

Rosefield Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 4
Appendix 7.8: Otter and Water Vole Survey
Report (2023) ~~(Confidential)~~
(Tracked)

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Foreword

Survey information contained within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.8: Otter and Water Vole Survey Report (2023) (~~Confidential~~) [EN010158/APP/6.4.3]** forms part of the Environmental Statement for information only. The otter and water vole surveys detailed within this appendix were undertaken in June and August 2023 and were based on a superseded version of the Order Limits. The results detailed within this appendix were correct at the time of writing; however, this has not impacted the assessment undertaken for otter and water vole, with the results of these surveys considered satisfactory to provide a sufficient baseline upon which to base the assessment. Further details are provided within **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010158/APP/6.2.5]**.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this report

1.1.1. This document has been updated at Deadline 4 to redact confidential information while providing the full report. The document references have not been updated from the original submission. Please refer to the **Guide to the Application [EN010158/APP/1.2.10]** for the list of current versions of documents.

~~4.4.4.~~1.1.2. This report presents the results of a water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) and otter (*Lutra lutra*) surveys survey carried out in connection with the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm development (central Grid Reference SP729231) (The Proposed Development). The Order Limits (the Site), shown in **Figure 1 (Annex A)** and described in **Section 1.2** below. The surveys were undertaken at four survey areas (Parcel 1, Parcel 1a, Parcel 2 and Parcel 3) including a 200m buffer (**Figure 2 (Annex A)**). The aim of the surveys was to determine the presence or likely absence of water vole and otter across the Site.

1.2. Project overview

- 1.2.1. Rosefield Solar Farm is a proposed solar farm with energy storage which will generate and store renewable electricity for export to the National Grid. The main features of the Proposed Development consists of the following elements:
- Solar PV development consisting of:
 - Ground mounted Solar PV generating station. The generating station would include Solar PV modules and mounting structures; and
 - Balance of Solar System (BoSS) which comprises: Inverters; Transformers; Switchgear; Combiner Boxes; acoustic barriers and cabling.
 - A project substation (the 'Rosefield Substation') compound comprising: Transformers; Switchgear; reactive power compensation bays; disconnectors; circuit breakers; busbars; control equipment; lightning surge arrestors; building(s) including office, control, functions, material storage, material laydown areas and welfare facilities; firewalls; fencing and acoustic barriers; a security cabin; parking as well as wider monitoring, maintenance and emergency equipment;
 - A Main Collector Compound and two Satellite Collector Compounds comprising: Switchgear; Transformers; ancillary equipment; operation and maintenance and welfare facilities; material storage; material laydown areas; fencing and acoustic barriers; and security cabins;
 - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound comprising: batteries and associated Inverters; Transformers; Switchgear, ancillary

equipment and their containers; office, control and welfare buildings; fencing and acoustic barriers; monitoring, maintenance and emergency systems; air conditioning; electrical cables; fire safety infrastructure; operation (including maintenance) security facilities; material storage; and material laydown areas;

- Interconnecting Cabling Corridor(s) to connect the Solar PV modules and the BESS to the Satellite and Main Collector Compounds to the Rosefield Substation;
- A Grid Connection Cable Corridor to connect the Rosefield Substation to the National Grid East Claydon Substation via 400kV cabling;
- Ancillary infrastructure works comprising: boundary treatment; security equipment; lighting; fencing; landscaping; internal access tracks; works to facilitate vehicular access; earthing devices; earthworks; surface water management; utility connections and diversions; and any other works identified as necessary to enable the Proposed Development;
- Green and blue infrastructure, recreation and amenity works comprising: landscaping; habitat management; biodiversity enhancement; the creation of three permissive footpaths; and works to permanently divert four public right of way footpaths in five instances;
- Site-wide operational monitoring and security equipment; and
- Highways infrastructure improvements and safety works comprising: minor junction improvement works; road widening; passing places; and works to facilitate vehicular access to the Site.

2. Methods

2.1. General

- 2.1.1. Otter and water vole survey visits were undertaken on 20 and 21 June 2023 and 10 August 2023. Subject to access, all watercourses surveyed within the Site Boundary were surveyed including a buffer of up to 200m outside of the boundary where access allowed (and subject to connectivity as outlined in **Section 3** below). Ditches were surveyed 100m upstream and downstream if it extended for these distances, otherwise the full extent of the ditch was surveyed. This is in line with the water vole mitigation handbook (Dean *et al.* 2016).
- 2.1.2. The aim of the surveys was to determine the presence or likely absence of water vole and otter on or within 200m of the Site (**Figure 2 (Annex A)**).
- 2.1.3. The weather conditions during the surveys are described in **Table 1**. The prevailing water levels at the time of the surveys were average, with no recent flood events.

Table 1: Weather conditions during the surveys

Date	Air temperature - °C	Cloud cover – oktas	Wind speed - Beaufort scale	Precipitation
20/06/2023	20	1	0-1	Drizzle
21/06/2023	21	1	0-1	Dry
10/08/2023	24	2	0-1	Dry

2.2. Otter survey

- 2.2.1. Otters require clean rivers with an abundant, varied supply of food and plenty of bank-side vegetation and overhanging tree roots offering secluded sites for their holts (Chanin, 2003). Suitable habitats include reed beds and interconnected ditches and streams. Signs of otter activity, including holts, foraging signs, paths (runs), footprints and spraints, were recorded if they were encountered. Otters are strictly protected and a material consideration in planning.

Habitat assessment

- 2.2.2. Habitats were assessed on their potential for otters according to subjective criteria, which were then used to categorise habitat according to its suitability for otters. The following habitat factors are taken into consideration:
- Water quality;
 - Water-level regime;

- Channel dimensions;
- Bank type and material;
- Vegetation for cover and food sources;
- Shading;
- Predation and competition; and
- Habitat management.

Presence/likely absence

2.2.3. Habitats with potential for otters were surveyed within the Site Boundary, and up to 200m from the main Site Boundary. Survey methods followed Chanin (1993). The suitable bank-side and water-edge habitats were thoroughly searched for field signs of the species including:

- Spraint (droppings);
- Footprints;
- Slides;
- Paths;
- Feeding evidence;
- Holts (underground resting places); and
- Couches (temporary resting places).

2.2.4. Where evidence of otter was found it was recorded and shown on the map of the Site (**Figures 3 and 4 (Annex A)**).

2.3. Water vole survey

2.3.1. The watercourses were assessed for their suitability for water voles. Suitable habitats include vegetated earth banks around ponds, reed beds, flowing water and wet ditches. Signs of water vole activity, including burrows, feeding platforms, food remains and latrines, were recorded if they were encountered. The water vole survey was based on standard methods described in Strachan (1998) and Dean *et al.* (2016). Water voles are protected from capture, killing or injury, and it is unlawful to damage, destroy or block access to their places of shelter or protection.

Habitat assessment

2.3.2. The suitability of the habitat for water vole was assessed using the following criteria (Dean *et al.*, 2016):

- Bank profile;
- Bank substrate, specifically its suitability for burrowing;
- Water depth;

- Likely frequency and height of water level changes, relative to bank height;
- Amount of shading from trees/shrubs;
- Bankside herbaceous vegetation type (tall tussocky grass, mown grass etc.);
- Bankside herbaceous vegetation density;
- In-channel herbaceous vegetation type;
- In-channel herbaceous vegetation width (from toe of bank – the point at which the bank meets water level);
- In-channel herbaceous vegetation density;
- Percentage of the channel with in-channel herbaceous vegetation;
- Evidence of current or recent management, and the likely effects of management; and
- Any other relevant factors.

2.3.3. Where suitable habitat was present, the watercourse was search for evidence of water vole activity.

Presence/likely absence survey

2.3.4. In habitats with the potential for water vole, surveys for evidence of water vole activity were carried out following standard methods from Dean *et al.* (2016). All of the suitable bank-side and water-edge habitats (where accessible) were thoroughly searched for field signs including:

- Burrows;
- Feeding platforms and evidence of feeding;
- Food remains;
- Latrines; and
- Footprints.

2.3.5. The apparent size and distribution of water vole populations can be affected by changes in habitat suitability during the breeding season. Therefore, two surveys for field signs of water vole are routinely required (Dean *et al.*, 2016). The impacts of a development on water vole can be assessed more robustly using data collected during two surveys. In particular, this applies where different parts of Site are used during different periods of the breeding season. Therefore, two surveys (one in June and one in August) of all watercourses identified as suitable for water vole were undertaken as recommended by standard methods.

Survey limitations

- 2.3.6. The dense vegetation and steep sided banks of several watercourses (over 2m and greater than 45 degrees in places) made it difficult to survey the entirety of every watercourse. As such, it remains possible that evidence or field signs may have been missed during the surveys.

3. Results

3.1. Habitat assessment

- 3.1.1. The results of the habitat assessment are set out in **Table 2** below.
- 3.1.2. As shown in **Figure 2 (Annex A)**, a 200m buffer was applied to the Site Boundary. However, as none of the watercourses off Site and within this 200m buffer will be directly impacted by the proposed works, only watercourses with suitable connectivity to the Site were surveyed.
- 3.1.3. Watercourses 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32 and 38 and were not surveyed due to a lack of potential connectivity to suitable waterbodies within the survey boundary.
- 3.1.4. The majority of the watercourses on the Site were considered unsuitable or suitable but poor for supporting otter and water vole due to their lack of connectivity to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape in addition to a lack of suitable food sources. Watercourses 41 and 43- 53 were considered suboptimal for both otter and water vole because although they have limited food sources, they are ecologically connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape meaning that otters and water vole could commute along these watercourses to reach suitable habitat and food sources within the wider area.

Table 2: Water vole and otter habitat assessment results

Watercourse	Habitat assessment	Surrounding habitat and connectivity	Habitat classification for otter	Habitat classification for water vole	Otter survey undertaken	Water vole survey undertaken
Waterbody 5	Large pond with iris (<i>Iris</i> sp.) and some aquatic plants in some places but mostly shaded and exposed banks.		Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Waterbody 67	Woodland pond, mostly shaded but northern corner open with some submerged plants.	Surrounded by broadleaved trees incl. willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.), poplar (<i>Populus</i> sp.), oak (<i>Quercus</i> sp.)	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 1 and 3	Wet but heavily shaded ditch under hedgerow with no aquatic food sources recorded.	Limited connectivity and isolated from suitable watercourses.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 2	Field drainage ditch containing shallow banks less than 0.5m high comprising soft earth substrate suitable for burrowing. The 2m wide channel was dry in both June and August; however, aquatic plants were present indicating that this ditch is wet for at least some of the	Surrounded by meadow but with limited connectivity and isolated from suitable watercourses.	Unsuitable	Poor suitability	No	Yes – no evidence found.

Watercourse	Habitat assessment	Surrounding habitat and connectivity	Habitat classification for otter	Habitat classification for water vole	Otter survey undertaken	Water vole survey undertaken
	year. Tall herbs and grassland dominate both banks. A variety of aquatic and marginal vegetation is present covering up to 80 % of the channel, including Bulrush (<i>Typha latifolia</i>), Soft-rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>), and iris. (<i>Iris</i> sp.).					
Watercourse 5	Dry ditch with shrubs, tall ruderals and tall grasses.	Limited connectivity and isolated from suitable watercourses.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 8	Dry field ditch containing shallow banks less than 0.5m high comprising soft earth substrate suitable for burrowing. The 1m wide channel was dry in both June and August; however, aquatic plants including rushes, Field Horsetail (<i>Equisetum arvense</i>) and iris were present indicating that this ditch is wet for at least some of the year. Reeds, sedges and	Surrounded by meadow but limited connectivity and isolated from suitable watercourses.	Unsuitable	Poor suitability	No	Yes – no evidence found.

Watercourse	Habitat assessment	Surrounding habitat and connectivity	Habitat classification for otter	Habitat classification for water vole	Otter survey undertaken	Water vole survey undertaken
	tall grasses dominate the banks and the ditch and provides a moderate food source for water vole.					
Watercourse 9 and 10	Ditch at the base of a hedge. No food source for otter or water vole was recorded and the ditch was dry at the time of the survey.	Limited connectivity and isolated from suitable watercourses.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 11	Ditch distinctly differing along course. Towards the northern section the ditch follows an outgrown hedgerow; however, surveyors unable to access as surrounded by barbed wire. Towards the southern end, the ditch becomes a field ditch dominated by Soft-rush and tall grasses with some shrubs. Although suitable for water vole with suitable food source the ditch was dry at the time of survey with no evidence recent water and a lack of connectivity	Meadow and grassland habitat. Some shrubs. Adjacent to area of newly planted trees and meadow habitat; however, limited connectivity and isolated from suitable watercourses.	Unsuitable	Suitable but lacks connectivity	No	No

Watercourse	Habitat assessment	Surrounding habitat and connectivity	Habitat classification for otter	Habitat classification for water vole	Otter survey undertaken	Water vole survey undertaken
	to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape.					
Watercourse 15	Dry ditch, banks with continuous Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>) scrub, tall ruderals and grasses and occasional trees.	Limited connectivity and isolated from suitable watercourses.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 16	Not surveyed as this ditch will not be directly impacted and it is isolated with no connectivity to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape.	Isolated from suitable watercourses.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Watercourse 17-20	Dry ditch along hedge, detonated by tall ruderals.	Limited connectivity and isolated from suitable watercourses.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 21	Field drainage ditch with no connectivity to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape.	Isolated from suitable watercourses	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 22	Not surveyed as this ditch will not be directly impacted and it is isolated with no connectivity	Isolated from suitable watercourses.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Watercourse	Habitat assessment	Surrounding habitat and connectivity	Habitat classification for otter	Habitat classification for water vole	Otter survey undertaken	Water vole survey undertaken
	to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape.					
Watercourse 23-25	Hedge feature ditch which was dry at the time of survey with no food source for otter and water vole recorded.	Arable with no connectivity to suitable watercourses in the surrounding landscape.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 26	Not surveyed as this ditch will not be directly impacted and it is isolated with no connectivity to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape.	Isolated from suitable watercourses.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Watercourse 28 and 29	Woodland shaded ditch that was dry at the time of survey.	No connectivity to suitable watercourses in the surrounding landscape.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 30-32	Not surveyed as this ditch will not be directly impacted and it is isolated with no connectivity to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape.	Isolated from suitable watercourses.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Watercourse	Habitat assessment	Surrounding habitat and connectivity	Habitat classification for otter	Habitat classification for water vole	Otter survey undertaken	Water vole survey undertaken
Watercourse 33	Field hedge with dry ditch.	Cattle grazing and crop in surrounding field. No connectivity to suitable watercourses in the surrounding landscape.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 34 and 35	Woodland narrow ditch with heavy shading and no aquatic plant (only surveyed 30m from boundary).	No connectivity to suitable watercourses in the surrounding landscape.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 36 and 37	Dry ditch at the base of a hedgerow. Heavily shaded with no aquatic plants.	Arable with no connectivity to suitable watercourses in the surrounding landscape.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 38	Not surveyed as this ditch will not be directly impacted and it is isolated with no connectivity to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape.	Isolated from suitable watercourses.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Watercourse	Habitat assessment	Surrounding habitat and connectivity	Habitat classification for otter	Habitat classification for water vole	Otter survey undertaken	Water vole survey undertaken
Watercourse 39	Dry field drainage ditch dominated by grasses and willow herb, rare shrubs and trees with little shade.	Arable with no connectivity to suitable watercourses in the surrounding landscape.	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	No	No
Watercourse 40	Not surveyed as this ditch will not be directly impacted and due to the distance from the Site >30m	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Watercourse [REDACTED]	Natural boundary stream within outgrown hedge. Shallow water, some sections of bare banks and others with tall grass and herbs. Parts of watercourse with submerged vegetation. The stream contained steep banks up to 1.5m high with soft earth substrate suitable for burrowing. The channel contained water in both June and August to a maximum depth of 1m recorded in places. A variety of aquatic and marginal vegetation was recording including bulrush and	Agricultural crop and grassland. Livestock to the North. Potential connectivity via adjoining watercourses and arable fields.	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape but limited food sources.	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape but limited food sources.	Yes – See table 3	Yes – no evidence found.

Watercourse	Habitat assessment	Surrounding habitat and connectivity	Habitat classification for otter	Habitat classification for water vole	Otter survey undertaken	Water vole survey undertaken
	soft rush. Additionally, crayfish holes burrows (likely to be the non-native signal crayfish) were recorded along this watercourse, providing a potential food source for otter [REDACTED]					
Watercourse 42	Field drainage ditch. Vegetated in over 50% of its length with abundant bankside trees, bushes and herbs.	Connected to suitable habitat via a culvert between ditch and suitable stream.	Unsuitable, dry with little food source.	Unsuitable, dry with little food source.	No	No
Watercourse 45	Field drainage ditch surrounded by an arable grassland field.	Joins large watercourse and terrestrial habitat suitable for otter and water vole dispersal to the wider landscape	Suitable but dry at the time of survey	Suitable but dry at the time of survey	Yes – no evidence found.	Yes – no evidence found.
Watercourse 46	Field drainage ditch surrounded by an arable grassland field.	Joins large watercourse and terrestrial habitat suitable for otter and water vole dispersal	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding	Yes – no evidence found.	Yes – no evidence found.

Watercourse	Habitat assessment	Surrounding habitat and connectivity	Habitat classification for otter	Habitat classification for water vole	Otter survey undertaken	Water vole survey undertaken
		to the wider landscape	landscape but limited food sources	landscape but limited food sources		
Watercourse 47	Field drainage ditch surrounded by an arable grassland field at the base of a hedgerow.	Joins large watercourse and terrestrial habitat, suitable for otter and water vole dispersal to the wider landscape	Suitable but dry at the time of survey	Suitable but dry at the time of survey	Yes – no evidence found.	Yes – no evidence found.
Watercourse 49	Field drainage ditch surrounded by an arable grassland field at the base of a hedgerow.	Joins large watercourse and terrestrial habitat suitable, for otter and water vole dispersal to the wider landscape	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape but limited food sources	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape but limited food sources	Yes – no evidence found.	Yes – no evidence found.
Watercourse 50 and 51	Field drainage ditch surrounded by an arable grassland field at the base of a hedgerow.	Joins large watercourse and terrestrial habitat, suitable for otter and water vole dispersal	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding	Yes – no evidence found.	Yes – no evidence found.

Watercourse	Habitat assessment	Surrounding habitat and connectivity	Habitat classification for otter	Habitat classification for water vole	Otter survey undertaken	Water vole survey undertaken
		to the wider landscape	landscape but limited food sources	landscape but limited food sources		
Watercourse 52	Field drainage ditch surrounded by an arable grassland field at the base of a hedgerow.	Joins large watercourse and terrestrial habitat, suitable for otter and water vole dispersal to the wider landscape.	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape but limited food sources	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape but limited food sources	Yes – no evidence found.	Yes – no evidence found.
Watercourse 53	Field drainage ditch surrounded by an arable grassland field at the base of a hedgerow.	Joins large watercourse and terrestrial habitat, suitable for otter and water vole dispersal to the wider landscape	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape but limited food sources	Sub-optimal, connected to suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape but limited food sources	Yes – no evidence found.	Yes – no evidence found.

3.2. Presence/absence surveys - otter

- 3.2.1. The majority of the watercourses on the Site provided unsuitable habitat for otters. Watercourses [REDACTED] provided suboptimal habitat and were therefore subject to presence/absence surveys. The results of the presence/absence surveys are detailed in **Table 3** below.

Table 3: Otter presence/absence survey results

Location	20 & 21 June 2023	10 August 2023
Watercourse [REDACTED]	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.	Confirmed presence. A single spraint, a potential holt, a single couch location and multiple footprints were recorded [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Watercourse 45	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.
Watercourse 46	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.
Watercourse 47	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.
Watercourse 49	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.
Watercourse 50 and 51	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.
Watercourse 52	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.
Watercourse 53	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of otter activity was recorded.

3.3. Presence/absence surveys - water vole

- 3.3.1. The majority of the watercourses on the Site provided unsuitable habitat for water vole. Watercourses 2, 3, 21, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 provided sub-optimal habitat and were therefore subject to presence/absence surveys. The results of the presence/absence surveys are detailed in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Water vole presence/absence survey results

Location	20 & 21 June 2023	10 August 2023
Watercourse 2	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.
Watercourse 8	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.
Watercourse 21	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.
Watercourse 53	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.
Watercourse 52	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.
Watercourse 50 and 51	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.
Watercourse 49	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.
Watercourse 44 and 47	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.
Watercourse 45	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.
Watercourse 46	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.	Negative. No evidence of water vole was recorded.

3.4. Incidental findings

- 3.4.1. Signal crayfish burrows were recorded along watercourses 41, 43, 44 and 48.

4. Conclusion

4.1. Otter

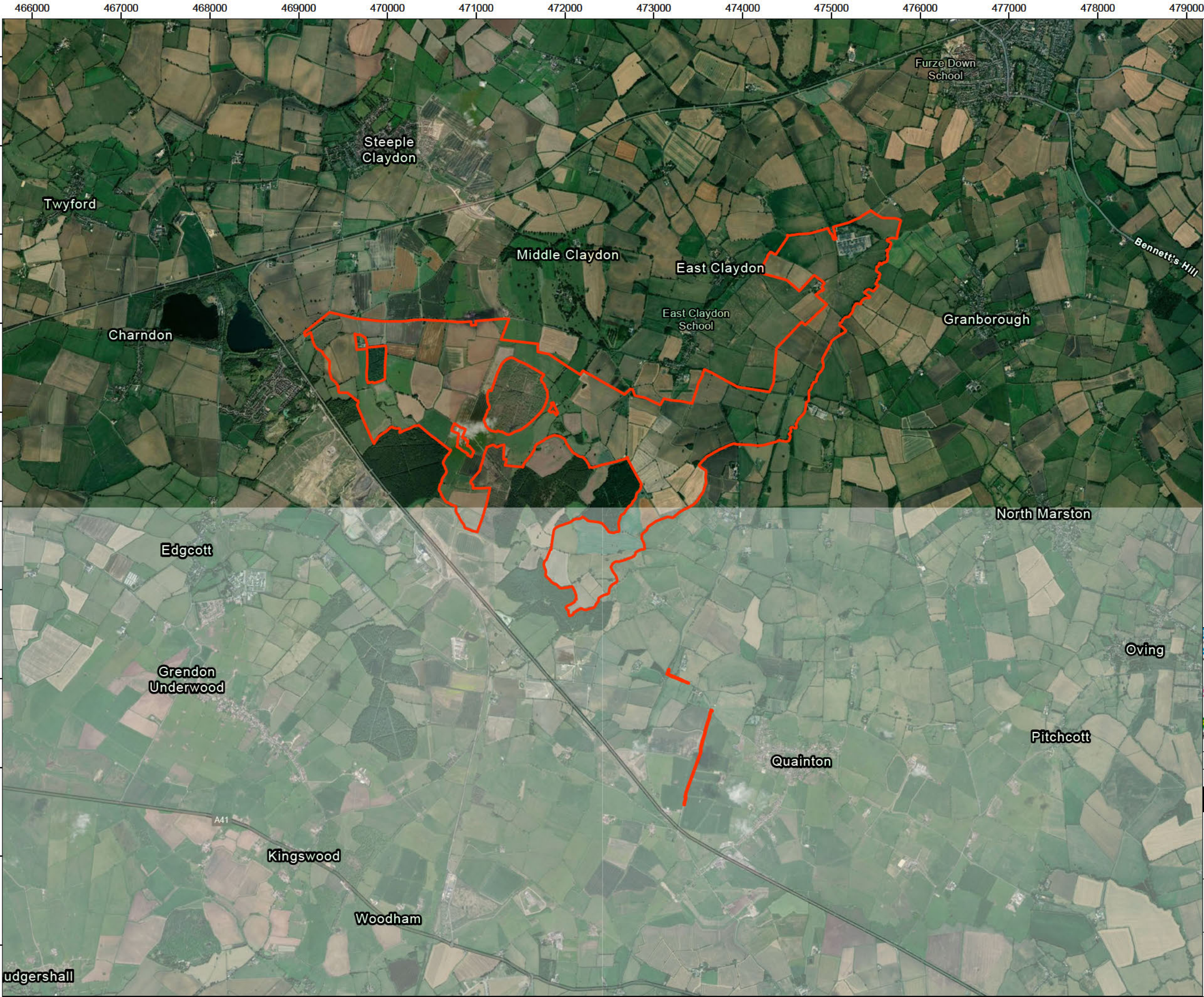
- 4.1.1. The majority of watercourses on Site do not provide suitable habitat for otter and are isolated from suitable habitat within the surrounding landscape.
- 4.1.2. Watercourses 40, 42, 45-47, 49-53 are ecologically connected to watercourses 41, 43, 44 and 48; however, no evidence of otter was recorded along these watercourses. These watercourses offer limited foraging habitat for otter; however, they join a large watercourse which provides suitable food sources with evidence of crayfish recorded during the surveys (watercourses 41, 43, 44 and 48) and the terrestrial habitat is suitable for otter to disperse across land. Therefore, although no evidence of otter was recorded along these watercourses, they remain suitable habitat and their presence cannot be rule out entirely.
- 4.1.3. One otter couch, one spraint and one potential holt was recorded within the study area [REDACTED].
- 4.1.4. No evidence of otter was recorded in any other watercourses during the survey.

4.2. Water vole

- 4.2.1. No evidence of water vole was recorded during the surveys which were undertaken an optimal time of year for recording water vole signs.

Annex A: Figures





Legend:
Site Boundary

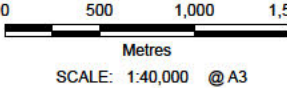


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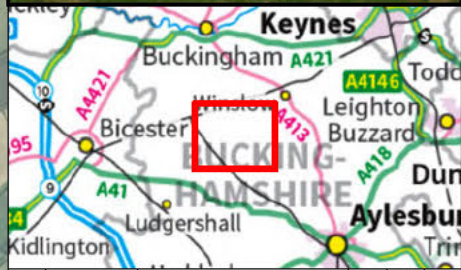
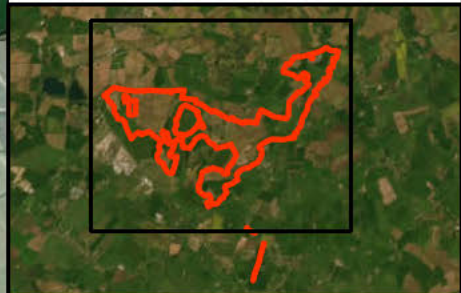


TITLE: Figure 1:
Site Location Plan





- Legend:
- Site Boundary
 - 200m Buffer from Parcels 1, 1a, 2 and 3
 - Watercourses
 - Waterbodies

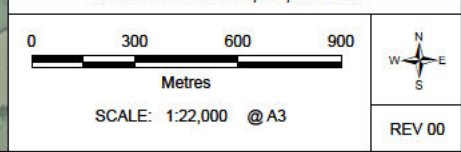


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TITLE: Figure 2:
Waterbodies and Watercourses Within
200m of Parcels 1, 1a, 2 and 3





- Legend:**
- Site Boundary
 - 200m Buffer from Parcels 1, 1a, 2 and 3
 - Suitable Watercourses
 - Unsuitable Watercourses
 - Unsuitable Waterbodies

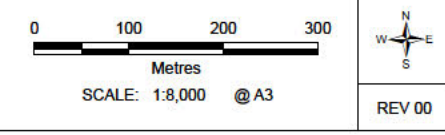


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TITLE: Figure 3:
Watercourses Suitability Survey
for Otter and Water Vole
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- Legend:
- Site Boundary
 - 200m Buffer from Parcels 1, 1a, 2 and 3
 - Unsuitable Watercourses
 - Unsuitable Waterbodies

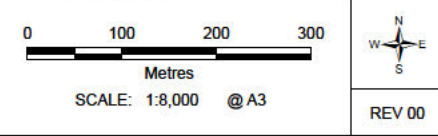


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Rev	Date	Description	Drm	Chk	App

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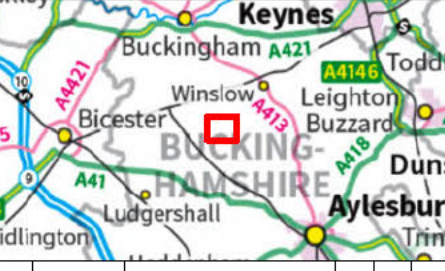


TITLE: Figure 3:
Watercourses Suitability Survey
for Otter and Water Vole
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- Legend:
- Site Boundary
 - 200m Buffer from Parcels 1, 1a, 2 and 3
 - Unsuitable Watercourses
 - Unsuitable Waterbodies

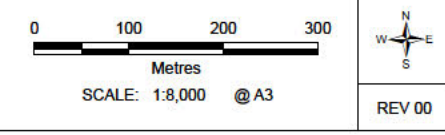


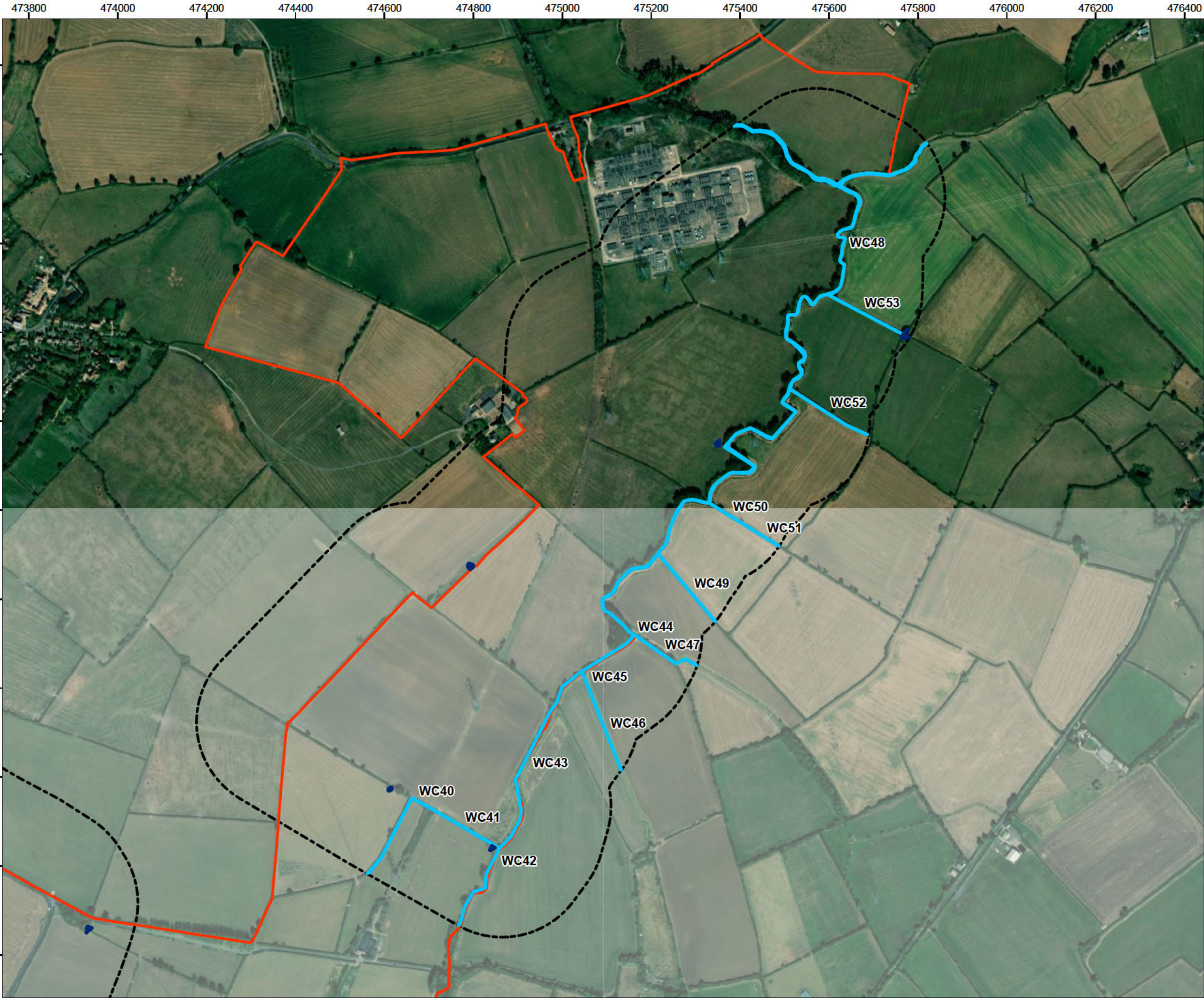
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Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

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TITLE: Figure 3:
Watercourses Suitability Survey
for Otter and Water Vole
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- Legend:
- Site Boundary
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 - Suitable Watercourses
 - Unsuitable Waterbodies

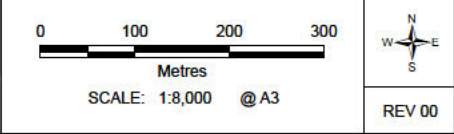


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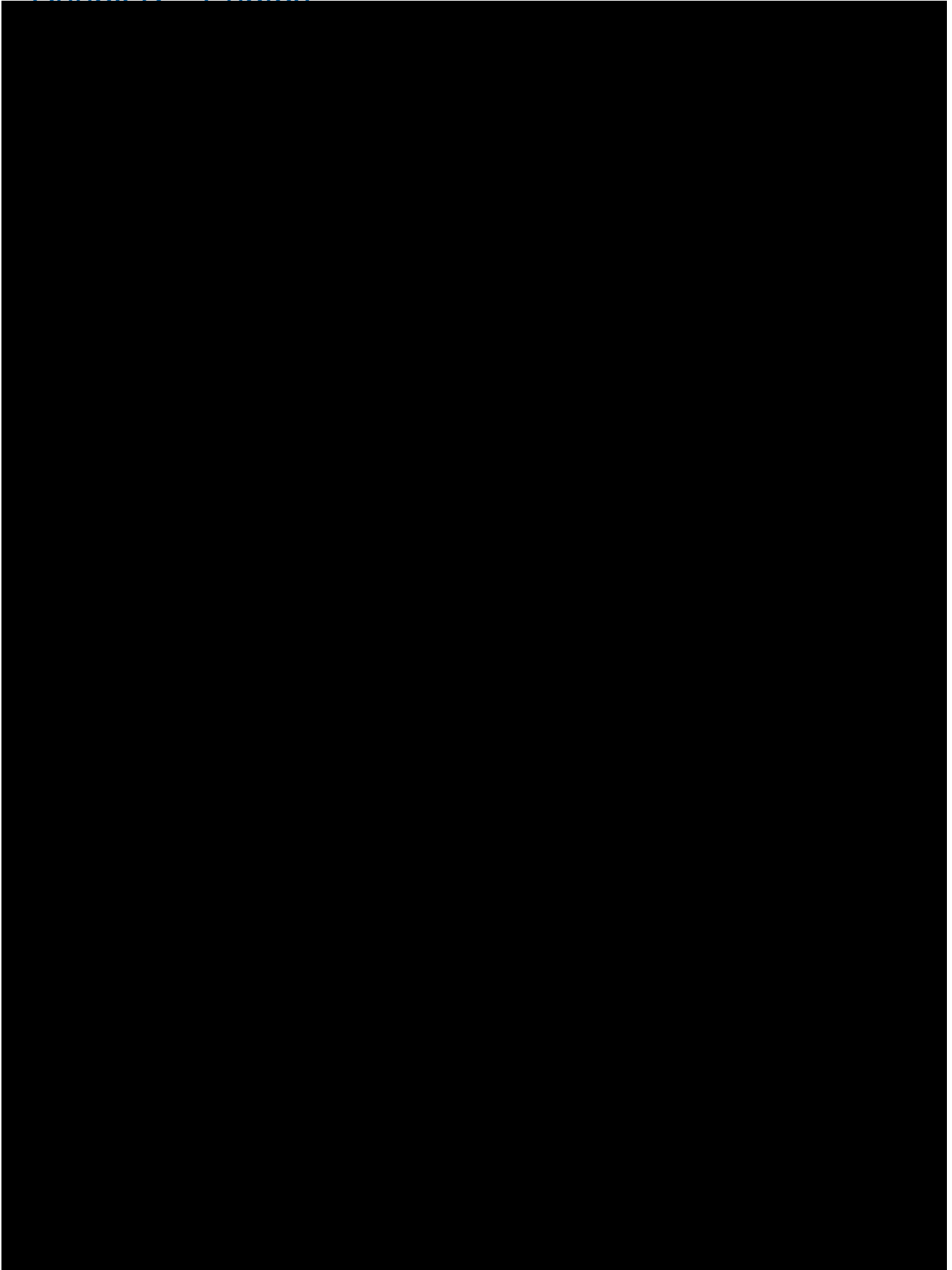
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Watercourses Suitability Survey
for Otter and Water Vole
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Annex B: Photos



Annex B – Photos





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