# Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

**Volume 7**

**Other Documents**

**7.9 Biodiversity Net Gain Report**

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

**March 2026**

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# Executive Summary

Meridian Solar Farm Limited commissioned a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, to inform the Meridian Solar Farm project, Lincolnshire. Meridian Solar Farm Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') has prepared this Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment as part of its application for a Development Consent Order ('the DCO Application') under the Planning Act 2008 for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Meridian Solar Farm ('the Scheme').

The DCO Application is for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) comprising the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and up to 13km of overhead line connection into National Grid's planned Weston Marsh B substation. The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located. This assessment covers all land within the Order Limits, which are described as the 'Site Boundary', and demarcated by a solid red line on the Habitat maps in Appendix 1, Figures.

The Solar PV generating station, associated BESS, on-site substations and other associated infrastructure would be located within four land parcels (A, B, C and D) referred to collectively as the Solar Development Area.

The Inter-Arrays would be the areas within which connection cables (the 'Inter-Array Connections') would link the land parcels of the Solar Development Area. The configuration of the Inter-Array Connections (132kV) would comprise underground cabling between Land Parcels A and B ('the Underground Inter-Array') and an overhead line between Land Parcels C and D ('the Overground Inter-Array').

The Grid Connection Route would be the area between the Solar Development Area and the proposed National Grid Weston Marsh B Substation in which a 400kV overhead line (the 'Grid Connection') would be located. There is one section where the Grid Connection would route underground to cross an existing 132kV overhead line. Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs) would join the proposed underground cable with the proposed overhead line.

The Grid Connection Route, the Solar Development Area, and the Inter-Array Connections, collectively hereafter referred to as 'The Site', will either be discussed collectively (as The Site), or individually within the assessment.

Biodiversity Net Gain is a process whereby development leaves biodiversity in a measurably better state than before and it is a planning policy requirement in England under the National Planning Policy Framework (first published in 2012, last updated in February 2025). Biodiversity Net Gain is a legal requirement in England with the Environment Act 2021 setting out a mandatory 10% net gain in biodiversity for new developments under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) (TCPA). Guidance and statutory requirements for NSIPs to deliver biodiversity net gains under this system are anticipated in May 2026, as per the Government's announcement[1]. In the absence of formal guidelines for NSIP, the Scheme is assessed using the extant TCPA guidelines to demonstrate net benefits for biodiversity in alignment with the recommendations of the National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).

The aim of this report is to provide the results of the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment in relation to the Scheme, including the associated construction works and landscape general arrangement plans for each component of the Scheme. This has been achieved through calculating the biodiversity change as a result of the Scheme in terms of net loss, no net loss or net gain.

UK Habitat Classification System Survey and Habitat Condition Assessment was undertaken at the Site at various points between August 2023 and July 2025. This survey data formed the main data source of the baseline information, with the remainder coming from a review of aerial imagery.

Based on the current development plans for the Site, with the appropriate implementation of recommendations made by a suitably qualified ecologist, it is possible to achieve the minimum 10% net gain requirement for the Site; the current calculated change is a +14.60% (+473.56 Biodiversity Units) net gain for area-based habitats, a +477.94% (+170.83 Hedgerow Units) for hedgerows, and a +11.42% (+12.45 Watercourse Units) net gain for watercourses, achieving the target minimum 10% net gain, whilst meeting all trading rule requirements.

- Based on the above, off-site biodiversity units or statutory credits will not be required.

[1] Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (2025). Biodiversity Net Gain for Nationally Important Infrastructure Projects. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/biodiversity-net-gain-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects [Accessed 17/03/2026]

- Habitat trading rules have been complied with (especially for any irreplaceable habitats).

This assessment demonstrates the predicted BNG outcomes of the Scheme to support the DCO Application. Given the potential timeline of the approval and requirements for detailed design post-consent, these results (and supporting figures) are preliminary, and will be updated post-consent, once the detailed design of the Scheme is finalised.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

1.1.1. Meridian Solar Farm Limited (the 'Applicant'), commissioned a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment of Land within the Meridian Solar Farm project, Lincolnshire using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric[2] .

1.1.2. This report is required to inform a Development Consent Order ('the DCO Application') under the Planning Act 2008 for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Meridian Solar Farm ('the Scheme').

1.1.3. The DCO Application is for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) comprising the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and up to 13km of overhead line connection into National Grid's planned Weston Marsh B substation. The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located.

## 1.2. The Scheme

1.2.1. The Solar PV generating station, associated BESS, on-site substations and other associated infrastructure would be located within four land parcels (A, B, C and D) referred to collectively as the Solar Development Area.

1.2.2. The Inter-Arrays would be the areas within which connection cables (the 'Inter-Array Connections') would link the land parcels of the Solar Development Area. The configuration of the Inter-Array Connections (132kV) would comprise underground cabling between Land Parcels A and B ('the Underground Inter-Array') and an overhead line between Land Parcels C and D ('the Overground Inter-Array').

1.2.3. The Grid Connection Route would be the area between the Solar Development Area and the proposed National Grid Weston Marsh B Substation in which a 400kV overhead line (the 'Grid Connection') would be located. There is one section where the Grid Connection would route underground to avoid conflicts

[2] Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, 2024. *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric*. Accessed from: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides [Accessed on: 16/01/2025]

with an existing 132kV overhead line. Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs) would join the proposed underground cable with the proposed overhead line.

1.2.4. The Grid Connection Route, the Solar Development Area, and the Inter-Array Connections, collectively hereafter referred to as 'The Site', will either be discussed collectively (as The Site), or individually within the assessment.

1.2.5. The Site is formed of component parcels of land within the administrative boundary of South Holland District Council. The Site and wider area is a predominantly typical Fenland landscape with open, low-lying arable agricultural land with individual field parcels separated by a vast network of ditches and Internal Drainage Board (IDB) main drains, with isolated pockets of woodland, a small number of disconnected hedgerows, and small parcels of scrub.

## 1.3. Biodiversity Net Gain

1.3.1. BNG is a process whereby development leaves biodiversity in a measurably better state than before and is a policy requirement under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; 2025) [3]. BNG became a legal requirement in England in February 2024[4], with the Environment Act 2021[5] setting out a mandatory 10% net gain in biodiversity for new development under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) (TCPA). While this mandatory net gain does not currently apply to NSIPs, guidance and statutory requirements for NSIPs to deliver biodiversity net gains are anticipated in May 2026. In the absence of formal guidelines for NSIP, the Scheme is assessed using the extant TCPA guidelines to demonstrate net benefits for biodiversity in alignment with the recommendations of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)[6].

[3] Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2025. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) last updated 7 February 2025. London: HMSO. Accessed from https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf [accessed on 16/01/2025]

[4] Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, 2024. BNG launch date confirmed - Land use: policies and framework (blog.gov.uk). Accessed from: https://defralanduse.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/18/bng-launch-date-confirmed/

[5] Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, 2021. Environment Act 2021. Schedule 14. Accessed from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/schedule/14/enacted

[6] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at:

1.3.2. The BNG process is governed by a set of UK good practice principles (2016)[7] along with industry guidance, which outlines the practical implementation of the principles (2019)[8]. The key principle is the application of a mitigation hierarchy, which sets out that development should first avoid biodiverse habitats, then mitigate / minimise unavoidable impacts upon habitats, then restore / reinstate habitats. As a last resort, once the mitigation hierarchy has been maximised on-site, the project may use biodiversity offsetting to compensate for any residual biodiversity impacts due to the project.

1.3.3. The principles require the use of a metric (e.g. Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric), to assess and quantify net biodiversity change. Applying this process enables transparent reporting on biodiversity outputs to demonstrate delivery against the current legislative and planning policy requirements for BNG.

## 1.4. Objectives

1.4.1. The aim of this report is to provide the results of the BNG assessment in relation to the Scheme.

1.4.2. The structure and content of the report is based on current BNG good practice and reports on the following:

- The biodiversity baseline of the Site;
- The predicted post-development biodiversity of the Site; and
- The calculation of overall biodiversity change.

1.4.3. The objectives of this report are to:

- Calculate the biodiversity change as a result of the Scheme in terms of net loss, no net loss or net gain;

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6915ba42bc34c86ce4e6e726/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf [accessed 26/01/2026]

[7] Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2016. Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development. Accessed from: https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Biodiversity-Net-Gain-Principles.pdf [Accessed on 16/04/25]

[8] CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2019. Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development. A practical guide. Accessed from: https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/C776a-Biodiversity-net-gain.-Good-practice-principles-for-development.-A-practical-guide-web.pdf [Accessed on: 16/04/25]

- Include recommendations to assist the Scheme to minimise biodiversity impacts and maximise biodiversity outputs; and
- Provide high-level recommendations to achieve net gain requirements via biodiversity offsetting.

1.4.4. The report is supported by the following appendices:

- Appendix 1: Figures
  - Figure 1 Baseline UKHab Plan;
  - Figure 2 Post-Development UKHab Plan;
- Appendix 2: Baseline Habitat Descriptions; and
- Appendix 3: Habitat Condition Assessments.

1.4.5. All net gain calculations will be updated post-consent upon finalisation of detailed design, and a Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy will be submitted to the planning authority under a requirement in the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1).

## 1.5. Legislation and Planning Policy

### The Environment Act 2021

1.5.1. The Environment Act (the Act) gained Royal Assent on the 9 November 2021 and is now enshrined within UK law. The Act provides a mechanism for implementing Government's ambitions for 'improving the natural environment', which were previously set out in publications including the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP). The Act provides recognition of the 25YEP as the first "environmental improvement plan" which, through the enactment of relevant regulations serves as the basis for the steps Government intends to take to improve the natural environment. The 25YEP has now been replaced by the Environmental Improvement Plan (also referred to as the EIP23) in January 2023.

1.5.2. The Act implements the ambitions for an improved natural environment, by setting out statutory or legal requirements which mandate action, under the oversight of the newly formed Office for Environmental Protection (OEP). The focus of the Act is the "*…provision [of] targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment…*" and its requirements are structured around a number of broad themes. Of relevance to this report Part 6 of the Act sets out provisions for 'Biodiversity gain as condition of planning permission'. The biodiversity gain objective is met where the biodiversity value attributable to the development

exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat by at least 10%.

1.5.3. The relevant legislation supporting implementation of biodiversity net gain requirements is now published and includes:

- The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 8 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024;
- SI 2024/50 - The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Modifications and Amendments) (England) Regulations 2024;
- The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2024;
- The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024;
- The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024; and
- The Biodiversity Gain Site Register Regulations 2024.

## National Policy Statements

1.5.4. The Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1)[9], National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)[10] and national Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)[11] set out the Government's energy policy, the need for new infrastructure and guidance for determining an application for a DCO. The NPSs include specific criteria and issues which should be covered by the applicants' assessments of the effects of

[9] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025a) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64252f3b60a35e00120cb158/NPS_EN-1.pdf [accessed January 2026]

[10] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025b) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf [accessed January 2026]

[11] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025c) National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025-accessible-webpage [accessed January 2026]

their scheme, and how the decision maker should consider these impacts. In particular EN-1 states that:

1.5.5. (Paragraph 4.6.1) "*...Projects should therefore not only avoid, mitigate and compensate harms, following the mitigation hierarchy, but also consider whether there are opportunities for enhancements*".

1.5.6. (Paragraph 4.6.7) *"In England, applicants for onshore elements of any development are encouraged to use the most current 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*".

## Local Planning Policy

1.5.7. Lincolnshire County Council are the responsible authority for South East Lincolnshire, for production of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). At the time of writing, the LNRS remains unpublished, with a proposed publishing date of March 2026.

1.5.8. Other planning policies at the local level of relevance to this development include the Lincolnshire County Council Biodiversity net gain Planning guide (2025)[12], the South-East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019)[13] and the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2011)[14]. The Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (Lincolnshire Biodiversity partnership, 2011) provides information on habitats considered at the time of publication and up to 2020 to be a priority for action. Habitats with specific targets include:

- Arable field margins
- Grazing marsh
- Lowland meadows
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

[12] Lincolnshire County Council (2025). Available at https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/10513/biodiversity-net-gain-planning-guide [accessed December 2025]

[13] South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (2019) Available at https://southeastlincslocalplan.org/article/20102/Adopted-Plan [accessed January 2026]

[14] Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (2011) Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2020

1.5.9. While the LNRS will be the principal source of reference, these habitats, amongst others, are considered likely to remain priorities for action going forward.

# 2. Methodology

2.1.1. The methodology used for this assessment follows the published UK BNG guidance and Statutory Biodiversity Metric guidance:

- CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2016. Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development[15];
- CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2019. Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development. A practical guide[16];
- Defra, 2025. Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide[17];
- Defra, 2024. Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool[18]; and
- Defra, 2024. Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments[19].

## 2.2. Desk Study

2.2.1. A desk study was undertaken to inform the existing baseline habitat data used in the statutory biodiversity metric calculations. The following has been considered:

- Designated (statutory and non-statutory) sites within and up to 2km (10km for bats) from the Site, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar Sites, National Nature

[15] Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2016. Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development. Accessed from: https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Biodiversity-Net-Gain-Principles.pdf [Accessed: January 2026]

[16] CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2019. Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development. A practical guide. Accessed from: https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/C776a-Biodiversity-net-gain.-Good-practice-principles-for-development.-A-practical-guide-web.pdf [Accessed: January 2026]

[17] Defra 2025. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide. July 2025. Accessed from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e45fba3c2a28abb50d426/The_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_-_User_Guide__23.07.24_.pdf [Accessed: January 2026]

[18] Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, 2024. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Accessed from: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides [Accessed: February 2026]

[19] Defra 2024. Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments. Accessed from: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides?fbclid=IwAR3t_S8djN97HZzsb8H9ISdfVqDiUZJcSR7pp4Kz5zHRFK5KWoLjPBlmRcw%23full-publication-update-history [Accessed January 2026]

Reserves (NNR), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Local Nature Reserves other sites of importance for biodiversity, including National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs);

- Irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland and ancient / veteran trees within the Site; and
- Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) (in accordance with Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006[20] Section 41 (S41)) and strategic wildlife corridors.

2.2.2. Statutory designated nature conservation sites, non-statutory designated nature conservation sites, habitat inventories and landscape-scale conservation initiatives, ancient woodland, Habitats of Principal Importance, and any other conservation initiatives/designations, are discussed in detail in **ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

## 2.3. Baseline Biodiversity Assessment

### Habitat Survey and Condition Assessment

2.3.1. To obtain the baseline habitat data, an extended UK Habitat Classification System (UKHab) survey of the Site was undertaken on various dates between August 2023 and August 2024 for the Solar Development Area, and on various dates between 15 May and 19 July 2025 for the Grid Connection Route and the Inter-Array Connections.

2.3.2. During the UKHab survey the main habitats present were recorded using the UK Habitat Classification System Version 2.0 guidance [21]. In addition to general habitat classification, a list was compiled of observed plant species (using the nomenclature of Stace[22]) with common and scientific names referred to in the first instance after which only the common names are used.

2.3.3. Detailed habitat descriptions for the Site, baseline habitat maps, and Site photographs are presented within the **ES Appendix 9-2: Preliminary Ecological**

[20] Secretary of State, 2006. Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. HMSO
[21] UKHab Ltd, 2023. UK Habitat Classification System Version 2.0. Available at: http://www.ukhab.org
[22] Stace C, 2019. New Flora of the British Isles 4th Edition. Cambridge University Press

**Appraisal** (Doc Ref. 6.3). A Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA)[23] was undertaken for each terrestrial habitat within the Site boundary, where required. These data are presented in Appendix 3.

## Habitat Distinctiveness and Irreplaceable Habitats

2.3.4. The identified on-site baseline habitats were classified in respect of distinctiveness, irreplaceability and strategic significance.

2.3.5. Distinctiveness per habitat type was determined by the pre-set values within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The levels of distinctiveness are defined as follows:

- Very Low: Little or no biodiversity value e.g. hardstanding or sealed surface;
- Low: Habitat of low biodiversity value e.g. temporary grass;
- Medium: Semi-natural habitats not classed as Priority Habitat but with substantial wildlife benefit e.g. mixed scrub;
- High: Priority Habitats as defined in Section 41 of the NERC Act requiring conservation action, e.g. lowland fens; and
- Very High: Priority habitats as defined in Section 41 of the NERC Act that are highly threatened, internationally scarce and require conservation action, e.g. blanket bog.

2.3.6. Losses of 'Very High' distinctiveness habitats should always be avoided and bespoke compensation for losses will be required and agreed with the determining body or planning authority, on a case by case basis.

2.3.7. It should be noted that if 'Very High' distinctiveness habitats are recorded as lost then the metric will not calculate a unit value for that habitat and the results of the metric will not be calculated. This will mean that a net gain for the project is not achieved by default. To complete the calculation and allow the metric to correctly demonstrate the change in biodiversity units for the project, evidence that bespoke compensation for losses would need to be agreed with the determining body or planning authority.

[23] Defra 2024. Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments. Accessed from: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides?fbclid=IwAR3t_S8djN97HZzsb8H9ISdfVqDiUZJcSR7pp4Kz5zHRFK5KWoLjPBlmRcw%23full-publication-update-history [Accessed January 2026]

2.3.8. Irreplaceable habitats are defined as habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a significant amount of time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. Irreplaceable habitats include ancient woodland, ancient/veteran trees and blanket bog.

2.3.9. If present, irreplaceable habitats, many of which are specified as 'Very High' distinctiveness habitats, are also recorded and evaluated within the UKHab survey, where present.

2.3.10. In line with BNG guidance, any SAC, SPA, SSSI or irreplaceable habitats identified within the Site will not be included within the baseline calculations. Due to their high importance for biodiversity, impacts to these sites / habitats should be completely avoided as it is not possible to compensate for them within a reasonable management timeframe.

## Assigning Strategic Significance

2.3.11. In the absence of a published LNRS or a relevant reference for use in considering the allocation of strategic significance this report has used Metric User Guide Table 8[24] to allocate strategic significance. This requires a suitable alternative document to be used to assign strategic significance that must relate to or directly reference local nature plans. For the purposes of this assessment, the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan[25] has been used as the specified document to assign strategic significance. This document outlines habitats of importance for the wider Lincolnshire area and measures used to conserve and expand them. The Strategic Significance of each habitat type for both pre and post habitats has been determined based on:

- High - the habitat type is mapped and described as locally ecologically important within a specific location, within documents specified by the relevant planning authority
- Medium – this category can be applied when the Local Planning Authority (LPA) has not identified a suitable document for assessing strategic significance. Relying on consideration of:

[24] Defra 2025. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide. July 2025. Accessed from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e45fba3c2a28abb50d426/The_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_-_User_Guide__23.07.24_.pdf [Accessed: January 2026]

[25] Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (2011) Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2020

  - how the habitat type is ecologically important within a specific location,
  - the importance of that habitat in providing ecological linkage to other strategically significant locations, and
  - professional judgement,
- Low - where the definitions for high or medium strategic significance are not met.

2.3.12. The medium category has not been used as part of this assessment as it is to be applied when the LPA has not identified a suitable document for assessing strategic significance. As of the issuing of this report (March 2026), the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy is only available in draft format and is incomplete. For this reason, it cannot be used to apply strategic significance in BNG assessments.

### Baseline Biodiversity Calculation

2.3.13. The Biodiversity Unit (BU) score per area-based habitat was calculated via the metric using the quality factors (distinctiveness, condition and strategic significance) and their assigned values. The sum of all the BUs provided the area-based habitat biodiversity baseline.

2.3.14. Linear features are calculated using the same quality factors and for hedgerows are recorded as Hedgerow Units (HU) and for watercourses recorded as Watercourse Units (WU).

2.3.15. Within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, the net change in biodiversity is measured separately for area-based habitats, hedgerows and watercourses. A 10% net gain is required in BU, HU and WU, independently of each other.

2.3.16. Individual trees found on-site which do not form part of a habitat type are noted and entered into the 'Tree Helper' section of the metric to determine the area of trees. This area was then added to the metric as an area-based habitat ('Individual Trees – Rural Tree').

## 2.4. Post-development Biodiversity Assessment

### Post-development Habitats and Target Condition

2.4.1. The target condition of the post-development habitats (according to the post development habitats shown in Appendix 1, Figure 2) was assigned based upon the professional judgement of the suitably qualified ecologists and the future

management aspirations of the Site, as advised by the Applicant in the first instance.

2.4.2. The assessment is based on relevant project designs at the time of evaluation to inform the DCO application. An updated Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy and Assessment will be completed once the final detailed design is available.

### Habitat Distinctiveness and Strategic Significance

2.4.3. The distinctiveness was again assigned by the metric and based upon the habitat types entered in the post-development sections of the metric. Strategic significance values were assigned following the methodology described in Paragraph 2.3.11.

### Temporal and Difficulty Risk Factors

2.4.4. The relevant risk factors for the 'time to target condition' and the 'difficulty to create' were assigned by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and are deemed appropriate for the Scheme.

### Advanced or Delayed Action

2.4.5. Where required, the temporal risk multiplier may be adjusted to account for time difference between the loss of habitats and the compensation of new habitats. Due to the nature of works to implement the Scheme, it has been assumed that there will be no delay to the creation of habitats, but areas temporarily lost through construction will be returned to pre-construction conditions with a delay of three years.

### Habitat Creation and Enhancement

2.4.6. The BNG process includes a consideration of whether habitats will be created, retained and enhanced. The following actions were considered for each habitat polygon on-site and the action entered into the metric:

- Habitat lost to permanent development;
- Habitat lost during construction and re-created post-development;
- Habitat retained (no improvement); and
- Habitat retained and enhanced.

## 2.5. Biodiversity Metric

2.5.1. This report refers to the 3 July 2025 versions of the:

- Statutory biodiversity metric calculation tool (Version 1.0.4);

- Statutory biodiversity metric: user guide; and
- Statutory biodiversity metric condition assessments.

2.5.2. UKHab version 2 habitat survey information has been used to inform the assessment of biodiversity changes. The results have been converted using the Metric G-1 'All Habitats' tab to the appropriate broad habitat and specific habitat type. A full description of baseline habitats is provided in **ES Appendix 9-2: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal** (Doc. Ref: 6.3).

## 2.6. Limitations and Assumptions

2.6.1. It should be noted that availability and quality of the data obtained during desk studies is reliant on third party responses. This varies from region to region and for different species groups. Desk study data was supplied by Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre, and was consulted on multiple occasions to inform reports such as the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA).

2.6.2. Furthermore, the comprehensiveness of data often depends on the level of coverage, the expertise and experience of the recorder and the submission of records to the local recorder. Accordingly, the conclusions in this report are valid only to the extent that the information provided to Ramboll was accurate, complete and available within the reporting schedule.

2.6.3. The UKHab survey provides a snapshot of ecological conditions and does not record plants or animals that may be present on-site at different times of the year but were absent at the time of the survey. The absence of a particular species cannot definitely be confirmed by a lack of field signs and only concludes that an indication of its presence was not located during the survey effort.

2.6.4. Polygon areas were input into the metric in hectares (ha) and rounded to four decimal places, and the lengths of linear features input into the metric in kilometres (km) were also rounded to four decimal places. This can cause a slight variation to the sum of the individual numbers but is unlikely to substantially change the results. The level of mapping is consistent with the minimal mappable area of $5m^2$ used within the UKHab survey.

2.6.5. Where applicable, consideration is given to the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy, including, in order:

- where feasible, the retention of medium or higher distinctiveness habitats, or mitigation of adverse effects; and

- compensation for all losses of on-site habitats through enhancement of on-site habitats, and then creation of new on-site habitats; or compensation through enhancement or creation of off-site habitats (allocation of registered offsite gains).

2.6.6. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Defra, 2024) advises that habitat interventions should, following Principle 7, be realistic and deliverable. Where 'creation' is proposed professional judgement has been exercised, with reference to the 'technical difficulty creation' and 'creation temporal multipliers' data, to limit those habitats considered to have a medium or higher risk or time to target condition beyond the project timescales, to poor condition.

2.6.7. Some areas of baseline habitat could not be surveyed in detail during the Site surveys. A lack of access to the land due to denial of permission or physical obstructions meant it was impossible for surveyors to be present on the given land parcel. In some cases, the surveyor was able to survey the habitats present from a distance. For others, the likely habitat condition has been inferred from satellite imagery and the confirmed condition of surrounding parcels. In these instances, habitat condition has been applied conservatively, and in line with CIEEM guidance, to avoid overestimating biodiversity value.

2.6.8. It is also important to understand the phasing of clearance of habitats and to set reasonable assumptions about when habitat creation will take place. Where appropriate, such assumptions are identified. Habitat loss/clearance is assumed to take place at the start of construction. Habitat enhancement or creation within the Site is assumed to not have a delay in starting time.

2.6.9. For created habitats, condition scores have been generated using professional judgement to determine realistic outcomes for created habitats alongside the development proposals. The condition scores for created habitats were based on realistic outcomes and technical difficulty multipliers, consistent with Defra's Statutory Metric User Guide. Examples of these condition assessments are included within Appendix 3.

2.6.10. Due to the outline nature of the design of the Scheme at this stage, details such as the number and location of pylons, arrangement of temporary access routes, size and placement of infrastructure etc. have not yet been fully determined. To account for this, within the Grid Connection Route and Inter Array Connections, it has been assumed that 5% of arable farmland habitat in these areas will be replaced with hardstanding in the post-development scenario in addition to the proposed infrastructure included in the design, on a precautionary basis.

2.6.11. No significant limitations were encountered during completion of the BNG assessment. Natural England note that the Metric has been extensively tested, but that they continue to listen to feedback to support correction of any errors or problems. Natural England continue to make ongoing updates and improvements to the Metric over time. Accordingly, the calculations made in this plan may require updates to align with any future changes to the metric and best practice standards. Should Natural England revise the Statutory Biodiversity Metric or guidance before the DCO determination, or the detailed design stage, then the calculations will be reviewed and updated if necessary.

2.6.12. This report contains recommendations for how the Scheme might deliver BNG. These recommendations do not constitute a confirmed design for BNG for area-based habitats or hedgerows and watercourses.

2.6.13. Data from habitat surveys and condition assessments should be considered as valid for up to three years, unless there are any significant changes to the habitats within the Site[26]. After this time, baseline data validity means surveys will be repeated if significant changes occur, or if consent is delayed beyond that period, to ensure the baseline is up to date.

2.6.14. Differences in survey methodology has caused a difference in the number of individual trees recorded in this report, and the numbers recorded within **ES Appendix 12-8 Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). These differences concern the way that trees are classified. The AIA methodology counts each tree as a separate entity, while the ecology methodology often groups trees into habitats such as woodlands, lines of trees, or hedgerows with trees. For the purposes of the BNG assessment, an individual or scattered tree is classed as non-woodland habitats that are individual or groups that have trees at low density.

[26] CIEEM (2019). Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys. CIEEM, Hampshire

# 3. Biodiversity Baseline Within the Site

## 3.1. Desk Study: Designated Sites

3.1.1. The following information was identified and included within **ES Appendix 9-2: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal** (Doc. Ref. 6.3).

### Statutory Sites

3.1.2. The ES Appendix identified no statutory designated sites located within 2km of the Site boundary. The closest designated sites of national importance are the Surfleet Lows SSSI and Cowbit Wash SSSI, located approximately 3.5km north-west and 3.6km west of the Site respectively. The Site lies within a 15km radius of the following Internationally Important Wildlife Sites; The Wash (Ramsar, SPA), the Wash and Norfolk Coast (SAC), Nene Washes (Ramsar, SPA, and SAC), and Baston Fen (SAC).

### Non-Statutory Sites

3.1.3. The Order Limits intersect or lie immediately adjacent to four Local Wildlife Sites: Slys Connection LWS (parcels D 2/D 3), South Holland Main Drain (West) LWS (parcel B 5), and Wheatmere Drain LWS (within the GCR). The highway works south of Parcel D also cross the Lambert Drain to Highstock Drain Connection LWS. There are 23 LWSs within 2 km of the Scheme in total.

## 3.2. Irreplaceable Habitats and Very High Distinctiveness Habitats

3.2.1. There are no parcels of ancient woodland present within 2km of the Site boundary. Ancient/veteran individual trees were identified within or adjacent to the Site during arboricultural surveys, specifically, seven veteran and four ancient trees within the Order Limits. See **ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) for further information.

## 3.3. Habitats of Principal Importance

3.3.1. Site surveys indicated the presence of small broadleaved woodlands at various locations on-site, which is a Habitat of Principal Importance (HPI), listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

3.3.2. Following the extended UKHab surveys in 2023 and 2024 it is confirmed that native hedgerows, and arable field margins are present on-site.

3.3.3. HPI listed on the priority habitats inventory include approximately 55 areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, 19 areas of deciduous woodland and two traditional orchards within 2km of the Site. These are largely scattered across the wider area, though there are areas of: coastal and floodplain grazing marsh centred on the land between parcels C and D, partially within the Overhead Inter-Array Connection and the Grid Connection Route near Wool Hall Farm; and deciduous woodland within the most northerly section of the Grid Connection Route.

3.3.4. No other HPIs are present.

## 3.4. Habitat Survey and Condition Assessment

3.4.1. The baseline habitats found at the Site are shown in Appendix 1, Figure 1. A full description of the habitats present in the Site Land can be found in Appendix 2, with the condition scores available in Appendix 3.

### Area Based Habitats

3.4.2. The Site covers approximately 1,616ha of land, with baseline habitats recorded including arable fields and field margins, grassland (modified and 'other neutral'), scrub (mixed, hawthorn, bramble, and willow), broadleaved woodland, ponds, and developed land (hardstanding and unvegetated surfaces).

#### Trees

3.4.3. There are scattered trees across the Site baseline. Trees that are located within existing habitats on the Site (which have been quantified under hedgerows or woodland), are evaluated as a component of that habitat type.

### Linear Habitats

#### Hedgerows

3.4.4. There are over 13km of linear habitats within the baseline of the Site. These include native hedgerows (with and without trees), and lines of trees.

#### Watercourses

3.4.5. There are over 72km of watercourses throughout the Site baseline. These are largely arable drainage ditches, with some smaller lengths of larger navigable drains.

## 3.5. Baseline Biodiversity Score

### Area-based Habitats

3.5.1. The biodiversity net gain metric issued alongside this report details the ecological baseline score for area-based habitats, as determined by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, with the habitat type and area provided, along with each habitat's condition rating, distinctiveness and strategic significance.

3.5.2. The total area of the Site given in the metric (excluding area covered by individual trees) is 1614.92ha[27]. The total biodiversity baseline units equal 3244.16BU.

### Linear Habitats – Hedgerows

3.5.3. The biodiversity net gain metric issued alongside this report details the ecological baseline score for hedgerow habitats as determined by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, with the habitat type and length provided. The total length of hedgerows within the Site is 13.33km, equating to 35.74HU.

### Linear Habitats – Watercourses

3.5.4. The biodiversity net gain metric issued alongside this report details the ecological baseline score for watercourse habitats as determined by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, with the habitat type and length provided. The total length of watercourses within the Site is 72.71km, equating to 109.08WU.

# 4. Post-Development Biodiversity Within the Site

4.1.1. This section assesses the predicted post-development biodiversity of the Site. The opportunities for new and enhanced habitats have been determined using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, informed by site-specific survey data, relevant guidance, and the professional judgement of the ecologists involved.

## 4.2. Completed Development Habitats, Habitat Intervention and UKHab Translation

4.2.1. The post-development UKHab habitat types are presented in Table 1. These have been converted from the Scheme Landscape Plan for the DCO Application using the professional judgement of a suitably qualified ecologist.

[27] This area differs slightly from the 1,616ha stated in the ES due to rounding artefacts in the GIS and data calculations.

4.2.2. The target habitat condition assigned to each UKHab habitat type is captured within the metric, with details on the criteria considered likely to be passed or failed provided in Appendix 3.

**Table 1: Post Development Habitats, UKHab and Metric Translation**

| UKHab Translation (post-development) | Metric Habitat Type |
|---|---|
| **Area Habitats** | |
| c1c6 – Arable Fields; wild bird mix | Cropland - Arable Field Margins Wild Game Bird Mix |
| u1c – Artificial Unvegetated; unsealed surface | Urban - Artificial Unvegetated; unsealed surface |
| h3d – Bramble Scrub | Heathland and Shrub - Bramble Scrub |
| c1c – Cereal Crops | Cropland - Cereal Crops |
| u1b6 – Other developed land | Urban – Developed land; sealed surface |
| h3f – Hawthorn Scrub | Heathland and Shrub - Hawthorn Scrub |
| h3h – Mixed Scrub | Heathland and Shrub - Mixed Scrub |
| g4 – Modified grassland | Grassland – Modified grassland |
| c1d – Non Cereal Crops | Cropland – Non Cereal Crops |
| g3c – Other neutral grassland | Grassland – Other neutral grassland |
| w1g - Other broadleaved woodland | Woodland and forest – Other woodland; broadleaved |
| r1g – Other Standing Water | Lakes – Ponds (non priority habitat) |
| f2d – Aquatic Marginal Vegetation | Sprasley Vegetated Land – Tall Forbs |
| r2b – Other Rivers and Streams | Watercourse Footprint |
| h3j – Willow Scrub | Heathland and Shrub - Mixed Scrub |
| Scattered Tree | Individual tree – Rural tree |
| **Linear Habitats (Hedgerows)** | |

| UKHab Translation (post-development) | Metric Habitat Type |
|---|---|
| h2a – Native Hedgerow | Native Hedgerow |
| h2a6 – Other Native Hedgerow (11 – Hedgerow with trees) | Native Hedgerow with Trees |
| h2a6 – Other Native Hedgerow (50 – Ditch) | Native Hedgerow - Associated with Bank or Ditch |
| **Linear Habitats (Watercourses)** | |
| r1g – Other Standing Water (50 – Ditch) | Ditches |

## 4.3. Post-Intervention Biodiversity

4.3.1. The following subsection describes the habitat changes on the Site, based on the Scheme. The post development habitat definitions and conditions have been assigned based on what measures that are expected to be practical and achievable in the context of the Site, using professional judgement.

### Baseline Habitats Lost to Development

4.3.2. The Scheme will result in the permanent loss of urban, (sealed surfaces and artificial unvegetated), arable (cereal/non cereal crops, arable field margins), grassland (modified), and broadleaved woodland habitats. These losses comprise 885.51ha in area habitats, 6.29km of linear habitats, and 2.27km of watercourses. Particular losses of interest are those from medium distinctiveness habitats. These comprise 6.68ha of arable field margin (game bird mix), 1.5ha, and of other neutral grassland.

4.3.3. A 5% loss of arable habitat has been applied to the Grid Connection Route and Inter Array Connections in addition to the design proposals to account for potential variation in the design of enabling works and infrastructure, such as Site compounds and access routes. These are assumed to be restored to their baseline habitat and condition within three years. It is assumed that all other temporary enabling infrastructure will be restored to its existing habitat within two years of loss and can therefore be considered to be temporary and treated as retained in the Metric.

4.3.4. A total of 52 scattered trees were present across the Site, of which 13 will be lost. Using the Urban Tree Helper tool within the biodiversity metric, the

estimated area of the 13 trees to be lost is equivalent to 0.24ha. This has been included as 'Individual Trees – Rural Tree' in the baseline biodiversity assessment.

### Baseline Habitat Retained (No Change)

4.3.5. Under the proposals, varying amounts of all habitats found on the baseline will be retained in some capacity. At least some areas of every habitat type recorded within the Site baseline will be retained, although the extent of many of the habitats have been reduced.

### Baseline Habitat Enhanced

4.3.6. No baseline area or hedgerow habitats will be enhanced as part of the proposals. Watercourses will be enhanced over a length of 15m either side of each proposed crossing point.

### Habitats Created Post Development

4.3.7. Vegetated habitats created on-site as part of the Scheme and contributing BU to the Site post development include areas of scrub (mixed), grassland (modified and other neutral), woodland (broadleaved and mixed), trees and arable field margins (wild bird mix). In addition, there are 35.85ha of habitats to be created, which contribute no BU to the metric. These include valueless habitats such as hardstanding and unvegetated unsealed surfaces.

4.3.8. Not including valueless habitats, these cover a total of 850.53ha and contribute 2258.21 BU. All habitats are proposed to reach a 'poor' target condition, with the exception of other neutral grassland, which is expected to reach 'moderate' condition.

4.3.9. Linear habitats created on-site as part of the Scheme include 49.80km of native hedgerows and native hedgerows with trees, and 4.12km of ditches. These contribute 187.71HU and 3.99WU, respectively.

### Post-Development Summary

4.3.10. The biodiversity net gain metric issued alongside this report details the retained post-development habitats and the created and enhanced post-development habitats and their corresponding biodiversity unit scores, based on the landscape general arrangement plan and the Scheme.

# 5. Calculation Of Biodiversity Change

## 5.1. Quantitative Biodiversity Change

5.1.1. This section details the biodiversity unit changes between the baseline and the post-development Site for DCO Application. Table 2 shows the calculation of change for area-based habitats at the site, pre-development and post-development, with the outcome for biodiversity.

**Table 2: Baseline and Post-development Biodiversity Value and Biodiversity Value Change**

| Biodiversity Feature | Baseline area (ha)/ length (km) | Baseline Units (BU/ HU/ WU) | Post-development area (ha)/ length (km) | Post-development Units (BU/ HU/ WU) | Outcome |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area-based Habitats | 1616.47ha | 3244.16BU | 1,617.1784 ha* | 3717.72BU | **+ 473.56 BU + 14.60% = Net Gain** |
| Hedgerows | 13.33km | 35.74HU | 56.85km | 206.57HU | **+ 170.83 HU + 477.94% = Net Gain** |
| Watercourses | 72.7km | 109.08WU | 74.6km | 121.53WU | **+ 12.45 WU + 11.42% = Net Gain** |
| * Includes the areas of scattered trees, which sit atop the other area-based habitats, resulting in differences in Site area. | | | | | |

5.1.2. The final change is a 14.60% net gain (+473.56BU) for area-based habitats, a 477.94% net gain (+170.83HU) for hedgerows, and a 11.42% net gain (+12.45WU) for watercourses.

## 5.2. Trading Rules

5.2.1. Trading rules have been met for medium and low distinctiveness habitats, as shown in Table 3. This shows that there are sufficient excess higher (medium) distinctiveness units to offset lower distinctiveness habitat losses, and there is not overall loss of medium distinctiveness habitats of any broad habitat type. No high or very high distinctiveness habitats are present in the Site baseline. In order to pass the trading rules, a minimum of 234 “moderate” condition trees must be

planted across the Site. This has been determined as a more achievable solution to passing the trading rules, opposed to the creation of large areas of medium-high distinctiveness habitat.

**Table 3: Trading Rules Summary**

| Habitat Distinctiveness | Broad Habitat Type | Habitat | On Site BU Change | Total BU Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medium Distinctiveness | Cropland | Arable Field Margins Game Bird Mix | 30.37 | 852.28 |
| | Grassland | Other Neutral Grassland | 818.42 | |
| | Heathland and Shrub | Mixed Scrub | 0.03 | |
| | Woodland | Other Woodland; broadleaved | 3.45 | |
| | Individual Trees | Rural Trees | 0.01 | |
| Low Distinctiveness | | Cereal Crops | -1406.43 | -375.4 |
| | | Non-Cereal Crops | -56.32 | |
| | | Modified Grassland | 1095.17 | |
| | | Tall Forbs | -6.76 | |
| | | Ruderal/ Ephemeral | -1.07 | |

## 5.3. Outcomes for Biodiversity

5.3.1. Table 4 shows the broad habitat changes for area-based habitats, highlighting where like-for-like or like-for-better compensation has, or has not, been achieved, as per Principle 6 of the CIEEM Biodiversity Net Gain principles for development, along with the overall outcome.

### Table 4: Baseline Biodiversity, Post-development Biodiversity and Biodiversity Change per Habitat Group

| Total Site Units | Baseline (Pre-development) | | Post-development | | Overall Change | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Habitat Group** | **Baseline Area (ha)/ Length (km)** | **Baseline Units (BU/ HU/ WU)** | **Post-development Area(ha)/ Length (km)** | **Post-development Units (BU / HU / WU)** | **Area/ Length Change (ha/ km)** | **BU/ HU/ WU Change (%)** |
| Cropland | 1483.03 | 2988.45 | 762.14 | 1556.07 | -720.89 | -1432.39 |
| Grassland | 103.42 | 219.68 | 794.74 | 2133.28 | 691.32 | 1913.60 |
| Heathland and shrub | 0.90 | 3.58 | 0.90 | 3.61 | 0.01 | 0.03 |
| Lakes | 0.09 | 0.36 | 0.09 | 3.6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Sparsely vegetated land | 4.61 | 9.22 | 0.70 | 1.40 | -3.91 | -7.82 |
| Urban | 19.55 | 0 | 52.0 | 0 | 32.45 | 0 |
| Woodland and Forest | 3.31 | 13.26 | 4.34 | 16.71 | 1.03 | 3.45 |
| Individual trees | 1.55 | 9.61 | 2.26 | 9.62 | 0.71 | 0.01 |
| Species Rich Native Hedgerow | 0.67 | 3.08 | 0.67 | 3.08 | 0 | 0 |
| Native Hedgerow – Associated with Bank or Ditch | 0.82 | 3.79 | 0.48 | 2.19 | -0.35 | -1.60 |
| Native Hedgerow with Trees | 1.13 | 5.21 | 34.99 | 155.37 | 33.86 | 150.15 |
| Native Hedgerow | 7.46 | 17.17 | 19.08 | 42.68 | 11.62 | 25.51 |
| Line of Trees | 3.25 | 6.50 | 1.63 | 3.26 | -1.62 | -3.23 |
| Ditches | 72.7 | 109.1 | 74.6 | 121.5 | 1.8 | 12.5 |

5.3.2. Comparisons of the broad habitat groups pre- and post-development show net gains for grassland, heathland/shrub, sparsely vegetated land, woodland/forest, native hedgerow with trees, native hedgerow, line of trees, and ditches. Net losses are shown for cropland, and native hedgerow associated with bank or ditch.

5.3.3. Overall, this assessment has found that it is possible to deliver a net gain in biodiversity on-site under the proposed plans via the like-for-like and like-for-better compensatory action.

5.3.4. Biodiversity offsetting at an off-site location will not be required, as a 10% net gain can be achieved in area, linear, and watercourse habitats.

# 6. Discussion

## 6.1. Future Updates

6.1.1. The final detailed landscaping and design for the Scheme will be completed following DCO consent. As such, the Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy will be updated as required, once detailed landscaping and design have been finalised. This approach ensures ongoing delivery and oversight of biodiversity enhancements throughout the project.

## 6.2. Management and Monitoring

6.2.1. Habitats delivered on-site as part of the Scheme, should be sympathetically managed for biodiversity to ensure that they develop appropriately. Prescriptions for habitat management and monitoring will be included within a Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy and a detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) at detailed design stage, in accordance with the requirements of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1). The detailed LEMP will incorporate the requirements set out in the Natural England Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) template[28] (or latest relevant guidelines as appropriate).

6.2.2. The detailed LEMP will outline the measures for the long-term management and monitoring of habitats and features suitable for promoting biodiversity and will detail how each habitat will reach the prescribed target condition. It will include measures to increase the ecological value of the Site following completion of the development and measures for the long term, such as a reduced pruning regime for trees and shrubs and a reduced mowing regime for grassland areas.

6.2.3. The detailed LEMP would be handed over after construction and explained to the relevant maintenance company or those staff responsible for the ongoing management of the site.

6.2.4. Management and monitoring of the habitats over a minimum 30-year period is required to ensure correct development and management of habitats, in line with BNG principles including scheduled checks at appropriate intervals, to ensure

[28] Natural England (2024) Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan Template (JP058) https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5813530037846016 [Accessed 16 March 2026]

habitats are establishing correctly and to ensure that corrective actions can be undertaken if required. The detailed management plan is to be reviewed and updated after each scheduled check and management may require adjustment to ensure that these habitats develop appropriately and reach their target condition.

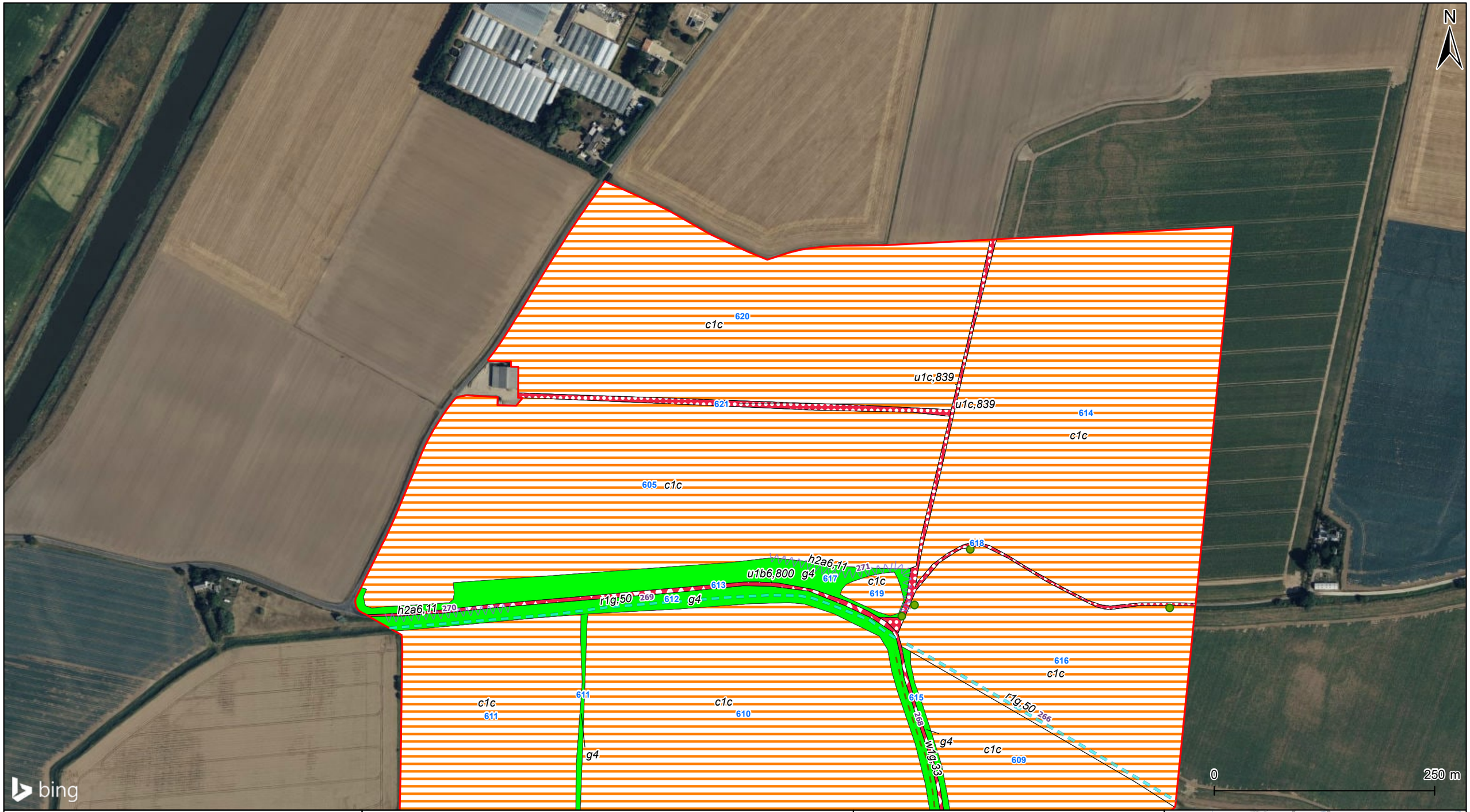
## 6.3. Conclusion

6.3.1. The Scheme has sought to retain and create additional habitats within the Site wherever possible, using the currently available data concerning the landscaping scheme.

6.3.2. With these measures, it is possible to achieve an overall net gain of at least 10% for area, hedgerow, and watercourse habitats. Overall, for the Site boundary, the current calculated change is a +14.60% (+473.56 Biodiversity Units) net gain for area-based habitats, a +477.94% (+170.83 Hedgerow Units) for hedgerows, and a +11.42% (+12.45 Watercourse Units) net gain for watercourses, across the Scheme.

# Appendix 1: Figures

## Figure 1: Baseline Habitats




Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 1

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Primary habitat
  - c1c - Cereal crops
  - g4 - Modified grassland
  - u1b6 - Other developed land
  - u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
  - h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree
- Secondary code
  - 800 - Road
  - 839 - Track

Date: 20/03/2026

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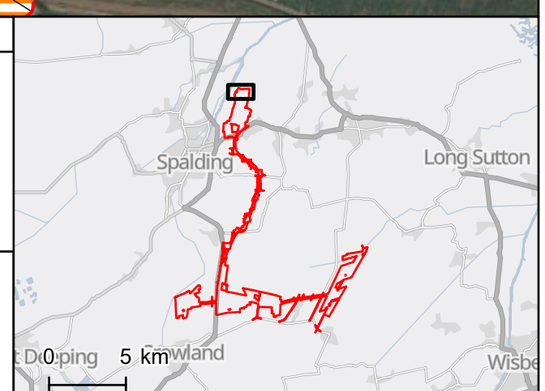
Meridian Solar

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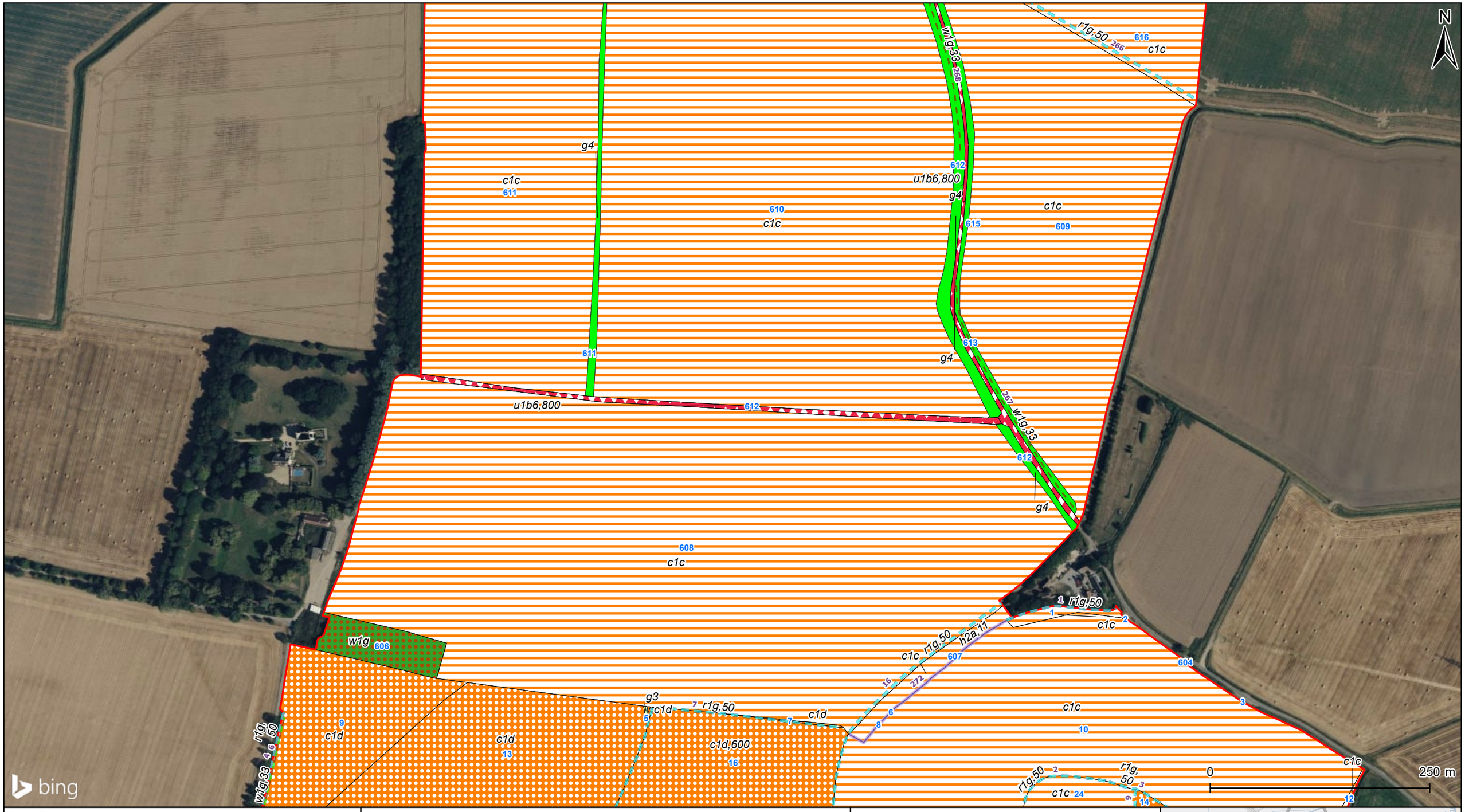


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 2

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3 - Neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3f - Hawthorn scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 600 - Ploughed
- 800 - Road
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch

Date: 20/03/2026

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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 3

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3 - Neutral grassland
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3f - Hawthorn scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- h3j - Willow scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 106 - Mown
- 600 - Ploughed
- 839 - Track
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch

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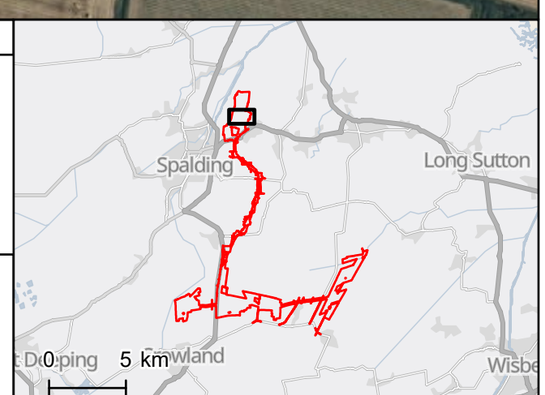


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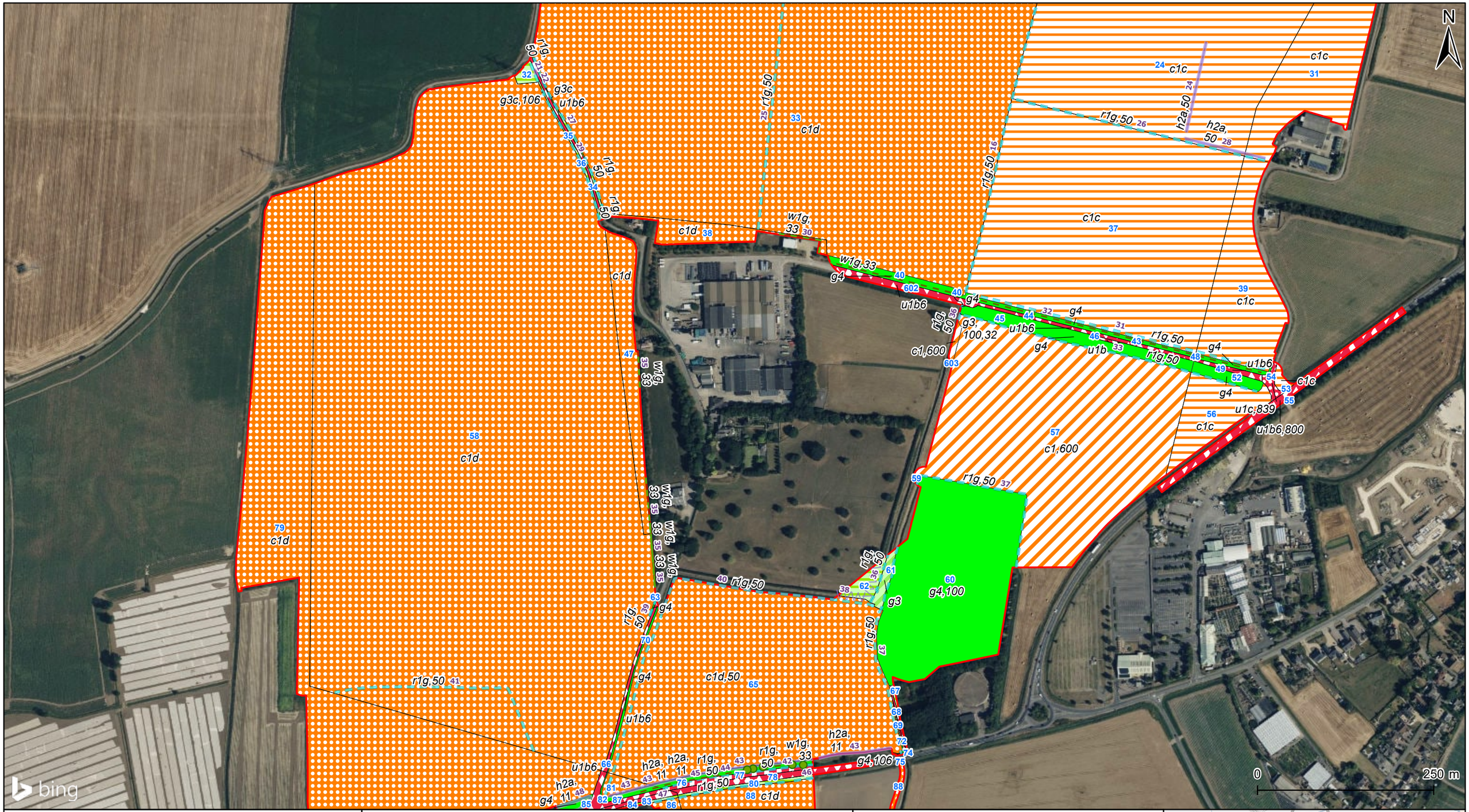


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 4

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3 - Neutral grassland
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 50 - Ditch
- 100 - Grazed
- 106 - Mown
- 600 - Ploughed
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 32 - Scattered trees
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch

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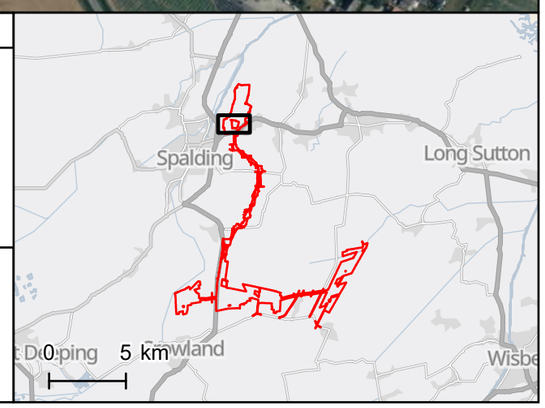


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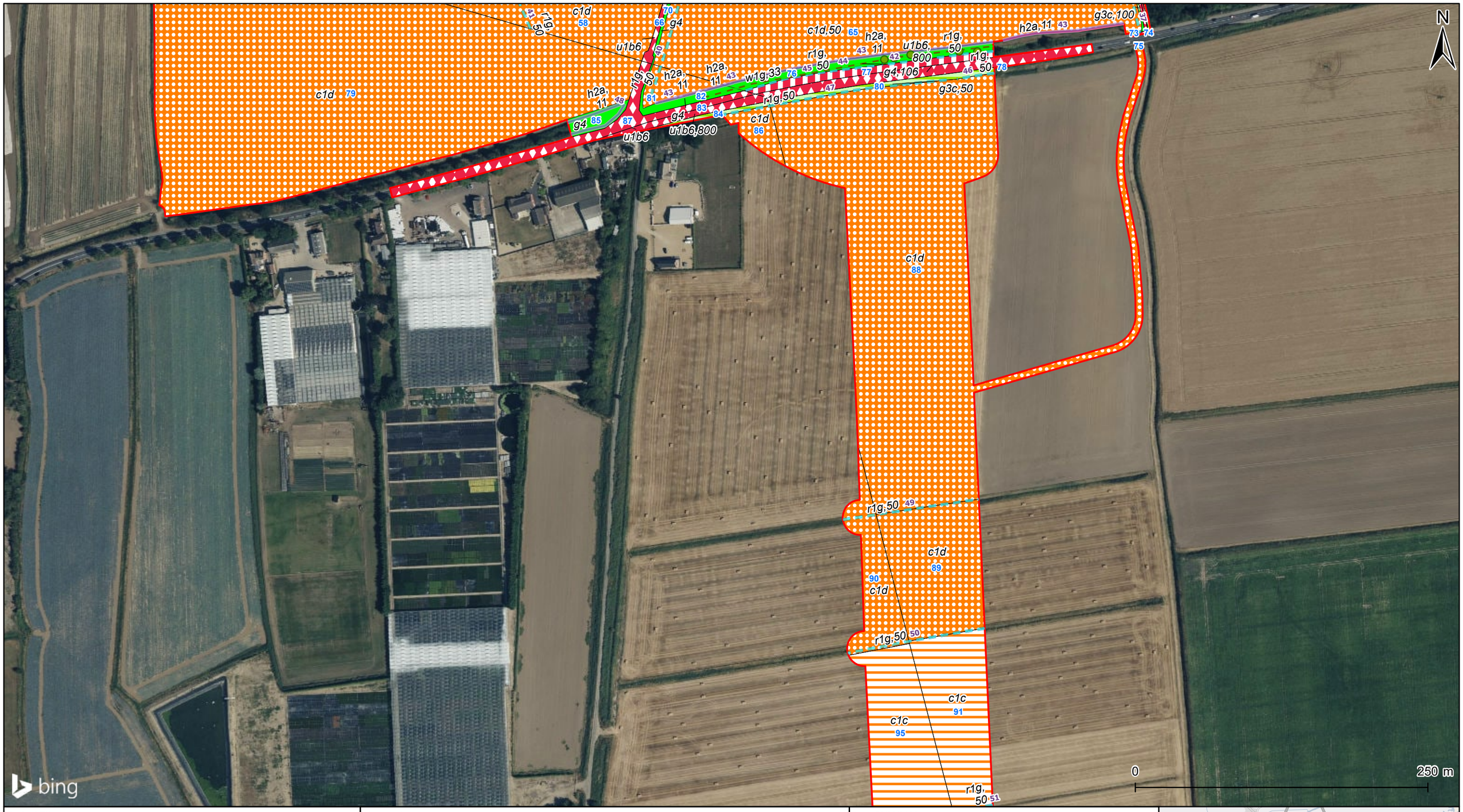


| | |
|---|---|
| Project Title | Meridian Solar Farm |
| Map Title | Environmental Statement<br>Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -<br>Page 5 |

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:3,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 50 - Ditch
- 100 - Grazed
- 106 - Mown
- 800 - Road
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch

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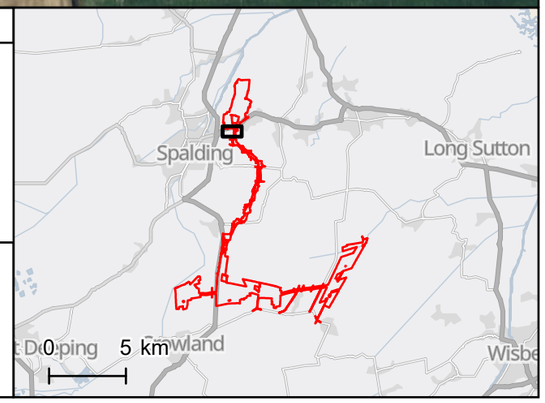


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 6

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- h3j - Willow scrub
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- r1g - Other standing water
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 16 - Tall forbs
- 102 - Sheep grazed
- 106 - Mown
- 110 - Silage and haylage
- 827 - Garden
- 50 - Ditch

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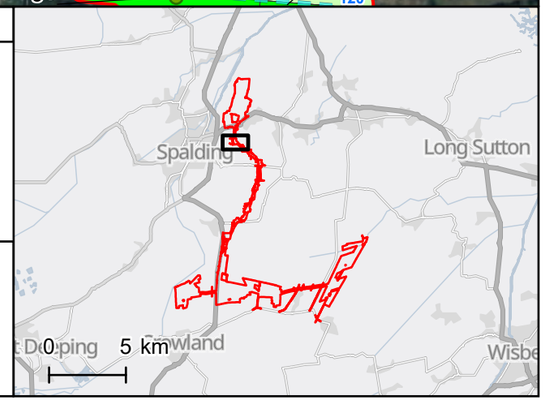


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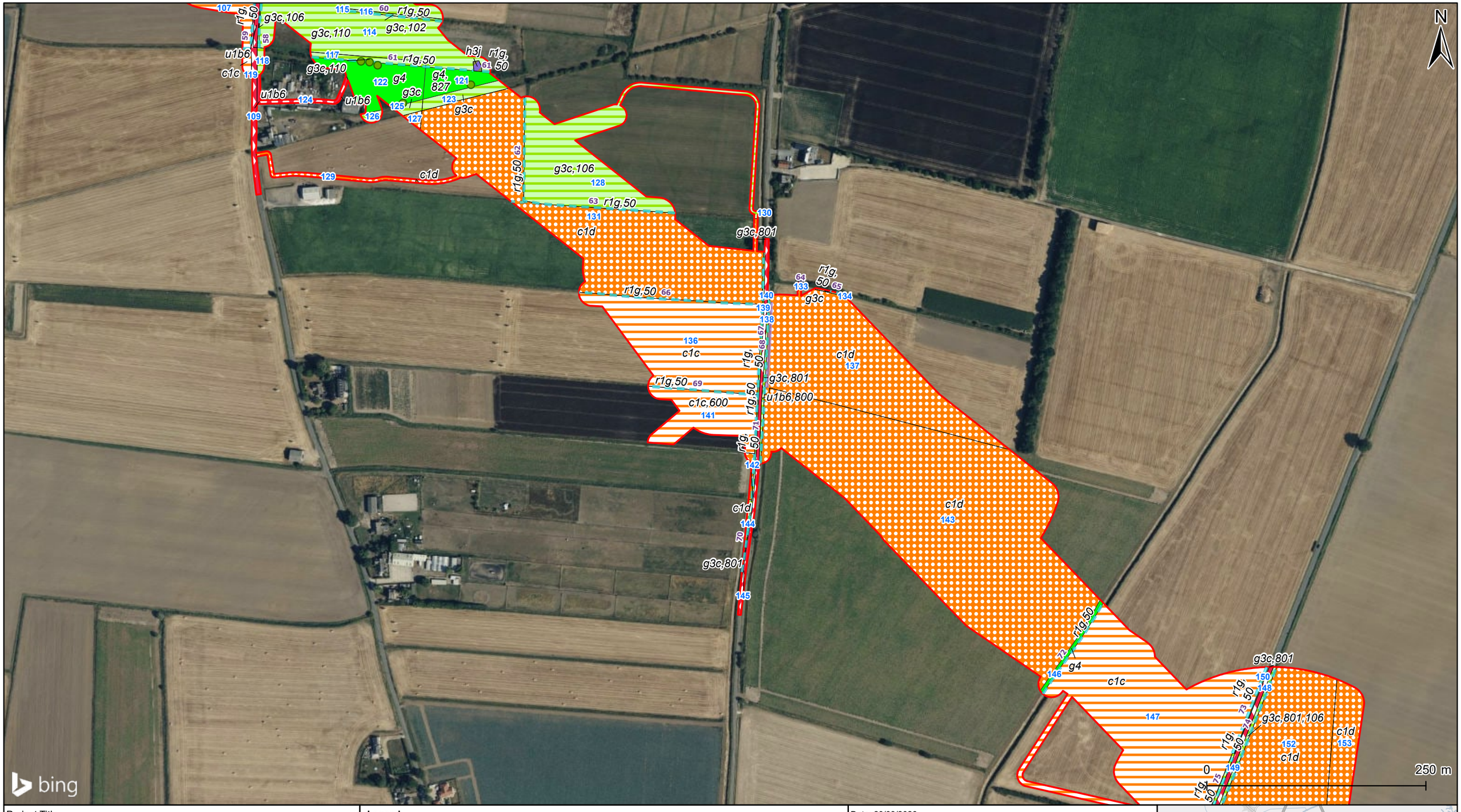


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 7

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- h3j - Willow scrub
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 102 - Sheep grazed
- 106 - Mown
- 110 - Silage and haylage
- 600 - Ploughed
- 800 - Road
- 801 - Road verge or island
- 827 - Garden
- 106 - Mown
- 50 - Ditch

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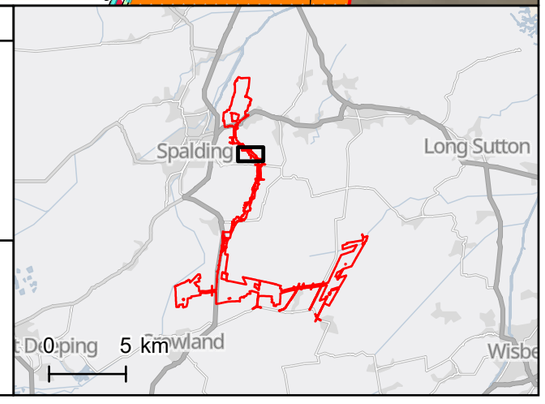


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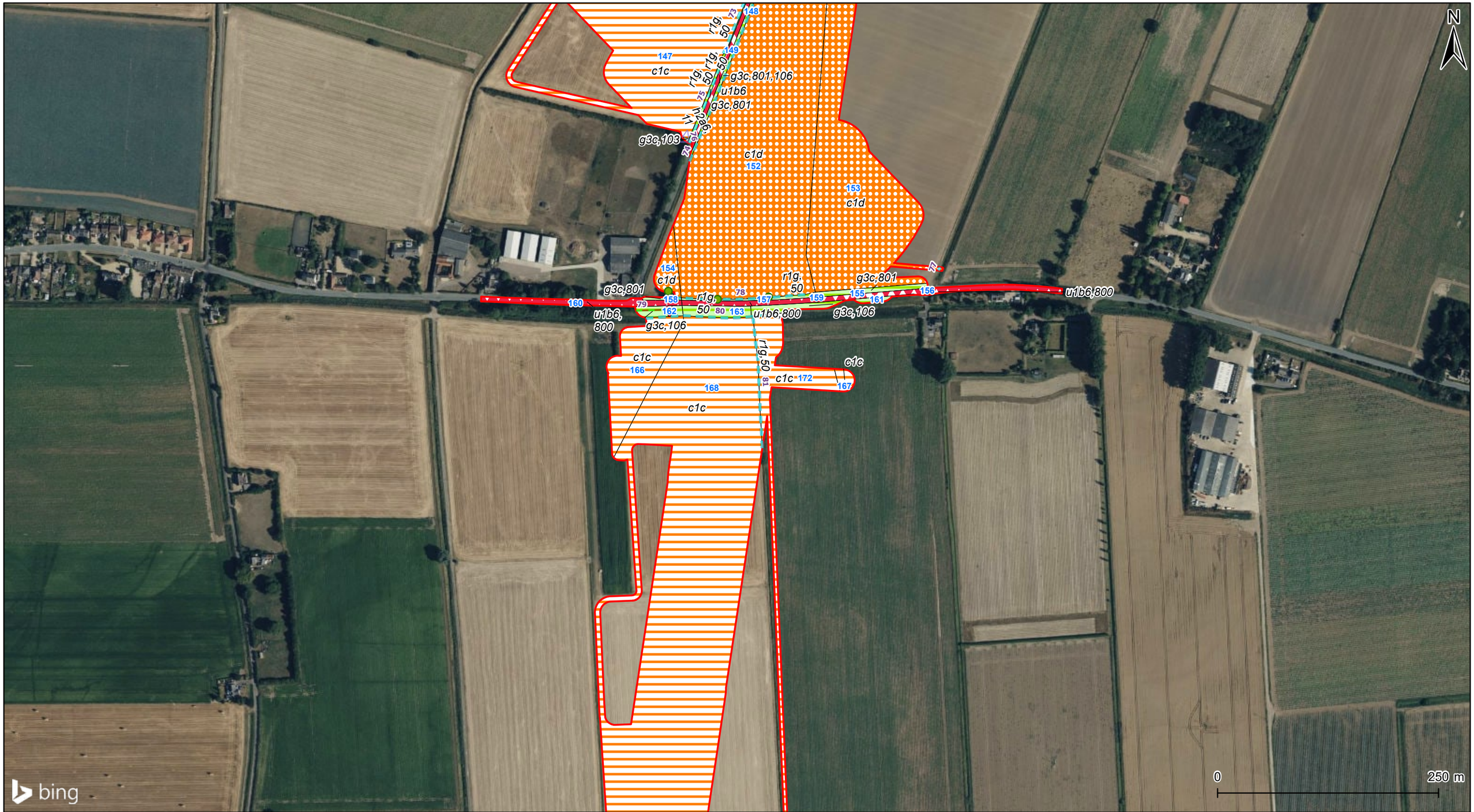


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC - Page 8

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 103 - Horse grazed
- 106 - Mown
- 800 - Road
- 801 - Road verge or island
- 839 - Track
- 106 - Mown
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch

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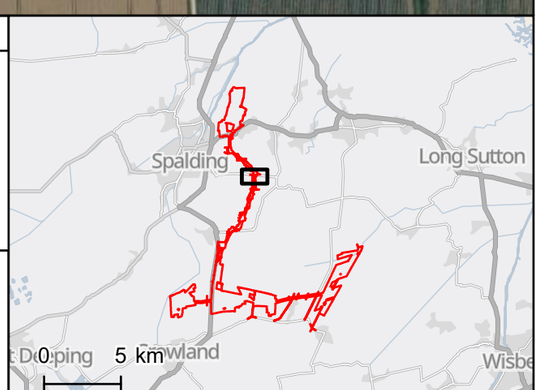


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| | |
|---|---|
| Project Title | Meridian Solar Farm |
| Map Title | Environmental Statement<br>Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -<br>Page 9 |

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 50 - Ditch

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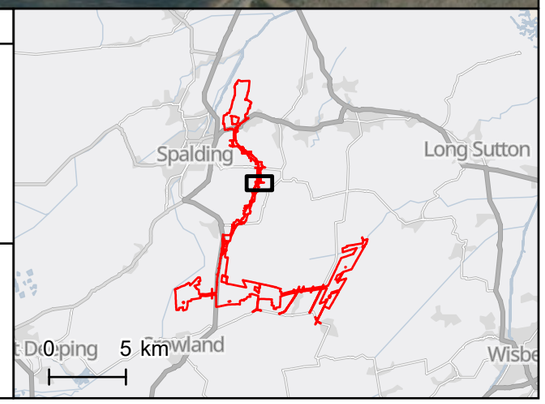


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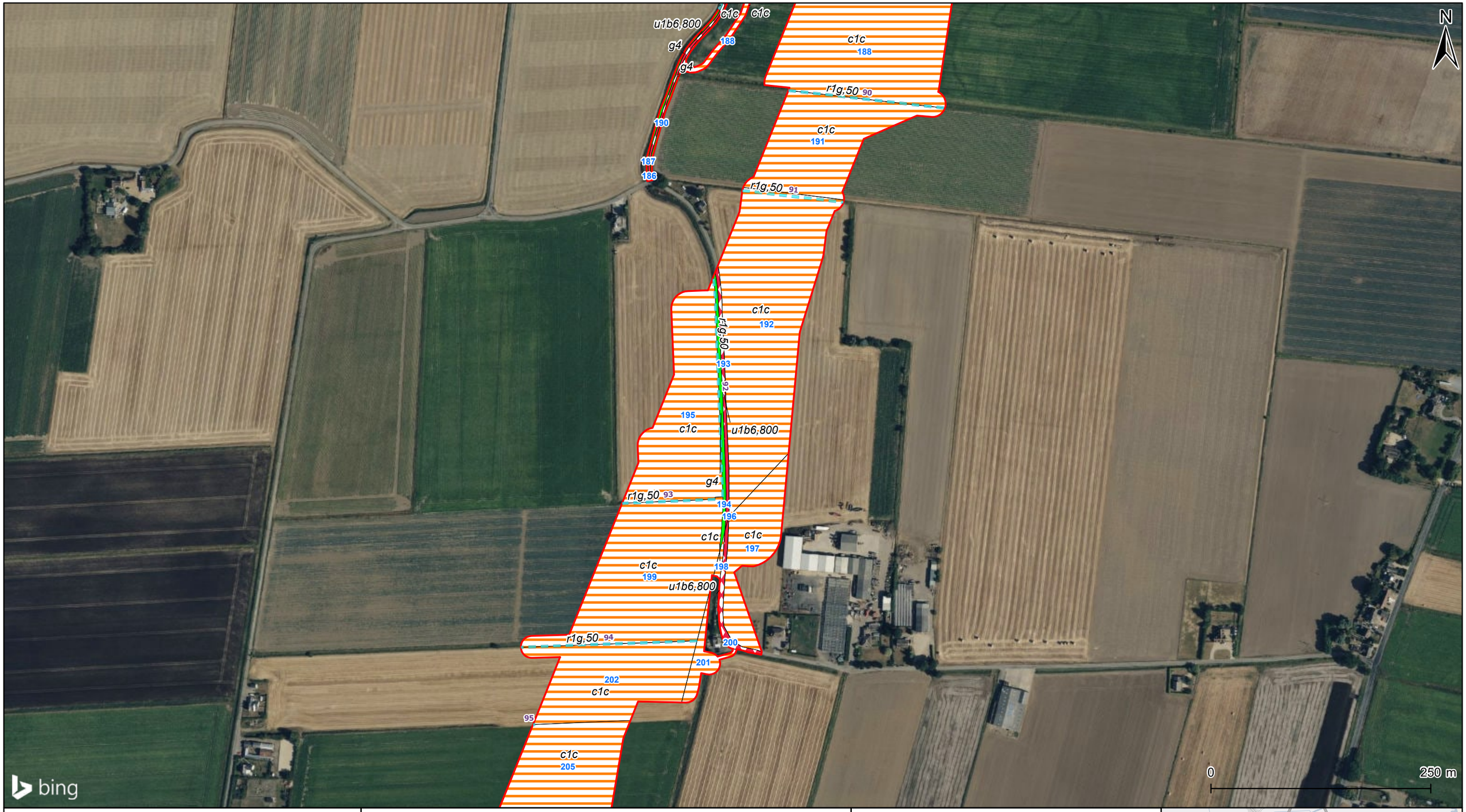


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 10

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

c1c - Cereal crops

g4 - Modified grassland

u1b6 - Other developed land

r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

800 - Road

50 - Ditch

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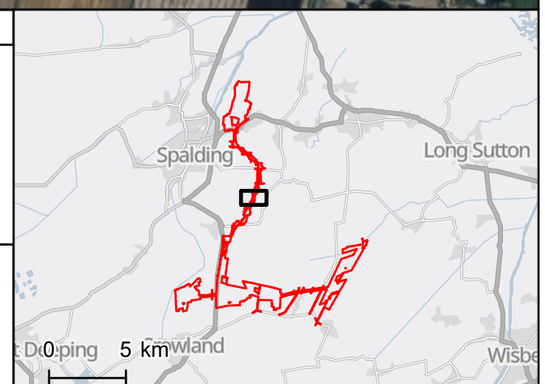


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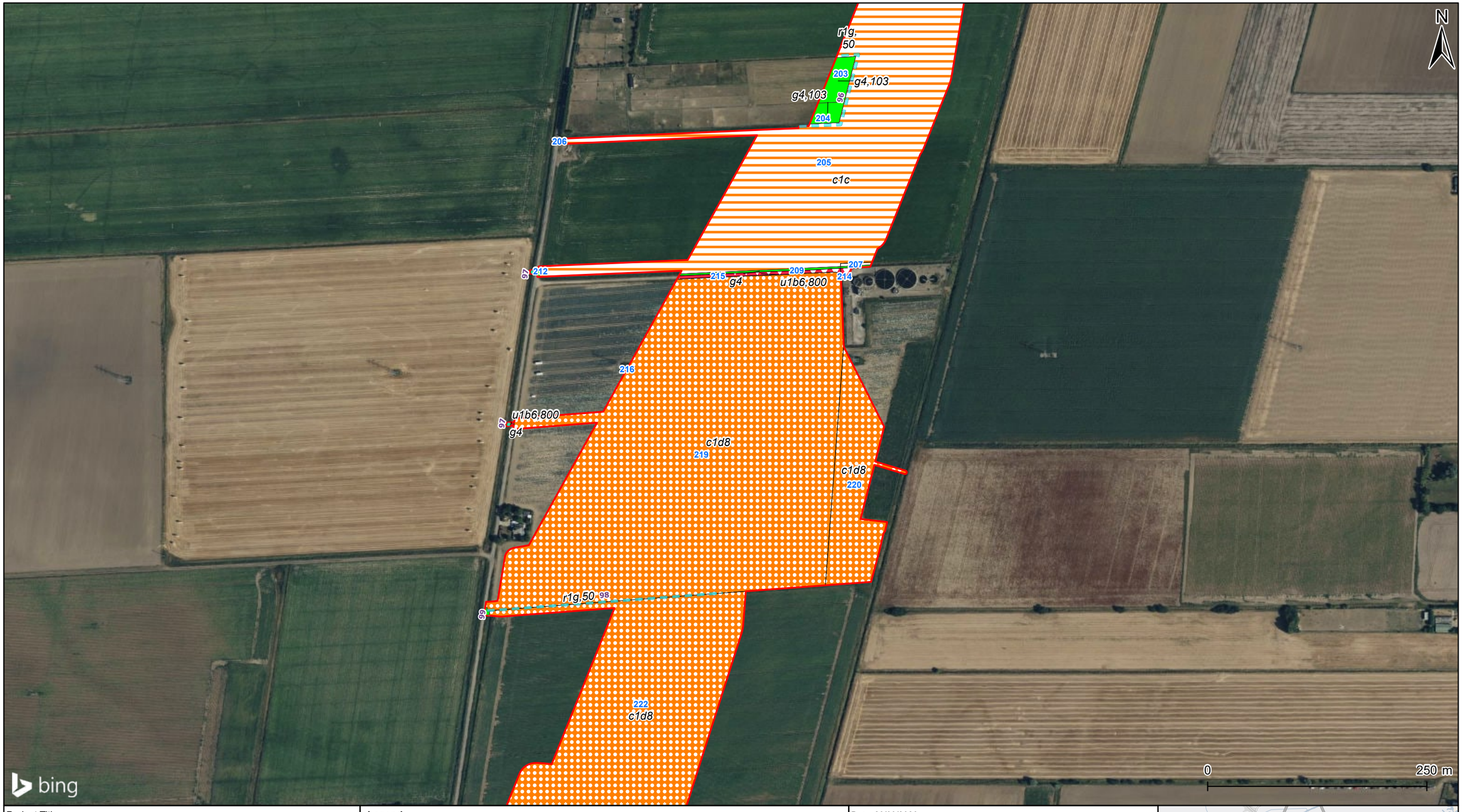


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC - Page 11

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 103 - Horse grazed
- 800 - Road
- 50 - Ditch

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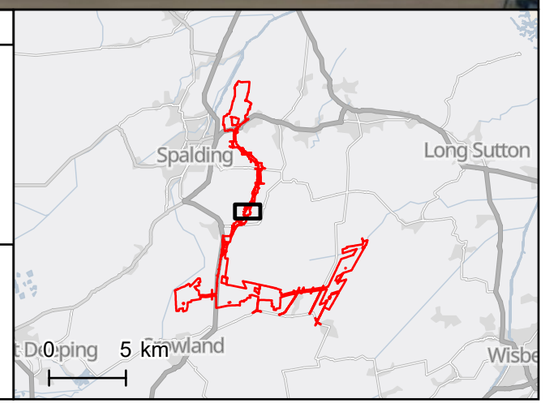


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| | |
|---|---|
| Project Title | Meridian Solar Farm |
| Map Title | Environmental Statement<br>Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -<br>Page 12 |

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Primary habitat
  - c1c - Cereal crops
  - c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
  - g4 - Modified grassland
  - u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
  - u1b5 - Buildings
  - u1b6 - Other developed land
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- Scattered tree
- Secondary code
  - 800 - Road
  - 11 - Hedgerow with trees
  - 50 - Ditch

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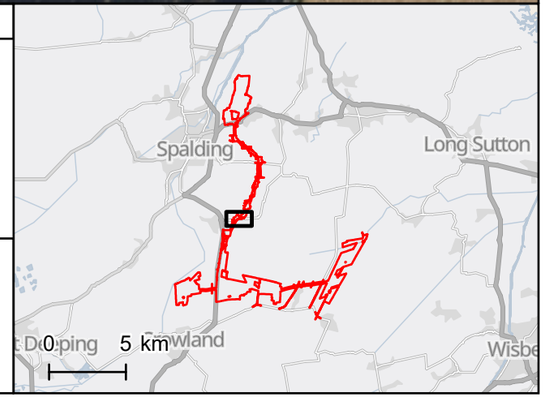


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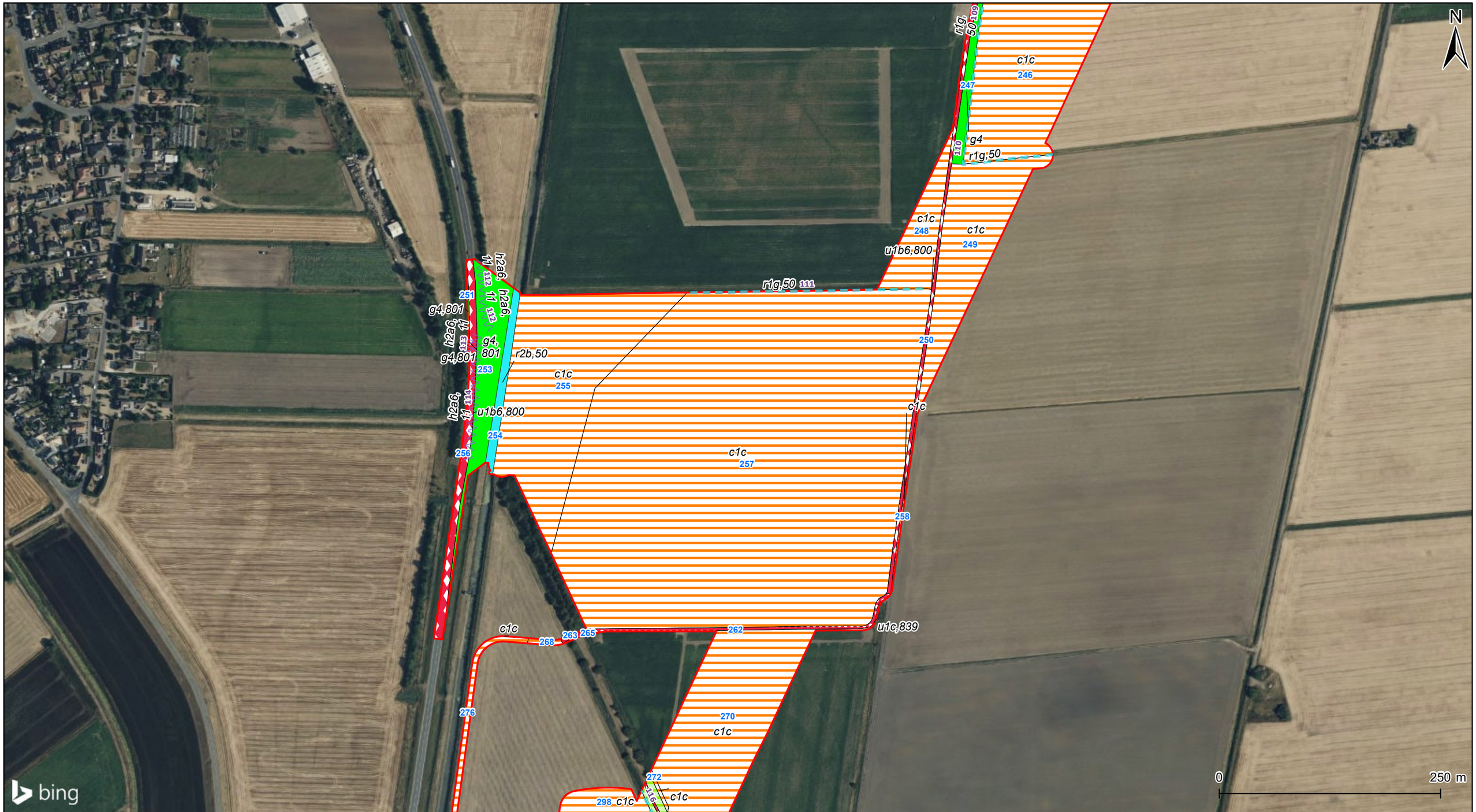


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 13

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 50 - Ditch
- 800 - Road
- 801 - Road verge or island
- 839 - Track
- 16 - Tall forbs
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 50 - Ditch

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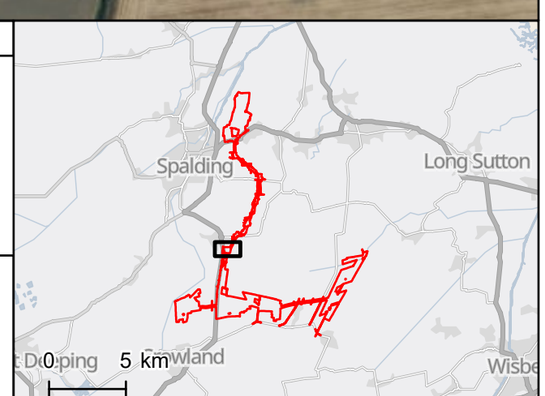


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 14

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 839 - Track
- 16 - Tall forbs
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 50 - Ditch

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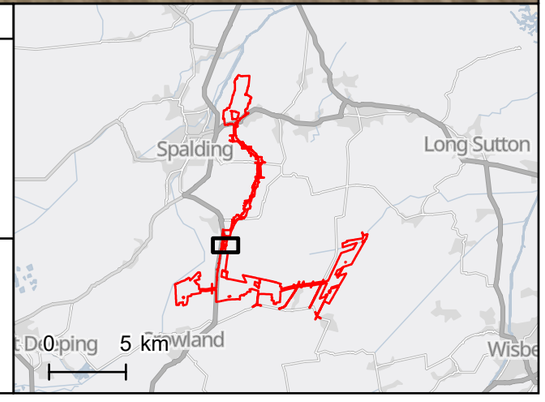


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 15

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

50 - Ditch

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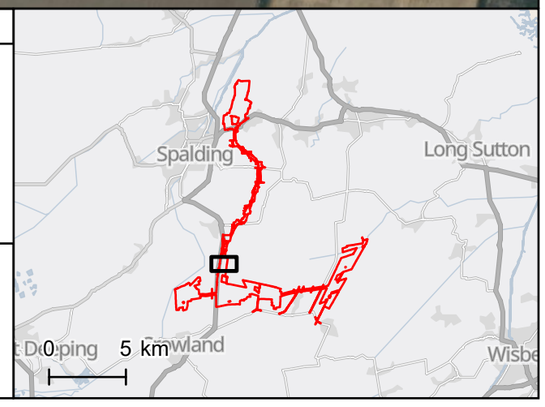


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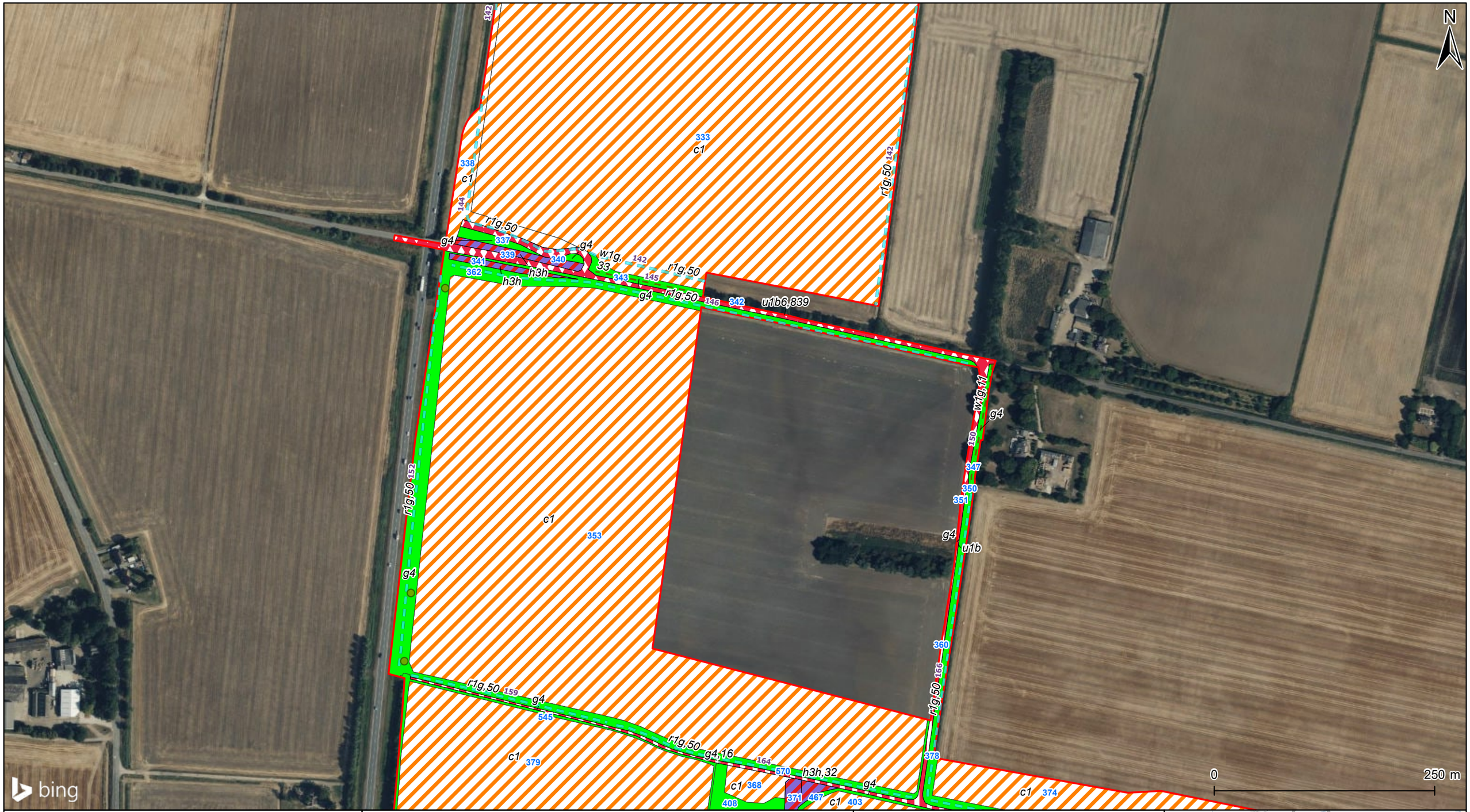


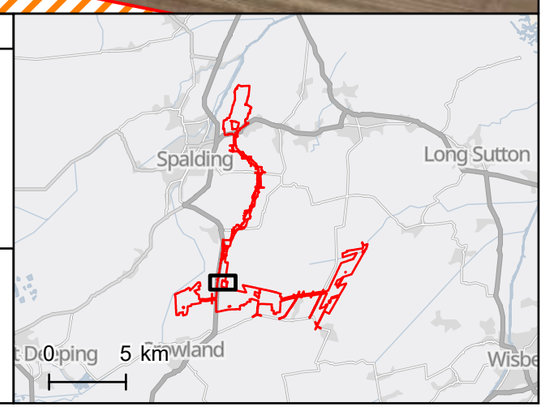


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 16

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 16 - Tall forbs
- 32 - Scattered trees
- 839 - Track

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Meridian Solar

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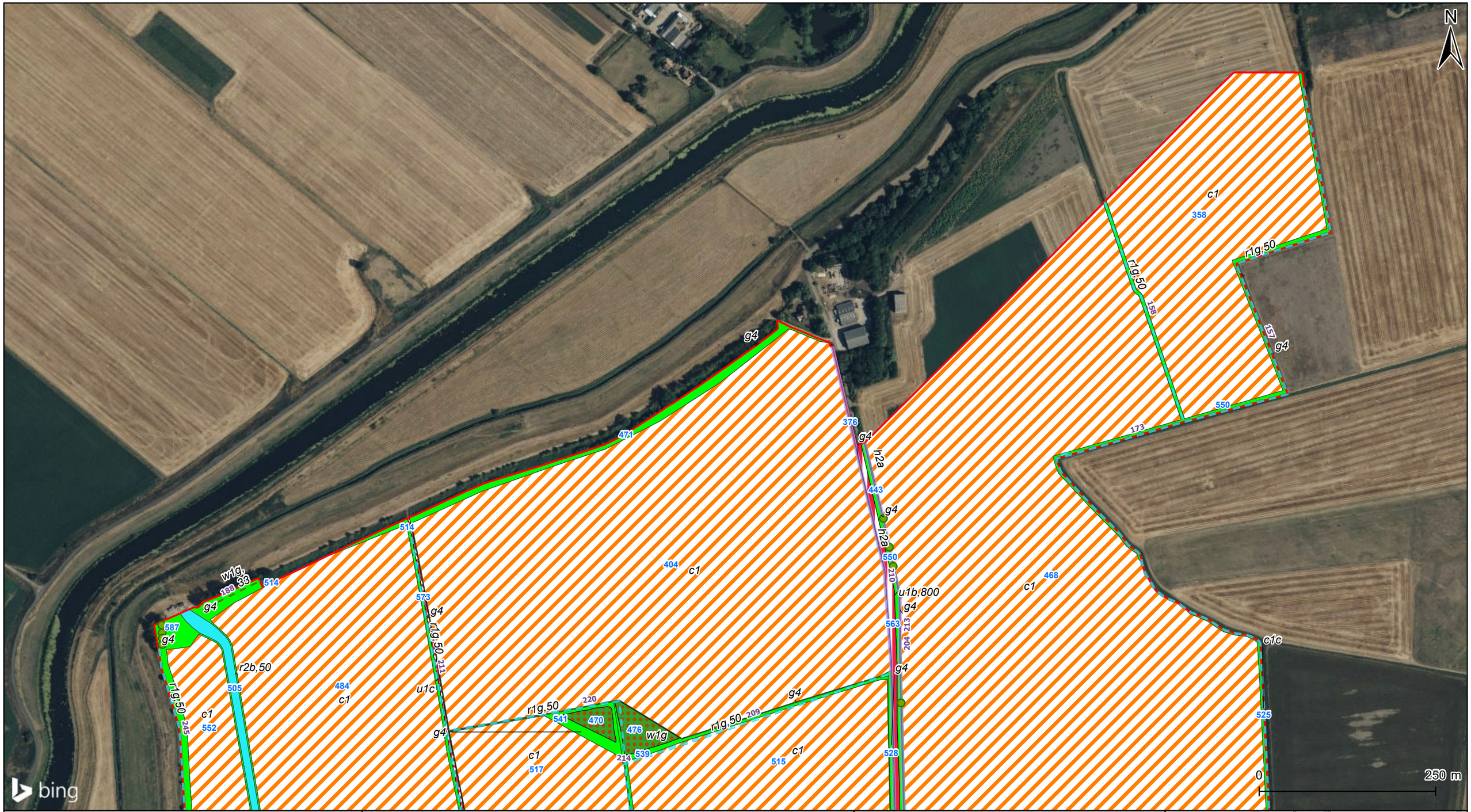


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC - Page 17

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 50 - Ditch
- 800 - Road

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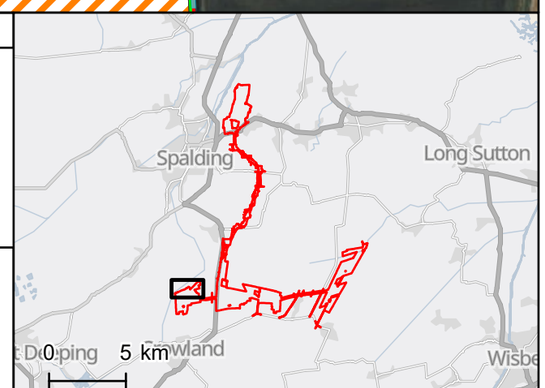
Meridian Solar

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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 18

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- r1g - Other standing water
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 50 - Ditch
- 800 - Road

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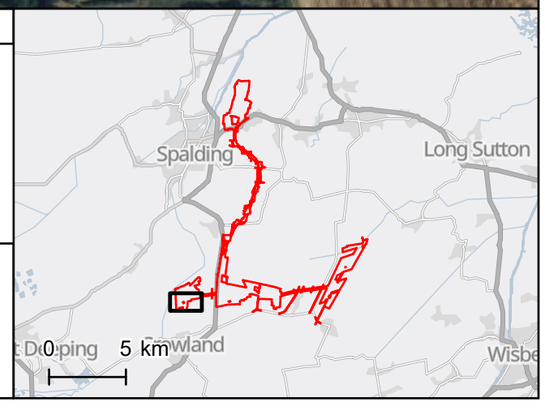


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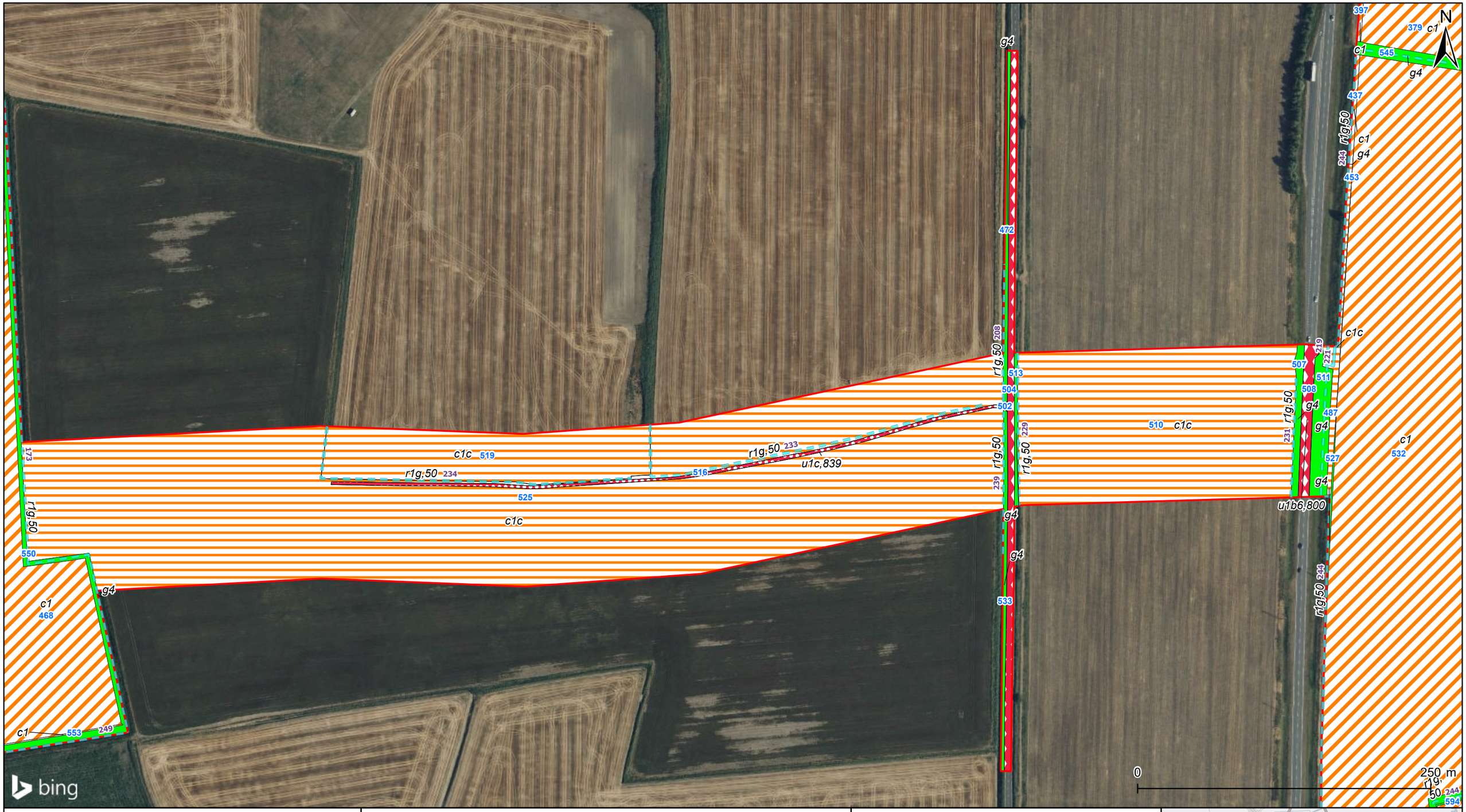


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Title: Meridian Solar Farm | | | |
| Map Title: Environmental Statement Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC - Page 19 | | | |
| Scale @ A3: 1:3,000 | Version: 0 | Drawn: JM | Reviewed: JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track

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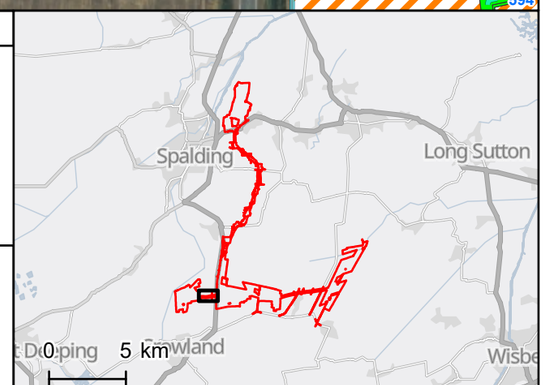


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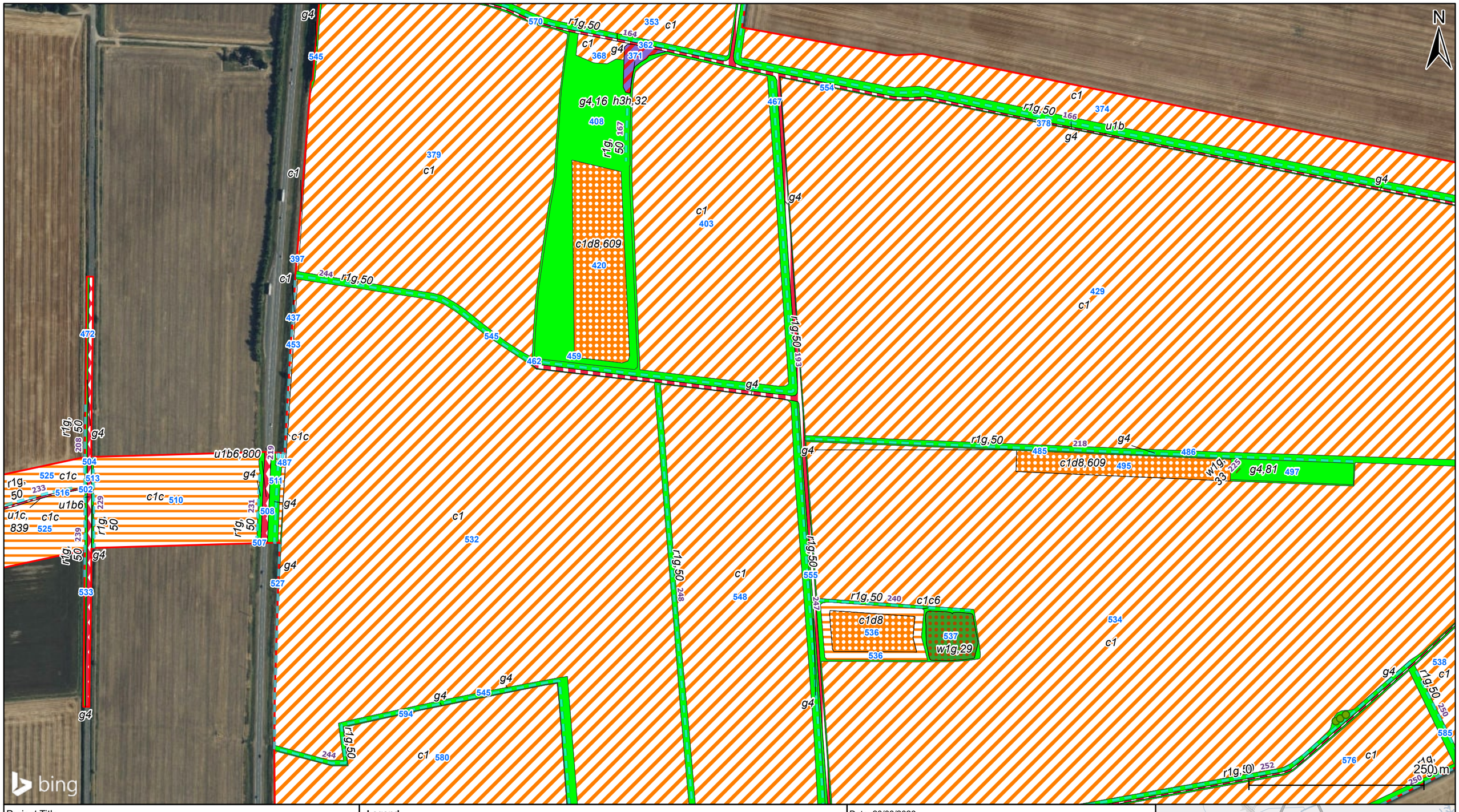


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC - Page 20

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 16 - Tall forbs
- 29 - Plantation
- 32 - Scattered trees
- 81 - Ruderal or ephemeral
- 609 - Cover crops
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track

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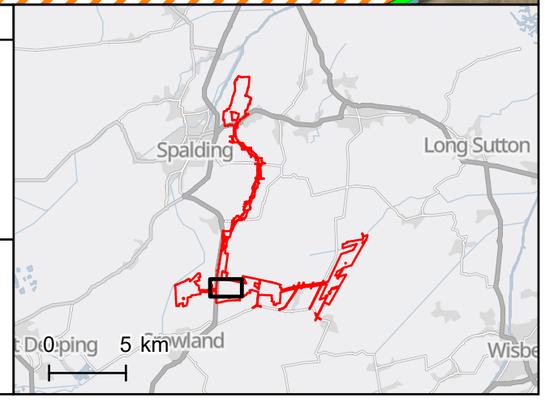


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 21

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 29 - Plantation
- 81 - Ruderal or ephemeral
- 609 - Cover crops
- 800 - Road

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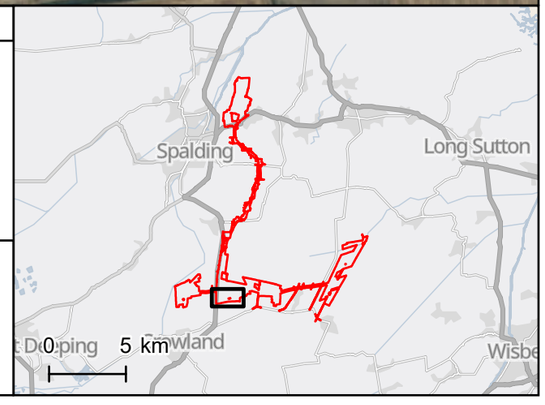


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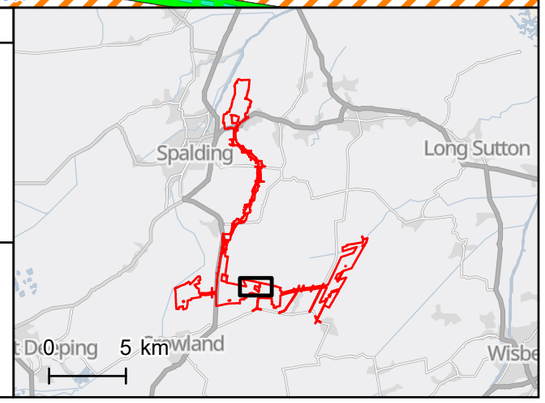


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 22

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 29 - Plantation
- 800 - Road

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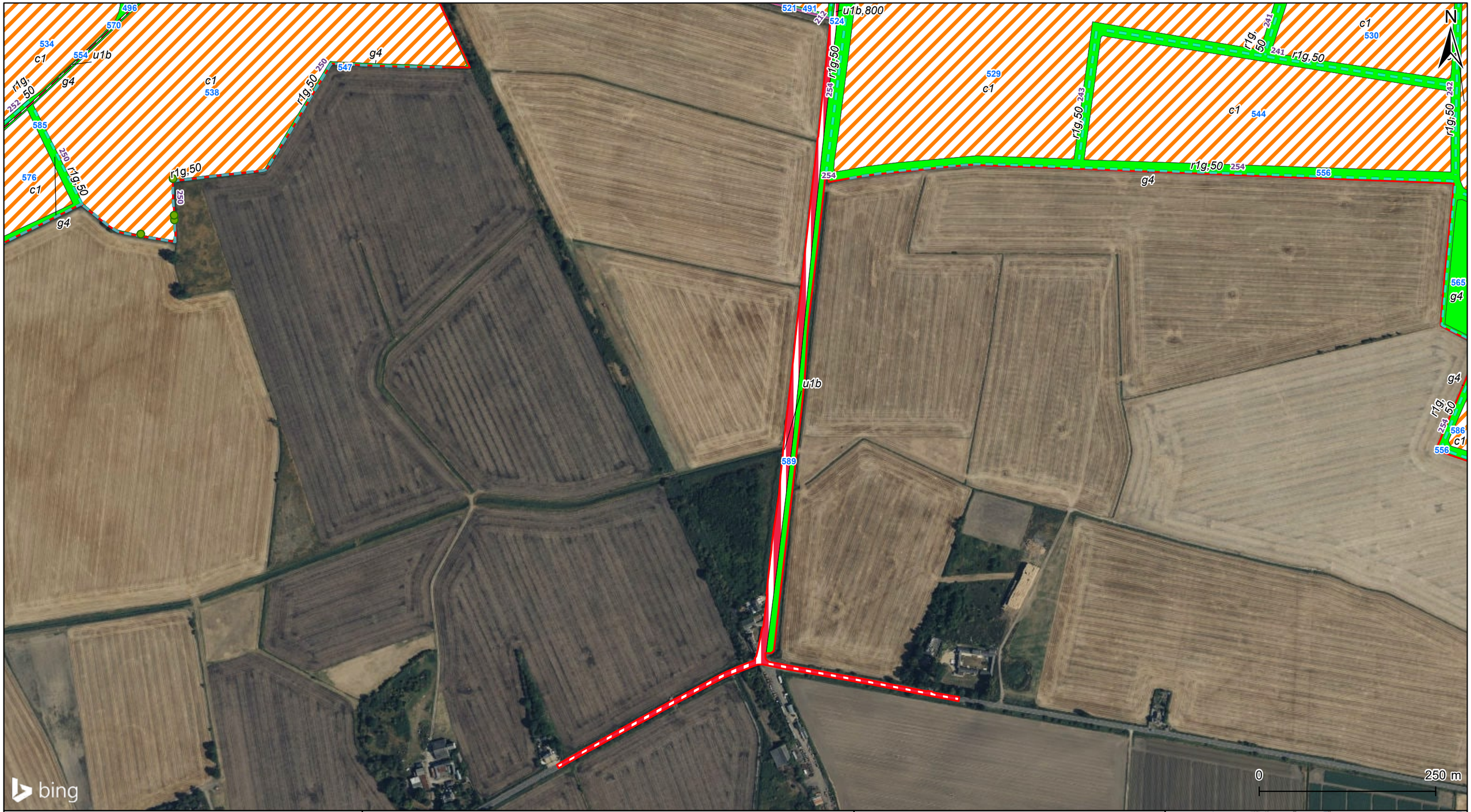


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 23

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

c1 - Arable and horticulture

g4 - Modified grassland

u1b - Developed land, sealed surface

h2a - Native hedgerow

r1g - Other standing water

Scattered tree

Secondary code

800 - Road

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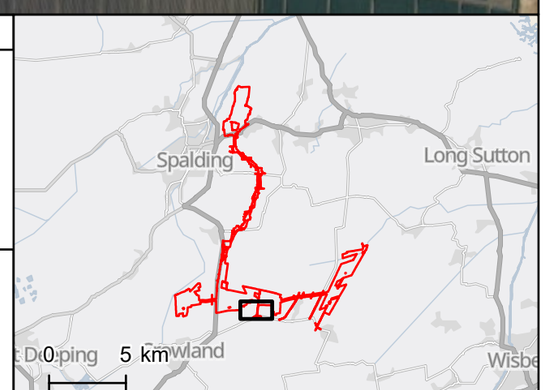


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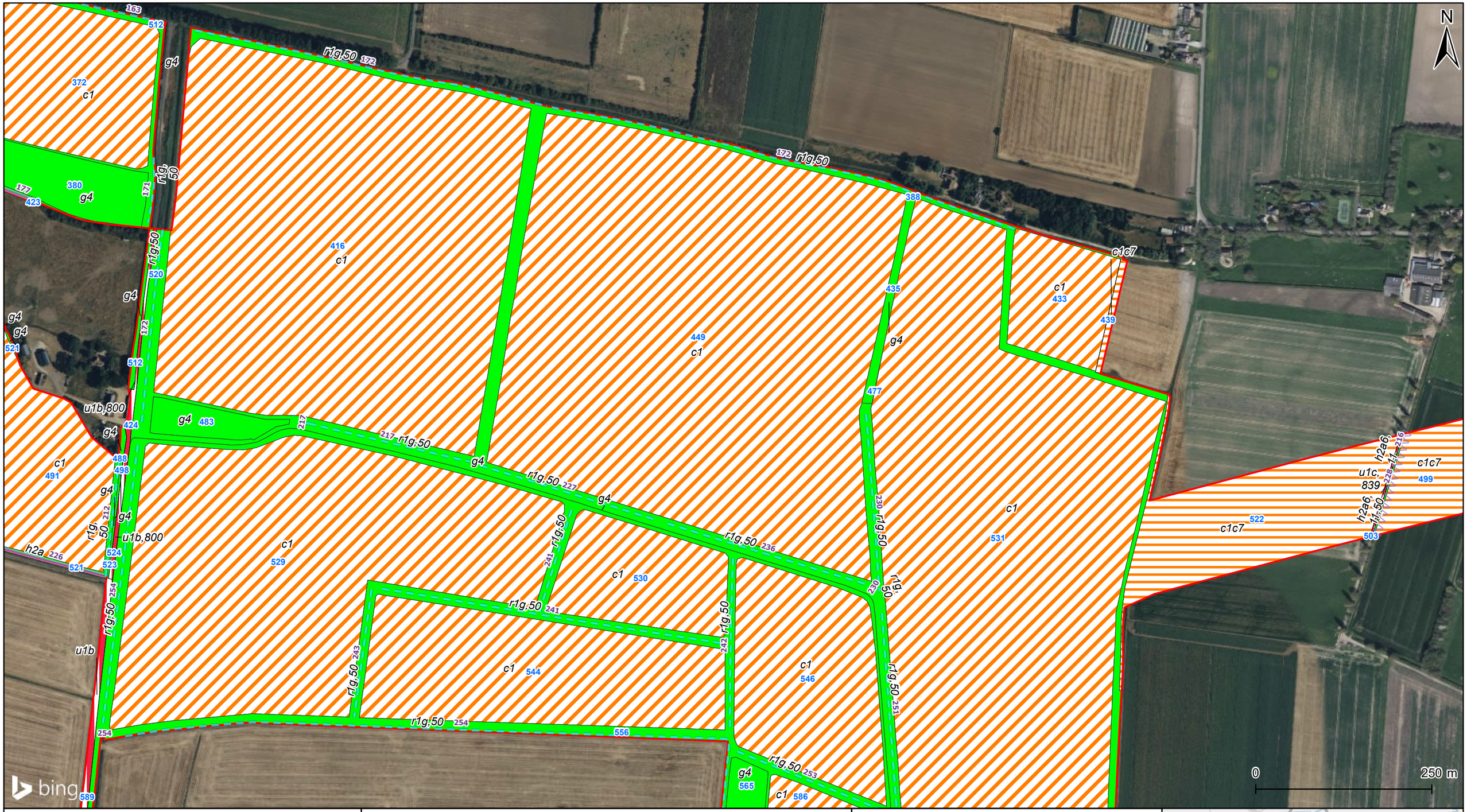


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 24

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees

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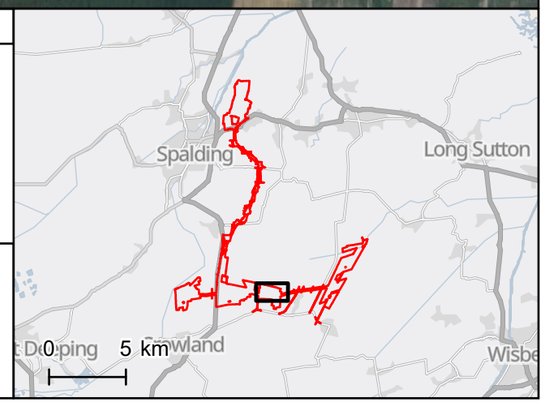


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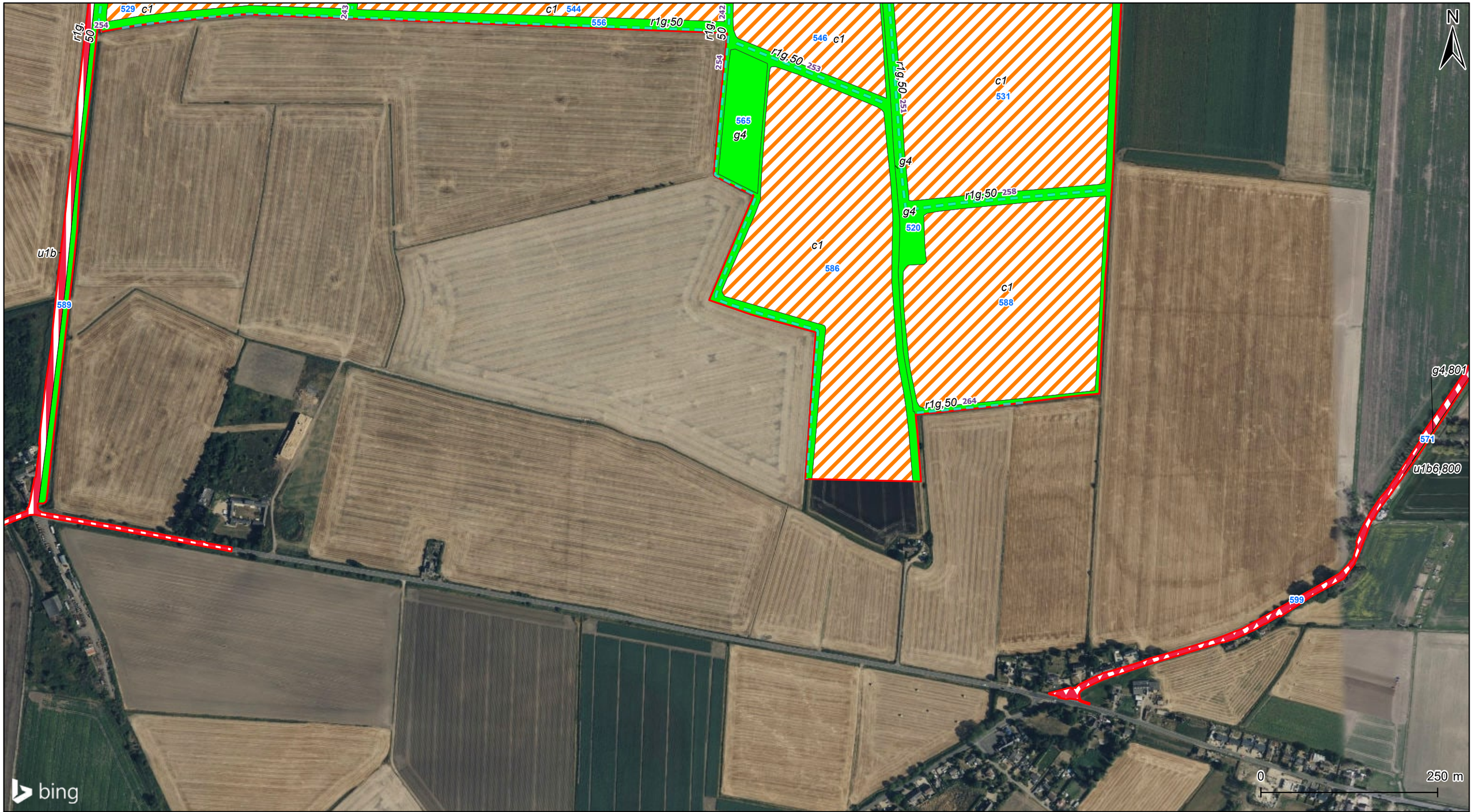


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|---|---|---|---|
| Project Title: Meridian Solar Farm | | | |
| Map Title: Environmental Statement<br>Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)<br>across SDA, GCR and IAC -<br>Page 25 | | | |
| Scale @ A3<br>1:5,000 | Version<br>0 | Drawn<br>JM | Reviewed<br>JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

800 - Road

801 - Road verge or island

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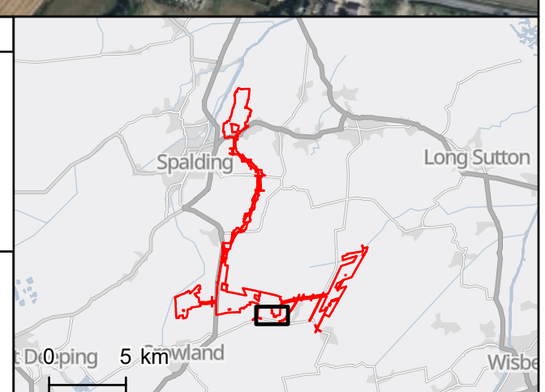


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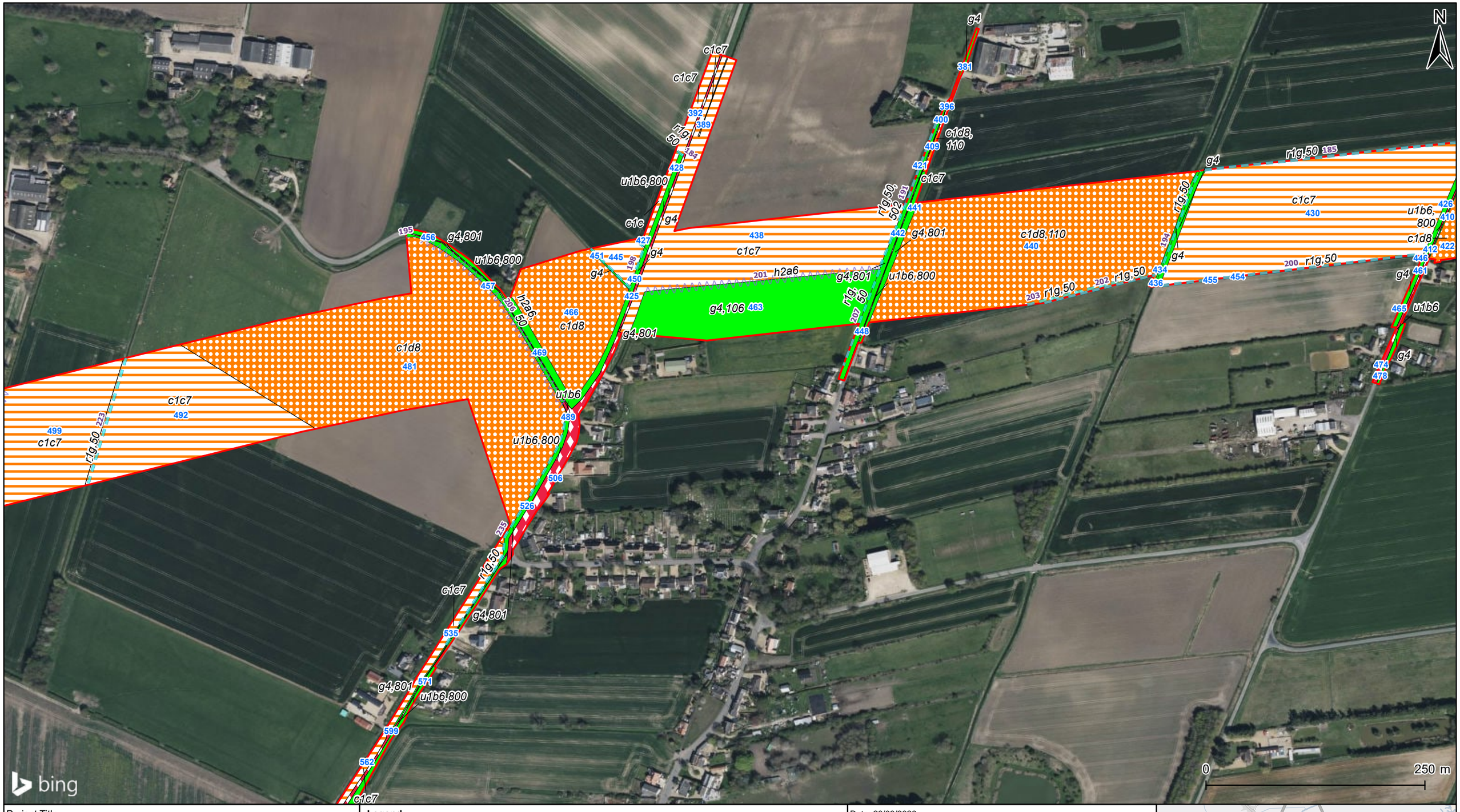


| | |
|---|---|
| Project Title | Meridian Solar Farm |
| Map Title | Environmental Statement<br>Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -<br>Page 26 |

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

| | |
|---|---|
| Order Limits | r1g - Other standing water |
| **Primary habitat** | **Secondary code** |
| c1c - Cereal crops | 106 - Mown |
| c1c7 - Other cereal crops | 110 - Silage and haylage |
| c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops | 800 - Road |
| g4 - Modified grassland | 801 - Road verge or island |
| u1b6 - Other developed land | 50 - Ditch |
| h2a6 - Other native hedgerow | |

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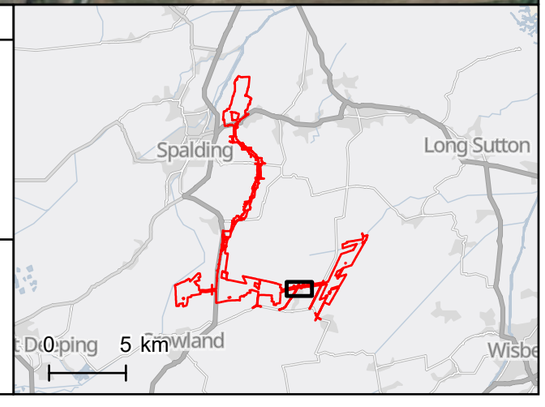


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 27

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

800 - Road

801 - Road verge or island

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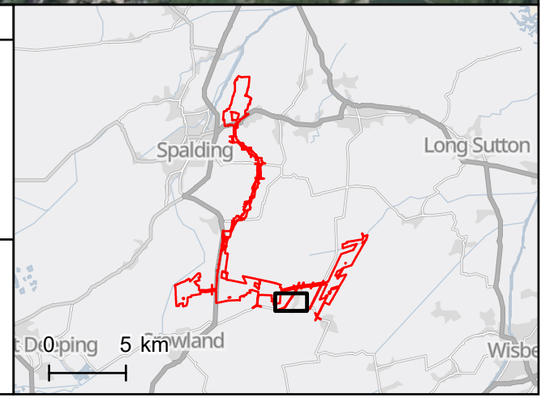


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 28

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:6,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

c1 - Arable and horticulture

g4 - Modified grassland

u1b - Developed land, sealed surface

u1b6 - Other developed land

r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

800 - Road

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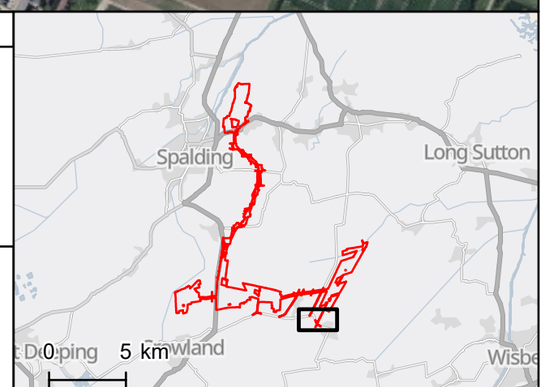


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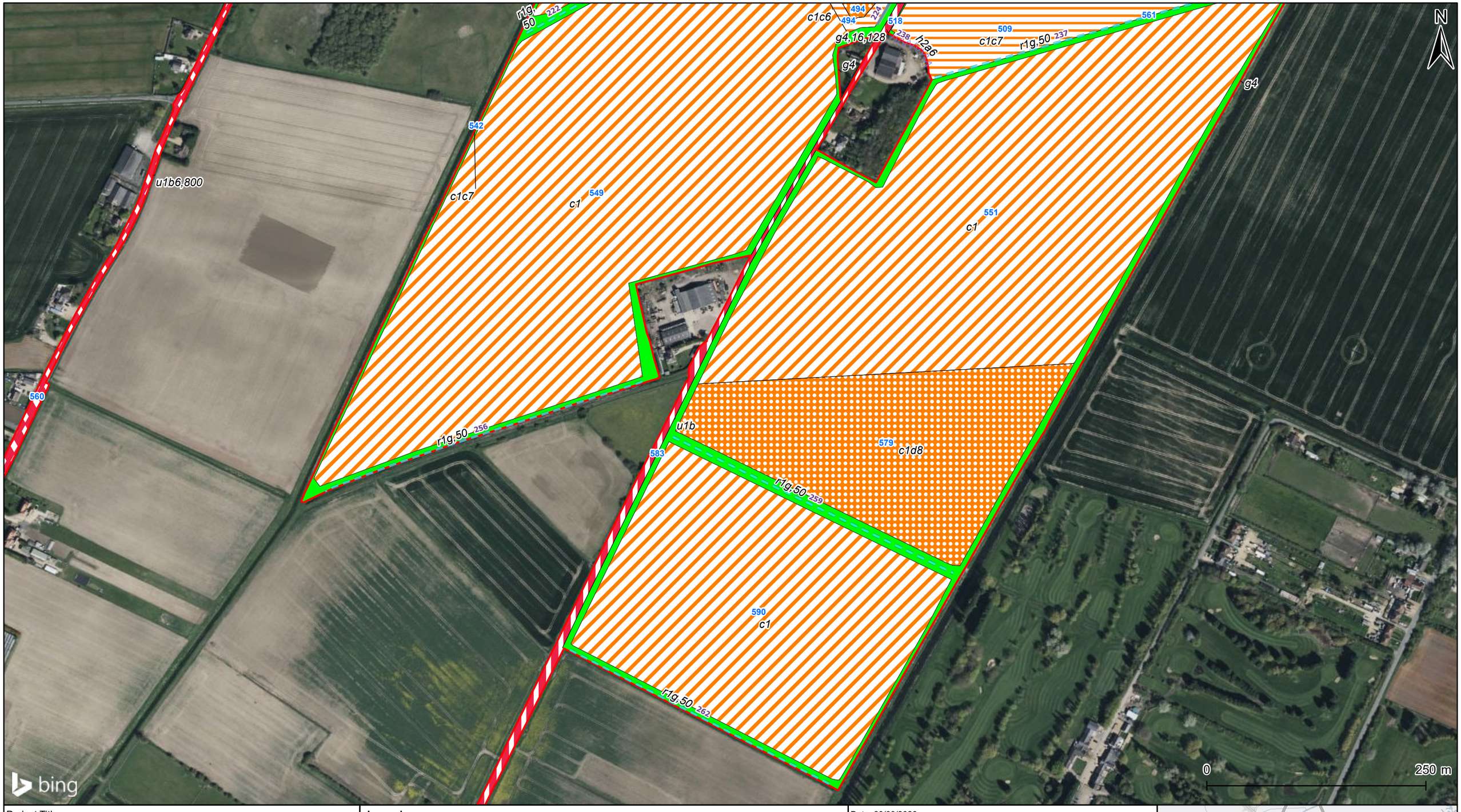


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC - Page 29

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Primary habitat
- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- Secondary code
- 16 - Tall forbs
- 800 - Road

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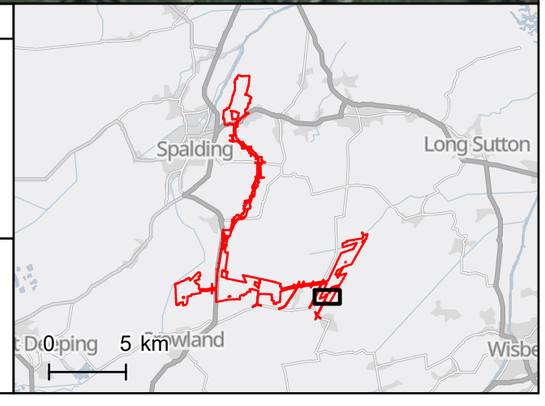


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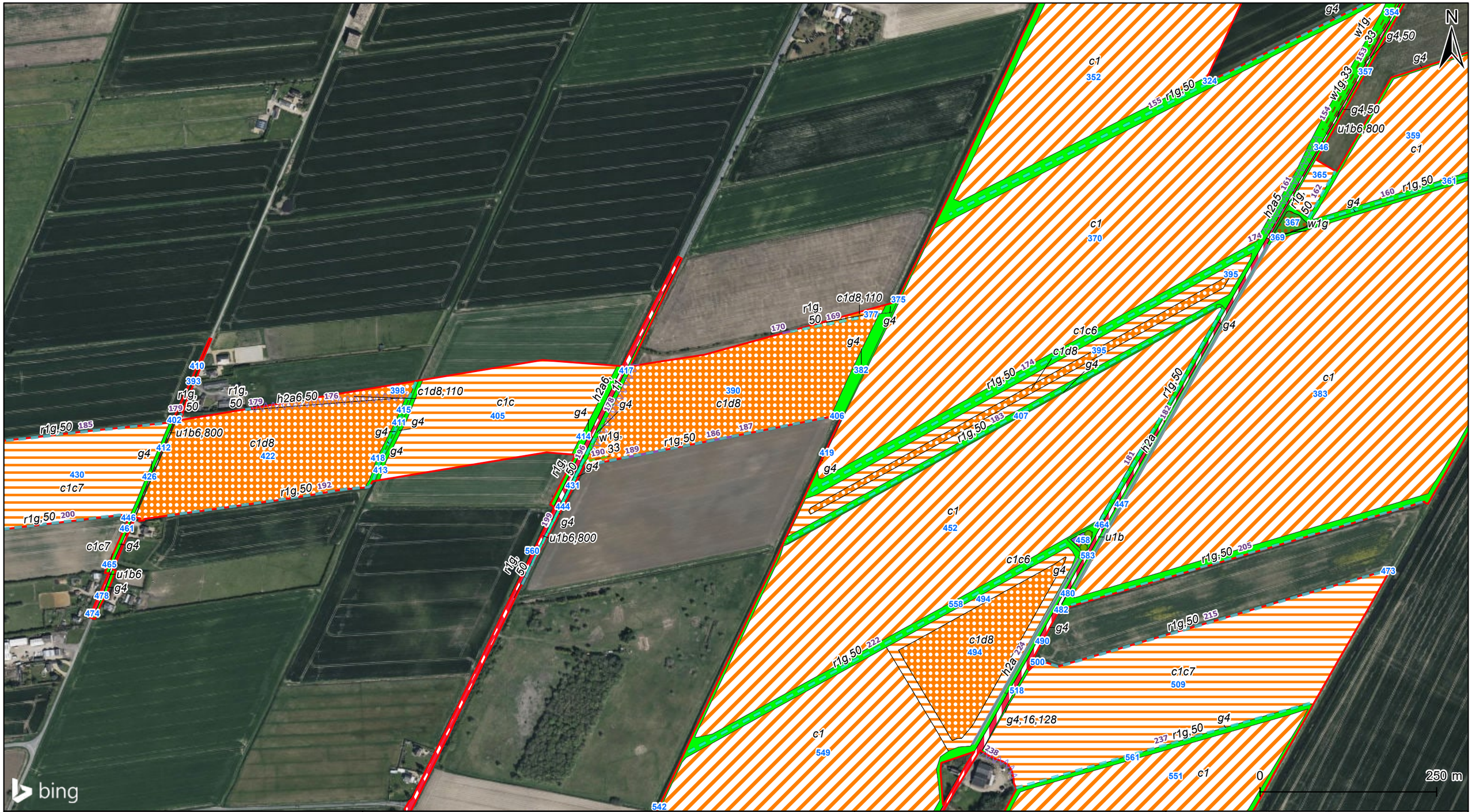


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 30

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- h3f - Hawthorn scrub
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 16 - Tall forbs
- 29 - Plantation
- 50 - Ditch
- 110 - Silage and haylage
- 604 - Whole-field fallow
- 800 - Road

Date: 20/03/2026

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Meridian Solar

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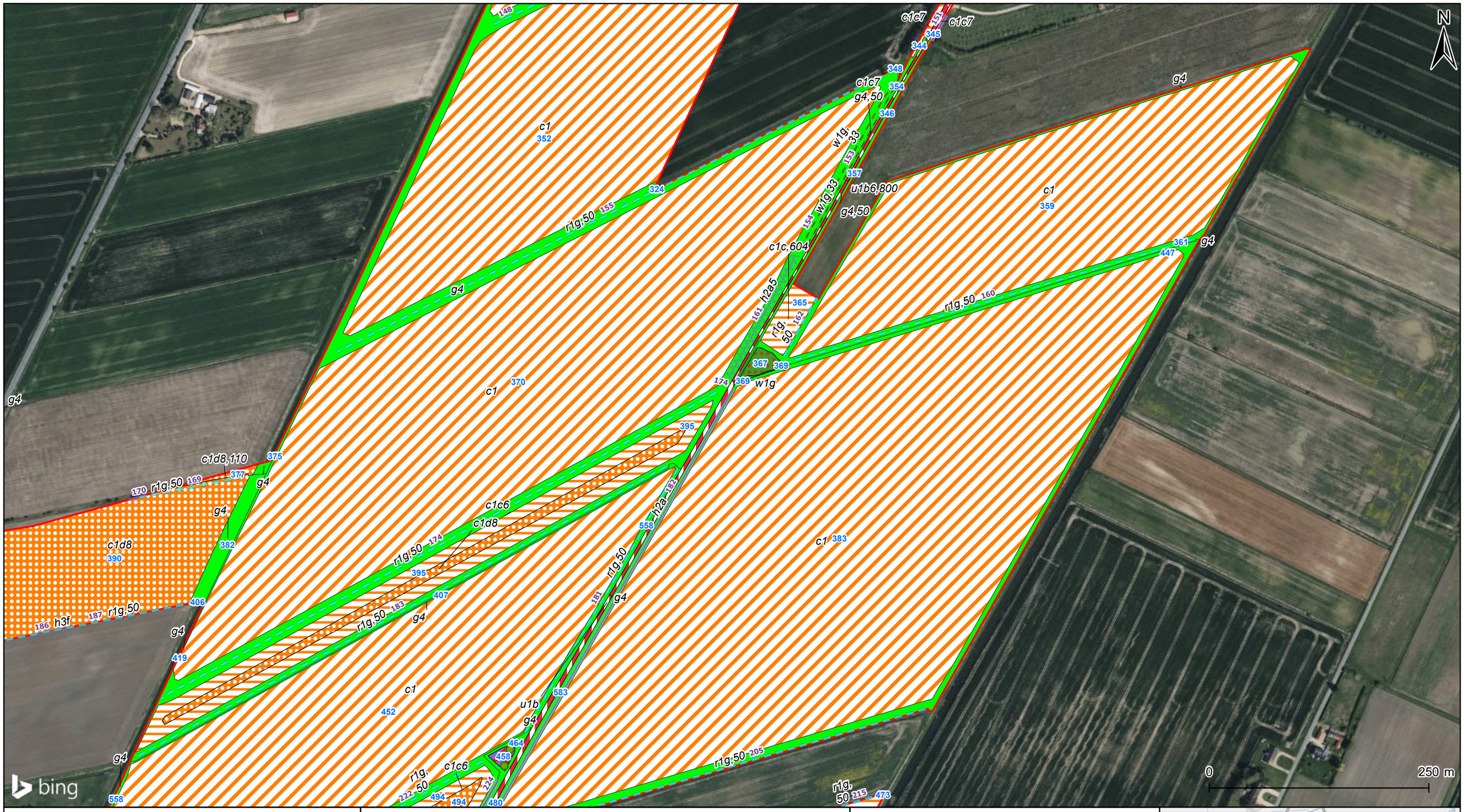


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|---|---|---|---|
| Project Title: Meridian Solar Farm | | | |
| Map Title: Environmental Statement<br>Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)<br>across SDA, GCR and IAC -<br>Page 31 | | | |
| Scale @ A3<br>1:4,000 | Version<br>0 | Drawn<br>JM | Reviewed<br>JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h3f - Hawthorn scrub
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 29 - Plantation
- 50 - Ditch
- 110 - Silage and haylage
- 604 - Whole-field fallow
- 800 - Road

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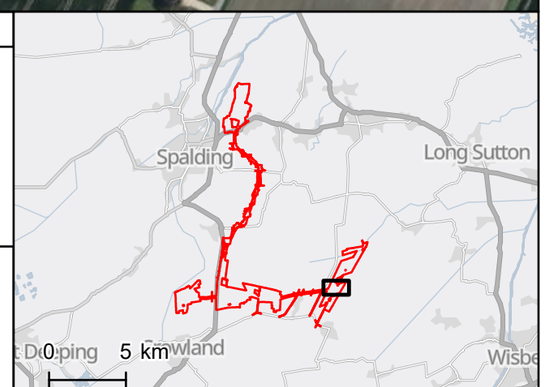


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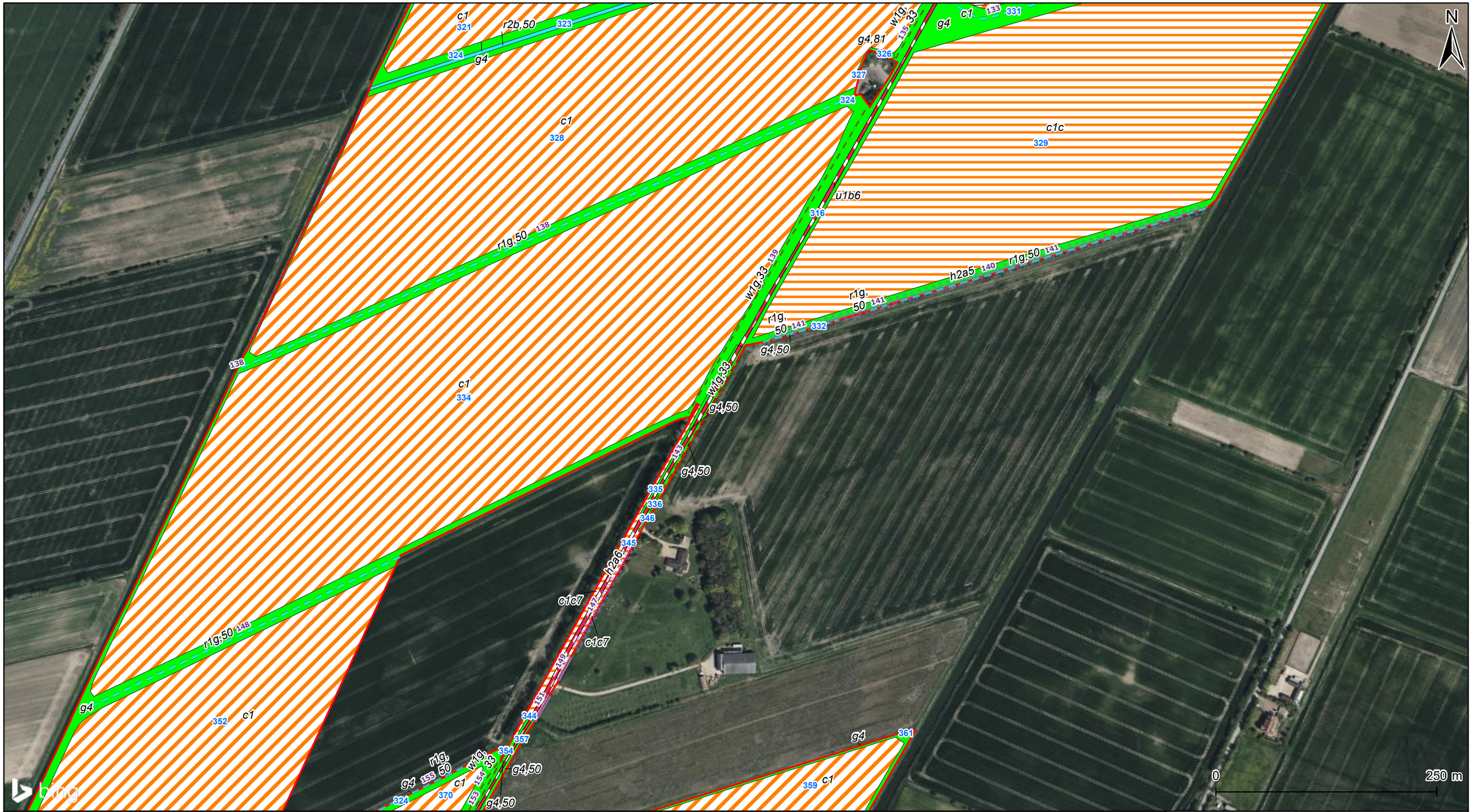


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 32

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland

Secondary code

- 50 - Ditch
- 81 - Ruderal or ephemeral
- 800 - Road

Date: 20/03/2026

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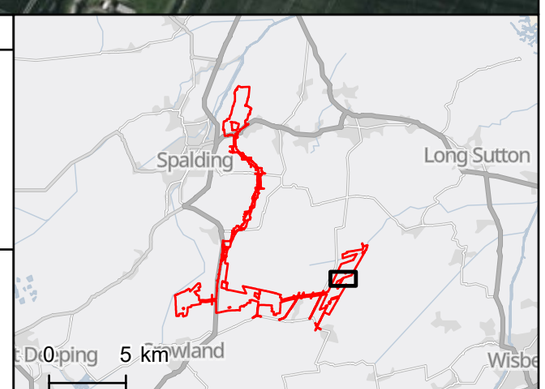


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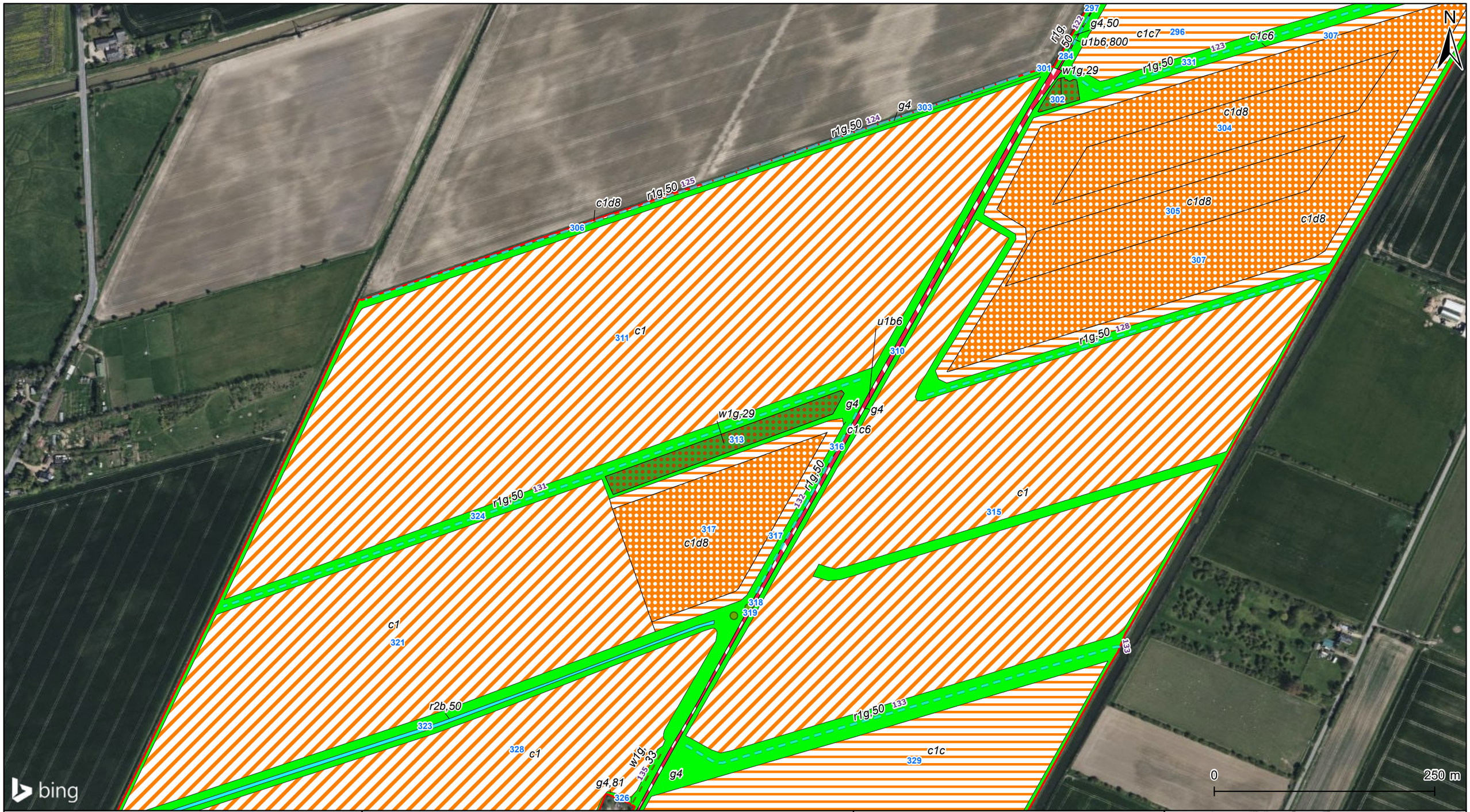


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 33

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 29 - Plantation
- 50 - Ditch
- 81 - Ruderal or ephemeral
- 800 - Road

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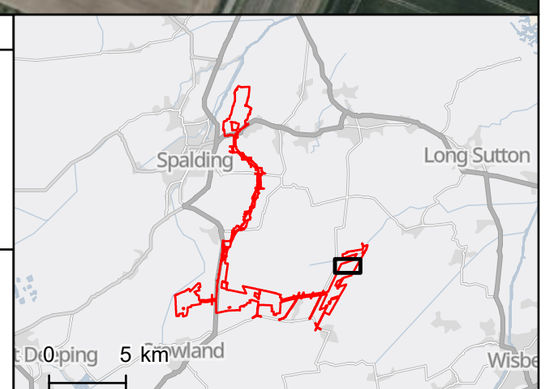


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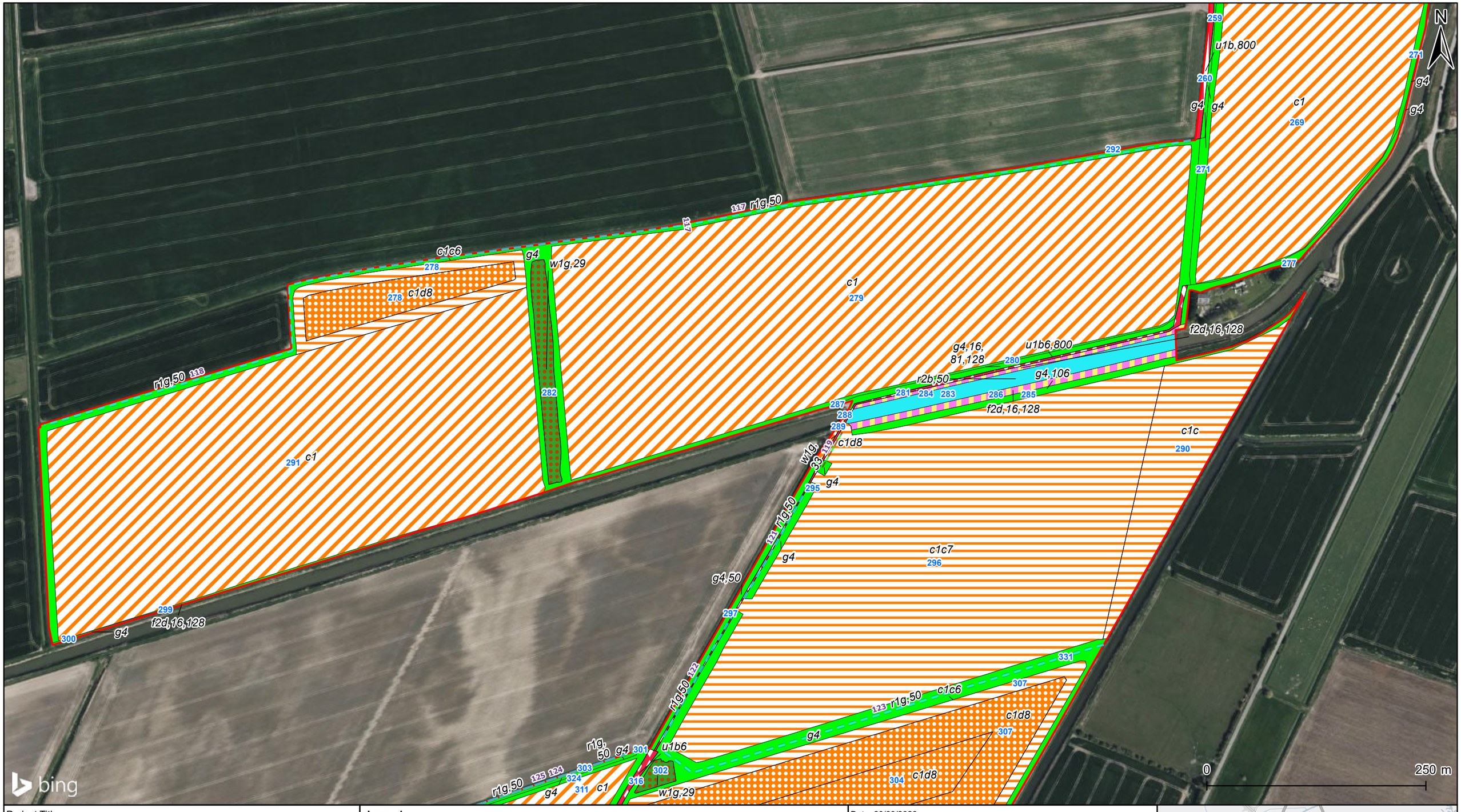


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 34

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- f2d - Aquatic marginal vegetation
- g4 - Modified grassland
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland

Secondary code

- 16 - Tall forbs
- 29 - Plantation
- 50 - Ditch
- 106 - Mown
- 800 - Road

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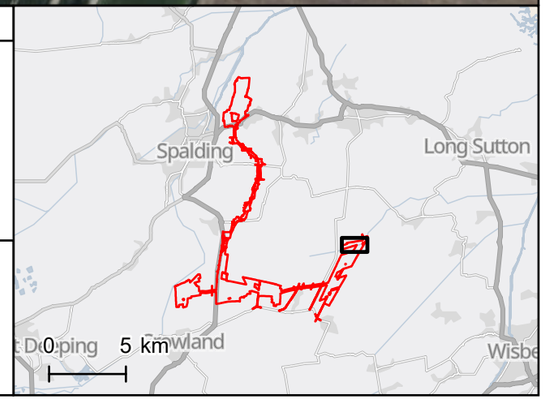


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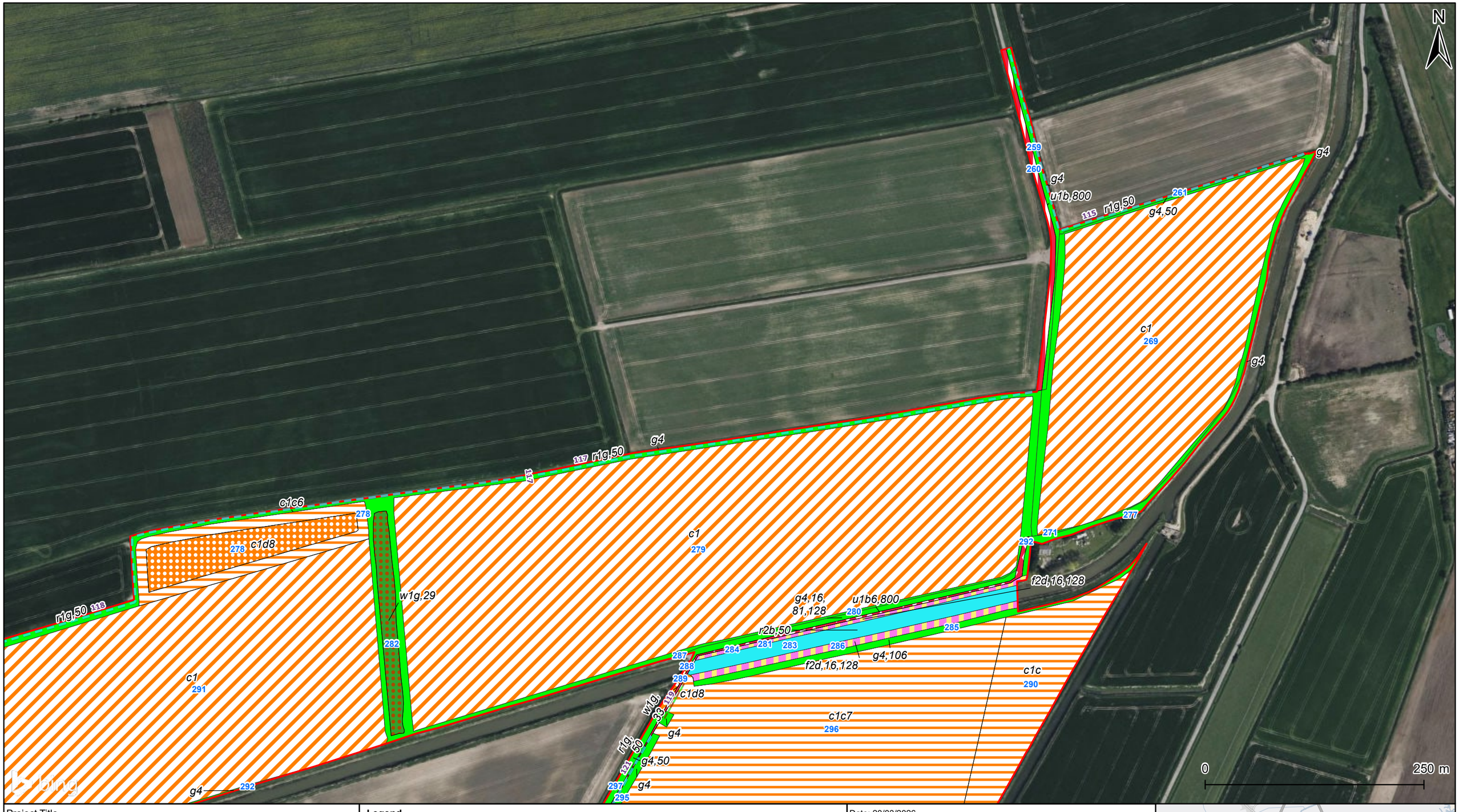


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.1: UKHab Baseline (Habitat Map)
across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 35

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- f2d - Aquatic marginal vegetation
- g4 - Modified grassland
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland

Secondary code

- 16 - Tall forbs
- 29 - Plantation
- 50 - Ditch
- 106 - Mown
- 800 - Road

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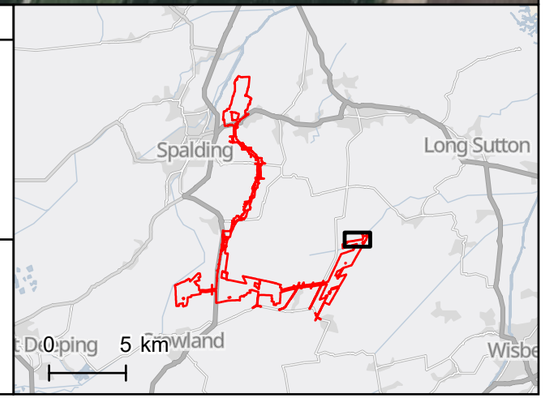


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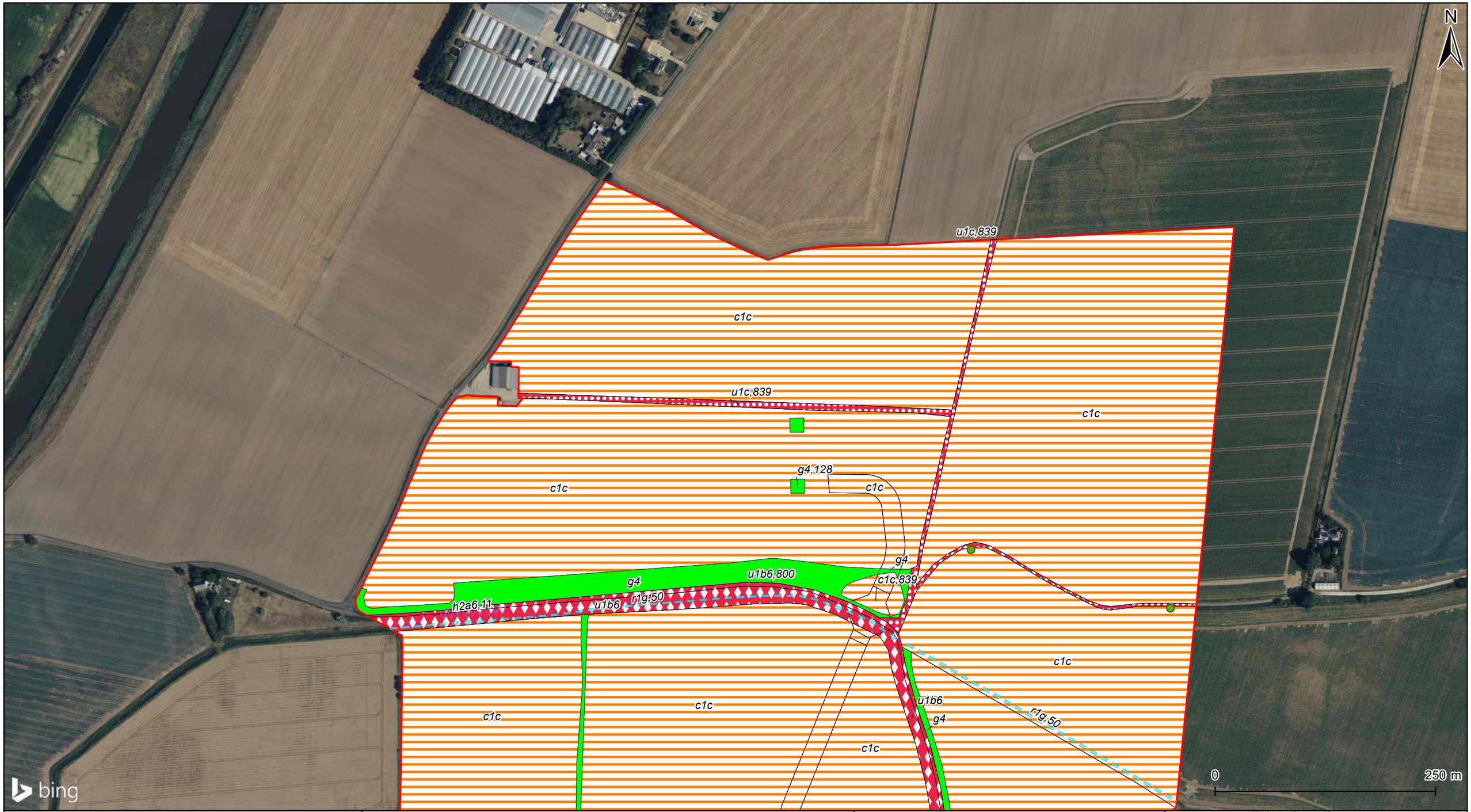
## Figure 2: Post-Development Habitats




Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 1

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Scattered tree

Primary habitat
- c1c - Cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 50 - Ditch

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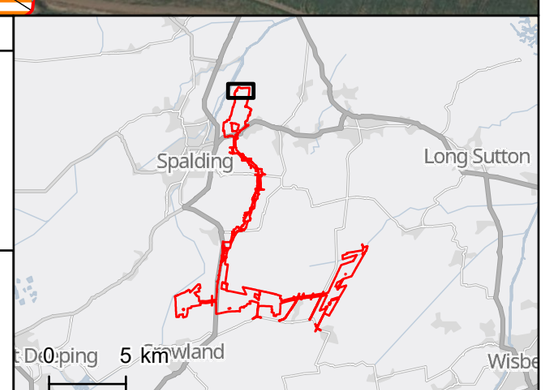


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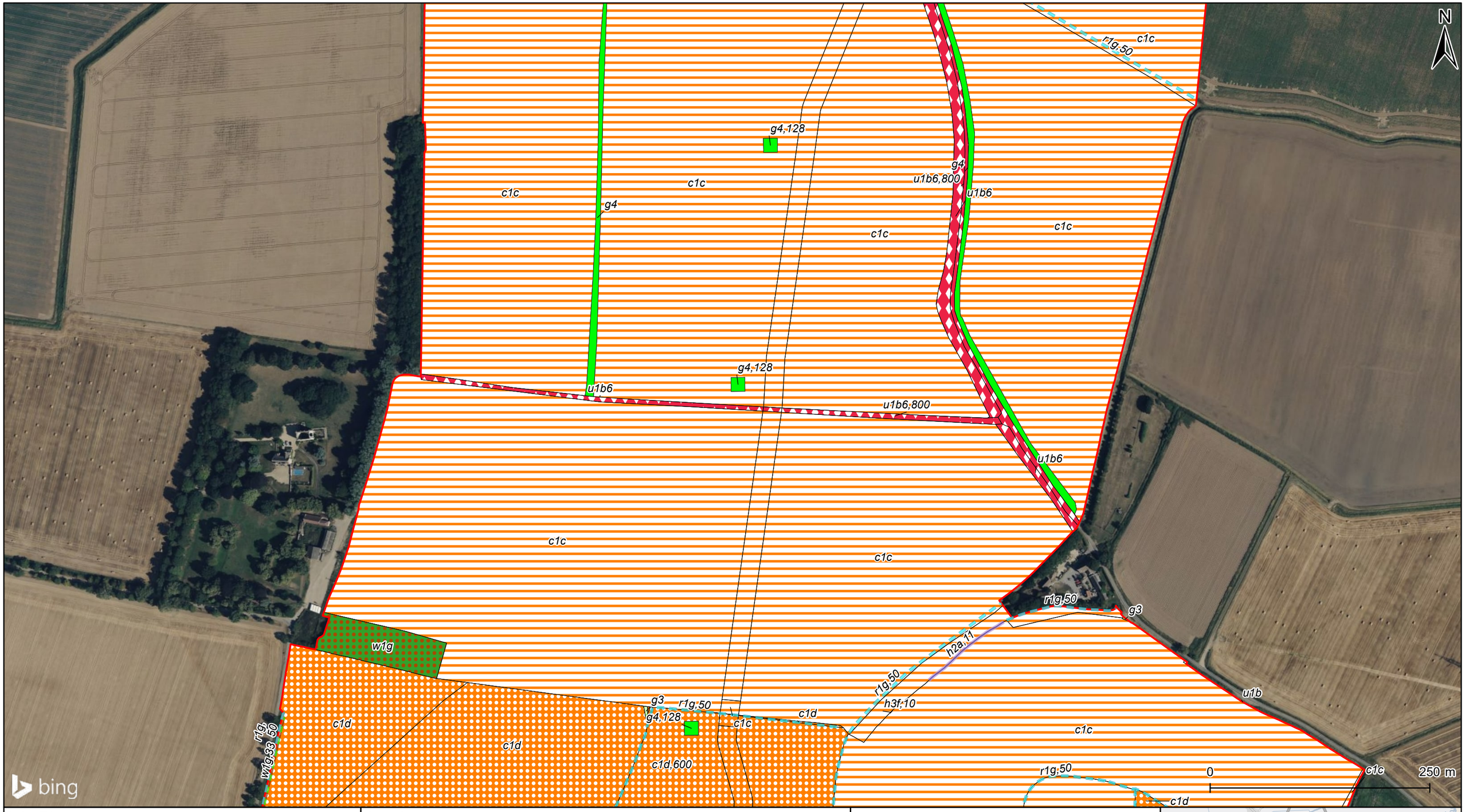


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 2

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3 - Neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3f - Hawthorn scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 600 - Ploughed
- 800 - Road
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch

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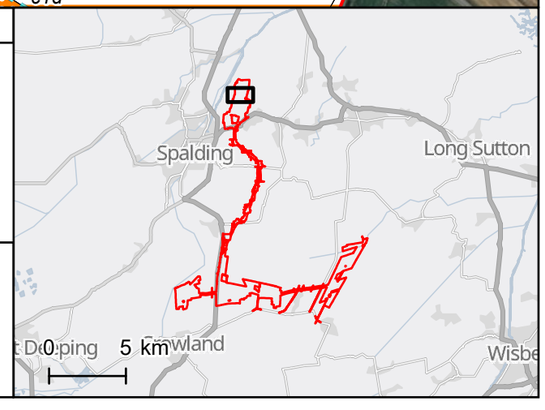


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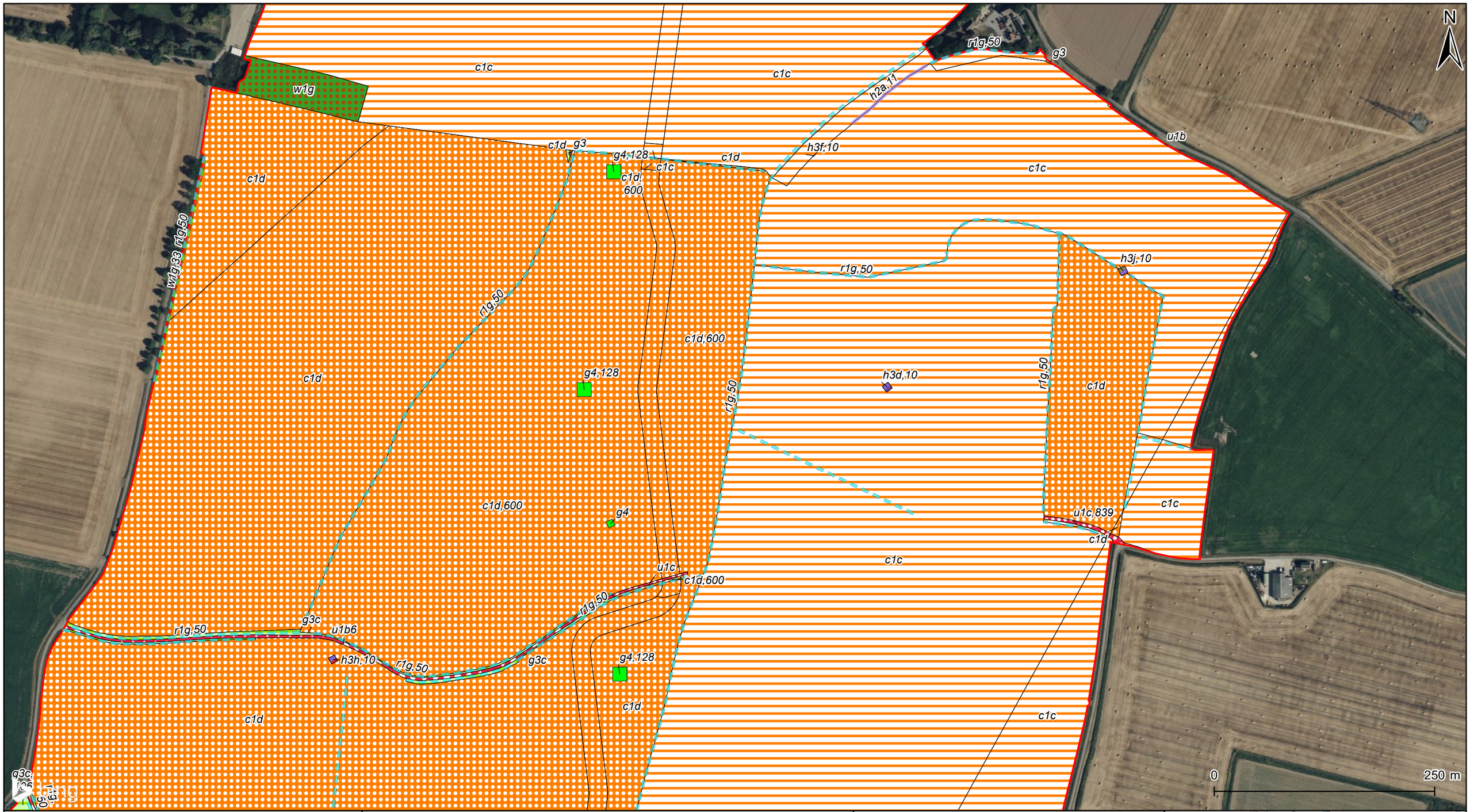


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 3

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3 - Neutral grassland
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3f - Hawthorn scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- h3j - Willow scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland

Secondary code
- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 106 - Mown
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 600 - Ploughed
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch

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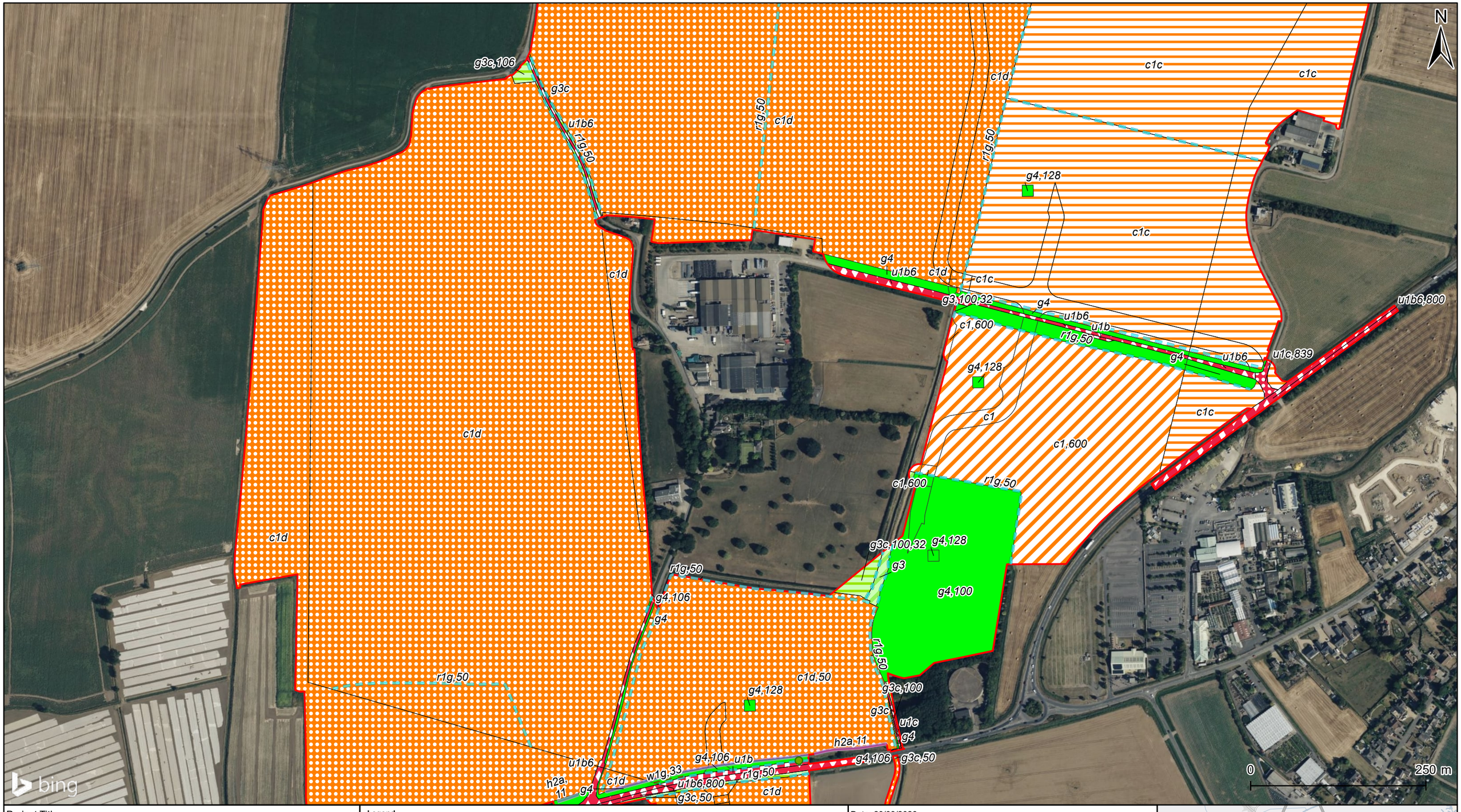


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 4

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Scattered tree

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3 - Neutral grassland
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland

Secondary code

- 50 - Ditch
- 100 - Grazed
- 106 - Mown
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 600 - Ploughed
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 32 - Scattered trees
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch

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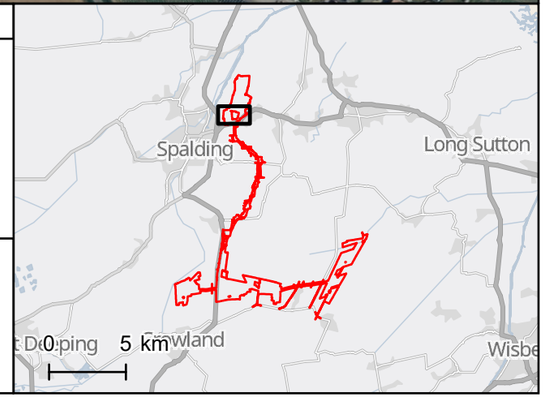


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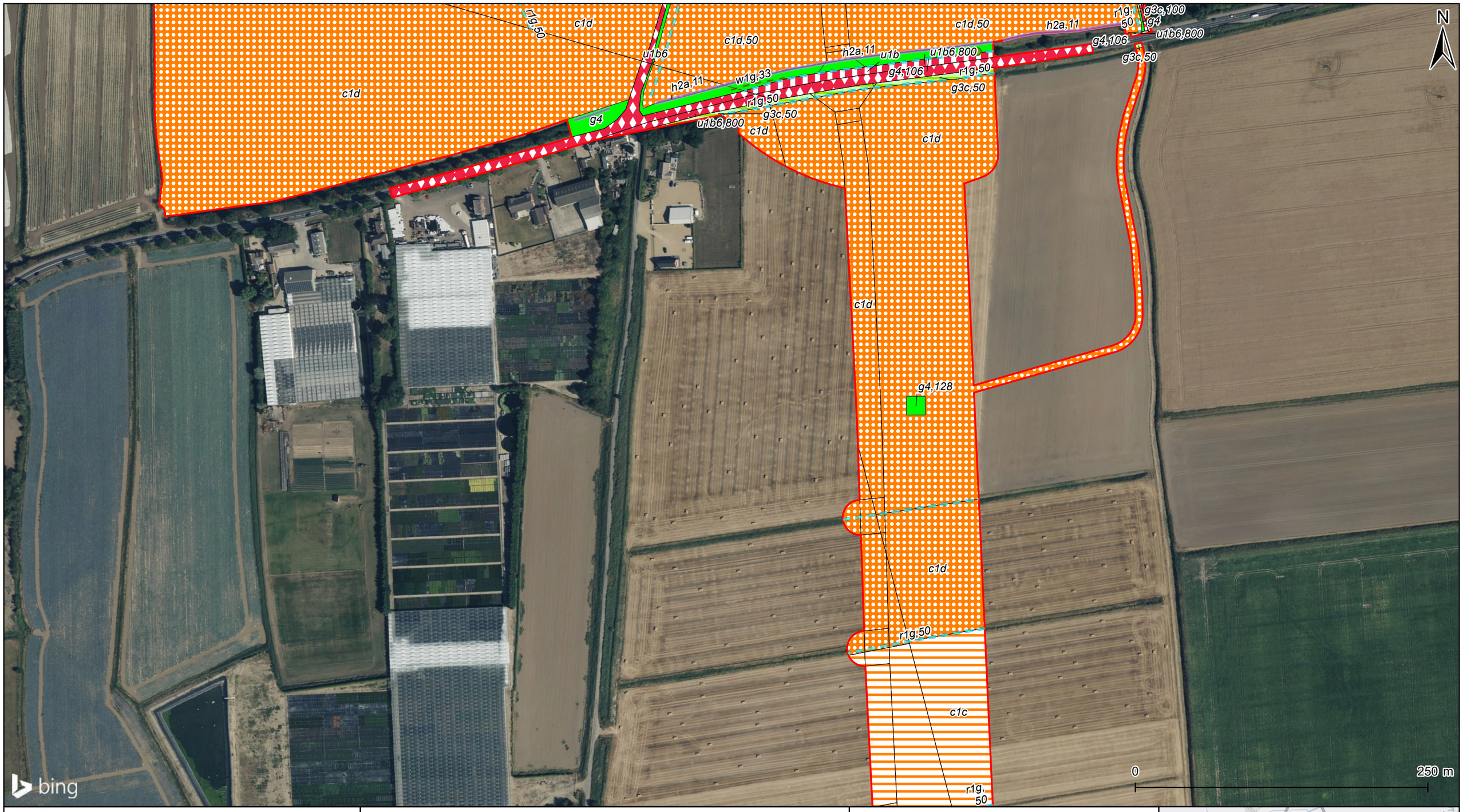


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 5

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:3,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 50 - Ditch
- 100 - Grazed
- 106 - Mown
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 800 - Road
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch

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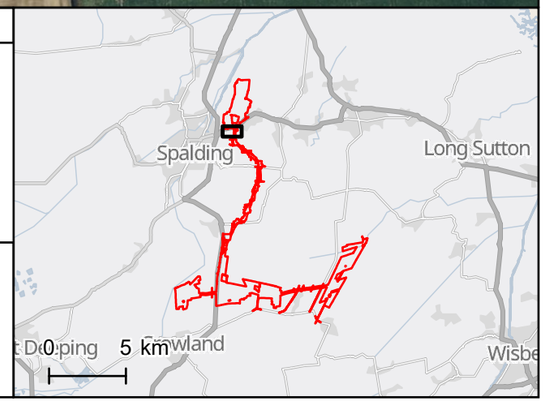


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 6

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- h3j - Willow scrub
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 16 - Tall forbs
- 106 - Mown
- 110 - Silage and haylage
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 827 - Garden
- 50 - Ditch

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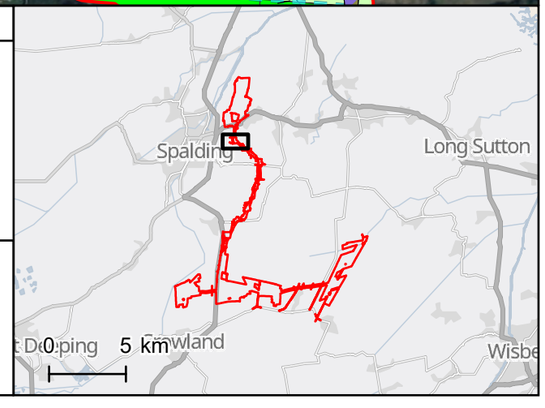


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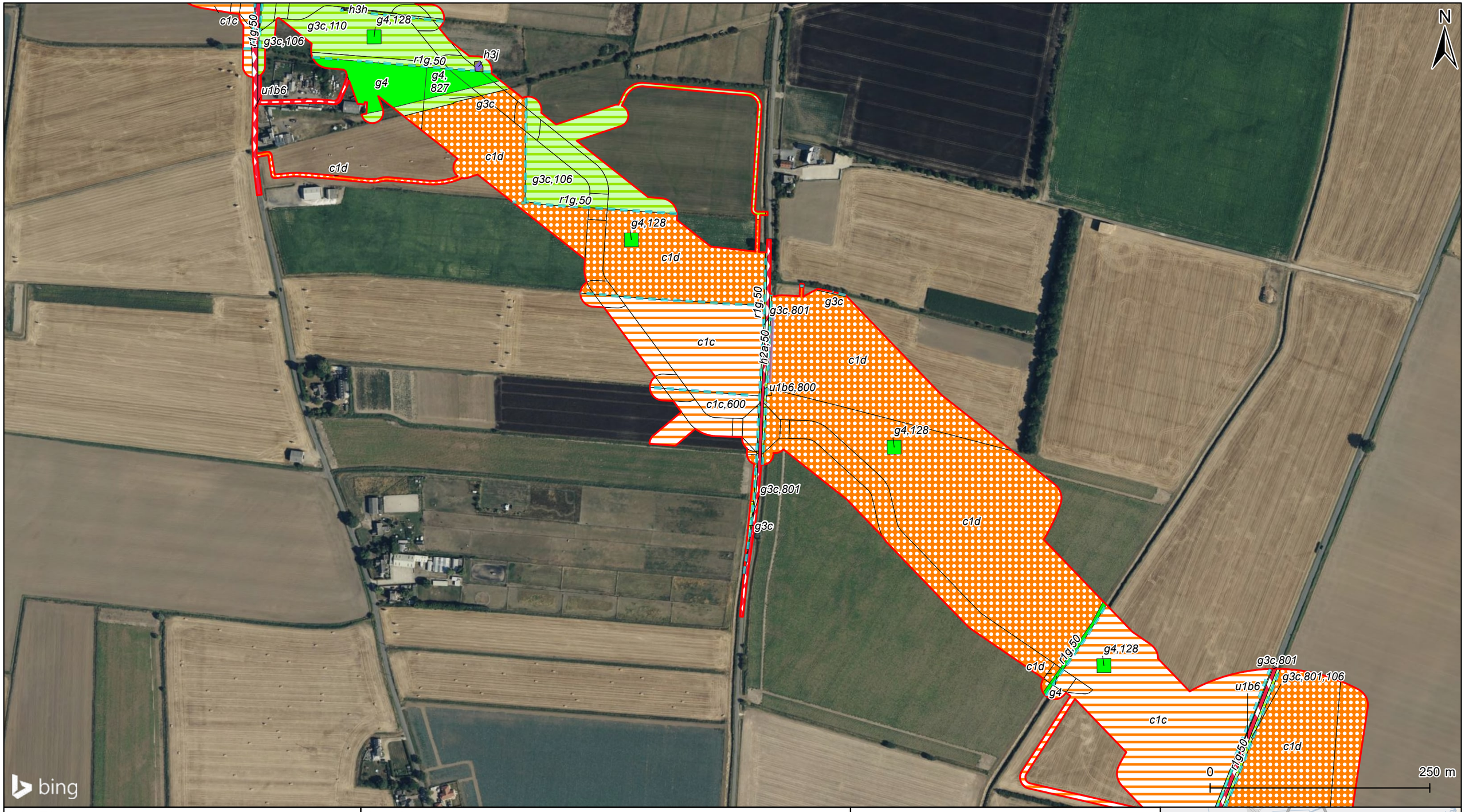


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 7

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

| | Secondary code |
|---|---|
| Order Limits | |
| Primary habitat | 106 - Mown |
| c1c - Cereal crops | 110 - Silage and haylage |
| c1d - Non-cereal crops | 128 - Tall or tussocky sward |
| g3c - Other neutral grassland | 600 - Ploughed |
| g4 - Modified grassland | 800 - Road |
| h3h - Mixed scrub | 801 - Road verge or island |
| h3j - Willow scrub | 827 - Garden |
| u1b6 - Other developed land | 106 - Mown |
| h2a - Native hedgerow | 50 - Ditch |
| r1g - Other standing water | |

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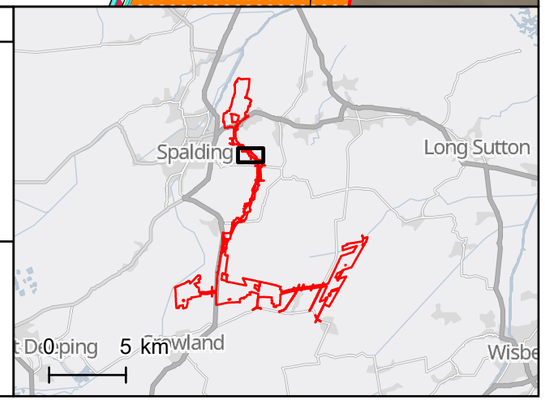
Meridian Solar

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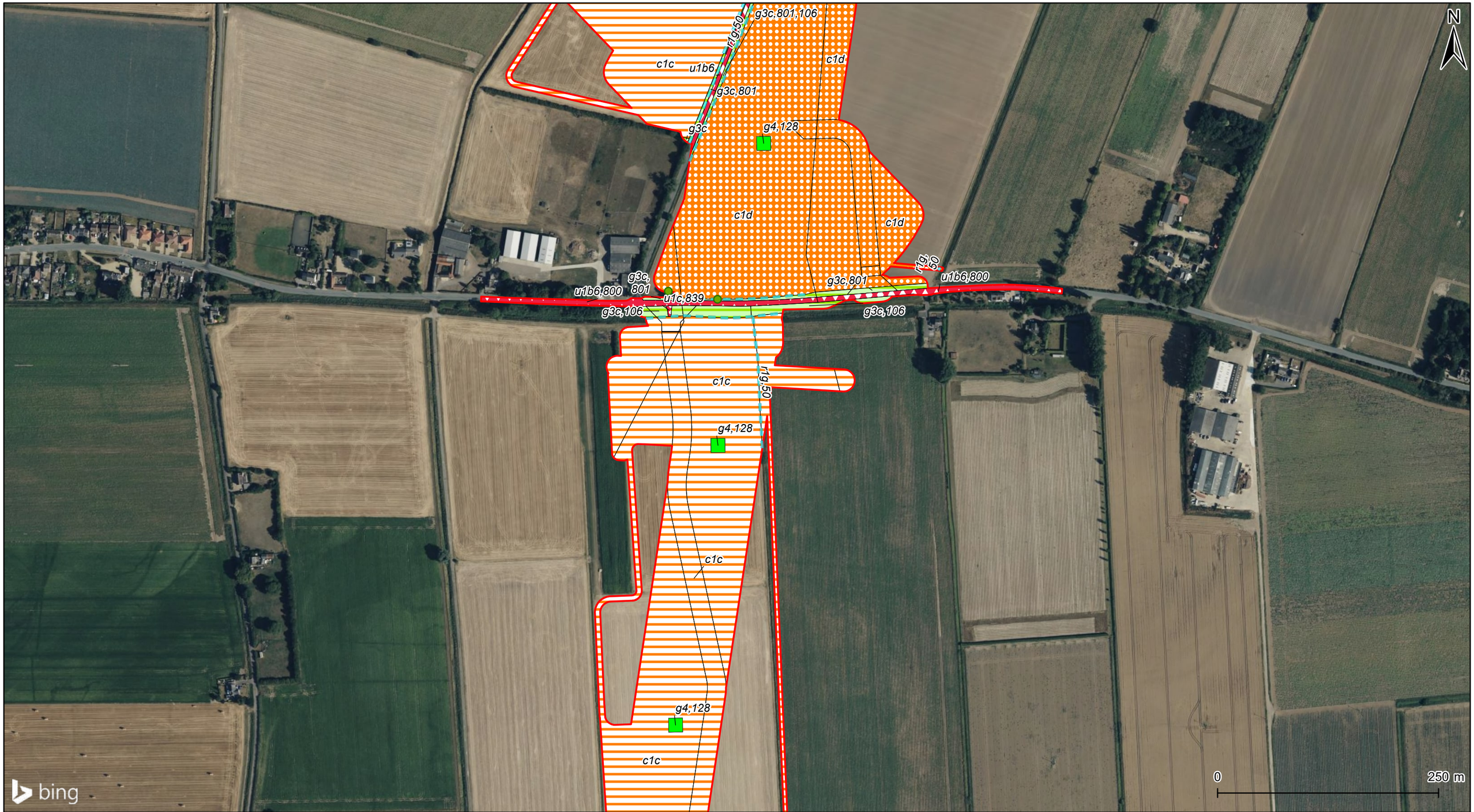


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 8

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- r1g - Other standing water

Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 106 - Mown
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 800 - Road
- 801 - Road verge or island
- 839 - Track
- 106 - Mown
- 50 - Ditch

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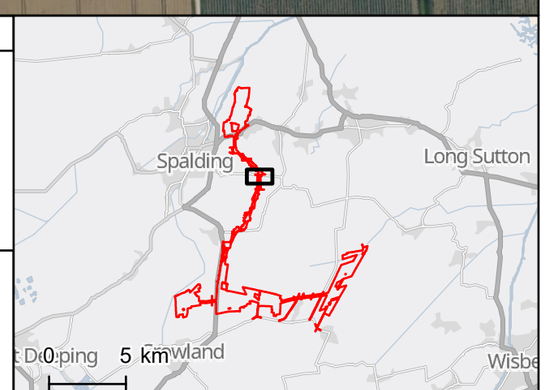


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 9

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface

r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 50 - Ditch

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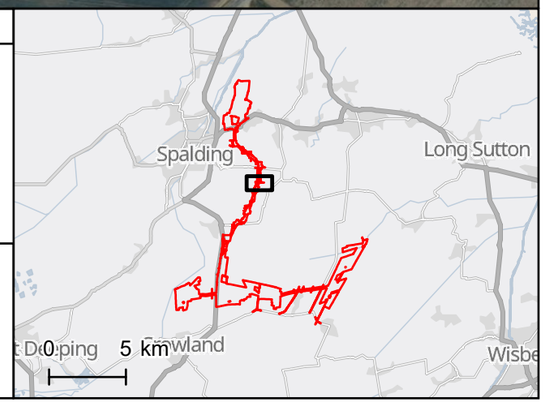


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 10

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

c1c - Cereal crops

g4 - Modified grassland

u1b6 - Other developed land

r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

128 - Tall or tussocky sward

800 - Road

50 - Ditch

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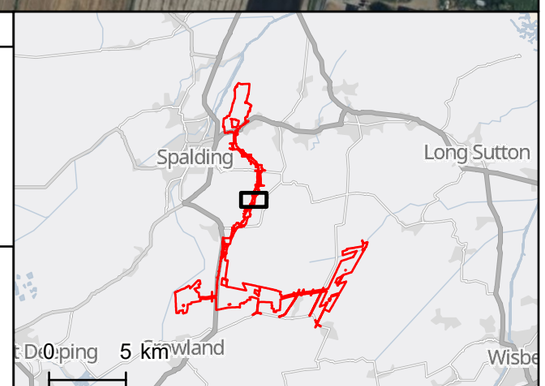


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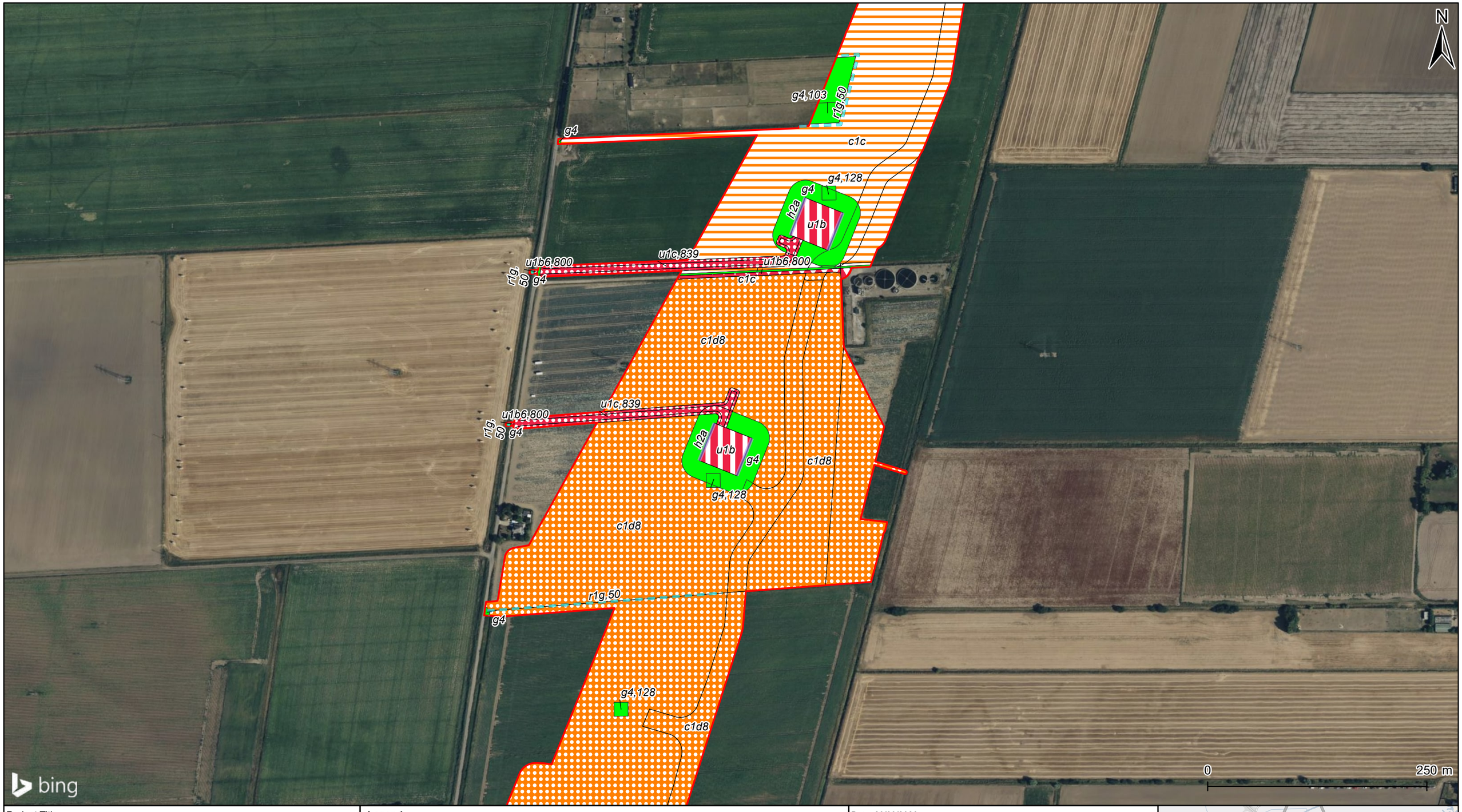


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 11

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 103 - Horse grazed
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 50 - Ditch

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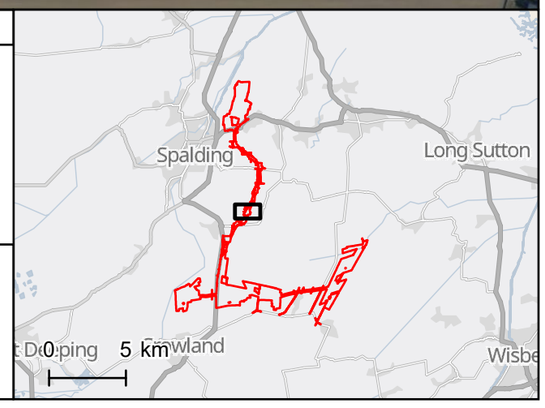


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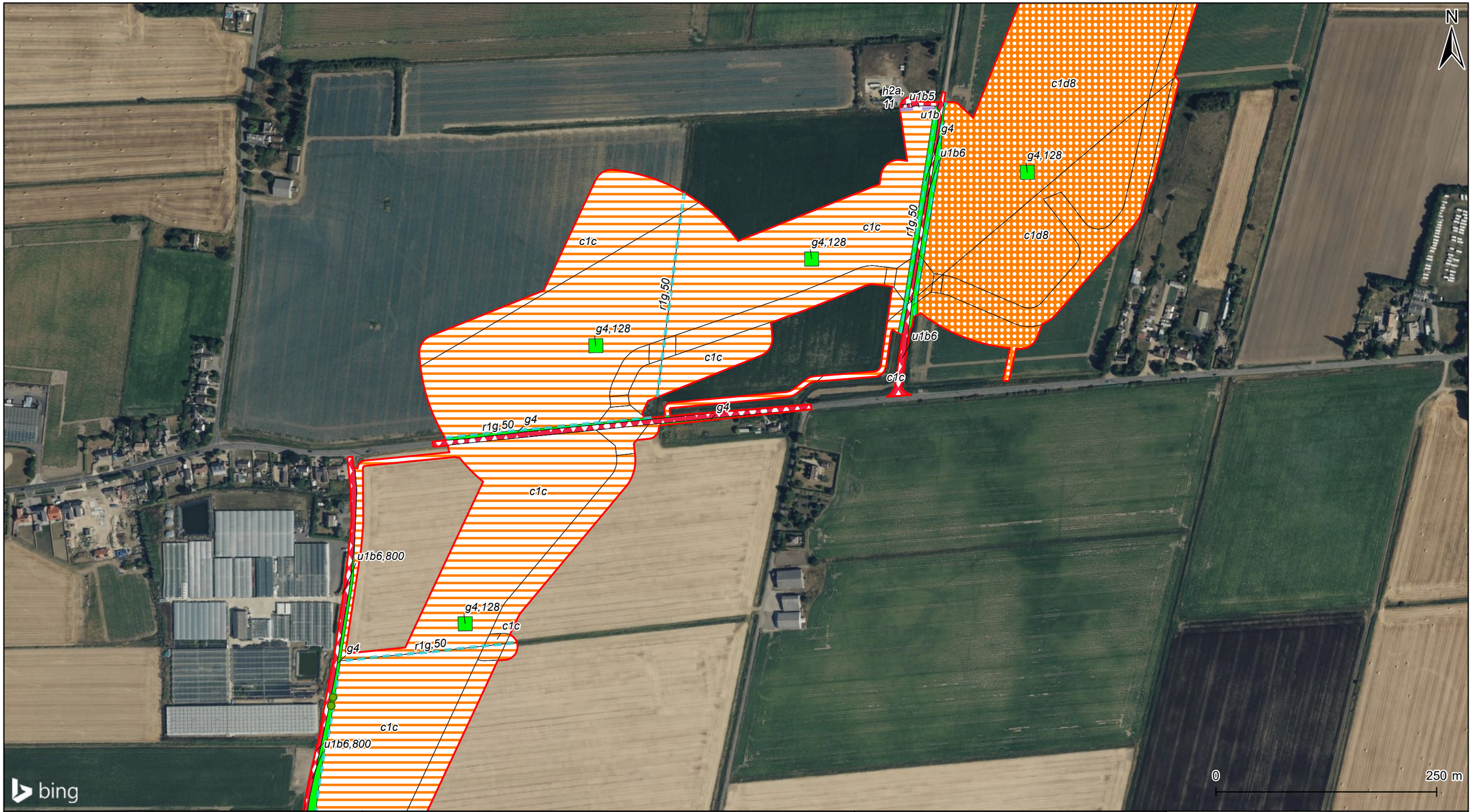


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 12

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Primary habitat
  - c1c - Cereal crops
  - c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
  - g4 - Modified grassland
  - u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
  - u1b5 - Buildings
  - u1b6 - Other developed land
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- Scattered tree
- Secondary code
  - 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
  - 800 - Road
  - 11 - Hedgerow with trees
  - 50 - Ditch

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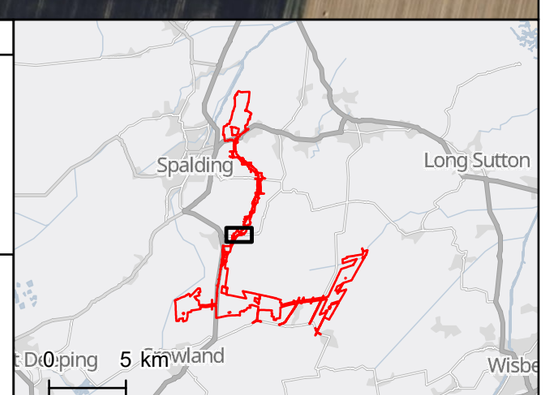


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 13

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 50 - Ditch
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 800 - Road
- 801 - Road verge or island
- 839 - Track
- 16 - Tall forbs
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 50 - Ditch

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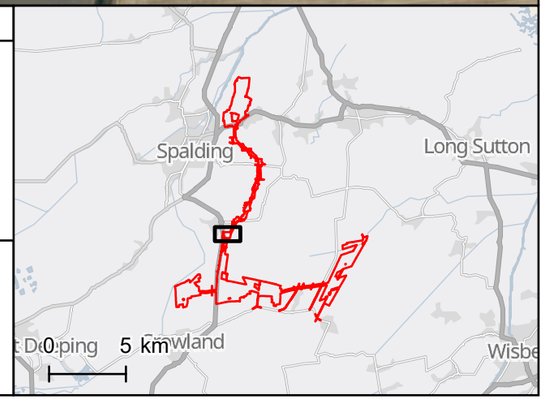


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 14

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- r1g - Other standing water

Secondary code

- 10 - Scattered scrub
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 839 - Track
- 16 - Tall forbs
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 50 - Ditch

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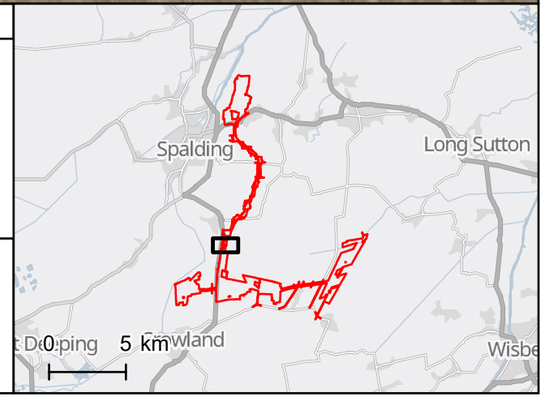


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC - Page 15

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- u1e - built linear feature

Secondary code

- 50 - Ditch
- 800 - Road
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

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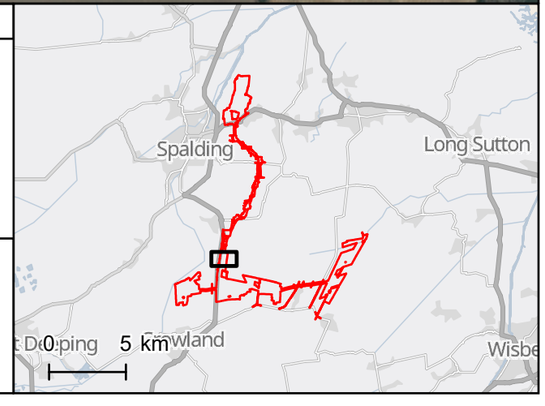


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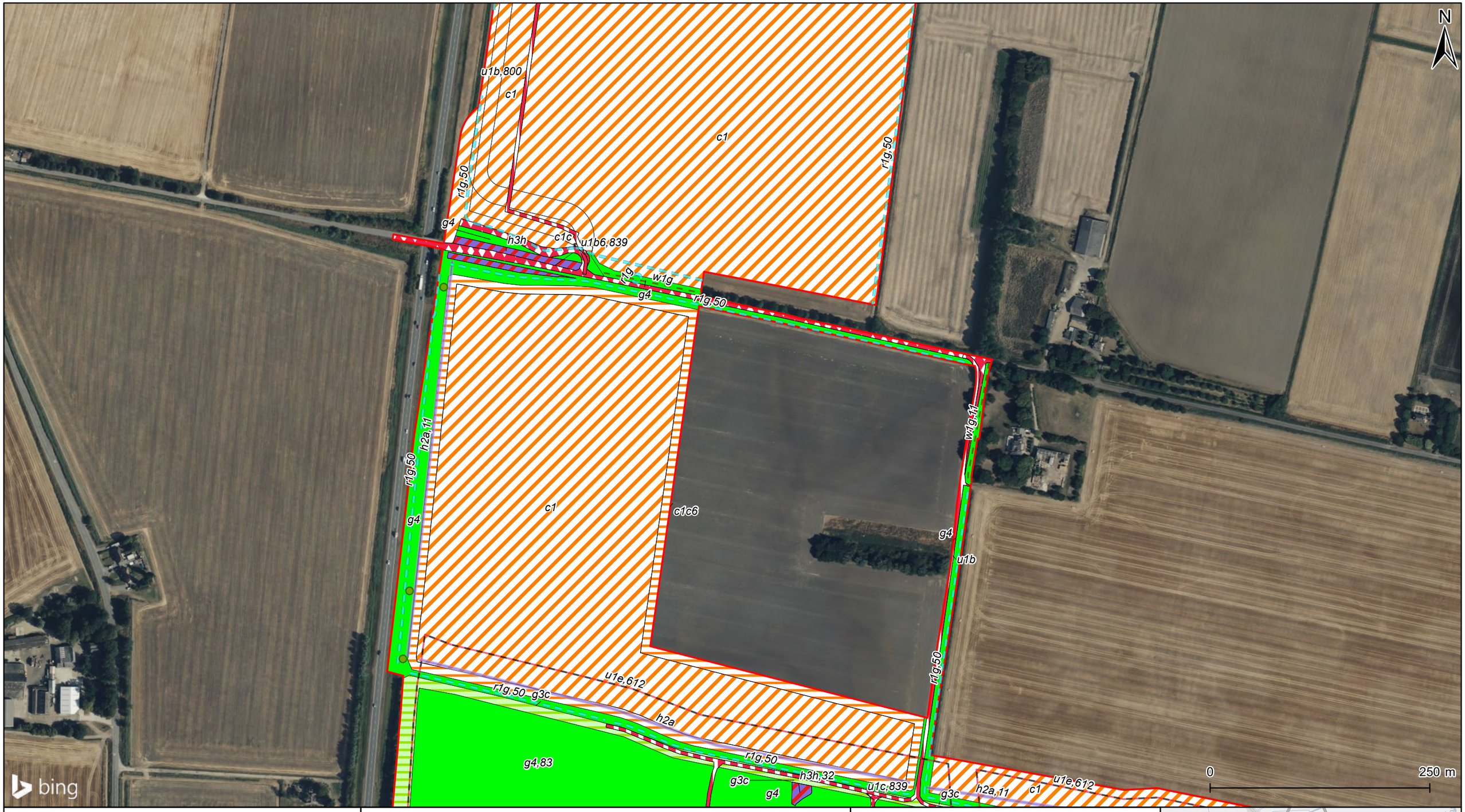


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 16

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
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**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 32 - Scattered trees
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

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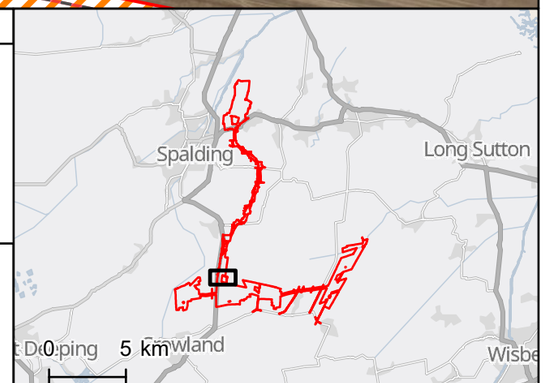


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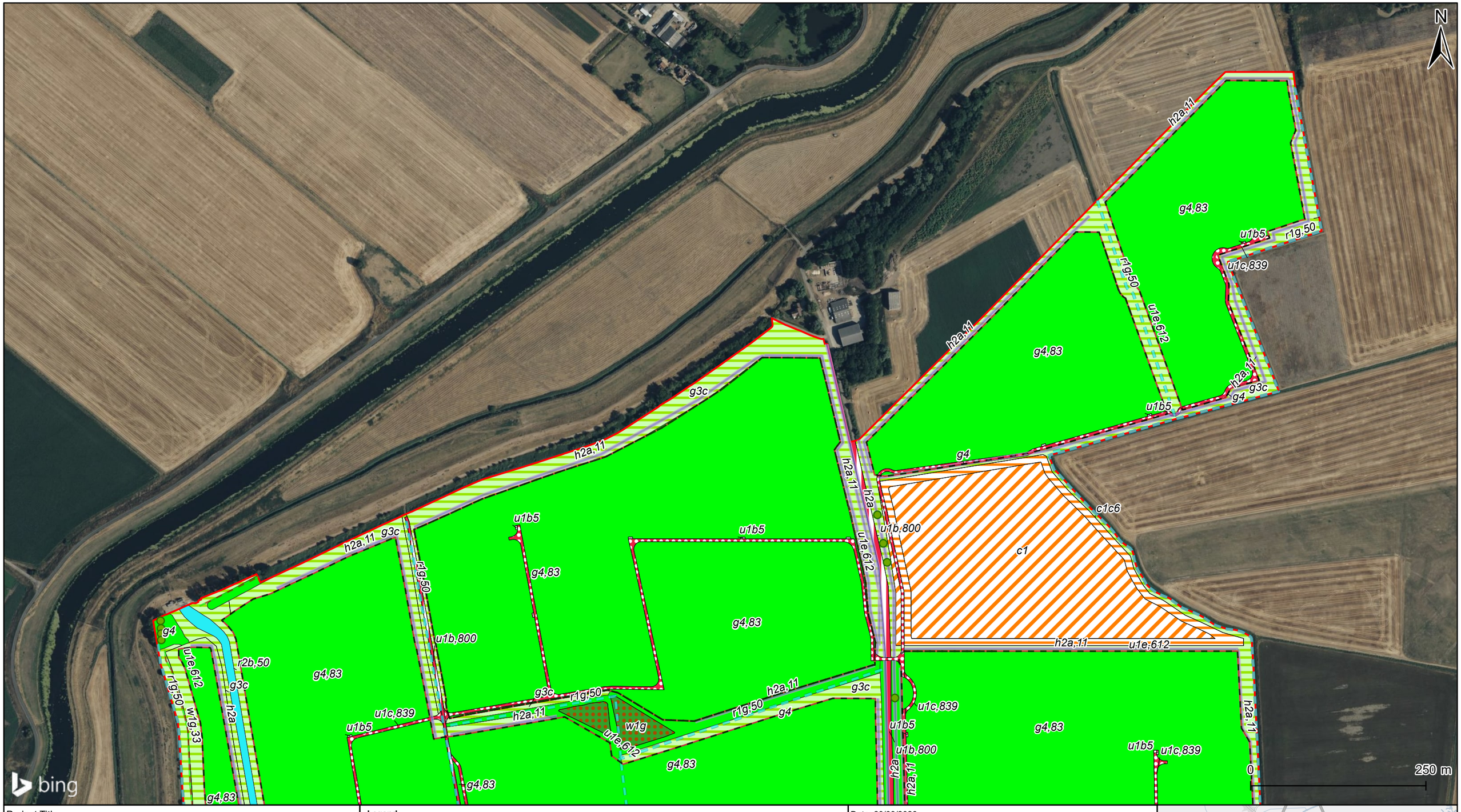


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 17

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat
- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature
- Scattered tree

Secondary code
- 50 - Ditch
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

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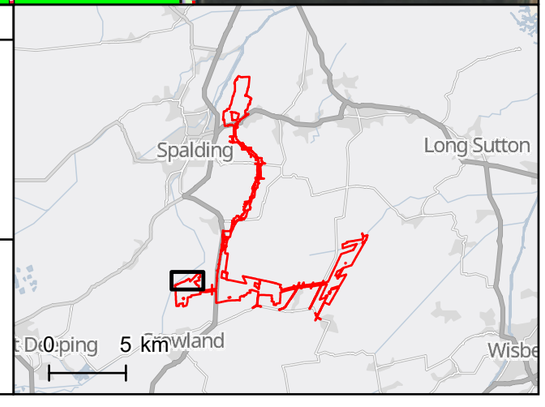


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 18

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- r1g - Other standing water
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature

Secondary code

- 50 - Ditch
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

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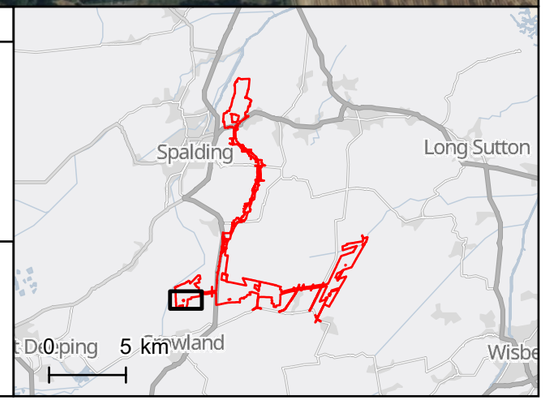


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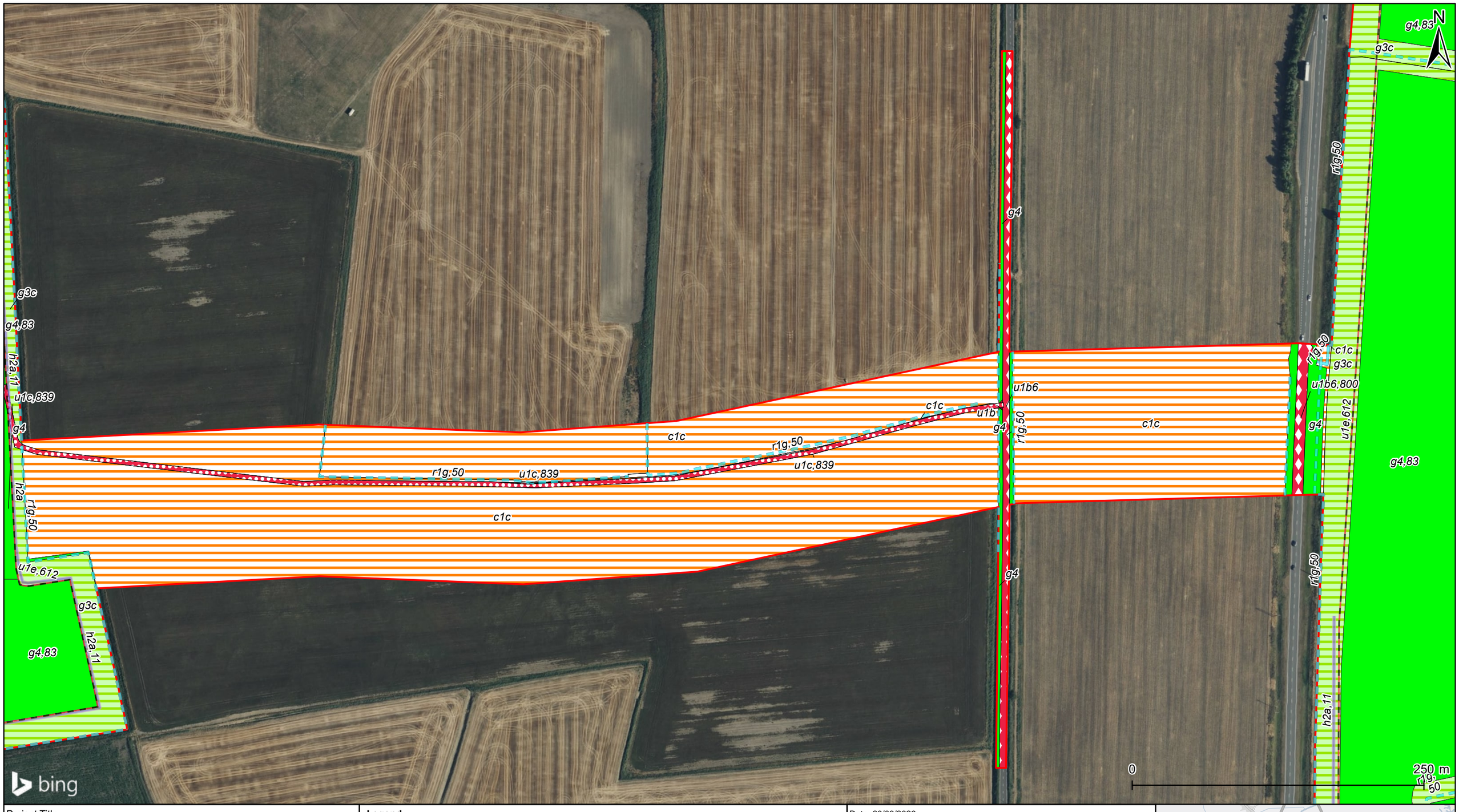


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|---|---|
| Project Title | Meridian Solar Farm |
| Map Title | Environmental Statement<br>Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -<br>Page 19 |

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:3,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- u1e - built linear feature

Secondary code

- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

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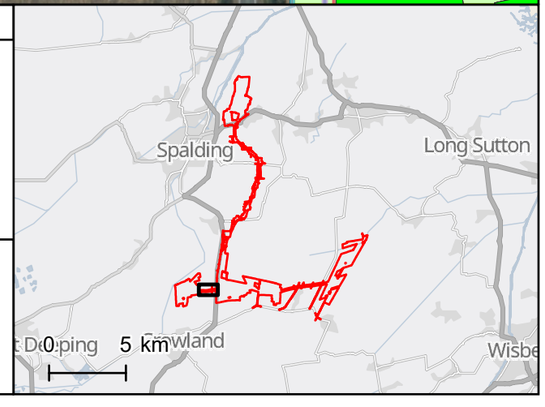


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 20

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat
- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1 - Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature
- Scattered tree

Secondary code
- 29 - Plantation
- 32 - Scattered trees
- 81 - Ruderal or ephemeral
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

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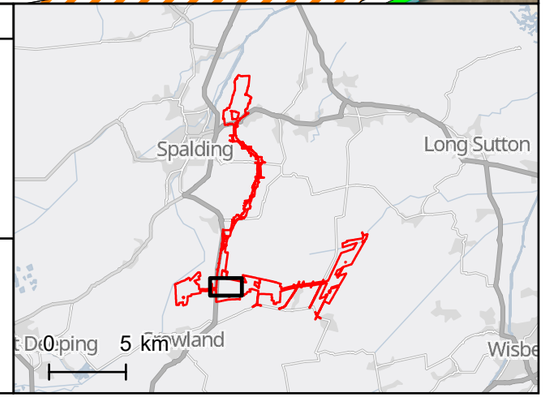
Meridian Solar

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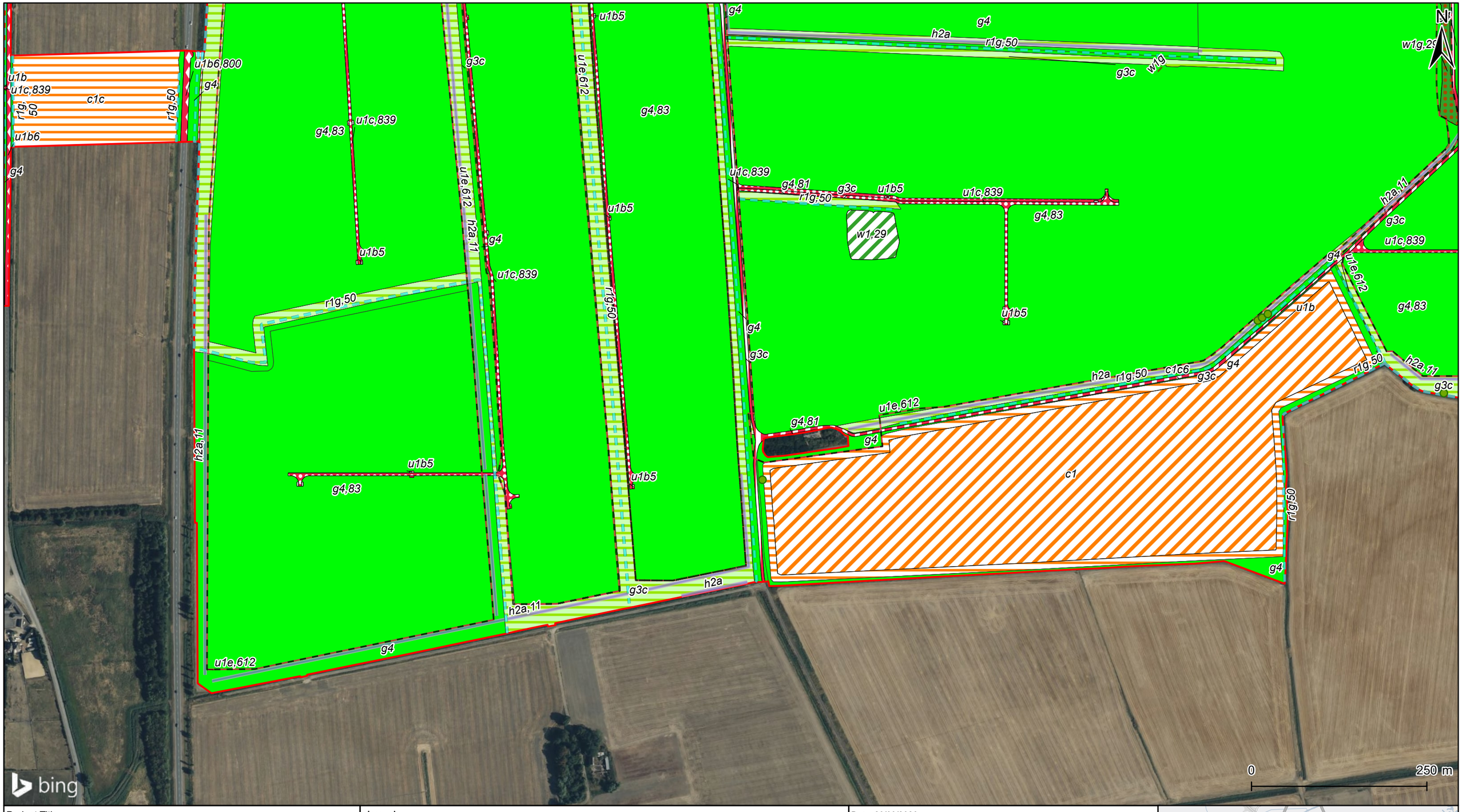


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 21

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1 - Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 29 - Plantation
- 81 - Ruderal or ephemeral
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

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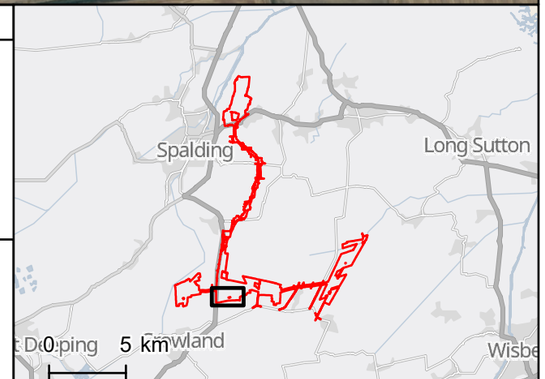


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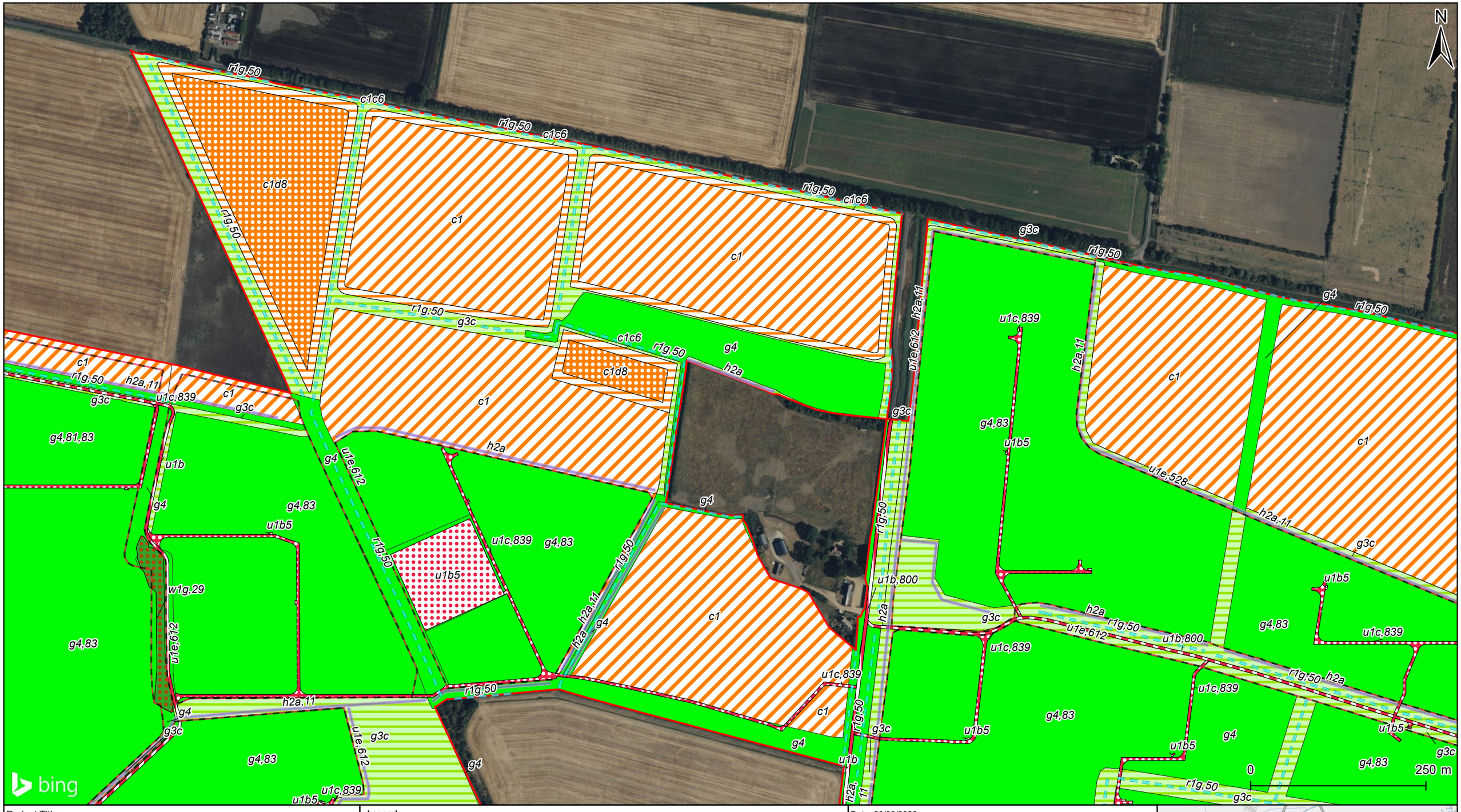


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC - Page 22

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat
- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- u1e - built linear feature

Secondary code
- 29 - Plantation
- 81 - Ruderal or ephemeral
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 528 - Walking or cycling route
- 612 - Fence

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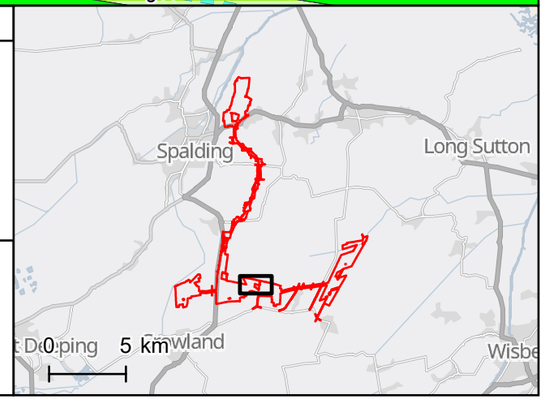
Meridian Solar

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|---|---|---|---|
| Project Title: Meridian Solar Farm | | | |
| Map Title: Environmental Statement Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC - Page 23 | | | |
| Scale @ A3: 1:5,000 | Version: 0 | Drawn: JM | Reviewed: JET |

**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Primary habitat
  - c1 - Arable and horticulture
  - c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
  - g3c - Other neutral grassland
  - g4 - Modified grassland
  - u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
  - u1b5 - Buildings
  - u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
  - h2a - Native hedgerow
  - r1g - Other standing water
  - u1e - built linear feature
  - Scattered tree
- Secondary code
  - 83 - Solar panel array
  - 800 - Road
  - 839 - Track
  - 11 - Hedgerow with trees
  - 50 - Ditch
  - 612 - Fence

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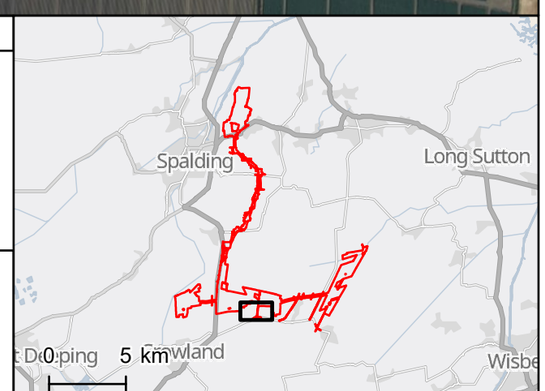


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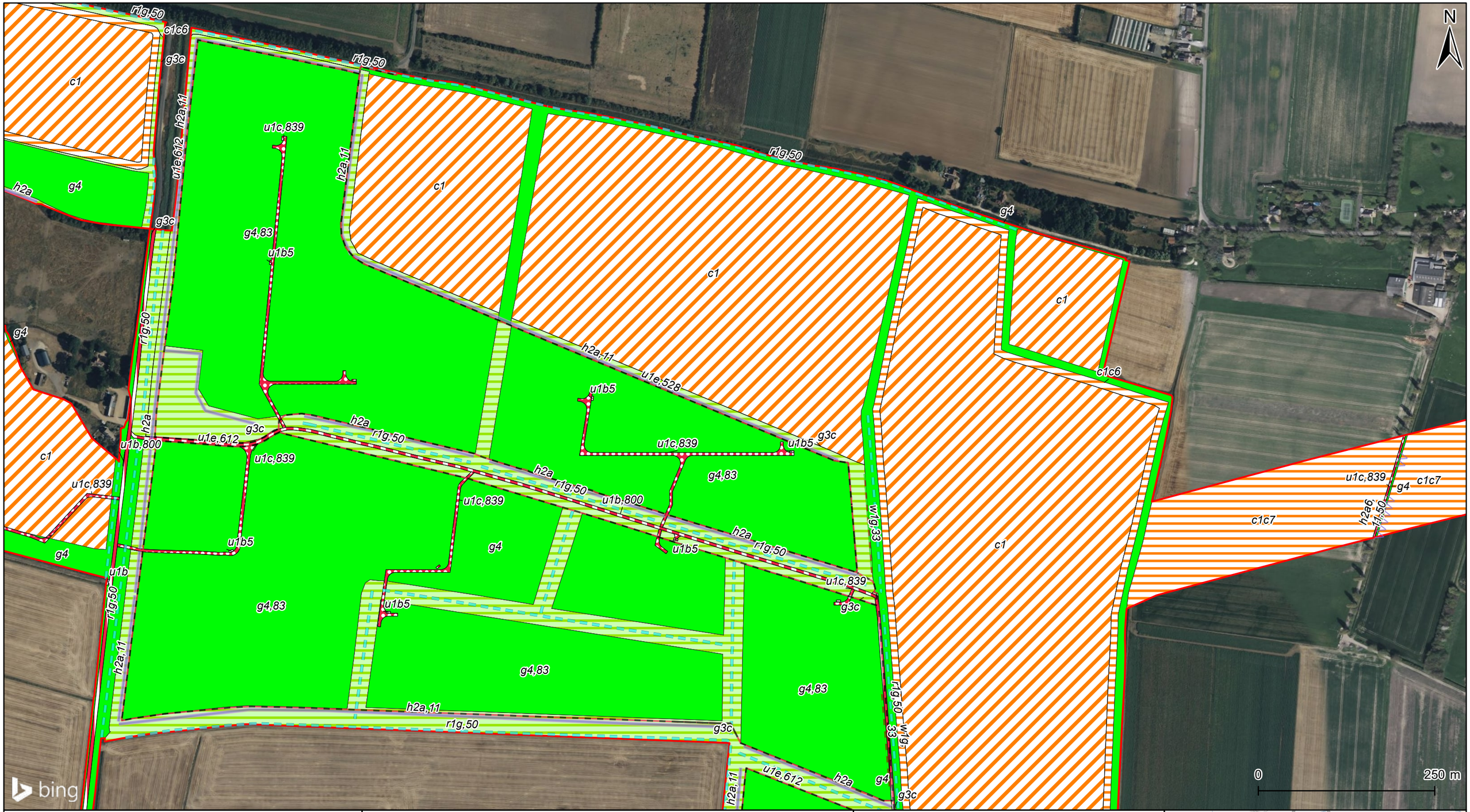


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 24

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature

Secondary code

- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 528 - Walking or cycling route
- 612 - Fence
- 50 - Ditch

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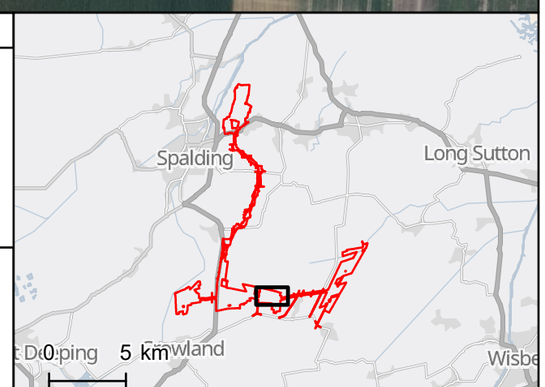


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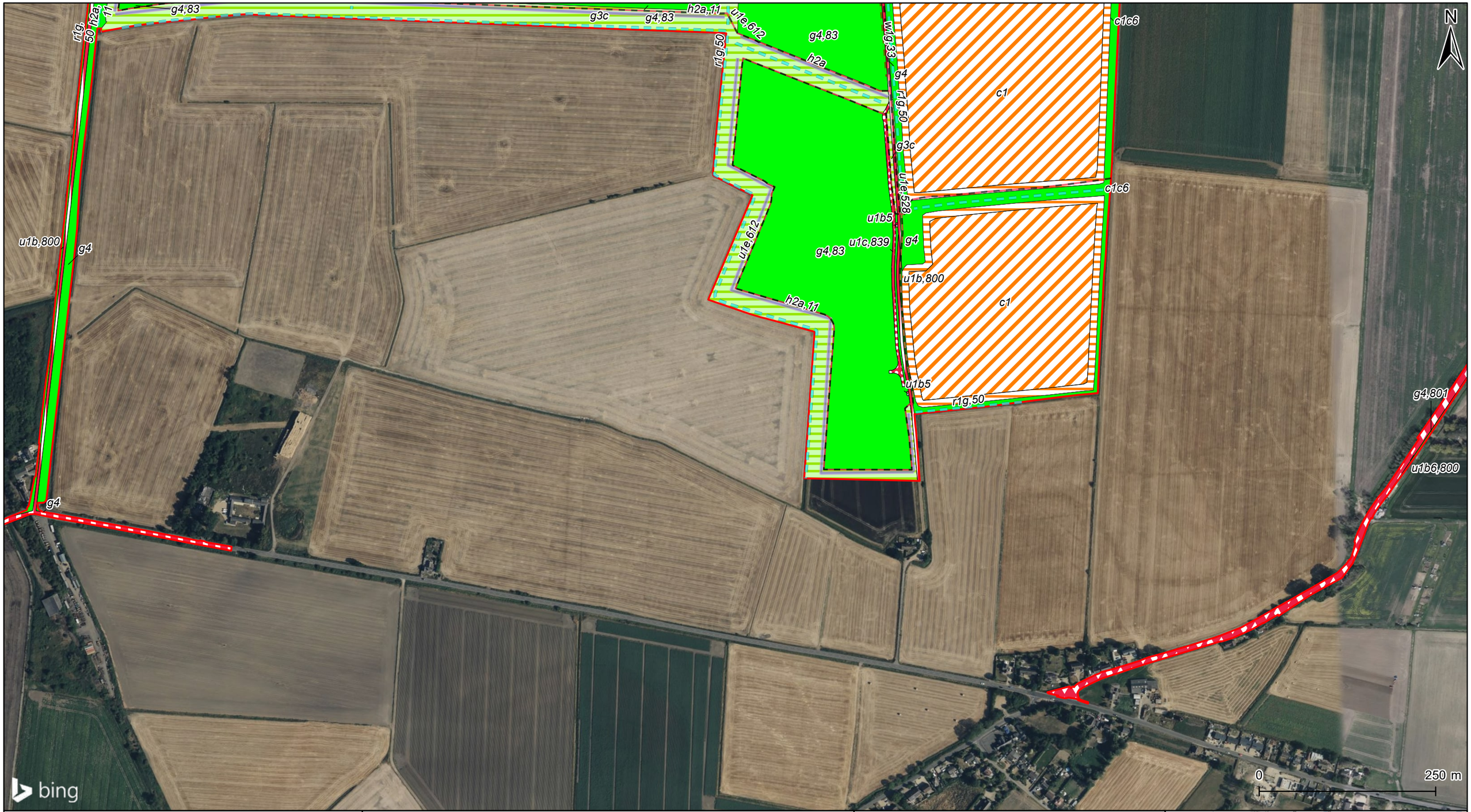


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 25

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature

Secondary code

- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 801 - Road verge or island
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 528 - Walking or cycling route
- 612 - Fence

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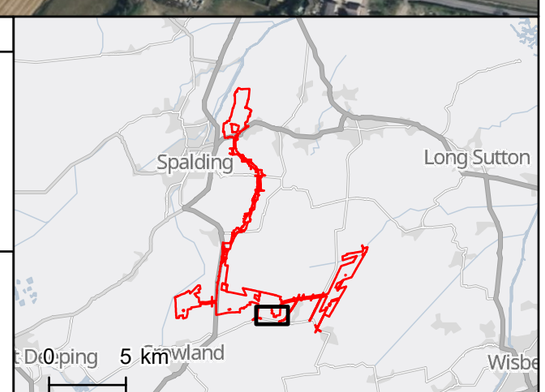


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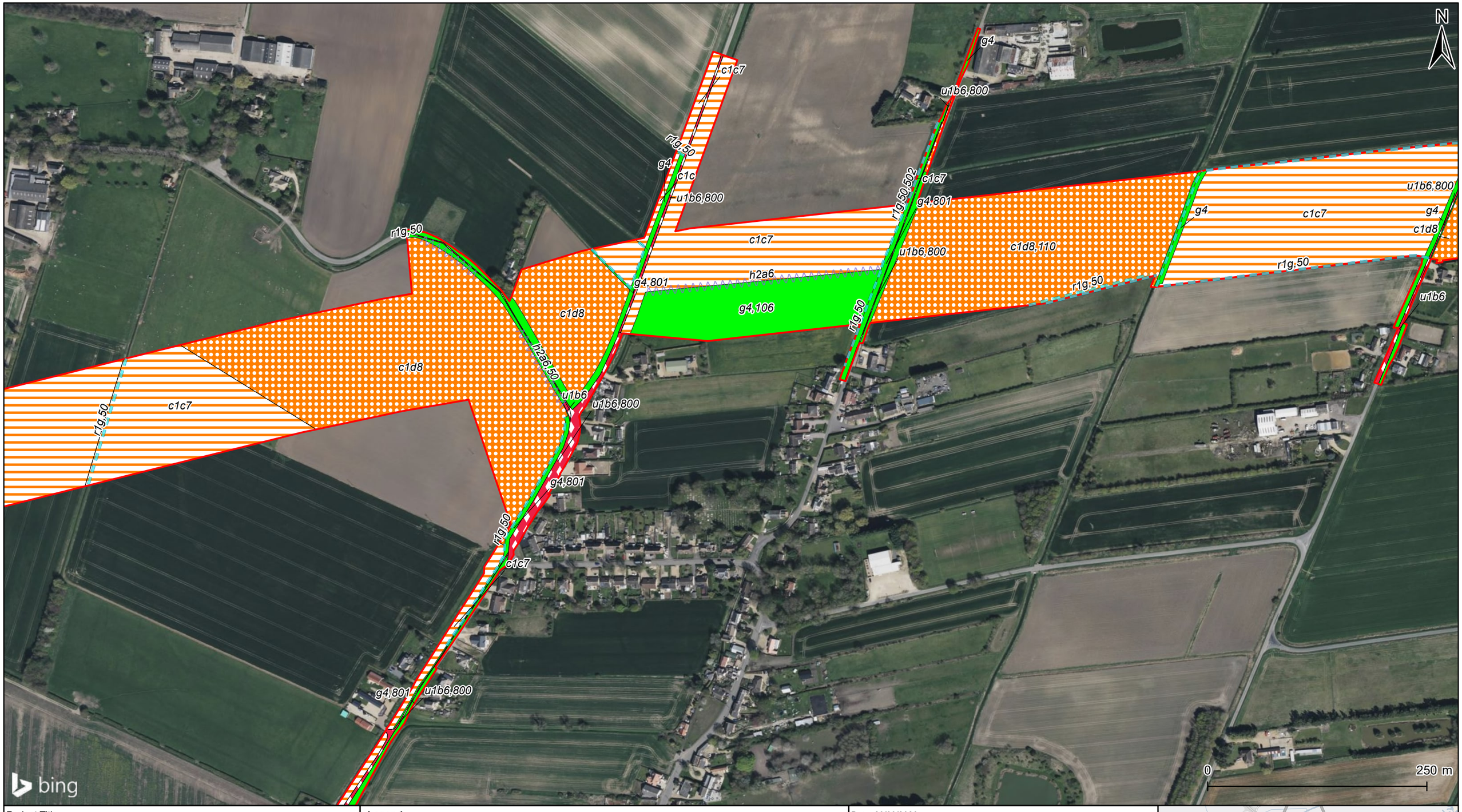


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 26

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- r1g - Other standing water

Primary habitat

- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow

Secondary code

- 106 - Mown
- 110 - Silage and haylage
- 800 - Road
- 801 - Road verge or island
- 50 - Ditch
- 502 - Seasonally wet

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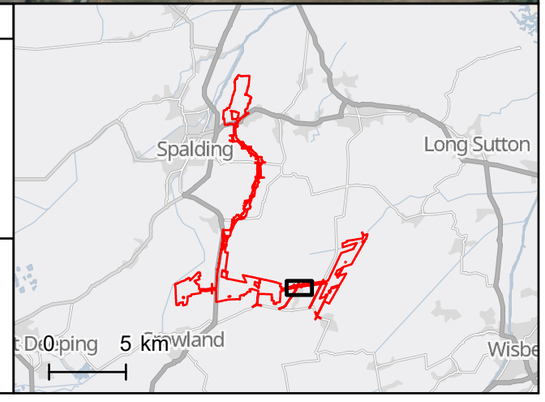


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 27

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature

Secondary code

- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 801 - Road verge or island
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 528 - Walking or cycling route
- 612 - Fence

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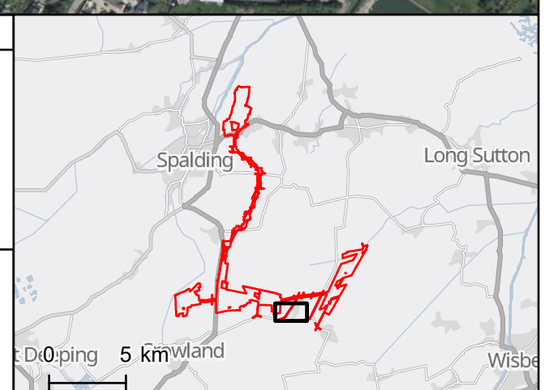


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 28

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Primary habitat
  - g3c - Other neutral grassland
  - g4 - Modified grassland
  - u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
  - u1b5 - Buildings
  - u1b6 - Other developed land
  - u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
  - h2a - Native hedgerow
  - r1g - Other standing water
  - u1e - built linear feature
- Secondary code
  - 83 - Solar panel array
  - 800 - Road
  - 839 - Track
  - 11 - Hedgerow with trees
  - 50 - Ditch
  - 612 - Fence

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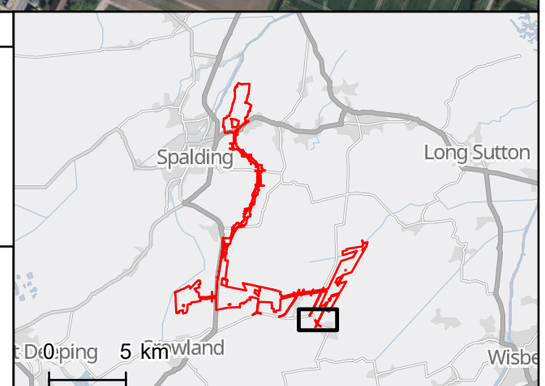


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 29

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature

Secondary code

- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

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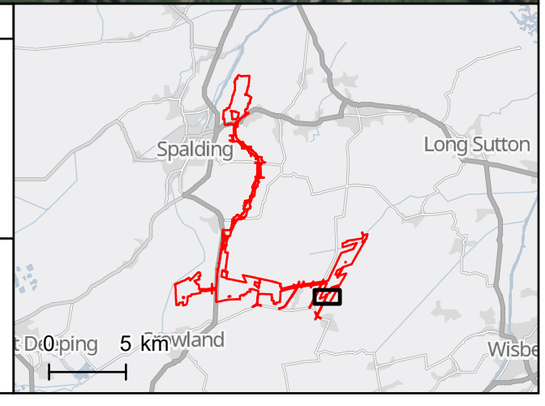


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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 30

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:5,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat
- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- h3f - Hawthorn scrub
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature
- Scattered tree

Secondary code
- 29 - Plantation
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 110 - Silage and haylage
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

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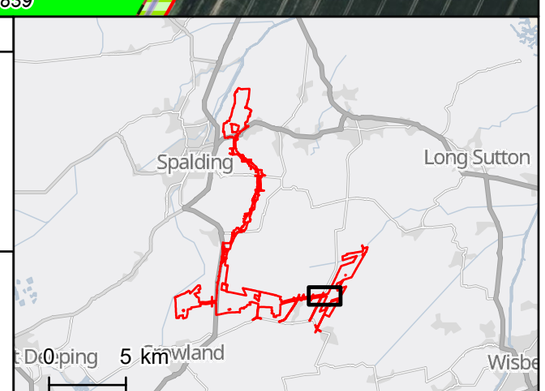


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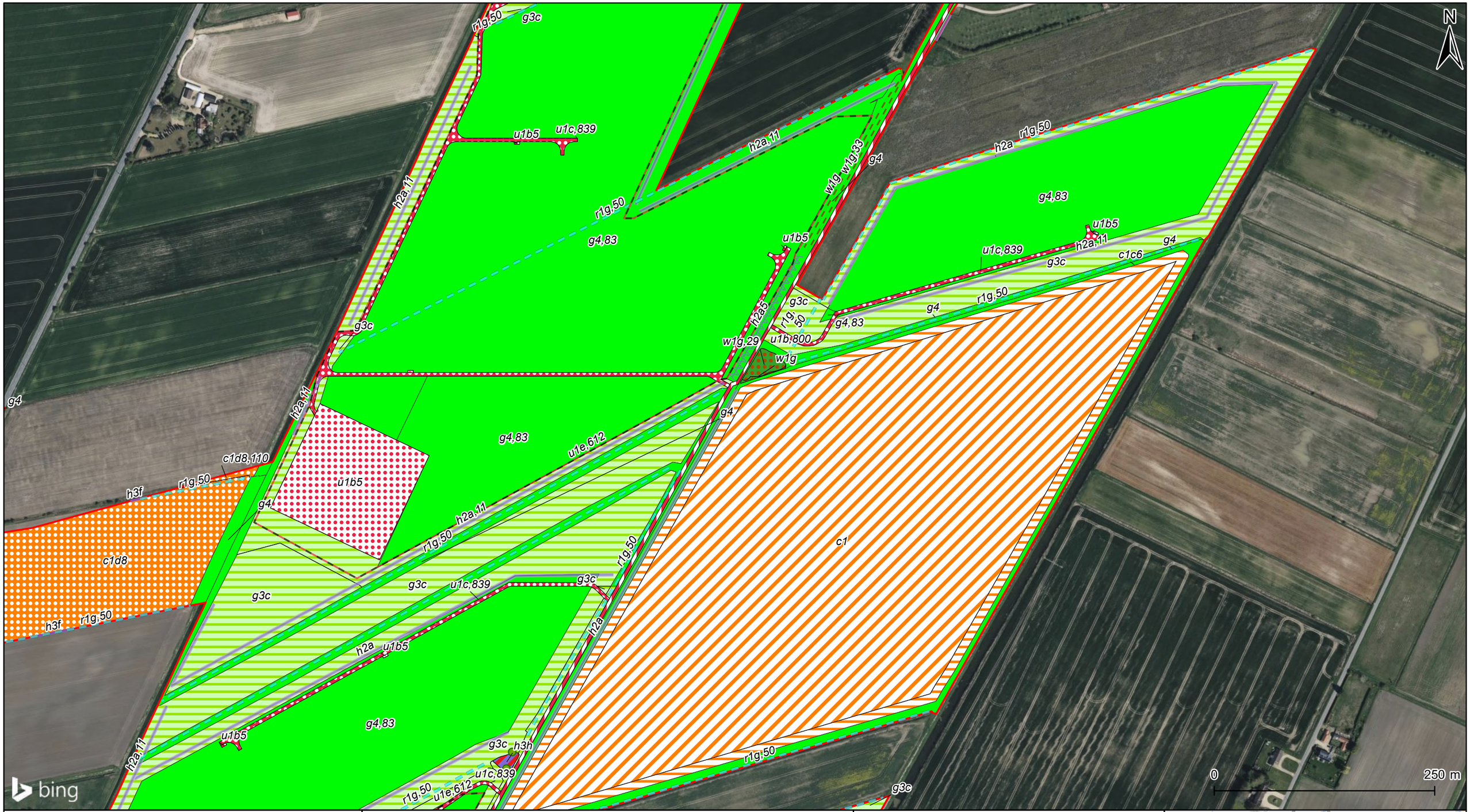


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC - Page 31

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:4,000 | 0 | JM | JET |

**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1c6 - Arable fields - wild bird mix
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h3f - Hawthorn scrub
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature
- Scattered tree

Secondary code

- 29 - Plantation
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 110 - Silage and haylage
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

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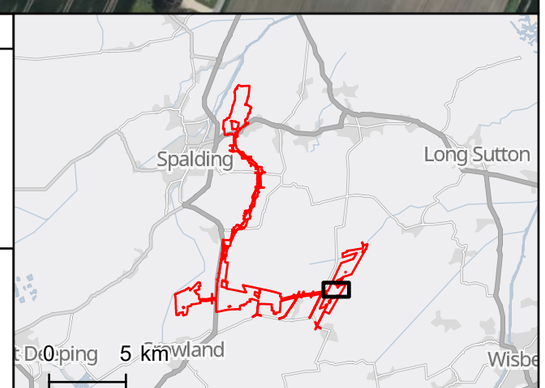


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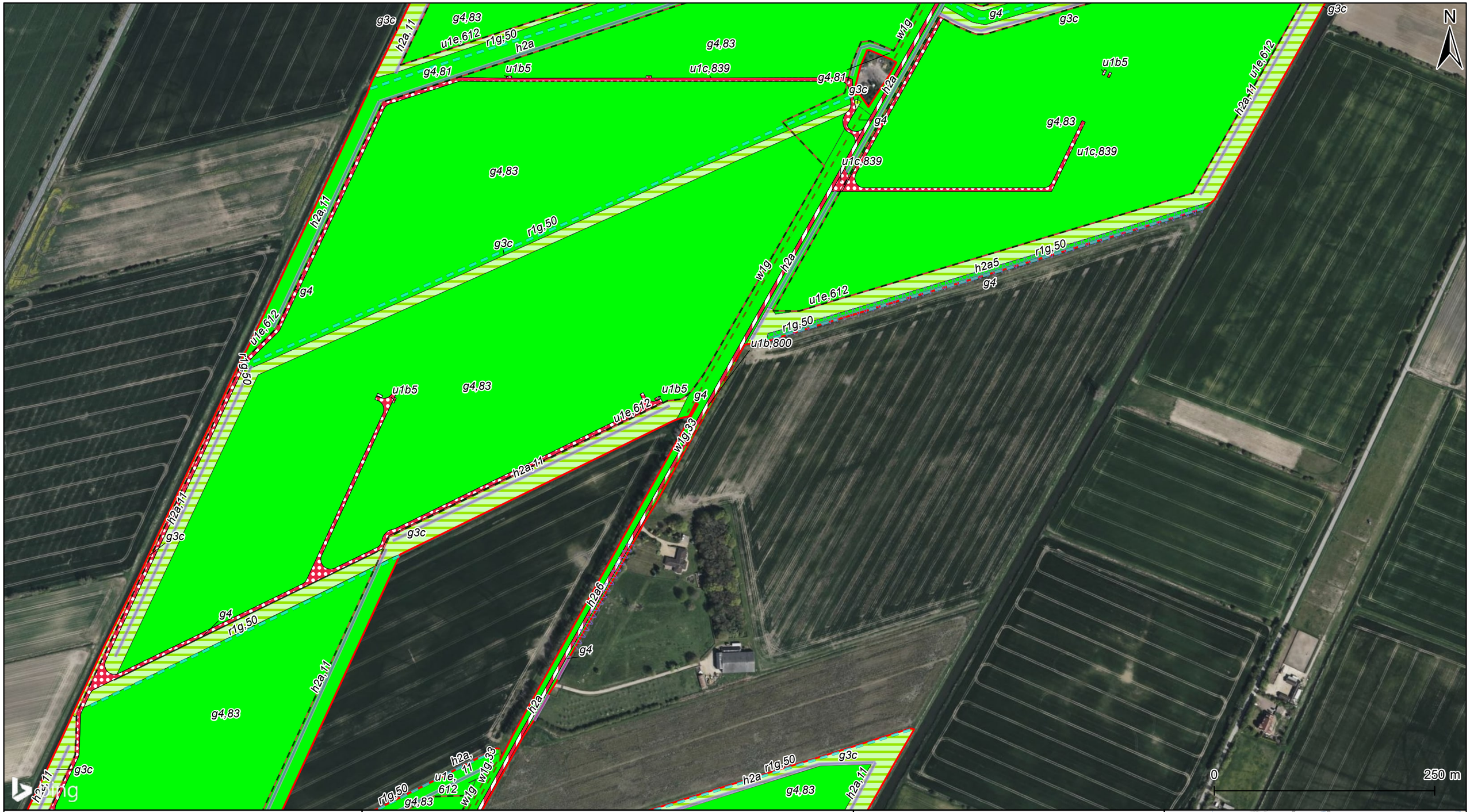


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 32

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat

- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature

Secondary code

- 81 - Ruderal or ephemeral
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 612 - Fence

Date: 20/03/2026

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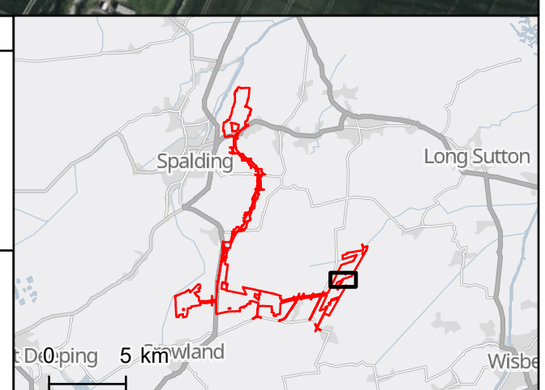
Meridian Solar

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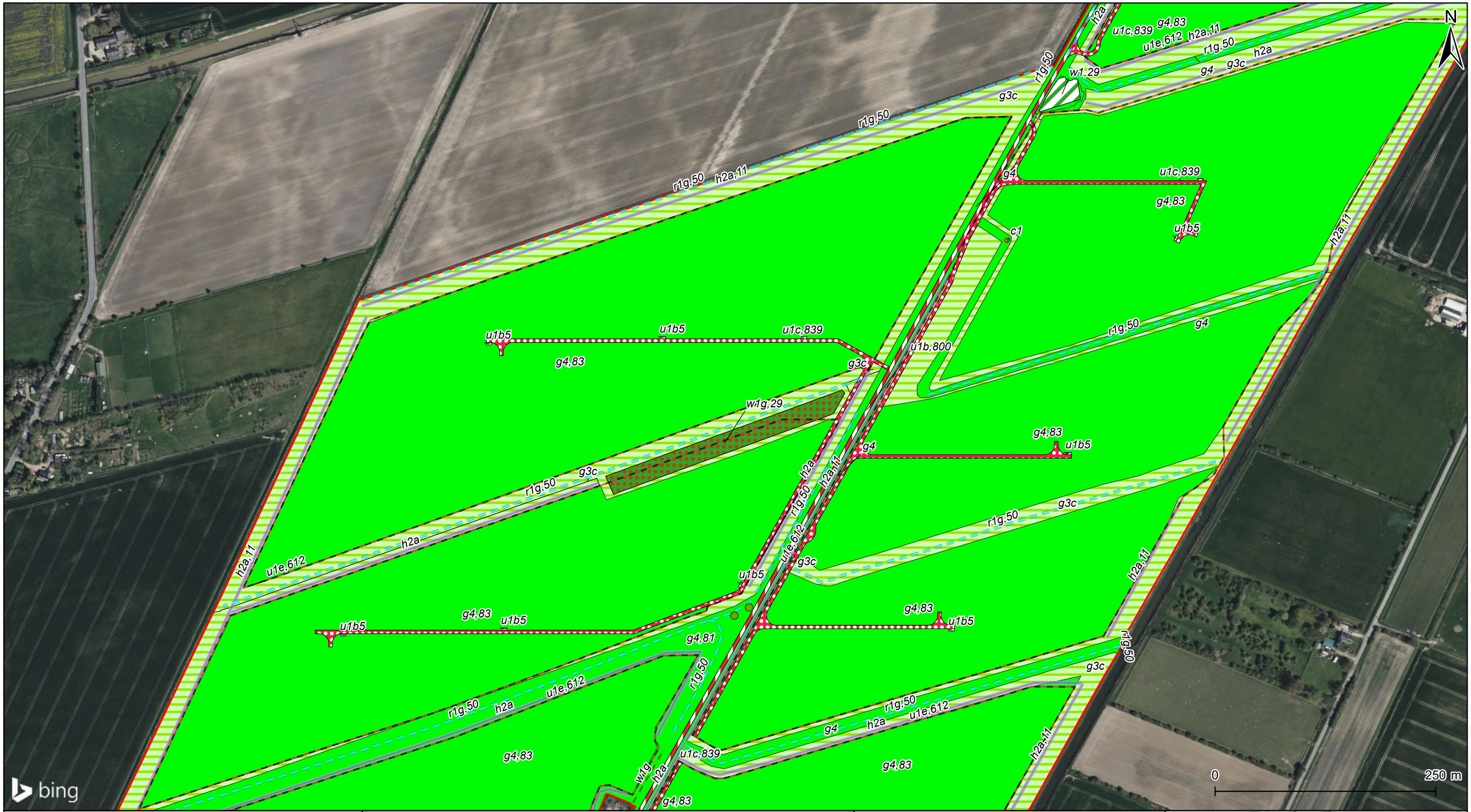


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|---|---|---|---|
| Project Title: Meridian Solar Farm | | | |
| Map Title: Environmental Statement<br>Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -<br>Page 33 | | | |
| Scale @ A3: 1:4,000 | Version: 0 | Drawn: JM | Reviewed: JET |

**Legend**

| | |
|---|---|
| Order Limits | w1g - Other broadleaved woodland |
| Primary habitat | u1e - built linear feature |
| c1 - Arable and horticulture | Scattered tree |
| g3c - Other neutral grassland | Secondary code |
| g4 - Modified grassland | 29 - Plantation |
| u1b - Developed land, sealed surface | 81 - Ruderal or ephemeral |
| u1b5 - Buildings | 83 - Solar panel array |
| u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface | 800 - Road |
| w1 - Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland | 839 - Track |
| w1g - Other broadleaved woodland | 11 - Hedgerow with trees |
| h2a - Native hedgerow | 50 - Ditch |
| r1g - Other standing water | 612 - Fence |

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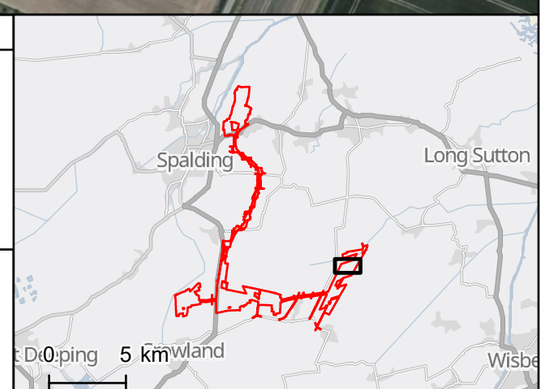
Meridian Solar

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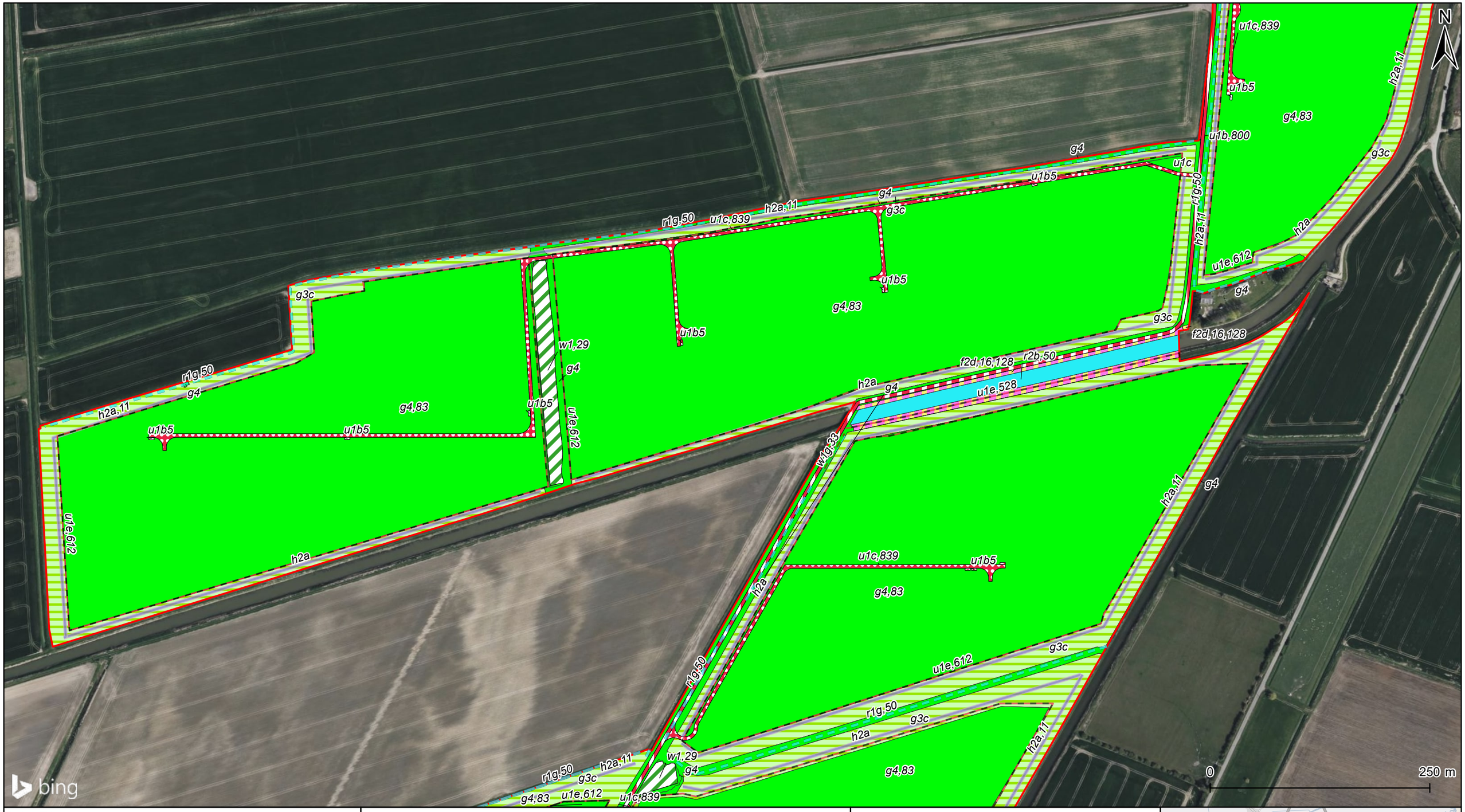


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 34

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat
- f2d - Aquatic marginal vegetation
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1 - Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
- w1g - Other broadleaved woodland
- u1e - built linear feature

Secondary code
- 16 - Tall forbs
- 29 - Plantation
- 50 - Ditch
- 83 - Solar panel array
- 800 - Road
- 839 - Track
- 128 - Tall or tussocky sward
- 11 - Hedgerow with trees
- 33 - Line of trees
- 50 - Ditch
- 528 - Walking or cycling route
- 612 - Fence

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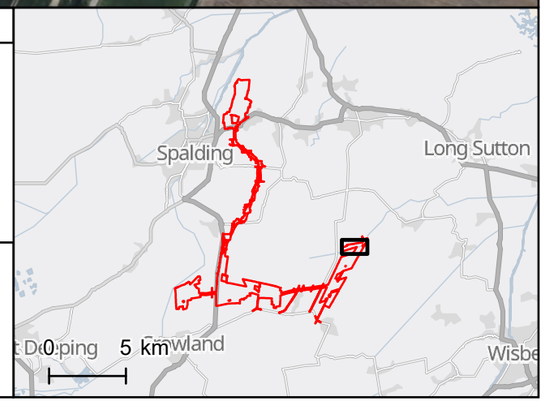


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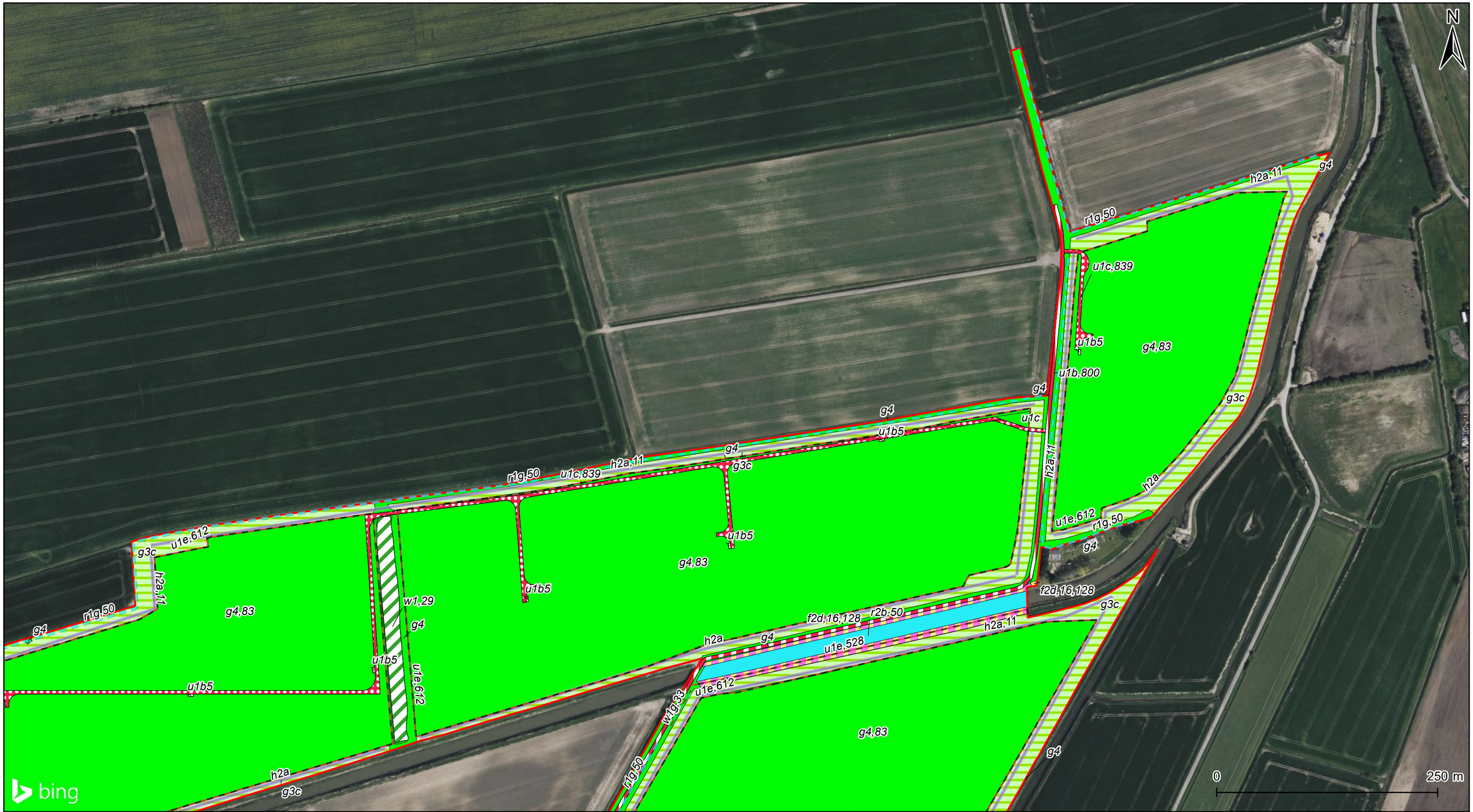


Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Environmental Statement
Figure 9-3.2: UKHab Post-Development (Habitat Map) across SDA, GCR and IAC -
Page 35

| Scale @ A3 | Version | Drawn | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Legend**

Order Limits

Primary habitat
- f2d - Aquatic marginal vegetation
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- r2b - Other river/stream
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface
- w1 - Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- r1g - Other standing water
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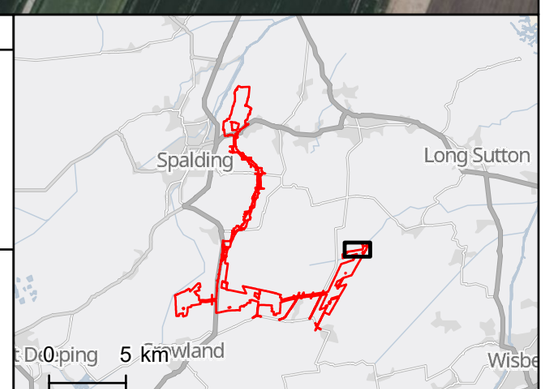
Meridian Solar

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# Appendix 2: Baseline Habitat Descriptions

The following habitat descriptions are to be read in conjunction with Figure 1 (Baseline Habitats Map) in Appendix 1.

## General Information

The Site is formed of component parcels of land within the administrative boundary of South Holland District Council. The Site and wider area is a predominantly typical Fenland landscape with open, low-lying arable agricultural land with individual field parcels separated by a vast network of ditches and Internal Drainage Board (IDB) main drains, with isolated pockets of woodland, a small number of disconnected hedgerows, and small parcels of scrub.

## Aquatic Marginal Vegetation:

Solar Development Area: This habitat was present within some of the smaller drainage ditches and larger IDB main drains but did not meet the minimum mappable scale to feature on the maps. Regarding South Holland Main Drain, this habitat was either not of sufficient scale at the time of survey to feature on the maps or was judged to be outside of the red line boundary. The habitat was recorded during the Inter-Array Connections surveys on land parcels that bounded some of the Solar Development Area land parcels.

Grid Connection Route: This habitat type was present within some of the drainage ditches but did not meet the minimum mappable scale to feature on the maps.

Inter-Array Connections: This habitat type was present along both banks of South Holland Main Drain, towards the northern end of Overground Inter-Array Connections, land sub parcel C-3. Dominated by common reed, this habitat was growing within the drain, and up the banks of the drain, before it gave way to grassland species at the top of the banks. Historical satellite images show this vegetation was periodically cleared from the drain, but at the time of survey it was in full growth. This habitat was also present in some of the smaller drainage ditches, but not at a scale to be mappable. It would provide dense cover for species such as warblers, water vole, and grass snake, amongst others to exploit.

## Arable and Horticulture:

The Solar Development Area: The dominant broad habitat type of this area, featuring large arable fields which, at the time of the survey, were in various states of arable production. Surveys in 2023 found that the majority of fields had been ploughed or were undergoing ploughing to prepare them for autumn and winter sowing. A smaller proportion of fields were in sugar beet crop and harvesting was underway in isolated areas. One field in Sub-parcel D-5 was in a grass fodder crop of perennial ryegrass. August 2024 surveys found a mixture of agricultural stages including some

fields in stubble from recent harvest with the majority still in crops of ripe cereal, potatoes and beet. Cover crops featured in several locations across the Solar Development Area, sown as either full or partial field crops. Millet mixes, linseed, phacelia and buckwheat were the predominant species. These crops were found in Parcel D and Sub-parcels, B-1, B-2 and C-2.

Grid Connection Route: This broad habitat type dominated the majority of the Grid Connection Route survey area, comprised of arable fields mostly in various stages of crop production. A small number of fields had been ploughed with no apparent emergent crop, but most fields were either in cereal crop production (wheat and barley for instance), or contained cabbages, sugar beet, and other non-cereal crops.

Inter-Array Connections: This habitat type dominated the survey areas, comprised of arable fields mostly in various stages of crop production. Most fields were in cereal crop production of wheat or barley, but some contained oil seed rape, onions, beans, and other non-cereal crops. One field in the Overground Inter-Array Connection, land sub parcel C2 contained lines of developing agro-forestry growing within a wheat crop. Some fields within the Underground Inter-Array Connection B1 and B2 land sub parcels were growing silage/haylage which, at the time of survey, had not been cut. Some fields were temporarily out of crop production; one field in the Underground Inter-Array Connection land sub parcel B1, a former cereal field, had been treated with pesticide to kill a black-grass infestation, whilst another in Overground Inter-Array Connection land sub parcel C2 appeared to be recovering from a similar treatment with creeping thistle becoming established.

### Arable field margins:

Solar Development Area: Some fields within land parcels B and D contained field margins which were thought to be sown with a wild bird mix.

Grid Connection Route: There was one 5m wide strip of this habitat at the northern end of the Grid Connection Route. Species included soft brome, knapweed, and oxeye daisy.

Inter-Array Connections: A single field within the Underground Inter-Array Connections land sub parcel B2 had a 10m wide strip of common arable forbs. Species included cut-leaved geranium, scentless mayweed, hedge mustard, and cow parsley that ran east to west along its southern boundary. It may have once been more species-rich but appeared to now be neglected.

### Artificial unvegetated surface:

The Solar Development Area: Two open storage areas in Sub-parcels B-5 and D-3 were made up of compacted gravel and soil and used to store a haystack at B-5, and one haystack and a pile of rubble and spoil at D-3.

Grid Connection Route: There were a number of farm access tracks made of this substrate within the Grid Connection Route area, usually within fields and with attendant drainage ditches adjacent to them.

Inter-Array Connections: A farm access track of compacted hardcore all within the Underground Inter-Array Connection land sub parcels B1, and A, and a single field within land sub parcel B2 with a compacted dirt track that ran east to west along its southern boundary, were the only examples of this feature.

### Bramble scrub:

The Solar Development Area: This habitat type was not present.

Grid Connection Route: There were a few small and isolated patches of bramble scrub, they were associated with ditches, field boundaries, and within the footprint of existing pylons. Dominated by bramble, the margins often also contained tall grasses such as cocksfoot, and tall ruderal forbs like common nettle, dock sp., and willowherb sp.

Inter-Array Connections: A single area of bramble scrub was present within the Underground Inter-Array Connection land sub parcel B1, adjacent to Cooper's farm on Chapel Gate. The scrub appeared to be unmanaged and had begun to encroach on the adjacent area of unmanaged grassland.

### Buildings:

The Solar Development Area: Buildings were present centrally in the west section of Land Parcel A and in the central area of Sub-parcel B-1. Old farm sheds featured in Sub-parcel A-1. These sheds featured recently replaced roofs and were in use storing farm machinery. Three jackdaw nests were observed inside the sheds. The building in Sub-parcel B-1 was a derelict brick-built barn.

Grid Connection Route: There were very few buildings within the Grid Connection Route, they were all on the outskirts of the village of Weston, near the A151. One was part of a commercial building that lay partially within the red line boundary. Two portacabin type structures associated with the car boot sale site, were assessed as of negligible suitability for bats.

Inter-Array Connections: No buildings were present within the Inter-Array Connections.

### Built linear features:

The Solar Development Area: Sub-parcels A-1, B-1, B-5 and C-1 were served by tracks of a built quality. All tracks were patchy in their composition but largely featured areas of concrete, asphalt and aggregates. Central untracked strips were colonised by farmland herb species and grasses such as common mallow, common stork's-bill, annual meadow-grass and greater plantain. The north section of the track in A-1 had become colonised with herb species including dominant lesser burdock and common mallow.

This feature was not recorded within the Grid Connection Route, or the Inter-Array Connections.

### Developed land: sealed surface and Other Developed Land:

The Solar Development Area: This habitat type was not recorded within this area.

Grid Connection Route: This consisted of car parking areas near the A151 on the outskirts of Weston, metalled roads/lanes with associated pavements and pedestrian walkways if present, throughout the corridor.

Inter-Array Connections: This consisted of metalled roads/lanes with associated pavement if present within all parcels of the Inter-Array Connections.

### Hawthorn scrub:

The Solar Development Area: This habitat was not present within this area.

Grid Connection Route: Small sections of hawthorn scrub were present towards the north of the Grid Connection Route and appeared to be the remains of a defunct hedgerow.

Inter-Array Connections: Sections of hawthorn scrub were present within the Underground Inter-Array Connection land sub parcel B2. They all appeared to be the gappy remains of now defunct hedgerows, with hawthorn being the dominant species.

### Individual trees:

ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment classified seven trees as veteran, and four trees as ancient across the Order Limits of the Site. In Section 5.3.1 the AIA states 'There are a range of definitions for ancient and veteran trees with no universally accepted system of classification'. Whilst no trees were viewed to be

ancient or veteran during the surveys that inform this appraisal, subsequent detailed assessment during the arboricultural survey has deemed some trees to be ancient or veteran. These designations are, of course, accepted, but arboricultural and ecological surveys are undertaken to different methodologies.

The Solar Development Area: Standalone trees were uncommon on the Site, and the survey returned records of eleven trees. Species included poplar species, Norway maple, oak and hawthorn. All trees were classed as mature. The trees appeared to be self-seeded and/or likely hedgerow remnants.

Grid Connection Route: There were several individual trees present, which were generally isolated features associated with field boundaries and roadsides and were often growing near or out of ditches. Most were alive, although there were occasional dead trees, such as one with potential bat roost suitability on Delgate Bank, within close proximity to the only area with a small network of connected hedgerows. Species included ash, sycamore, lime species, white, and crack willow.

Inter-Array Connections: There were very few isolated trees present, although three mature sycamore species were present located on farmland within the Underground Inter-Array Connection sub parcel B1, with no clear evidence of natural regeneration. There was a dry ditch present, and it was likely the trees were originally associated with a nearby hedgerow. A barn owl nestbox had been fixed to one of the trees.

### Line of trees:

The Solar Development Area: There were six lines of trees across the Solar Development Area. Three of these were present in Sub-parcel D-3, one in Sub-parcel B-2, one in Sub-parcel B-5 and one in Sub-parcel C-2. The three lines of trees in Sub-parcel D-3 were along Langary Gate Road and were semi-mature examples of a variety of species including field maple, bird cherry, ash and oak. The line of trees in Sub-parcel B-1 is c. 20m long and comprises willow species and elder. The line of trees at B-5 was a roadside line of trees along Queen's Bank, featuring species of common lime and Norway maple; the line of trees in Sub-parcel C-2 comprises sycamore, ash and hawthorn.

Grid Connection Route: There were several examples of this feature-type, associated with field boundaries or sited along roadsides. They were often associated with hedgerows and drainage ditches and helped to provide screening and windbreaks. They were generally a sparse feature with poor connectivity to other similar habitat or larger areas of trees. The ages of the trees varied from young to semi-mature and mature. Species included ash, lime, oak, sycamore, field maple, and white poplar.

Inter-Array Connections: There were nine examples of this feature across the Inter-Array Connections land parcels, which were all along field boundaries, often with associated hedgerows and drainage ditches, and were generally a sparce feature with poor connectivity to other similar habitat. Most examples were concentrated along Langary Gate Road, within the Overground Inter-Array Connection sub-parcels C1, C2, and C3, with C2 having the greatest concentration, with the best connectivity. The ages of the trees varied from young to semi-mature and mature. Species included Lombardy poplar, ash, sycamore, horse chestnut, hybrid black-poplar, and lime.

### Mixed scrub:

The Solar Development Area: There were six areas of mixed scrub within the Solar Development Area, four of which featured in parcel B-1 with the remaining areas in Sub-parcels A-1 and D-5. Elder, willow species and blackthorn were abundant in the area of scrub at Sub-parcel A-1 which surrounded agricultural sheds. Hawthorn was the dominant species in Sub-parcel B-1 and D-5 with the exception of one area in B-1 which comprised elder, box, wild privet, and blackthorn.

Grid Connection Route: There were a few small and isolated patches of mixed scrub, they were predominantly associated with field boundaries, but some mixed scrub was present on the roadside verges and a roundabout on the outskirts of the village of Weston.

Inter-Array Connections: This habitat type was not present.

### Modified grassland:

The Solar Development Area: All grassland field margins were uncultivated and classed as modified grassland. Species compositions altered very little over the Solar Development Area's entirety. Commonly occurring species included grasses of false-oat grass, cock's-foot grass and rough meadow-grass. Common couch and perennial ryegrass were occasional throughout, becoming more frequent in Parcel D Frequently evidenced herb species included bristly oxtongue, hogweed, cow parsley, ribwort plantain and common nettle. Occasional species included common mallow and hoary plantain. Locally frequent species included grasses of tufted hair-grass, small wood reed, and false wood-brome with herbs of common stork's-bill and common vetch.

Margin widths varied considerably with some fields ploughed to the crest of their adjacent ditches. Most others presented widths of between 1-3m. As an exception, Sub-parcel C-1 featured consistently wider and well managed grassland margins, many of widths in excess of 6m.

Grid Connection Route: This habitat consisted of road verges, horse paddock, gardens, and amenity grassland. The verges, gardens and amenity grassland were all

managed and regularly cut, with a generally short, even sward. The paddocks were grazed or recovering from grazing. Common species included perennial rye-grass, meadow grass sp., creeping thistle, hogweed, cow parsley, cocksfoot, common nettle, ribwort and greater plantain, and dock sp.

Inter-Array Connections: Modified grassland was present within fields, on verges, field boundaries, and also as a component of some of the linear features, such as hedgerows and ditches. In the fields modified grassland was either being utilised for grazing or appeared outside of active use other than occasional mowing. The verges and field boundaries had evidence they were being cut at least annually. Common species included perennial rye-grass, cocksfoot, false oat-grass, barren brome, soft brome, creeping thistle, greater plantain, hogweed, cow parsley, common nettle, and cleavers.

Field margin widths varied considerably, with some fields ploughed to the crests of the adjacent ditches. Most others had widths of between 1-3m, although some did occasionally have stretches approaching 5m wide.

There was an area of unmanaged modified grassland adjacent to Cooper's Farm on Chapel Gate, within the Underground Inter-Array Connections sub parcel B1. This area was becoming dominated by tussocky grasses such as cocksfoot and perennial rye-grass, and tall forbs such as dock sp. and willowherb sp.

### Native hedgerow (Priority habitat):

The Solar Development Area: Native hedgerows within the Solar Development Area were occasional and generally poorly connected. Intact species-poor hedgerows featured in Sub-parcels C-2 and D-4. The hedgerow in Sub-parcel C-2 was species poor (blackthorn and hawthorn, with occasional hazel and elder) and formed the boundary to a paddock. The hedgerow at Sub-parcel D-4 was newly planted species-rich with caned and guarded whips.

Defunct species-poor hedgerows were present in Sub-parcels A-1, B-2, C-2 and D-6. Hedgerows at Sub-Parcel A-1 were on either side of Cloot Drove, a road that bisects this site. The hedgerow on the west side was defunct, denser in the north section of the site, becoming more gappy to the south. Similarly, the Hedgerow on the east side of Cloot drove was a defunct hedgerow with trees, denser to the north becoming more gappy to the south. The hedgerow at Sub-parcel B-2 ran along Queen's Bank and a ditch and was species-poor (Hawthorn). The hedgerow at Sub-parcel C-2 was also species-poor (Hawthorn) and ran along a ditch on two sides of a grazing pasture. The hedgerow in Sub-parcel D-6 ran along Langary Gate Road and was species-poor (Hawthorn).

Grid Connection Route: There were 12 sections of this habitat, concentrated in the northern to central area of the corridor. Sections were associated with drainage ditches, and some also contained lines of trees. Most sections were isolated and unconnected, but one area of sheep grazed fields close to Delgate Bank towards the centre of the Grid Connection Route, contained four connected hedgerows over 1.5m high. Hawthorn was the dominant species of this habitat-type, with some dog rose, elder, field maple, and crab apple present.

Inter-Array Connections: All hedgerows within these areas were recorded as Other native hedgerow, see listing below.

### Native species-rich hedgerow (Priority habitat):

The Solar Development Area: Two lengths of hedgerow were classed as native species-rich. A hedgerow in Sub-parcel D-2 was a species-rich hedgerow (containing field maple, blackthorn, elder, dog rose, willow and hawthorn) that ran along a ditch on one side and a wide margin on the other. Sub-parcel D-3 was a double hedge on Langary Gate Road.

Grid Connection Route: There were two isolated sections of this habitat, one was adjacent to Stone Gate in the northern end of the Grid Connection Route and provided an edge habitat between the surrounding arable fields and the lane. The feature was associated with a drainage ditch which was dry at the time of survey. The hedgerow was gappy in places with some sections clearly showing recent replanting, and it was not particularly high or wide, which suggested it had been planted within the last few years. The other section was a newly planted hedgerow, between a recently planted woodland on former arable land, and Delgate Bank. Species included hawthorn, hazel, field maple, dogwood, and dogrose.

Inter-Array Connections: This habitat was not present.

### Other native hedgerow (Priority habitat):

The Solar Development Area: This habitat was not recorded within this area.

Grid Connection Route: There were 11 sections of this habitat present, concentrated towards the central and northern sections of the corridor. Overall, they were occasional and poorly connected, with evidence of some cutting management. Most were associated with field boundary drainage ditches which were mostly dry at the time of survey, due to the particularly dry summer, and some also had additional lines of trees. Hawthorn was the most common species, with dogrose, field maple, and elder.

Inter-Array Connections: There were 12 hedgerows of this habitat type, which were present within Underground Inter-Array sub parcels B1, B2, C1 and C2. Overall, hedgerows were occasional and poorly connected, most had evidence of at least annual cutting/flailing, and varied in height and width. Most were associated with ditches that were dry at the time of survey, and were dominated by hawthorn, with occasional elder, bramble, blackthorn, plum and dog rose. Two of the hedgerows in sub parcel B1, were also associated with lines of trees.

### Neutral grassland:

The Solar Development Area: This habitat was not identified as present.

Grid Connection Route: This habitat was present towards the northern end of the grid connection. A particular area of this habitat was on farmland on the outskirts of the village of Weston. It consisted of sheep grazing pasture with scattered trees, and a strip of grassland between two parallel drainage ditches. Common species included cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass, smooth meadow-grass, knapweed, hogweed, bristly ox-tongue, and vetch sp.

Inter-Array Connections: This habitat was not identified as present.

Other neutral grassland:

The Solar Development Area: This habitat was not present.

Grid Connection Route: This habitat was mainly towards the northern end of the Grid Connection Route, predominantly on farmland. It consisted of fields used for silage/haylage, or otherwise mown, with grass verges, and field edges often associated with drainage ditches. Common species included cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass, smooth meadow-grass, knapweed, hogweed, bristly ox-tongue, and vetch sp. There was one section of this habitat at the southern end of the Grid Connection Route, which appeared to be a former railway line. It had a tall sward, with scattered scrub of mainly hawthorn, and was likely utilised as a wildlife corridor for commuting/foraging bats, etc.

Inter-Array Connections: This habitat was not present.

### Other broadleaved woodland:

The Solar Development Area: Woodlands within the Solar Development Area generally were agricultural plantation woodlands of uniform age and sizes of species. There were nine such woodlands on the site, one in Sub-parcel A1, four in Sub-parcel B-1, one in each of Sub-parcels D-1, D-2, D-3 and D-4. Species compositions were largely the same throughout with frequent field maple, oak, ash, and Norway maple. One woodland to the north of B-1 was predominantly white willow with occasional

ash, oak, sycamore and hazel coppice. Standing deadwood also featured in this woodland.

Grid Connection Route: A single, isolated narrow strip of woodland within farmland north of the B1165 in the central area of the Grid Connection Route was the only mature/semi-mature area of this habitat. Species included ash, oak, sycamore and lime with some hawthorn and hazel. This woodland had potential to be utilised by nesting birds, foraging/commuting bats, and as cover for reptile and mammal species. There was also a former agricultural field, partially within the Grid Connection Route boundary which had quite recently been converted to a plantation with a variety of species of native broadleaf deciduous trees. Species included rowan, pedunculate oak, field maple, bird cherry, alder, hornbeam, grey willow, and whitebeam. The ground layer had been planted with an appropriate wildflower mix and was partially enclosed by a recently planted native hedgerow with a drainage ditch along its boundary with Delgate Bank.

Inter-Array Connections: Two small, isolated examples of this habitat were present, both with potential to be utilised by nesting birds, foraging/commuting bats, and as cover for reptile and mammal species. One located on farmland within the Underground Inter-Array sub parcel B1 had two age classes of tree present, with no clear evidence of natural regeneration. Species included beech, sycamore, ash, silver birch, copper beech and cherry laurel. The second was a small triangular shaped woodland within the Overground Inter-Array sub parcel C2, on a field boundary, adjacent to Langary Gate Road. It was likely utilised as game bird cover, with two age classes of tree present, and some shrub understorey. Species included sycamore, field maple, ash, alder, and hawthorn. Target Note 10 referred to a small, planted woodland of this type adjacent to the inter-array boundary within sub parcel C2, with potential for nesting birds, roosting bats, and cover for reptiles/mammals.

### Other standing water:

The Solar Development Area: The farmland was intersected by a network of ditches and IDB main drains, with the habitat and profile of the ditches as described in the Inter-Array Connections section below.

Grid Connection Route: See description in the Inter-Array Connections below. The habitats are the same.

Inter-Array Connections: Individual fields and some roads/lanes within the land parcels were largely separated and bordered by a network of ditches and IDB main drains. The ditches were typical of this type of lowland agricultural landscape. The ditches were generally V-shaped in profile and often substantial, with bank heights of between 0.5-2m. Most of the ditches were dry at the time of survey, except for some

shallow water remaining in some of the IDB drains. Common reed was the dominant species present with great willowherb, common nettle, and hogweed also locally frequent. Grassland species such as cocksfoot, false brome, false oat-grass, and perennial rye grass generally succeeded towards the top of the ditch banks. Despite being predominantly dry at the time of survey due to the particularly dry summer, it was most likely that the ditches would retain water drained from the fields during late autumn, winter and early spring. Warbler species were frequently heard singing within this habitat with reed bunting Emberiza schoeniclus, also seen on occasion.

### Other river/stream:

The Solar Development Area: Some small, scattered willow scrub was evident in watercourses at Sub-parcels B-5 and C-2. Three of the IDB main drains showed and signs of retaining water. These were a drain that runs through the west section of Sub-parcel A-1, Lambert Drain and Sly's Connection Local Wildlife Site (LWS) in Sub-parcels D-2 and D-3 respectively.

Grid Connection Route: This habitat was not recorded.

Inter-Array Connections: A section of the South Holland Main Drain passed east to west across the top of the Overground Inter-Array Connection sub parcel C3, where Langary Gate Road crossed over it via a bridge. This substantial water course was approximately 15m wide, although there was common reed growing from the banks of the watercourse and narrowing it somewhat. There was an accompanying steep bank on both sides of the watercourse, which presumably acted as some sort of flood defence. Common reed was dominant, with frequent common nettle, tussocky grasses such as cocksfoot and false oat-grass, along with soft brome, and perennial ryegrass. Grassland species such as cow parsley and hogweed succeeded the common reed towards the top and sides of the banks, with oil-seed rape also present.

### Scattered trees:

The Solar Development Area: No scattered trees were recorded within the Solar Development Area.

Grid Connection Route: There were few examples of this feature, with the prevalent area being within two fields used for sheep grazing near Weston towards the north of the Grid Connection Route, which had several semi-mature to mature scattered trees within the fields.

Inter-Array Connections: A single small, isolated example of this habitat was present located within sheep pasture within the Underground Inter-Array sub parcel B1. There were two age classes of tree present, with no clear evidence of natural regeneration. Species could not be accurately identified due to the unwillingness of

the landowner to allow the surveyor full access due to livestock disturbance, although sycamore was present.

### Willow scrub:

The Solar Development Area: Areas of this habitat were recorded as growing in watercourses, see 3.2.73.

Grid Connection Route: There were two small patches of this habitat, isolated within cropland or other neutral grassland, both were associated with drainage ditches.

Inter-Array Connections: This habitat type was not present..

# Appendix 3: Habitat Condition Assessment for Baseline and Post Development Habitats

| BASELINE HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| **A - Baseline Data (Habitat Condition Assessment) – Meridian Solar** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tall forbs | N | N | Y | N | | | | | | | | | | Poor | 518 110 280 462 460 408 299 287 286 281 275 273 267 266 |
| Other Neutral Grassland | N | N | Y | Y | N | N | | | | | | | | Poor | 62 116 144 114 123 128 151 98 163 148 150 106 5 2 161 157 67 102 103 118 117 125 126 155 164 158 165 59 42 134 133 135 132 145 138 138 139 130 80 75 69 |
| Other Neutral Grassland | Y | N | Y | Y | N | N | | | | | | | | Moderate | 26 27 30 32 34 36 61 |
| Modified Grassland | N | N | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | | | | | | | Poor | 292 319 447 558 565 520 556 483 380 521 350 401 554 486 496 378 467 485 271 561 361 594 555 308 322 330 387 309 443 550 550 587 598 595 600 574 564 539 528 541 514 480 464 407 501 457 469 451 450 428 463 448 441 434 426 461 402 436 415 410 393 418 413 431 444 417 375 382 297 381 526 |

| BASELINE HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 571 357 335 513<br>507 511 294 247<br>63 72 41 226<br>216 203 204 121<br>45 43 20 240<br>242 228 194 190<br>182 175 174 64<br>70 40 209 146<br>253 251 252 414<br>285 196 122 300<br>400 584 48 52<br>82 85 208 233<br>234 277 472 533<br>245 259 343 337<br>340 347 488 478<br>435 303 331 295<br>293 318 310 324<br>523 498 512 360<br>351 362 362 547<br>585 527 453 545<br>399 373 479 386<br>376 471 406 419<br>500 490 348 354<br>336 332 229 221<br>217 211 212 206<br>187 177 176 173<br>76 73 60 612<br>615 617 611 612<br>40 388 477 40 |
| Mixed Scrub | N | N | Y | N | N | | | | | | | | | Poor | 458 341 371<br>581 575 578 593<br>263 29 111 115<br>339 363 355 356 |
| Hawthorn Scrub | N | N | Y | N | N | | | | | | | | | Poor | 6 8 |
| Willow Scrub | N | N | Y | N | N | | | | | | | | | Poor | 11 120 |

| BASELINE HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| Other Broadleaved Woodland | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Poor | 302 282 313 367 493 537 470 476 369 572 568 567 582 577 606 |
| Pond (non-Priority) | N | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | | | | | Poor | 591 596 |
| Ruderal/Ephemeral | N | N | Y | N | | | | | | | | | | Poor | 326 497 |
| Native Hedgerow | Y N | Y N | N N | Y N | | | | | | | | | | Poor | 147 149 151 177 182 201 204 210 213 22 224 226 238 260 261 38 |
| Native Hedgerow – Associated with Bank or Ditch | Y N | Y N | N N | Y N | | | | | | | | | | Poor | 24 28 64 68 206 |
| Native Hedgerow with Trees | Y N | Y N | N N | Y N | N N | | | | | | | | | Poor | 101 112 113 114 178 216 228 270 271 272 43 48 76 |
| Species Rich Native Hedgerow | Y N | Y N | N N | Y N | | | | | | | | | | Poor | 140 161 |
| Line of Trees | Y | Y | N | N | N | | | | | | | | | Poor | 119 135 139 143 145 150 153 154 188 190 225 267 268 30 32 35 44 6 79 |
| Ditches | N | N | N | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | | | | | | Poor | 1 10 100 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 11 110 111 115 116 117 118 12 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 |

| BASELINE HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 13 130 131 132<br>133 134 136 137<br>138 14 141 142<br>144 146 148 15<br>152 155 156 157<br>158 159 16 160<br>162 163 164 165<br>166 167 168 169<br>17 171 172 173<br>174 175 179 18<br>181 183 184 185<br>187 19 191 192<br>193 194 195 196<br>198 199 2 20<br>200 202 203 205<br>207 208 209 21<br>211 212 214 215<br>217 218 219 220<br>221 222 223 227<br>229 230 231 232<br>233 234 235 236<br>237 239 240 241<br>242 243 244 245<br>246 247 248 249<br>25 250 251 252<br>253 254 255 256<br>257 258 259 26<br>262 263 264 265<br>266 269 27 29<br>3 31 33 36<br>37 39 4 40<br>41 42 45 46<br>47 49 5 50<br>51 52 53 54<br>55 56 57 58<br>59 60 61 62 |

| BASELINE HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 63 65 66 67<br>69 7 70 71<br>72 73 74 75<br>77 78 8 80<br>81 82 83 84<br>85 86 87 88<br>89 9 90 91<br>92 93 94 95<br>96 97 98 99 |
| Rural Trees | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | | | | | | | | Moderate | 1 2 3 4 5<br>7 8 9 11<br>12 18 20 23 29 32<br>33 34 35 36 37<br>38 39 40 41 42<br>43 44 45 46 |
| Rural Trees | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | | | | | | | | Good | 6 15 19<br>24 25 26 27<br>28 47 48 49<br>26 229 230 233<br>236 248 251 322<br>339 351 386 405 |

| POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| **A – Post Development Data (Habitat Condition Assessment) – Meridian Solar** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mixed Scrub | N | N | Y | N | N | | | | | | | | | Poor | 458.2 341.1 371.3 581.1 581.2 575.1 578.2 593.1 573.1 573.2 464.2 263.1 29.1 111.1 115.1 339.1 339.2 582.2 |
| Modified Grassland | N | N | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | | | | | | | Poor | 308.1 308.2 308.3 308.4 322.3 330.2 309.2 501.1 457.1 469.1 451.1 450.1 428.1 463.1 448.1 441.1 434.1 426.1 461.1 402.1 436.1 415.1 410.1 393.1 418.1 413.1 431.1 444.1 417.1 375.1 382.1 381.1 526.1 571.1 513.1 507.1 511.1 294.1 257.3 246.5 243.6 247.1 88.6 63.1 72.1 41.1 226.1 222.5 222.6 192.4 216.1 195.3 202.4 205.1 205.2 205.7 205.13 205.14 203.1 204.1 188.5 131.7 114.1 121.1 121.2 143.8 45.1 45.2 43.1 43.2 20.1 168.8 168.9 168.1 183.5 147.5 240.1 242.1 242.2 242.3 228.1 228.2 228.3 194.1 194.2 190.1 182.1 175.1 174.1 64.1 70.1 40.1 219.2 219.6 219.1 219.15 219.16 107.9 57.4 65.5 37.4 33.5 16.6 16.7209.1 209.2 146.1 146.2 253.1 |

| POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 253.2 251.1 252.1 414.1 196.1 152.3 95.9 95.1 122.1 255.6 400.1 48.1 48.2 52.1 82.1 85.1 208.1 233.1 234.1 234.2 472.1 533.1 245.1 343.3 340.2 478.1 320.1 406.1 298.6 298.7 270.4 235.7 229.1 229.2 221.1 217.1 211.1 212.1 206.1 187.1 177.1 176.1 173.1 76.1 76.2 73.1 232.6 60.1 60.2 60.3 60.4 605.3 605.4 610.5 610.6 612.2 615.1 617.1 617.2 617.3 611.2 40.2 40.3 40.4 |
| Modified Grassland | Y | N | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | | | | | | | Moderate | 307.3 304.1 279.4 279.7 279.8 279.9 279.12 305.2 302.2 292.1 292.3 292.4 292.5 292.6 292.1 292.11 292.12 292.15 329.3 329.6 329.8 329.1 315.3 315.6 315.7 315.1 315.11 315.12 278.1 282.2 282.4 282.5 317.2 321.3 311.5 311.8 291.4 291.7 328.3 328.4 328.5 367.2 447.1 447.3 352.3 334.4 334.5 334.8 334.1 370.4 370.6 370.8 370.12 370.13 395.2 558.4 558.8 565.1 449.4 546.2 586.1 520.1 520.3 520.4 520.7 520.14 520.19 530.2 556.1 556.4 556.5 556.6 556.1 556.18 556.19 |

| POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 483.2 416.5 529.3 529.6 529.8 380.1 380.2 521.1 521.2 521.3 475.1 475.5 475.6 475.7 475.9 475.11 475.12 432.2 432.6 432.8 432.9 432.1 491.2 491.6 350.2 554.2 554.4 554.5 554.6 554.7 554.12 554.14 486.1 486.2 486.3 497.1 497.2 534.8 534.12 534.14 493.3 493.4 493.5 493.6 493.7 493.9 496.2 496.3 496.4 496.5 496.7 378.3 429.1 429.12 429.13 368.2 379.6 371.2 467.2 467.5 403.3 485.1 495.1 495.2 537.1 536.1 566.1 576.2 532.1 532.11 532.13 548.6 271.1 271.3 271.6 269.2 269.4 494.3 561.1 561.3 561.4 561.11 579.2 549.6 551.3 551.4 590.3 590.6 590.9 544.2 580.5 580.6 261.1 361.1 361.3 538.1 538.5 594.1 555.2 404.6 404.8 404.12 404.13 517.3 517.5 515.4 515.5 515.7 515.8 515.9 515.11 559.3 557.3 592.4 597.3 552.3 552.4 484.4 484.8 569.8 569.1 470.1 476.1 575.3 468.1 468.11 468.13 468.14 468.16 468.18 468.2 468.23 322.2 322.4 330.3 330.4 387.1 387.4 309.1 443.3 |

| POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 550.1 550.4 358.2 358.4 573.5 573.6 573.7 573.16 587.1 587.4 587.1 598.2 600.2 574.2 539.1 539.2 539.5 528.2 541.1 541.4 514.1 514.6 452.4 452.7 359.2 359.5 359.8 480.1 480.3 407.2 439.1 522.1 375.2 382.2 509.2 509.3 518.1 518.4 518.5 365.2 365.3 284.1 284.3 284.4 284.5 296.6 296.8 297.3 346.2 346.3 357.3 357.4 345.2 345.3 335.1 280.3 260.2 260.5 260.6 290.2 290.3 583.1 583.3 583.7 583.8 589.3 589.4 584.1 277.1 277.4 277.5 259.2 259.4 343.2 337.1 340.1 316.5 316.6 316.7 316.8 347.1 488.1 369.1 369.4 435.1 570.3 570.4 570.5 570.6 570.7 570.8 570.12 570.15 570.16 570.17 570.28 570.29 570.3 331.1 331.3 331.4 331.7 331.8 331.9 331.1 331.16 331.19 331.2 331.21 331.22 331.24 331.25 331.26 331.27 295.3 293.3 310.3 324.2 324.3 324.4 324.5 324.2 324.22 324.23 324.24 324.26 523.1 498.1 498.2 512.1 512.2 512.3 |

| POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 512.5 512.8 362.3 547.2 585.1 585.2 585.5 585.6 585.7 585.8 585.9 585.11 585.13 585.15 585.16 585.18 420.1 408.2 408.3 572.2 568.2 567.2 545.3 545.4 545.6 545.8 545.11 399.1 479.1 479.3 386.2 577.2 524.1 524.4 524.5 424.1 424.6 376.1 471.1 471.5 419.2 490.1 482.1 348.1 354.2 354.3 336.2 332.2 349.1 344.2 289.2 288.2 283.3 307.6 307.7 307.8 307.12 307.13 307.14 307.16 278.3 317.4 536.2 494.7 531.3 388.1 531.4 477.1 |
| Other Neutral Grassland | Y | N | Y | Y | N | N | | | | | | | | Moderate | 307.4 279.5 279.11 292.7 292.8 292.14 329.4 315.4 315.9 278.2 321.4 321.5 311.6 311.9 291.5 352.4 352.5 334.6 334.7 370.5 370.7 370.9 370.1 370.14 395.1 558.1 558.2 558.5 558.9 458.1 458.3 565.2 449.5 449.7 546.3 546.5 586.2 520.2 520.5 520.6 520.9 520.13 520.15 520.16 520.18 530.3 556.7 556.8 556.13 556.16 556.21 483.1 483.3 423.2 416.6 529.4 529.9 475.4 475.8 554.9 554.11 554.13 |

| POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 554.15 554.16 554.17 554.18 554.19 486.4 497.3 534.9 534.13 534.15 534.16 493.8 493.1 496.6 496.8 378.2 429.14 429.17 429.18 429.19 429.2 368.3 379.7 371.4 467.3 467.4 467.7 403.4 403.6 485.2 495.3 532.9 532.14 532.15 548.5 271.4 269.3 494.1 494.2 561.5 561.6 561.7 561.1 579.3 549.4 549.5 549.7 551.5 590.4 590.8 544.3 580.8 361.2 361.5 538.4 594.2 594.4 555.3 404.9 404.11 517.6 517.7 515.6 515.1 559.4 559.6 559.8 557.2 592.5 592.7 597.4 597.5 597.7 597.8 552.5 552.6 552.8 552.9 552.1 484.5 484.7 484.9 484.1 484.11 569.4 569.6 569.11 569.12 581.3 575.5 575.6 468.17 468.19 387.2 593.2 443.2 443.4 550.3 550.5 553.1 358.5 573.3 573.8 573.9 573.1 573.17 573.18 573.19 573.21 587.2 587.5 587.6 587.9 587.11 587.12 598.3 598.4 598.5 598.6595.1 543.1 600.3 600.5 574.3 574.5 574.7 564.2 539.3 539.4 |

| POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | **Criterion B** | **Criterion C** | **Criterion D** | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 528.1 541.5 541.6 514.3 514.5 514.7 514.8 514.9 514.1 452.3 452.5 452.8 359.3 359.7 464.1 464.3 464.4 464.6 407.1 509.4 509.5 518.2 365.1 365.5 296.4 297.2 542.1 357.2 357.6 525.5 525.6 487.2 62.1 32.1 116.1 144.1 114.1 114.2 114.3 114.4 114.5 114.6 114.7 114.8 114.9 123.1 123.2 128.1 128.2 128.3 128.4 151.1 98.1 98.2 163.1 163.2 148.1 150.1 106.1 106.2 106.3 106.4 106.5 30.1 26.1 5.1 2.1 36.1 280.2 285.1 161.1 157.1 67.1 290.1 300.1 583.2 397.1 84.1 102.1 103.1 118.1 117.1 125.1 126.1 155.1 155.2 164.1 164.2 158.1 165.1 277.3 437.1 437.2 570.1 570.9 570.1 570.14 570.19 570.2 570.21 570.22 570.23 570.24 570.25 570.26 570.27 303.1 331.2 331.5 331.11 331.12 295.1 293.1 324.6 324.7 324.8 324.9 324.1 324.11 324.12 324.13 324.14 324.16 324.19 324.21 324.25 512.4 362.2 547.1 585.3 585.1 585.17 |

| POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | | **Criterion B** | | **Criterion C** | | **Criterion D** | | **Criterion E** | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 459.1 420.2 462.1 460.1<br>408.4 408.5 408.6 527.1<br>453.1 545.5 545.9 545.1<br>363.1 355.1 356.1 373.1<br>386.1 424.2 376.2 471.3<br>419.1 500.1 473.1 332.1<br>306.1 301.1 299.1 287.1<br>286.1 61.1 59.1 42.1<br>134.1 133.1 135.1 132.1<br>145.1 138.1 138.2 138.3<br>138.4 138.5 139.1 139.2<br>139.3 139.4 139.5 130.1<br>80.1 80.2 80.3 80.4<br>80.5 75.1 34.1 27.1<br>69.1 307.9 307.11 307.15<br>278.4 317.5 317.6 395.3<br>494.5 494.6 494.8 494.1 |
| Other Woodland, Broadleaved | 1 | | 1 | | 3 | | 2 | | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Poor (21) | 313.1 367.1<br>447.2 554.3<br>493.2 470.2<br>476.2 541.3<br>369.2 606.1 |
| Native Hedgerow | Y | N | N | Y | N | N | Y | N | | | | | | | | N | | Poor | 151 201 213<br>149 260 226 189<br>147 261 177 238<br>224 210 170 176<br>186 68 182 206<br>287 288 289 290<br>291 292 293 294<br>295 296 297 298<br>299 300 301 302<br>303 304 305 306<br>307 308 309 310<br>311 312 313 314<br>315 316 317 318 |

| POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Metric Habitat Type** | **Criterion A** | | **Criterion B** | | **Criterion C** | | **Criterion D** | | **Criterion E** | | **Criterion F** | **Criterion G** | **Criterion H** | **Criterion I** | **Criterion J** | **Criterion K** | **Criterion L** | **Criterion M** | **Condition Score** | **Parcel Numbers** |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 319 320 321 322 323 324325 326 450 451 452 453 289 309 210 213 |
| Native Hedgerow with Trees | Y | N | N | Y | N | N | Y | N | N | N | | | | | | | | | Poor | 270 101 228 178 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 48 272 |
| Ditches | N | | N | | N | | Y | | N | | Y | Y | | | | | | | Poor | 449 446 273 274 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 |
| Rural Trees | Y | | Y | | N | | N | | N | | F | | | | | | | | Moderate | 225 143 135 145 119 190 139 154 153 150 188 412 413 414 415 44 |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urban | Tall forbs | A | Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area. |
| | | B | The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year. |
| | | C | Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area.<br>Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover). |
| | | Good | Passes all 3 core criteria;<br>AND<br>Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C. |
| | | Moderate | Passes 2 of 3 core criteria;<br>OR<br>Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C |
| | | Poor | Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria. |
| Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness | Other Neutral Grassland | A | The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only. |
| | | B | Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed. |
| | | C | Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens. |
| | | D | Cover of bracken Pteridium aquilinum is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%. |
| | | E | Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition3 and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. |
| | | F | There are 10 or more vascular plant species per $m^2$ present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). |
| | | Good | Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F. |
| | | Moderate | Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A. |
| | | Poor | Passes 2 or fewer criteria;<br>OR<br>Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F. |
| Grassland Low Distinctiveness | Modified Grassland | A | "There are 6-8 vascular plant species per $m^2$ present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.<br>Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per $m^2$ |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet. |
| | | B | Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed. |
| | | C | Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present).<br>Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type. |
| | | D | Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities. |
| | | E | Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens). |
| | | F | Cover of bracken Pteridium aquilinum is less than 20%. |
| | | G | There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA). |
| | | Good | Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A |
| | | Moderate | Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A |
| | | Poor | Passes 3 or fewer criteria;<br>OR<br>Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A) |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scrub | Mixed Scrub<br>Hawthorn Scrub<br>Willow Scrub | A | The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range).<br>- At least 80% of scrub is native,<br>- There are at least three native woody species2,<br>- No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel *Corylus avellana*, common juniper *Juniperus communis*, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* (only in its restricted native range), or box *Buxus sempervirens*, which can be up to 100% cover). | | |
| | | B | Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present. | | |
| | | C | There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of suboptimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover. | | |
| | | D | The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat. | | |
| | | E | There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges. | | |
| | | Good | Passes 5 criteria | | |
| | | Moderate | Passes 3 or 4 criteria | | |
| | | Poor | Passes 2 or fewer criteria | | |
| Woodland | Other Woodland: Broadleaved | Score | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | A | Three age-classes present. | Two age-classes present. | One age-class present. |
| | | B | No significant browsing damage evident in woodland. | Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland. | Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | C | No invasive species present in woodland. | Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, and other invasive species <10% cover. | Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ≥10% cover. |
| | | D | Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel. | Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel. | Two or less native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel. |
| | | E | >80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native. | 50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native. | <50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native. |
| | | F | "10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.<br>Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted. | 21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. | <10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.<br>But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category." |
| | | G | All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings | One or two classes only present in woodland. | No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland. |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | or advanced coppice regrowth. | | |
| | | H | Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback. | 11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present. | Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present. |
| | | I | Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists. | Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present. | No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present. |
| | | J | Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland. | Two storeys across all survey plots. | One or less storey across all survey plots. |
| | | K | Two or more veteran trees per hectare. | One veteran tree per hectare. | No veteran trees present in woodland. |
| | | L | 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an | Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities. | Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities. |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | abundance of small cavities. | | |
| | | M | No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident. | Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground. | 1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground. |
| | | Good | Total score >32 (33 to 39) | | |
| | | Moderate | Total score 26 to 32 | | |
| | | Poor | Total score <26 (13 to 25) | | |
| Individual Trees | Rural Trees | A | The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species). | | |
| | | B | The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion). | | |
| | | C | The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature). | | |
| | | D | There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height. | | |
| | | E | Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark. | | |
| | | F | More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath. | | |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hedgerows | Native Hedgerow,<br>Native Hedgerow with Trees | A1. | Height | >1.5 m average along length | The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees.<br>Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).<br>A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height). |
| | | A2. | Width | >1.5 m average along length | The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees.<br>Outgrowths (such as blackthorn Prunus spinosa suckers) are only included in the width |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | estimate when they are >0.5 m in height.<br><br>Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). |
| | | B1. | Gap - hedge base | Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length | This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth.<br><br>Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook)." |
| | | B2. | Gap - hedge canopy continuity | Gaps make up <10% of total length; and<br><br>No canopy gaps >5 m | This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | woody canopy (no matter how small).<br><br>Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate). |
| | | C1. | Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation | >1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length:<br><br>· Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and<br><br>· Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least). | This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow.<br><br>Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow.<br><br>This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches. |
| | | C2. | Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation | Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground. | The indicator species used are nettles Urtica spp., cleavers *Galium aparine* and docks *Rumex* spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold. |
| | | D1. | Invasive and neophyte species | >90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and recently introduced species. | Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website4, as well as the BSBI website5 where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non- |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Native Secretariat website. |
| | | D2. | Current damage | >90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities. | This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes.<br><br>This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting). |
| | Native Hedgerow with Trees | E1. | Tree class | There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow. | This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species. |
| | | E2. | Tree health | At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity. | This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens. |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Good | Hedgerows without trees | No more than 2 failures in total;<br>AND<br>No more than 1 failure in any functional group. | Hedgerows with trees | No more than 2 failures in total;<br>AND<br>No more than 1 failure in any functional group. |
| | | Moderate | | No more than 4 failures in total;<br>AND<br>Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition). | | No more than 5 failures in total;<br>AND<br>Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition). |
| | | Poor | | Fails a total of more than 4 attributes;<br>OR<br>Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails | | Fails a total of more than 5 attributes;<br>OR<br>Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition). |

| Condition Table | Relevant Habitats | Condition Criterion | Criterion Description | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition). | | |
| Ditches | Ditches | A | The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. | | | |
| | | B | A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20 m ditch length. | | | |
| | | C | There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed Lemna spp. (these are signs of eutrophication). | | | |
| | | D | A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch. | | | |
| | | E | Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities. | | | |
| | | F | Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50 cm in minor ditches and 1 m in main drains. | | | |
| | | G | Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded. | | | |
| | | H | There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species. | | | |