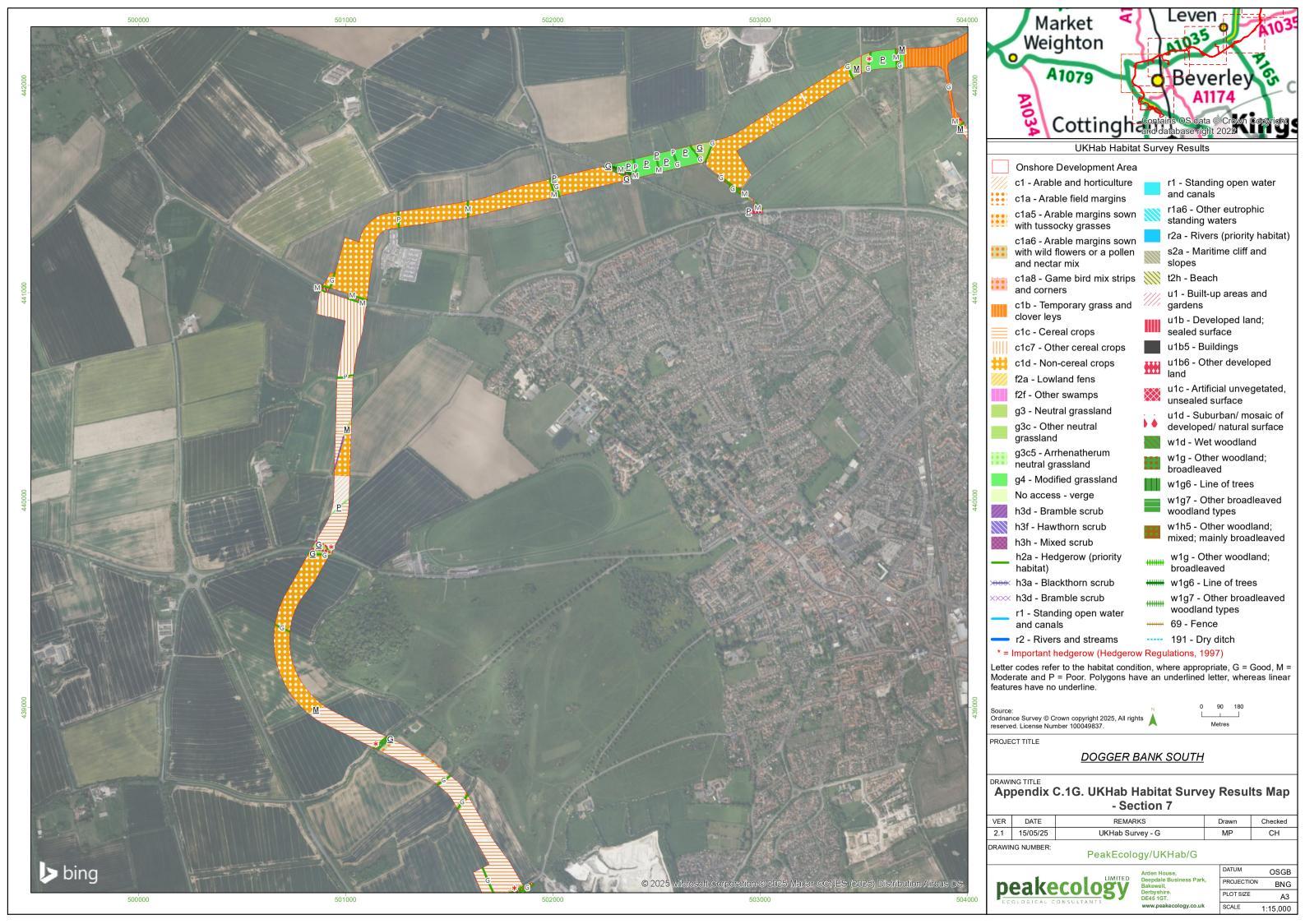
louse,	DATUM	OSG
le Business Park, II,	PROJECTION	BN
nire. GT.	PLOT SIZE	Α
akecology co uk	CCALE	

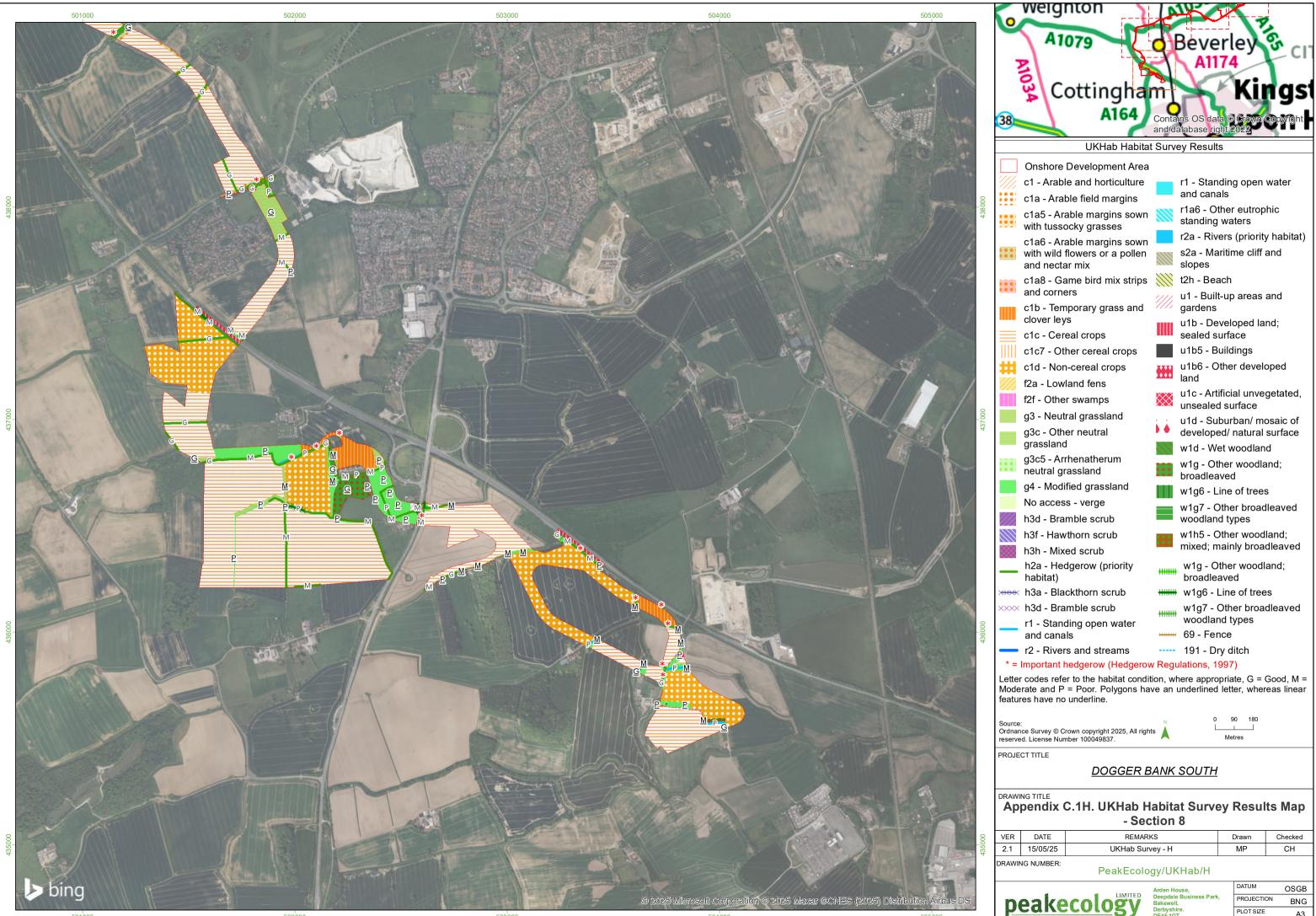






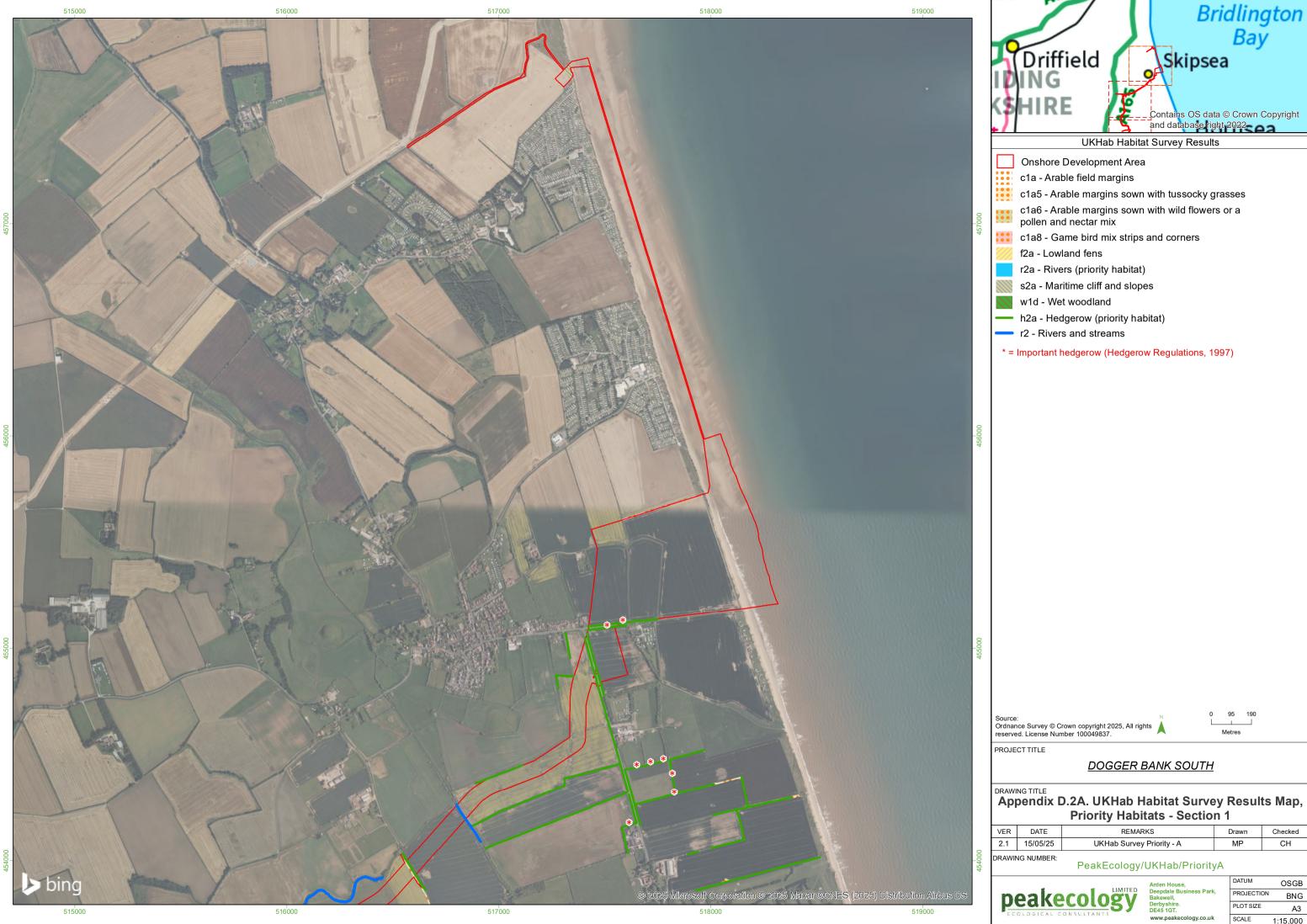






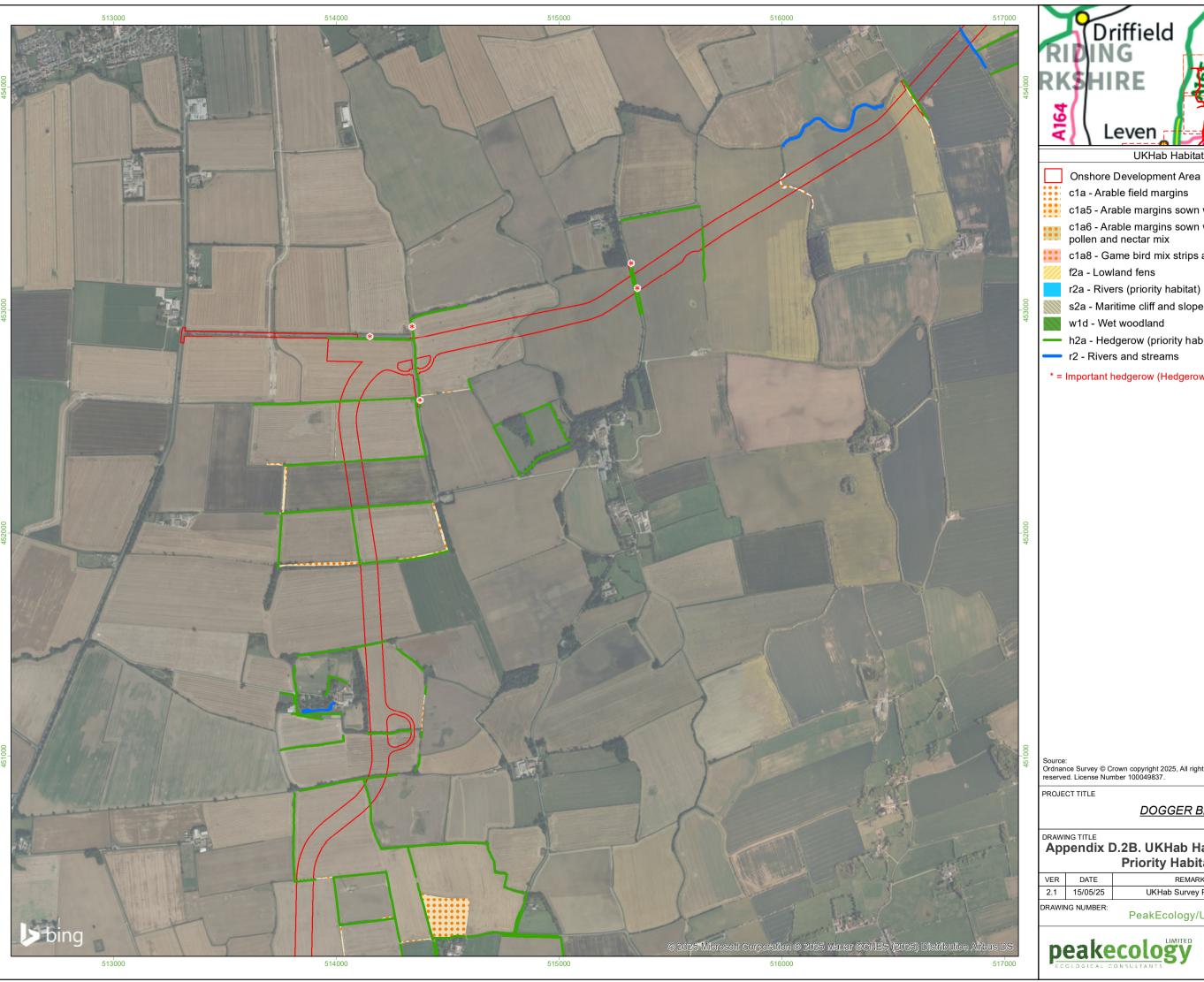
SCALE

APPENDIX D: Priority Habitats Map



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VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked		
2.1	15/05/25	UKHab Survey Priority - A	MP	CH		





UKHab Habitat Survey Results

Onshore Development Area

c1a - Arable field margins

c1a5 - Arable margins sown with tussocky grasses

c1a6 - Arable margins sown with wild flowers or a pollen and nectar mix

c1a8 - Game bird mix strips and corners

s2a - Maritime cliff and slopes

h2a - Hedgerow (priority habitat)

* = Important hedgerow (Hedgerow Regulations, 1997)

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DOGGER BANK SOUTH

Appendix D.2B. UKHab Habitat Survey Results Map, **Priority Habitats - Section 2**

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
2.1	15/05/25	UKHab Survey Priority - B	MP	CH

PeakEcology/UKHab/PriorityB



Arden House,
Deepdale Business Park,
Bakewell,
Derbyshire.
DE45 1GT.
www.neakecology.co.uk

	DATUM	OSGB
k,	PROJECTION	BNG
	PLOT SIZE	A3
k	SCALE	1.15 000

