

Light Valley Solar

Environmental Statement Volume 3

Appendix 12.3: Breeding Bird Survey Report - Solar Development Sites 6-8

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on behalf of Light Valley Solar Limited

Technical Appendix 12.3: Breeding Bird Survey Report – Solar
Development Sites 6-8



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 This report has been prepared by Avian Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Light Valley Solar Limited and presents the results of breeding bird surveys and habitat suitability assessments undertaken in 2025 for the proposed Light Valley Solar Development ('the Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development comprises ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays, on-site energy storage, associated infrastructure, a cable route, and a grid connection.

1.1.2 The Proposed Development location, referred to as the "Order Limits" hereafter, is located within the administrative area of North Yorkshire Council and comprises four principal areas which are listed below (bullet points below and paragraph 1.1.3). Note that the surveys focus was on 1 and 2:

1. The Solar Development Sites (long-term operational infrastructure); and
2. The Cable Route Corridor (temporary construction-phase infrastructure).

1.1.3 The other two principal areas include the Cable Route Corridor which includes connection works into the National Grid Monk Fryston and the Highway Improvement Areas (HIAs), which are further discussed in Section 2.

1.1.4 The Order Limits is centred at OS Grid Reference SE 54060 and encompass seven discrete Solar Development Sites and associated infrastructure including the Cable Route Corridor, construction compounds and access tracks, as shown in Figure 12.1: Proposed Development Overview (ES Volume 2) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.12.01]. The Solar Developments and numbering used throughout the ornithology documents are listed below:

1. Solar Development Site 1;
2. Solar Development Site 2;
3. Solar Development Site 3;
4. Solar Development Site 4;
5. Solar Development Site 6/7 (Solar Development Site 6 and Solar Development Site 7); and
6. Solar Development Site 8.

Note: Solar Development Sites 6 and 7 were combined due to overlapping survey buffers and contiguous habitats; therefore, they are treated as a single survey unit in all relevant ornithological documents.

1.1.5 The full extent of the Site, including the Solar Development Sites, Cable Route Corridor and Cable Construction Compounds and survey areas are shown in **Figure 3** of Appendix 12.2: Non-breeding Bird Survey Report [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.12.02]. A description of the Proposed Development is

provided in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02].

1.1.6 For clarity, site numbering used within this Ornithology Appendix may differ slightly from other ES chapters, but all referenced areas fall within the same overall Order Limits.

1.2 Previous surveys and design evolution

1.2.1 Tyler Grange LLP completed breeding bird surveys across Solar Development Sites 1–4 (and 5 as it was still included in the Proposed Development at the time of survey) in 2024, see Appendix 12.1: Breeding Bird Survey Report – Solar Development Sites 1-5 (ES Volume 3) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.12.01] and should be read in conjunction with this document. However the results of these surveys are included (ground nesting birds) for completeness.

1.2.2 Following design evolution of the Light Valley Solar Development between October 2024 and summer 2025, the survey scope was revised:

1. Solar Development Sites 6/7 and 8 were added;
2. Solar Development Site 5 was excluded; and
3. Confirmation of the preferred Cable Route Corridor Options Area for Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

1.2.3 At the point of publication of the PEIR, Solar Development Site 5 was included within the ornithological assessment boundary. However, this area has since been removed from the Order Limits and is therefore not considered further in this assessment. In addition, the northern extent of Solar Development Site 1 and the southern extent of Solar Development Site 4 have been excluded from the Order Limits.

1.2.4 Notwithstanding these changes, the full extents of Solar Development Sites 1 and 4 are retained within this Appendix (and the subsequent ES) to maintain baseline completeness and assess potential effect pathways to designated features of the local area.

1.3 Current report scope

1.3.1 This report presents:

1. the results of breeding bird surveys undertaken by Avian Ecology Ltd. within Solar Development Sites 6/7 and 8 between April and July 2025;
2. The combined results of the breeding bird surveys completed by Avian Ecology and Tyler Grange to summarise the overall ground nesting bird territories; and
3. The findings of breeding bird features (Schedule 1 bird supporting habitats/features) surveys conducted along the Cable Route Corridor and Solar Development Sites.

1.3.2 The report objectives are the following:

1. Summarise baseline ornithological information collected during the 2025 breeding season for Solar Development Sites 6/7 and 8;

2. Describe the results of habitat suitability/features that support Schedule 1 birds along the Cable Route Corridor and the Solar Development Sites; and
3. Identify and map the presence of Priority Species and supporting features (ground nesting and Schedule 1 birds) within the Order Limits and relevant survey results to inform Chapter 12: Ornithology (ES Volume 1) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.01.12].

1.3.3 Common bird names are used throughout the main text. **Annex 1** lists all species recorded, including scientific names and conservation status.

1.4 Previous surveys (2024)

1.4.1 Surveys were undertaken by Tyler Grange in 2024 at Solar Development Sites 1–5, which identified the following species defined as ground nesting Priority Species (see methodology). Note that Solar Development Site 5 has been dropped from the Order Limits, however full results for ground nesting birds are provided for completeness.

Table 1-1 Summary of 2024 Breeding Bird Survey Results (Priority species ground nesting species only)

Solar Development Site and number	Species	Breeding Status / Notes
Solar Development Site 1	Skylark	Five probable breeding territories
	Lapwing	Two confirmed breeding territories
Solar Development Site 2	Skylark	Two probable territories
	Reed bunting	One probable territory
Solar Development Site 3	–	No relevant species recorded
Solar Development Site 4	Skylark	Four confirmed and five probable breeding territories
	Lapwing	One probable breeding territory
	Corn bunting	Two probable breeding territories
	Greylag goose	Unknown numbers of confirmed breeders adjacent to Solar Development Site 4
	Yellow wagtail	One probable breeder
Solar Development Site 5 (Solar Development Site — dropped from Order Limits)	Skylark	Seven probable breeders
	Corn bunting	Two probable breeding territories

1.4.2 The results for ground nesting species will be merged with the 2025 results presented in this document to present the overall breeding bird territories across all of the Solar Development Sites.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 This section describes the desk-based data review and field survey methods used to establish the baseline for breeding birds within Solar Development Sites 6/7 and 8.

2.2 Desktop study

2.2.1 The following sources were reviewed in order to assess the Order Limits and the area surrounding:

1. Review of statutory and non-statutory sites within 20 km of the Proposed Development¹;
2. North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYED): A review of existing casual bird records within 2 km of the Order Limits²;
3. A review of York Ornithological Club Reports & Historical Records that are available to date (2020), where applicable; these are of casual and unsystematic records collected by bird watchers³; and
4. The BTO Data Report (further detailed below).

2.2.2 The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Data Report provides a collation and analysis of both historical (2007–2011 Great Britain Bird Atlas) and contemporary (2021–2025; BirdTrack) bird records relevant to the Order Limits. Data are drawn from national BTO recording schemes, including the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Bird Atlas, and BirdTrack databases, covering all 1-km grid squares, tetrads, and 10-km squares that overlap the Order Limits (a total of 33 1-km squares, 15 tetrads, and three 10-km squares). The entirety of the Order Limits (including Solar Development Sites 1–8 and the Cable Route Corridor) has been assessed as part of the desk study to account for the dynamic nature and mobility of bird species.

2.2.3 The dataset is used to identify all bird species recorded within these grid squares and to assess their relative status and distribution. Contextual analysis compares the occurrence and abundance of species at local (vice-county and county), regional, national (country), and UK. scales. This enables the importance of species populations in the vicinity of the Order Limits to be evaluated and helps inform the assessment of potential effects, as well as the design of habitat mitigation, enhancement, and biodiversity net gain measures.

2.2.4 A species is considered ‘Notable’ if its percentage range is at least twice the site’s (which overlays the Order Limits) percentage size, except at the UK scale, where species are Notable if the site and vicinity cover 2% or more of their UK range.

¹ Natural England. (n.d.). MAGIC: Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside. [online] Available at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> [Accessed 28 Oct. 2025]

² North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC). (n.d.). North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre. Retrieved May 24, 2025, from <https://www.neyedc.org.uk/>

³ York Ornithological Club. (n.d.). YOC Recording Area. Retrieved October 2025, from <https://yorkbirding.org.uk/sites/yoc-recording-area/>

2.3 Breeding bird field survey within the Solar Development Sites

Survey overview

- 2.3.1 Breeding bird surveys were undertaken between April 2025 and July 2025, based on guidance from Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2023)⁴. The survey comprised a series of four staggered survey visits undertaken at least ten days apart, which was agreed with the Local Planning Authority (LPA; North Yorkshire Council) during a meeting held on 20 March 2025.
- 2.3.2 Field surveys were undertaken by suitably experienced ornithologists. Survey visits to both Solar Development Sites 6/7 and 8 were completed on the same day, which were undertaken concurrently by two separate surveyors. See **Figure 2**.
- 2.3.3 All four visits were carried out within half an hour either side of sunrise and were completed by 09:15am latest.
- 2.3.4 All surveys were carried out in weather conditions suitable for undertaking breeding bird survey, avoiding heavy rain and strong wind. Survey effort is presented in Table 2-1, with full weather conditions presented in Annex 3.

⁴ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2023). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.1.1. <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> (Accessed: 18th August 2025)

Table 2-1 Breeding bird survey effort

Visit no.	Solar Development Site	Date	Start time	Finish time	Sunrise/set times	Wind speed	Wind direction	Rain	Cloud cover	Average temperature
1	6/7	22/04/2025	05:54	09:12	05:54	2	WSW	Nil	4/8	6
	8									
2	6/7	15/05/2025	04:55	08:08	05:08	3	N	Nil	7/8	7
	8									
3	6/7	10/06/2025	04:40	07:40	04:35	3	WNW/W	Nil	5-7/8	12
	8									
4	6/7	05/07/2025	05:20	08.45	04.43	2	WSW	Nil	8/8	28
	8									

2.4 Survey Area and methodology

- 2.4.1 The Survey Area comprised the Solar Development Site 6/7 and Solar Development Site 8 as shown in Figure 2, together with a surrounding 50 m buffer. Coverage of the buffer was achieved through observations made from within the Order Limits boundary or from Public Rights of Way (PRoW), where appropriate.
- 2.4.2 During the surveys, all 'Priority Species' and 'Secondary Species' (see below for definitions) were recorded on suitably scaled field maps using standard BTO species codes⁵ and behaviour notations (such as singing, carrying food, active nest) to ascertain breeding status (Table 2-2).
- 2.4.3 In line with the survey objectives and assessment scale, a broad territory mapping approach was adopted. Each observation of a species exhibiting breeding or territorial behaviour (such as singing, display, or nesting activity) was treated as a single territory or breeding pair within the mapped area, particularly where multiple observations likely related to the same pair in similar locations, they were classed as a single territory to avoid over-estimation.
- 2.4.4 Breeding evidence was classified according to standard criteria (see Table 2-2), but territory totals represent broad estimates rather than intensive territory mapping consistent with good practice for site-wide breeding bird surveys (following methods described in Gilbert *et al.*, 1998).

2.5 Species considerations and assessment

- 2.5.1 In accordance with Chapter 12: Ornithology (ES Volume 1) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.12] receptors were scoped in or out of detailed assessment based on their potential to be affected by the Proposed Development. While all Priority Species recorded during the surveys are acknowledged, detailed evaluation focuses on those most likely to be affected, notably ground-nesting birds associated with open grassland habitats, where direct habitat loss and disturbance may occur. Accordingly, this baseline gives particular attention to arable, grassland and riparian habitats supporting breeding birds, including Schedule 1 species and ground-nesting or wetland-associated species such as skylark, lapwing, meadow pipit, yellow wagtail, reed bunting, and water rail.

2.6 Definitions

- 2.6.1 In accordance with Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2023) guidance, 'Priority Species' relevant to the Proposed Development and recorded during the breeding bird surveys comprise:

⁵ Abbreviated Code List (n/d). Available at: https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u10/downloads/taking-part/species_codes.pdf [Accessed August 2025]

1. Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Amber and Red List Species (Stanbury et al., 2021⁶ and Stanbury et al. 2024⁷);
2. Section 41 (S41) species listed under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
3. Annex 1/Schedule 1 species; and
4. Species listed as Focus Species under the draft North Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS, 2025⁸), which provides the most up-to-date framework for identifying locally important species.

2.6.2 Common and widespread species not classified as Priority Species (i.e. BoCC Green List and non-native species) are referred to as ‘Secondary Species’. These were recorded during each survey visit; however, their locations and activities were not mapped, and only visit totals are presented.

2.6.3 Additionally, birds not using the Order Limits for breeding (e.g., foraging birds and fly-overs) were recorded where relevant i.e. large aggregated of species flying over or Schedule 1 birds (juvenile goshawk).

Table 2-2 Criteria for Breeding Evidence (adapted from Sharrock, 1974⁹; Gillings et al., 2013¹⁰)

Possible	Probable	Confirmed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed in suitable nesting habitat. • Singing male in suitable breeding habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. • Permanent territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song etc.) from many individuals on one day. • Courtship and display. • Visiting probable nest site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distraction display or injury feigning. • Used nest or eggshells. • Recently fledged young. • Adults entering or leaving nest site or adults seen incubating. • Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young.

⁶ Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. (2021) The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds*, **114**, pp. 723-747. Available at: [redacted]

⁷ Stanbury, A.J., Burns, F., Aebischer, N.J., Baker, H., Balmer, D.E., Brown, A., Dunn, T., Lindley, P., Murphy, M., Noble, D.G. and Owens, R. (2024). The status of the UK’s breeding seabirds: an addendum to the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds*, **117**: 471-487. Available online at [redacted]

⁸ North Yorkshire Council (2025) Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part 2 – Priorities and Measures. Available at: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-06/Document%204%20-%20Statement%20of%20Biodiversity%20Priorities%20Part%202%20-%20Priorities%20and%20Measures.pdf> [Accessed August 2025]

⁹ Sharrock, J.T.R. (1974) ‘Minutes of the second meeting of the European Ornithological Atlas Committee’, in: Pinowski, J. and Williamson, K. (eds). Proceedings of the Fourth Meeting of the International Bird Census Committee and the Second Meeting of the European Ornithological Atlas Committee, *Acta Ornithologica*, **14**(6), pp. 261–268.

¹⁰ Gillings, S., Balmer, D. E., Caffrey, B. J. and Swann, B. (2013) ‘Survey methods and data sources’, in: Balmer, D. E., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B. J., Swann, R. L., Downie, I. S. & Fuller, R. J. (eds), *Bird Atlas 2007–11: The Breeding and Wintering Birds of Britain and Ireland*. Thetford, UK: BTO Books. pp. 34–45

Possible	Probable	Confirmed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agitated behaviour or calls suggesting probable presence of nest or young nearby. • Nest building or excavation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nest containing eggs. • Nest with young.

Limitations

- 2.6.4 There are no identified significant limitations in the survey dataset or methods that would affect the robustness of the assessment of potential impacts on breeding bird species.
- 2.6.5 The results represent a snapshot of the 2025 breeding season; however, as birds are highly mobile and populations influenced by wider land management factors (but not limited to), natural year-to-year fluctuations in species presence and abundance are expected.
- 2.6.6 Breeding bird populations and territory distribution may also be influenced by wider ecological and land management factors beyond the scope of this survey, including predation pressure, variation in crop rotation and agricultural practices, localised habitat quality, annual changes to landscape structure, and broader bird movement patterns. These factors can lead to natural fluctuations in breeding bird presence and abundance between years.

2.7 Breeding bird habitat suitability surveys within the Cable Route Corridor and Solar Development Sites

- 2.7.1 A comprehensive walkover survey of the Cable Route Corridor and Solar Development Sites were undertaken in October 2025 (less foliage) by suitably experienced ornithologists from Avian Ecology Ltd. The purpose of this survey was to assess habitat/feature suitability for breeding Schedule 1 birds, and to identify any features of potential ornithological importance along or adjacent to the proposed cable alignment.
- 2.7.2 The survey followed a systematic walkover approach, covering the entire length of the Cable Route Corridor and Solar Development Sites, extending up to a minimum of 200 metres either side, where access and visibility permitted (this did not include any transects as it was walked once). This buffer was selected to ensure that all habitats with potential to support birds (particularly Schedule 1 species) influenced by construction activity were adequately captured and assessed for subsequent assessment. The survey buffer is shown in **Figure 3** of Appendix 12.2: Non-breeding Bird Survey Report (ES Volume 3) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.12.02]. It should be noted, however, that the surveys were not undertaken along the transects or from the Vantage Points (VPs) depicted in the figure. The transects and VPs illustrated relate solely to the non-breeding bird surveys and are included only to represent the 200 m survey buffer.

2.7.3 The Solar Development Sites and the Cable Route Corridor were split into 15 areas due to the scale of the overall area for mapping and ease of reference. The following areas are referenced throughout the report and presented on **Figure 6**:

1. Solar Development Site 1- Map 1 and Map 2;
2. Solar Development Site 2- Map 10;
3. Solar Development Site 3- Map 13;
4. Solar Development Site 4- Map 14 and Map 15;
5. Solar Development Site 6/7- Map 11;
6. Solar Development Site 8- Map 9; and
7. The Cable Route Corridor- Map 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12.

2.7.4 Surveyors recorded suitable features within and adjacent to the corridor, including:

1. Trees (crevices/nest sites), individual and copses;
2. Buildings;
3. Infrastructure;
4. Suitable watercourse banks; and
5. Historic nest/roost sites.

2.7.5 Field observations were supplemented with desk-based review of the BTO Data Report and previous ornithological datasets where available. Particular attention was given to habitats suitable for Schedule 1 species recovered in the desk study that are known to occur within the area (up to 2 km).

2.7.6 The walkover was conducted during favourable weather conditions and season (dry, good visibility, low wind and less foliage coverage), ensuring optimal detectability of suitable habitat features.

Limitations

2.7.7 No significant limitations were encountered during the surveys. All areas within and adjacent to the Cable Route Corridor and Solar Development Sites were accessible and surveyed under suitable weather and visibility conditions. It should be noted, however, that the survey was designed to identify features with potential to support breeding birds, rather than to confirm the presence or absence of active nests. As such, the results represent an assessment of habitat suitability at the time of survey and may not capture short-term or opportunistic nesting activity that can vary annually.

3 RESULTS

3.1.1 This section presents the findings of the breeding bird baseline surveys, incorporating desk study and field survey data.

3.2 Desk study results

3.2.1 On review of the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside ('MAGIC') website the Study Area is located within 20 km of the following international statutory designated sites with ornithological qualifying features:

1. Lower Derwent Valley SPA, SAC & Ramsar (2.8 km east of Solar Development Site 1); and
2. Humber Estuary SPA, SAC & Ramsar (17.5 km east of Solar Development Site 4).

3.2.2 A total of 68 species were returned by North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre. Bird species recorded over the past ten years, include grey partridge, house sparrow, kestrel, linnet, meadow pipit, mistle thrush, skylark, starling, swift, whitethroat, woodpigeon and wren, with yellowhammer also noted. These species are typical of lowland farmland and edge habitats, reflecting a mix of open-field and hedgerow-associated breeding communities (**Annex 5**). However, the number of records recovered were considered very low when considering the scale of the order limits and the 2.0 km study area. The largest number of records were of barn owl, with a total number of 8 records (last record being 2022).

3.2.3 19 species were reviewed in detail which were extracted from the Yorkshire Ornithological Club between 2018 and 2020. These comprise wigeon, garganey, shoveler, pochard, little egret, peregrine, marsh harrier, red kite, water rail, spotted crane, corncrake, gadwall, quail, woodlark, willow tit, pintail, great white egret, black-necked grebe and goshawk. Details of these species can be found in **Annex 6**. It is important to note that these records were returned from within the Lower Derwent Valley area, which is just beyond 2.0 km of the Order Limits.

3.2.4 A total of 88 bird species were returned within 2.0 km of the Order Limits by the BTO Data Report. These species include:

1. Seven species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (little ringed plover, barn owl, marsh harrier, red kite, redwing, fieldfare, and kingfisher);
2. Sixteen species on the BoCC Red list- confirmed breeding species include lapwing, curlew, starling, greenfinch, and linnet;
3. Twenty-four species on the BoCC Amber list- confirmed breeding species include woodpigeon, tawny owl, kestrel, wren, song thrush, and dunnock; and
4. Two species on Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive- golden plover and little egret (no breeding evidence for both species, but both were recorded as present).

3.2.5 There is considerable overlap between BoCC, Annex 1 and Schedule one species classifications. these categories are not entirely discrete, as some species may fall under more than one designation depending on criteria such as conservation status, legal protection, or population trends.

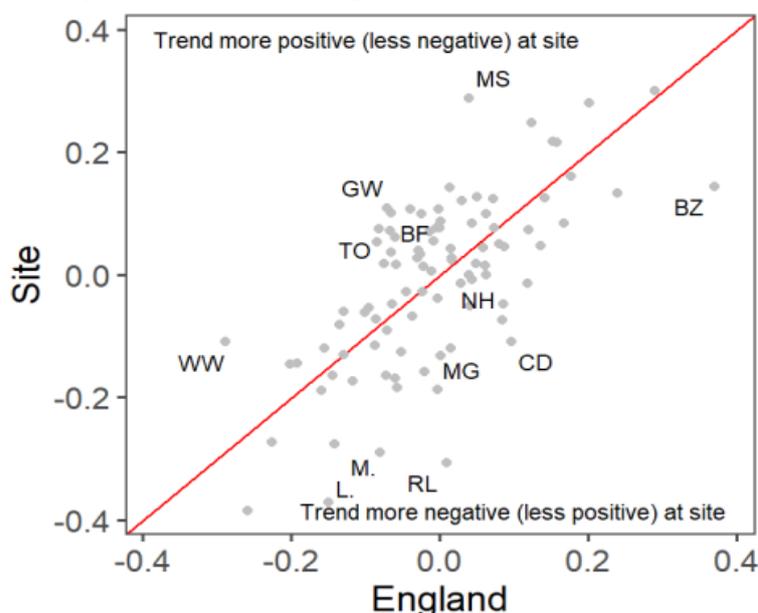
- 3.2.6 According to the BTO Data Report, no breeding bird species within the three 10-km squares overlapping the Order Limits were considered 'notable' at the national scale when compared to the U.K. geographical scale.
- 3.2.7 At a **National** (England) scale: breeding range (12 species): garganey, wigeon, pintail, corncrake, black-necked grebe, avocet, curlew, redshank, willow tit, whinchat, tree sparrow, and corn bunting.
- 3.2.8 Breeding abundance (11 species): teal, grey partridge, collared dove, little ringed plover, snipe, barn owl, sedge warbler, tree sparrow, yellow wagtail, corn bunting, and reed bunting.
- 3.2.9 At a **Regional** scale (Yorkshire and the Humber): breeding range (12 species): garganey, gadwall, wigeon, pintail, corncrake, black-necked grebe, avocet, common tern, little egret, willow tit, cetti's warbler, corn bunting.
- 3.2.10 Breeding abundance (10 species): teal, grey partridge, collared dove, little ringed plover, grey heron, sedge warbler, grasshopper warbler, garden warbler, yellow wagtail, corn bunting.
- 3.2.11 At a **County** scale (North Yorkshire): breeding range (15 species): garganey, gadwall, wigeon, pintail, water rail, corncrake, black-necked grebe, avocet, common tern, little egret, willow tit, cetti's warbler, reed warbler, grasshopper warbler, corn bunting.
- 3.2.12 Breeding abundance (20 species): mute swan, teal, grey partridge, stock dove, collared dove, little ringed plover, grey heron, barn owl, kingfisher, green woodpecker, jay, sedge warbler, grasshopper warbler, garden warbler, lesser whitethroat, whitethroat, yellow wagtail, bullfinch, corn bunting, reed bunting.
- 3.2.13 At a **Vice County** scale (mid-west Yorkshire): (13 species): garganey, gadwall, wigeon, pintail, corncrake, black-necked grebe, avocet, little egret, willow tit, cetti's warbler, grasshopper warbler, yellow wagtail, corn bunting.
- 3.2.14 Breeding abundance (22 species): mute swan, shelduck, teal, grey partridge, stock dove, woodpigeon, collared dove, little ringed plover, redshank, barn owl, sedge warbler, grasshopper warbler, garden warbler, lesser whitethroat, whitethroat, tree sparrow, yellow wagtail, bullfinch, linnet, corn bunting, yellowhammer, reed bunting.
- 3.2.15 At a **Vice County** scale (South-east Yorkshire): breeding range, (21 species): Garganey, Wigeon, Pintail, Corncrake, Black-necked Grebe, Woodcock, Black-headed Gull, Common Tern, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Goshawk, Willow Tit, Cetti's Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Nuthatch, Whinchat, Grey Wagtail, Tree Pipit, Lesser Redpoll, Common Crossbill, Siskin.
- 3.2.16 Breeding abundance, 11 species: Snipe, Grey Heron, Green Woodpecker, Jay, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Garden Warbler, Treecreeper, Grey Wagtail, Tree Pipit, Bullfinch

Stability of species at geographical scales

- 3.2.17 Overall, the data show a mixed pattern of change, with some species performing better locally and others declining more than in surrounding areas (Figure 3-1 of this Appendix). Wetland and woodland species such as mute swan (MS), tawny owl (TO), willow warbler (WW), and garden warbler (GW) generally fared well, suggesting favourable local habitat conditions. in contrast, farmland and aerial insectivorous bird

species including lapwing (L.), sand martin, house martin, and greenfinch declined more sharply, indicating continued pressures on these groups. Overall, the Order Limits supports several species of conservation concern but reflects wider national trends of contrasting fortunes across different habitats.

Figure 3-1 Relative abundance changes for the site and its vicinity compared to the rest of England. Species above the line of equality have more positive/less negative trends at/near the site compared to the country



Source: Light Valley BTO Data Report (2025)

3.3 Breeding bird survey results- Solar Development Sites 6/7 and 8

3.3.1 In line with the methods described in Section 2.3, the results for Solar Development Site 6/7 and Solar Development Site 8 are detailed separately below. All figures are located within Annex 7.

Solar Development Site 6/7 results

3.3.2 A total of 33 species were recorded within the Survey Area for Solar Development Site 6/7, which include a range of Priority and Secondary Species¹¹ (see Annex 1 for full list).

3.3.3 Breeding evidence for 19 Priority Species recorded within the Solar Development Site 6/7 boundary include:

1. One Schedule 1 species (barn owl);
2. Seven Red List species (house sparrow, linnet, skylark, starling, yellow wagtail, yellowhammer, and greenfinch); and,

¹¹ Note: Species designations are not mutually exclusive. A species may qualify under more than one category (e.g. BoCC Red/Amber, NERC S41, Schedule 1). Totals therefore represent the number of species meeting at least one Priority criterion, not the sum of individual designations.

3. Eleven Amber List species (dunnock, reed bunting, mallard, meadow pipit, sedge warbler, sparrowhawk, stock dove, whitethroat, willow warbler, woodpigeon, and wren).

- 3.3.4 Table 3-1 and **Figure 3** details of ground nesting Priority Species considered breeding within and outside of the Solar Development Site 6/7.
- 3.3.5 One Schedule 1 species (barn owl) was suspected breeding within the Solar Development Site 6/7 (Confidential Map found in **Figure 4**). However, raptors such as red kite and kestrel were observed flying over or hunting, although suitable breeding habitat exists, none were confirmed as breeding. It is likely that the recorded species breed within the wider landscape rather than within Solar Development Site 6/7 itself due to extensive suitable habitat available beyond Solar Development Site 6/7.
- 3.3.6 Individuals of non-breeding species (e.g. black-headed gull, lesser black-backed gull and common tern) were recorded using Solar Development Site 6/7 for foraging or flying over (tern *sp.*), but these records are not considered to represent breeding territories.
- 3.3.7 Within Solar Development Site 6/7, the overall number of Priority Species territories was relatively representative of the size and range of habitats available. Most confirmed territories were associated with common edge habitats such as field margins, treelines, ditches and scrub patches.

Table 3-1 Breeding bird territories for Priority Species recorded within the Solar Development Site 6/7 Breeding Bird Survey area. The table is split to species recorded within and outside of Solar Development Site 6/7

Solar Development Site	Species	Designations				Number of territories				Recording notes and overall breeding territory numbers
		Bo CC 5	Schedule 1	LNR S Species	NER C S41	April Visit 1	May Visit 2	June Visit 3	July Visit 4	
Within Solar Development Site boundary										
6/7	Skylark	Red			X	8	8	7	2	Between April and July, singing bird activity declined from several individuals (peaking at 8 in May) to two territories by July. No birds were confirmed as breeding. A total of six territories across the season
6/7	Reed bunting	Amber			X	2	2	1	2	Two territories were recorded during the first two surveys and again in the final survey. As this is a multi-brooded species, it is likely that a second breeding attempt occurred. A total of two territories across the season.
6/7	Barn owl	Green	X			0	1	1	0	Flew to barn owl box- breeding is unconfirmed
6/7	Mallard	Amber				0	0	1	0	One adult pair in ditch, breeding was not confirmed.
6/7	Meadow pipit	Amber				0	0	0	1	One possible territory. A single male recorded singing
Outside of the Solar Development Site boundary										
6/7	Yellow wagtail	Red		X	X	0	0	1	0	One possible territory. Displaying and singing in survey Area buffer

3.3.8 Other Priority Species which were recorded within the Survey Area as breeding but are unlikely to be impacted from the Proposed Development, include the following species:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Dunnock (four possible territories) | 7. Sedge warbler (one possible territory) |
| 2. Greenfinch (one probable territory) | 8. Whitethroat (five to eight possible territories) |
| 3. House sparrow (two to four possible territories) | 9. Willow warbler (one territory) |
| 4. Linnet (two possible territories) | 10. Woodpigeon (two confirmed territories) |
| 5. Stock dove (three probable territories) | 11. Wren (five possible territories) |
| 6. Sparrowhawk (one confirmed territory) | 12. Yellowhammer (four possible territories) |

3.3.9 Species flying over Solar Development Site 6/7 that potentially utilise the wider landscape for breeding included greylag goose, kestrel, lapwing, mistle thrush, song thrush, moorhen grey partridge, rook, starling, swift and red kite. These species are considered typical of the landscape.

Solar Development Site 8 results

3.3.10 For Solar Development Site 8, a total of 28 species were recorded during the surveys. The following 17 Priority Species were recorded as breeding within the Survey Area:

1. Seven Red List species (greenfinch, yellowhammer, linnet yellow wagtail, grey partridge, corn bunting, and skylark); and,
2. 10 Amber List species (bullfinch, dunnock, stock dove, song thrush, sedge warbler, whitethroat, woodpigeon, wren, willow warbler, reed bunting).

3.3.11 Table 3-2 and **Figure 5** details Priority Species, highlighting those regarded as species likely to be impacted adversely as a result of the Solar Array development areas, such as ground-nesting bird species.

Table 3-2 Breeding bird territories for Priority Species recorded within the Solar Development Site 8 Survey area. The table is split to species recorded within and outside of the Site

Solar Development Site	Species	Designations				Number of territories				Recording notes and overall breeding territory numbers
		BoCC 5	Schedule 1	LNR S Species	NER C S41	April Visit 1	May Visit 2	June Visit 3	July Visit 4	
Within the Solar Development Site boundary										
8	Skylark	Red			X	14	10	4	1	Between April and July, all birds were recorded were of single, singing males, and breeding was not confirmed. A total of 10 possible territories were recorded across the Site.
8	Reed bunting	Amber			X	2	0	0	2	A total of two possible territories of singing males were recorded across the surveys
8	Grey partridge	Red		X	X	1	0	0	0	One pair were recorded in April, however breeding was not confirmed and the pair were not seen during the subsequent surveys.
8	Yellow wagtail	Red		X	X	0	0	0	1	Adult pair in ditch (one territory), breeding was not confirmed.
8	Corn bunting					0	0	0	1	One adult pair observed on the eastern boundary of the Site. Breeding was not confirmed.
Outside of the Solar Development Site boundary										
8	Lapwing	Red		X	X	2	0	0	0	Two probable territories were identified south of the Site. However, breeding was not confirmed i.e. no young.

3.3.12 Other Priority Species which were recorded within the Survey Area as breeding but are unlikely to be impacted from the Proposed Development, include the following species:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Bullfinch (one territory) | 8. Whitethroat (three possible territory, one confirmed) |
| 2. Dunnock (four possible territories) | 9. Woodpigeon (four possible territories) |
| 3. Greenfinch (one possible territory) | 10. Wren (nine territories, one confirmed) |
| 4. Linnet (two territories) | 11. Willow warbler (six possible territories) |
| 5. Stock dove (one possible territory) | 12. Yellowhammer (one possible territory) |
| 6. Song thrush (one possible territory) | 13. Yellow wagtail (one possible territory) |
| 7. Sedge warbler (one territory) | |

3.3.13 Species flying over the Solar Development Site 8, or those which potentially utilise the wider landscape (beyond the Survey Area) for breeding included greylag goose (six individuals), kestrel, moorhen, mallard, meadow pipit, shelduck, oystercatcher, wheatear and curlew.

3.3.14 One single curlew calling outside of the Survey Area, southern extent, east of Owlett Hall. No breeding behaviour was observed or recorded thereafter.

3.3.15 All species recorded were considered typical of the landscape.

3.4 Summary

Solar Development Site 6/7

3.4.1 A total of 33 Priority Species were recorded within the Survey Area, with breeding evidence for 19 species, including one Schedule 1 species (barn owl), seven Red List, and 11 Amber List species. Most breeding activity was associated with field margins, treelines, ditches, and scrub habitats rather than open grassland. Ground-nesting species such as skylark and meadow pipit were present but in relatively low numbers, and no confirmed breeding of raptors or waterfowl was recorded. Overall, the assemblage is typical of mixed farmland habitats.

Solar Development Site 8

3.4.2 Surveys recorded 28 Priority Species, with breeding evidence for 17 species, including seven Red List and ten Amber List species. The Solar Development Site 8 supported a small number of ground-nesting birds such as skylark, yellow wagtail, and corn bunting, though breeding was largely unconfirmed. Most confirmed or probable breeding territories were of passerine species associated with hedgerows and field boundaries. Species such as curlew, lapwing, and kestrel were observed using the wider landscape but not confirmed breeding within the Solar Development Site 8. The bird assemblage reflects typical lowland farmland communities.

3.5 Conclusion

- 3.5.1 The BTO Data Report identified 88 species within 2 km of the Order Limits, showing mixed population trends for wetland and woodland species such as mute swan, tawny owl, and willow warbler appear to be doing relatively well locally (i.e. abundance), while farmland and aerial insectivorous species including lapwing, sand martin, and greenfinch continue to decline.
- 3.5.2 The 2025 field surveys recorded 33 species at Solar Development Sites 6/7 and 28 at Solar Development Site 8, confirming a community dominated by farmland and edge-associated species. Ground nesting species including notably skylark, yellow wagtail, reed bunting, and barn owl. However, the density of ground nesting species appeared low.
- 3.5.3 Both datasets indicate that ground-nesting species remain present but in reduced numbers, consistent with wider agricultural declines. No notable species increases were detected within the Order Limits, and woodland or wetland specialists predicted by the desk study were largely absent due to limited habitat availability and (or) suitability..

3.6 All Solar Development Sites summary

- 3.6.1 When considering all Solar Development Sites 1-4 (Tyler Grange, 2024) and 6/7-8, the total of ground nesting species are presented below (Table 3-3). Note that boundary thriving/nesting species. i.e. yellowhammer, wren, warbler species are not included below as this species will not be impacted as a result of the Proposed Development. However, full details of these are provided in the report referenced above.
- 3.6.2 A total of 48 territories for ground nesting birds were recorded across the Solar Development Sites, combining AEL and Tyler Grange LLP results.
1. 32 skylark territories (potentially 27 territories due to the retention of areas as part of the design evolution);
 2. Three lapwing territories (potentially two territories due to the retention of areas as part of the design evolution);
 3. Three corn bunting territories;
 4. Two yellow wagtail territories;
 5. Five reed bunting territories;
 6. One mallard territory;
 7. One meadow pipit territory; and
 8. One grey partridge territory
- 3.6.3 Due to design evolution and the retention of parts of Solar Development sites 1 and 4, it is likely that five skylark territories and one lapwing territory will remain and not be adversely affected by the Proposed Development.

Table 3-3 Summary of all ground nesting species within the Order Limits

Site	Ground nesting species	Number of territories
Solar Development Site 1	Skylark	5
	Lapwing	2
Solar Development Site 2	Skylark	2
	Reed bunting	1
Solar Development Site 3	No ground nesting species	-
Solar Development Site 4	Skylark	9
	Lapwing	1
	Corn bunting	2
	Greylag goose	Unknown
	Yellow wagtail	1
Solar Development Site 6/7	Skylark	6
	Reed bunting	2
	Mallard	1
	Meadow pipit	1
Solar Development Site 8	Skylark	10
	Reed bunting	2
	Grey partridge	1
	Yellow wagtail	1
	Corn bunting	1

4 THE SOLAR DEVELOPMENT SITES AND CABLE ROUTE CORRIDOR RESULTS-SUITABLE BREEDING HABITAT FEATURES

4.1.1 A breeding bird habitat suitability survey was undertaken across the Cable Route Corridor (including the Solar Development Sites) and associated infrastructure areas to identify features potentially suitable for breeding Schedule 1 and other priority bird species, if applicable (such as long-eared owl). Features were mapped and described during the October 2025 walkover (see Section 2.4), and their locations are illustrated on **Figure 7-21: Suitable Breeding Bird Features** (See **Figure 6** for map reference). Please note that associated map numbers are provided in the legend of each figure.

4.2 Summary of suitable habitat features

4.2.1 A total of six bird species were associated with potential breeding features along the route, which were also recovered during the desk study:

1. Barn owl- cavities in dead trees, barns and outbuildings, including existing owl boxes;
2. Red kite- large mature trees, isolated or along hedgerows, as well as small copses providing suitable nesting and roosting habitat;
3. Hobby- mature isolated trees and mature trees within hedgerows, and copses, often associated with corvid nests, adjacent to farmland habitat;
4. Peregrine- tall artificial structures (electricity pylons and a water tower) offering suitable nesting platforms;
5. Common crossbill- mixed and coniferous woodland areas with mature spruce/pine trees; and
6. Kingfisher- watercourses with steep vertical earth banks, free of vegetation and overhanging vegetation within the vicinity for perching provides suitable nesting habitat.

Table 4-1 *The number of features present throughout the Cable Route*

Species	Number of Suitable Features Recorded	Typical Feature Description	Breeding Status in Region ¹²	Areas present and the corresponding map number (Figures 7-21)
Barn Owl	36 sites	Barns/Buildings, dead trees, and owl boxes	Resident breeder, common. Total of 15 records within 2 km of the Order Limits the NYECD. Listed as a Probable breeder on the BTO Data Report.	Present in all areas surveyed within the Solar Development Sites and Cable Route Corridor survey area

¹² York Ornithological Club, 2021. York Ornithological Club Report 2020. [pdf] York: York Ornithological Club. Available at: [REDACTED] [Accessed 26 Oct. 2025].

Species	Number of Suitable Features Recorded	Typical Feature Description	Breeding Status in Region ¹²	Areas present and the corresponding map number (Figures 7-21)
Red Kite	36 sites	Large hedgerow trees and small copses	Resident in the southern part of the North Yorkshire recording area with 0-4 pairs recorded as possible breeding within the Lower Derwent Valley area (2021); scarce elsewhere. Total of 5 records within 2 km of the Order Limits the NYECD. Listed as Present on the BTO Data Report.	1, 2 (Solar Development Site 1) 3, 6 of the Cable Route Corridor 9 (Solar Development Site 8) 11 (Solar Development Site 6/7) 14 (Solar Development Site 4)
Hobby	58 sites	Mature trees with corvid nests near open farmland	Passage migrant; scarce and localised breeder- estimation of 5 pairs in 2021. Total of 4 records within 2 km of the Order Limits the NYECD.	Present in all areas within the Solar Development Sites and Cable Route Corridor survey area
Peregrine	23 sites	Electricity pylons and tall concrete structures	Scarce breeder plus a breeding pair at York Minster and 7 pairs recorded on pylons in the Lower Derwent Valley area (2021). Total of 4 records within 2 km of the Order Limits the NYECD.	4, 12 of the Cable Route Corridor 11 (Solar Development Site 6/7) 13 (Solar Development Site 3) 14 and 15 (Solar Development Site 4)
Common Crossbill	17 sites	Mature coniferous woodland blocks	Casual breeder and passage migrant. Total of 3 records within 2 km of the Order Limits the NYECD. The latest record was in 2002.	1 and 2 (Solar Development Site 1) 3 and 6 of the Cable Route Corridor 9 (Solar Development Site 8) 11 (Solar Development Site 6/7) 14 (Solar Development Site 4)
Kingfisher	3 sites	Riverbanks and ditches with exposed soil	Resident breeder, common. Breeding confirmed in Wheldrake Ings and	5 (River Ouse) of the Cable Route Corridor

Species	Number of Suitable Features Recorded	Typical Feature Description	Breeding Status in Region ¹²	Areas present and the corresponding map number (Figures 7-21)
			river Ouse (close to Naburn bridge). Total of 5 records within 2 km of the Order Limits the NYECD. Listed as Possible breeder on the BTO Data Report.	7 (Thorpe Beck) of the Cable Route Corridor and 15 (River Aire)- Solar Development Site 4 (outside of the Order Limits)

- 4.2.2 Suitable breeding features for barn owl and hobby are typical of the landscape, widespread and well distributed across the Survey Area, with both species recorded within all Solar Development Sites (Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 6/7 and 8) and throughout the Cable Route Corridor (Maps 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12).
- 4.2.3 Red kite features are more restricted in distribution, occurring within Solar Development Sites 1 (Maps 1 and 2), 4 (Map 14), 6/7 (Map 11) and 8 (Map 9), and within the Cable Route Corridor (Maps 3 and 6), primarily associated with mature hedgerow trees and small woodland blocks.
- 4.2.4 Potential peregrine breeding habitat is localised and associated with tall structures such as pylons and towers, recorded within Solar Development Sites 3 (Map 13), 4 (Maps 14 and 15) and 6/7 (Map 11), and within the Cable Route Corridor (Maps 4 and 12).
- 4.2.5 Features suitable for common crossbill are confined to isolated coniferous woodland within Solar Development Sites 1 (Maps 1 and 2), 4 (Map 14), 6/7 (Map 11) and 8 (Map 9), and within the Cable Route Corridor (Maps 3 and 6), and are considered to present a low likelihood of breeding due to the species' rarity in North Yorkshire.
- 4.2.6 Riparian habitats suitable for kingfisher occur sporadically along main river and drainage features¹³.

¹³ York Ornithological Club, 2021. *York Ornithological Club Report 2020*.

[Accessed 26 Oct. 2025].

ANNEX 1 BIRD SPECIES SUMMARY

Table A1 provides a list of bird species included in the breeding bird survey report. Both common and species names are presented along with a summary of each species conservation status using the following abbreviations:

1. Ann1 – European Birds Directive Annex 1 species;
2. Sch1.1/1.1A/A1/1.2 – Schedule 1 part 1, 1 part 1A, A1 or 1 part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
3. BoCC – Birds of Conservation Concern as listed by leading bird conservation organisations in the UK, including the RSPB and BTO. Red and Amber categories are given (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021; Stanbury *et al.* 2024); and
 - a. Sec41 – species listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Species of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in England).

Table A1: Summary of bird species- Solar Development Site 6/7 and 8

Common name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber; Sec41
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber*
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Green; Sch1.1
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Red; Sec41
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Amber*; Ann1
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	NT; Red; Sec41
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber; Sec41
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Amber
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red; Sec41
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Green; Sch1.1 & 1A; Ann1
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	NT; Red; Sec41
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber*
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red; Sec41
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	NT; Amber
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Red; Sec41
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber; Sec41
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red; Sec41

Common name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red; Sec41
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Red
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber; Sec41
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Amber
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Amber
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Amber
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red; Sec41
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Red; Sec41

ANNEX 2: SPECIES RECORDED AS BREEDING WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA

Table A2 presents all species recorded as breeding (possible, probable, or confirmed) within the Survey Area during the 2025 breeding season. Abbreviations correspond to BTO species codes. Zeros (0) indicate that a species was not recorded displaying breeding behaviour during that survey visit.

Table A2: Summary of species recorded breeding within the Survey Area

Solar Development Site 6/7	April	May	June	July
Dunnock	4	2	7	4
Greenfinch	1	1	0	1
House sparrow	1	4	0	0
Linnet	2	0	2	0
Mallard	0	0	1	0
Meadow pipit	0	0	0	1
Reed bunting	2	2	0	2
Skylark	10	11	6	3
Stock dove	0	0	0	3
Starling	0	1	0	0
Sparrowhawk	0	0	0	1
Song thrush	0	0	0	1
Sedge warbler	0	0	1	0
Whitethroat	6	8	5	3
Wood pigeon	0	0	2	1
Wren	5	9	8	2
Willow warbler	1	1	0	0
Yellowhammer	4	5	0	4
Yellow wagtail	0	0	1	0
Solar Development Site 8	April	May	June	July
Bullfinch	0	0	0	1
Corn bunting	0	0	0	1
Dunnock	5	4	2	1
Greylag goose	0	0	0	0
Greenfinch	0	0	0	1
Lapwing	2	0	0	0
Linnet	0	5	0	2
Mallard	1	0	0	0
Gray partridge	1	0	0	0
Reed bunting	0	0	1	3

Skylark	20	13	5	4
Stock dove	0	1	0	0
Song thrush	1	1	0	2
Sedge warbler	1	0	0	0
White throat	8	3	1	2
Wood pigeon	0	4	4	7
Wren	12	11	7	9
Willow warbler	6	7	3	1
Yellowhammer	0	0	1	0
Yellow wagtail	0	0	0	1

Species abbreviations used in Annex 2 follow standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) two-letter codes, as follows:

BF = Bullfinch;
CB = Corn Bunting;
D. = Dunnock;
GR = Greenfinch;
HS = House Sparrow;
LI = Linnet;
L. = Lapwing;
MA = Mallard;
MP = Meadow Pipit;
p. = Grey Partridge;
RB = Reed Bunting;
S. = Skylark;
SD = Stock Dove;
SG = Sedge Warbler;
SH = Sparrowhawk;
ST = Starling;
SW = Swallow;
WH = Whitethroat;
WP = Woodpigeon;
WR = Wren;
WW = Willow Warbler;
Y. = Yellowhammer; and
YW = Yellow Wagtail.

ANNEX 3: BREEDING BIRD SURVEY EFFORT RECORDING

Wind Speed		W-Direction	Rain		Cloud Cover		Cloud Height	
Calm	0	Use 16-point Compass	None	0	In eighths e.g.	3/8	<150m	0
Light air	1		Light Showers	1			150-500m	1
Light breeze	2	N	Heavy Showers	2			>500m	2
Mod. breeze	4	NE	Light rain	3				
Fresh breeze	5	ENE	Heavy rain	4				
Strong breeze	6	E						
Mod. gale	7	Etc	Visibility		Snow		Frost	
Fresh gale	8		Poor	0	None	0	None	0
Strong gale	9		< 1 km	1	On site	1	Ground	1
Whole gale	10		>1 km	2	High ground	2	All day	2
Storm	11							

ANNEX 4: BTO DATA REPORT – SPECIES RECOVERED WITHIN 2 KM OF THE ORDER LIMITS

English name	Schedule 1 UK	IUCN2 Near Threatened	Annex 1	RBBP	BoCC Amber	IUCN2 Vulnerabl	BoCC Red	IUCN2 Critically Endanger ed	IUCN2 Endanger ed	Section 41 England	Schedule ZA1 England & Wales	2 km
Canada Goose												Probable
Greylag Goose					Y							Probable
Mute Swan												Probable
Tufted Duck						Y						Probable
Grey Partridge						Y	Y			Y		Probable
Pheasant												Probable
Red-legged Partridge												Probable
Stock Dove					Y							Probable
Collared Dove		Y										Probable
Moorhen					Y	Y						Probable
Little Ringed Plover	Y			Y								Probable
Barn Owl	Y											Probable
Jay												Probable
Magpie												Probable
Carrion Crow												Probable
Skylark							Y			Y		Probable
Willow Warbler					Y							Probable
Sedge Warbler		Y			Y							Probable
Whitethroat					Y							Probable
Mistle Thrush		Y					Y					Probable

English name	Schedule 1 UK	IUCN2 Near Threatened	Annex 1	RBBP	BoCC Amber	IUCN2 Vulnerable	BoCC Red	IUCN2 Critically Endangered	IUCN2 Endangered	Section 41 England	Schedule ZA1 England & Wales	2 km
Robin												Probable
Tree Sparrow						Y	Y			Y		Probable
House Sparrow							Y			Y		Probable
Yellow Wagtail		Y					Y			Y		Probable
Meadow Pipit					Y							Probable
Chaffinch									Y			Probable
Bullfinch					Y					Y		Probable
Goldfinch												Probable
Yellowhammer							Y			Y		Probable
Reed Bunting					Y					Y		Probable
Teal					Y							Present
Swift							Y		Y			Present
Rock Dove												Present
Water Rail												Present
Oystercatcher					Y	Y						Present
Golden Plover			Y									Present
Snipe					Y	Y						Present
Common Sandpiper		Y			Y							Present
Black-headed Gull					Y	Y						Present
Lesser Black-backed Gull					Y							Present
Cormorant		Y										Present
Grey Heron						Y						Present

English name	Schedule 1 UK	IUCN2 Near Threatened	Annex 1	RBBP	BoCC Amber	IUCN2 Vulnerable	BoCC Red	IUCN2 Critically Endangered	IUCN2 Endangered	Section 41 England	Schedule ZA1 England & Wales	2 km
Little Egret			Y	Y								Present
Sparrowhawk					Y	Y						Present
Marsh Harrier	Y		Y	Y	Y							Present
Red Kite	Y		Y									Present
Great Spotted Woodpecker												Present
Green Woodpecker		Y										Present
Jackdaw												Present
Rook		Y			Y							Present
Sand Martin												Present
House Martin		Y					Y					Present
Redwing	Y			Y	Y			Y				Present
Fieldfare	Y			Y			Y	Y				Present
Tree Pipit							Y			Y		Present
Siskin												Present
Little Owl												Possible
Kingfisher	Y		Y			Y						Possible
Coal Tit												Possible
Willow Tit				Y			Y		Y	Y		Possible
Chiffchaff												Possible
Garden Warbler												Possible
Lesser Whitethroat												Possible
Goldcrest												Possible

English name	Schedule 1 UK	IUCN2 Near Threatened	Annex 1	RBBP	BoCC Amber	IUCN2 Vulnerable	BoCC Red	IUCN2 Critically Endangered	IUCN2 Endangered	Section 41 England	Schedule ZA1 England & Wales	2 km
Treecreeper												Possible
Mallard					Y	Y						Confirmed
Woodpigeon					Y							Confirmed
Coot						Y						Confirmed
Little Grebe												Confirmed
Lapwing						Y	Y			Y		Confirmed
Curlew							Y		Y	Y		Confirmed
Buzzard												Confirmed
Tawny Owl		Y			Y							Confirmed
Kestrel					Y	Y						Confirmed
Blue Tit												Confirmed
Great Tit												Confirmed
Swallow						Y						Confirmed
Long-tailed Tit												Confirmed
Reed Warbler												Confirmed
Blackcap												Confirmed
Wren					Y							Confirmed
Starling						Y	Y			Y		Confirmed
Song Thrush					Y					Y		Confirmed
Blackbird												Confirmed
Dunnock					Y					Y		Confirmed
Pied Wagtail												Confirmed

English name	Schedule 1 UK	IUCN2 Near Threatened	Annex 1	RBBP	BoCC Amber	IUCN2 Vulnerable	BoCC Red	IUCN2 Critically Endangered	IUCN2 Endangered	Section 41 England	Schedule ZA1 England & Wales	2 km
Greenfinch							Y		Y			Confirmed
Linnet							Y			Y		Confirmed

ANNEX 5: NORTH & EAST YORKSHIRE ECOLOGICAL DATA CENTRE

Species	Latest Year	Total Records
Barn Owl	2022	8
Blackbird	2022	3
Black-headed Gull	2022	1
Blue Tit	2022	2
Bullfinch	2023	2
Buzzard	2021	4
Carrion Crow	2019	3
Coal Tit	2023	1
Cuckoo	2023	5
Dunnock	2023	3
Feral Pigeon/Rock Dove	2022	1
Fieldfare	2023	2
Goldcrest	2021	3
Goldfinch	2021	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2021	2
Great Tit	2022	2
Greenfinch	2023	2
Grey Partridge	2023	1
Grey Wagtail	2022	2
Greylag Goose	2021	2
Herring Gull	2022	1
House Sparrow	2023	4
Jackdaw	2016	1
Jay	2021	3
Kestrel	2021	3
Lapwing	2022	2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2021	1

Species	Latest Year	Total Records
Lesser Redpoll	2021	1
Linnet	2023	2
Little Owl	2023	4
Magpie	2022	3
Mallard	2022	3
Marsh Tit	2022	2
Meadow Pipit	2023	2
Mistle Thrush	2021	2
Moorhen	2023	1
Nuthatch	2021	2
Oystercatcher	2021	1
Pink-footed Goose	2021	1
Red Kite	2022	4
Redwing	2022	1
Reed Bunting	2022	2
Robin	2022	5
Rook	2022	1
Shelduck	2021	1
Siskin	2021	1
Skylark	2023	3
Snipe	2022	1
Song Thrush	2022	4
Sparrowhawk	2022	1
Spotted Flycatcher	2021	1
Starling	2023	2
Stock Dove	2022	1
Swallow	2019	1
Swift	2019	3
Tawny Owl	2021	1
Tree Sparrow	2017	1
Treecreeper	2021	2

Species	Latest Year	Total Records
Whitethroat	2023	1
Whooper Swan	2021	1
Willow Tit	2023	2
Willow Warbler	2022	7
Woodcock	2022	7
Woodlark	2022	1
Woodpigeon	2023	4
Wren	2023	5
Yellow Wagtail	2022	1
Yellowhammer	2023	2

ANNEX 6: YORKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB BREEDING RECORDS- RARE SPECIES (2018-2020)¹⁴

Breeding data for each species (where available) is shown in the accompanying table from 2020 within the Lower Derwent Valley area

Species	Max. no. of adults (M- Male/F- Female/prs- Pairs)	No. of Young	No. of Pairs			Total
			Possible	Probable	Confirmed	
Wigeon	16 (11 M)		0	5	0	0- 5
Garganey	18 (9M, 9F)	24 (broods of 6, 8, 5, 5)	4	1	4	4-9
Shoveler	90 prs	77	44	33	13	13-90
Pochard	0	0	0	0	1	1
Little Egret	38+ (19 prs)	34 (minimum)	X	X	19	19
Peregrine	7 prs	10 (from 3 prs)	0	4	3	3-7
Marsh Harrier		0	0	0	1	1
Red Kite		0	4	0	0	0-4
Water Rail	15 calling males, 15 prs	3+ (probably 3 broods)	0	12	3	3-15
Spotted Crane*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corncrake*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gadwall		64 minimum	17	39	11	11 - 67
Quail	26 males singing		11	14	1	0-26

¹⁴ York Ornithological Club (2020) York Ornithological Club Report 2020. Available at:

[Accessed January 2026]

Woodlark	8 males singing		4	3	1	1-8
Willow tit			2	3	6	6-11

Yorkshire Ornithological Club, 2020.

Breeding data for each species (where available) is shown in the accompanying table from 2019 within the Lower Derwent Valley area¹⁵

Species	Max. No. of Adults	No. of Young	No. of Pairs (Possible)	No. of Pairs (Probable)	No. of Pairs (Confirmed)	Total Pairs
Wigeon	17 (10d, 7f)	4	0	1	1	4 + extra drakes
Garganey	10+ (5d, 5f); 7d, 5f	22 (8 ringed)	2	0	5	5 – 7
Shoveler	156	63 (2 ringed)	45	14	11	11 – 70
Pochard	2	0	0	0	0	0 – 2
Little Egret	69 – 85	~40	0	0	16	16
Peregrine	8	3+	0	2	2	2 – 4
Red Kite	2	0	-	2	2	2 – 4
Water Rail	14 calling males	3 (2 broods)	3	9	2	2 – 14
Spotted Crake	3 calling males	0	1	1	0	0 – 1
Corncrake	3 calling males	3	1	0	0	0 – 4

¹⁵ York Ornithological Club (2019) York Ornithological Club Report 2019. Available at:

[Accessed January 2026]

Breeding data for each species (where available) is shown in the accompanying table from 2018 within the Lower Derwent Valley area¹⁶

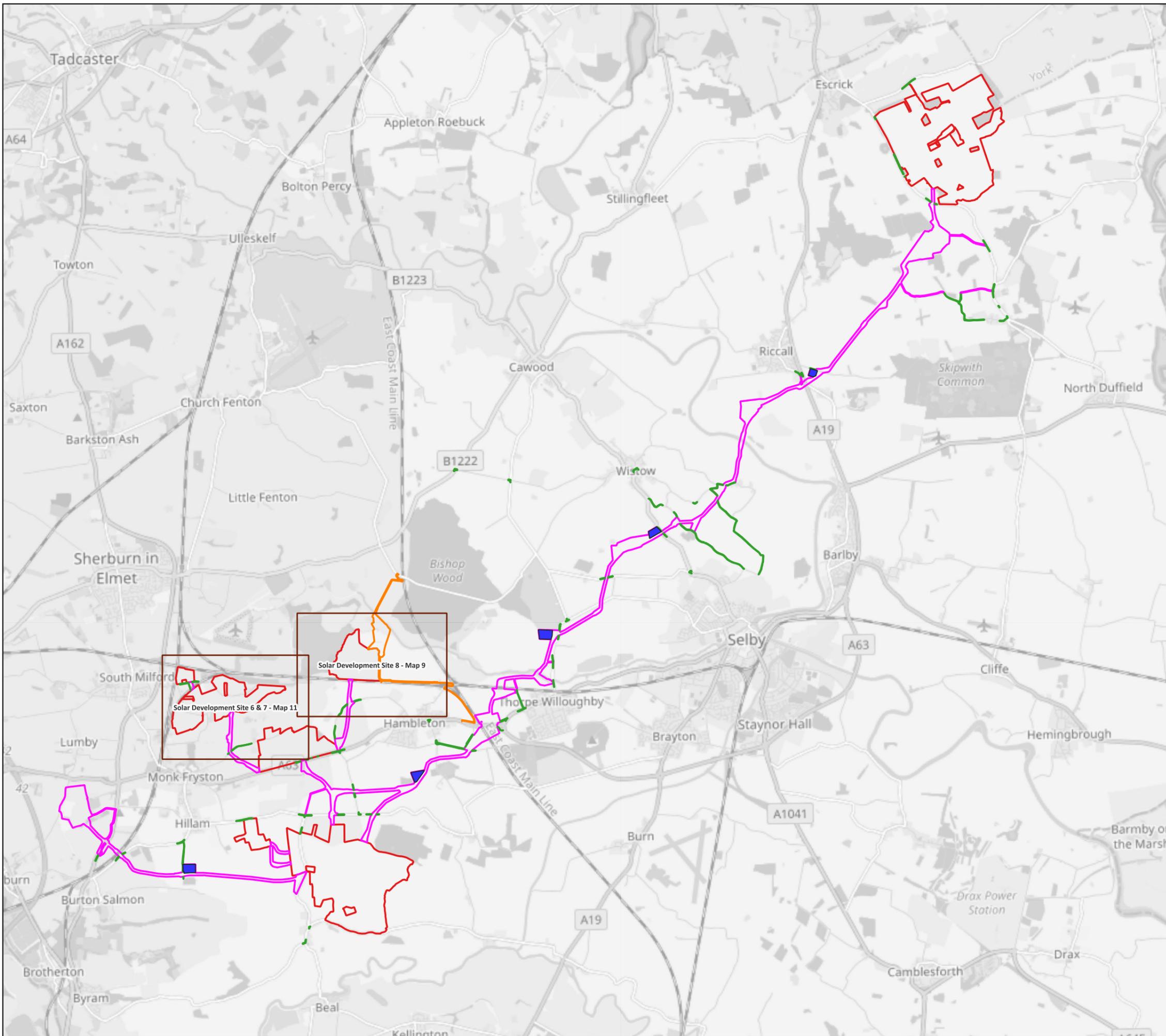
Species	Max. No. of Adults	No. of Young	No. of Pairs (Possible)	No. of Pairs (Probable)	No. of Pairs (Confirmed)	Total Pairs
Wigeon	15 (4f, 11m)	6	-	3	3	1 – 3 + ad. drakes
Garganey	6+	17	-	1	2	1 – 3
Shoveler	206 (100 prs)	120 (5 ringed)	63	16	21	21 – 100
Pintail	2	5	-	-	1	1
Pochard	1	-	-	0	-	1
Little Egret	42 – 50	35	-	-	13	13
Great White Egret	3	0	0	0	0	0
Black-necked Grebe	2	3	-	-	1	1
Peregrine	10	4+	3	0	2	2 – 5
Goshawk	2	1	0	0	0	0 – 1
Red Kite	1	3	0	1	1	1 – 3
Water Rail	18 calling males	16+ (min)	1	10	7	7 – 18
Spotted Crake	3 calling males (max)	1	2	0	0	0 – 3

¹⁶ York Ornithological Club (2018) York Ornithological Club Report 2018. Available at:

[Accessed January 2026]

Corncrake	10 calling males	1+	5	5	1	1 – 11
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ANNEX 7- FIGURES



- Order Limit**
- Solar Development Sites
 - Solar Development Site 8 Access
 - Cable Route Corridor
 - Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)
 - Construction Compound

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Figure 2: Breeding Bird Results - Overview

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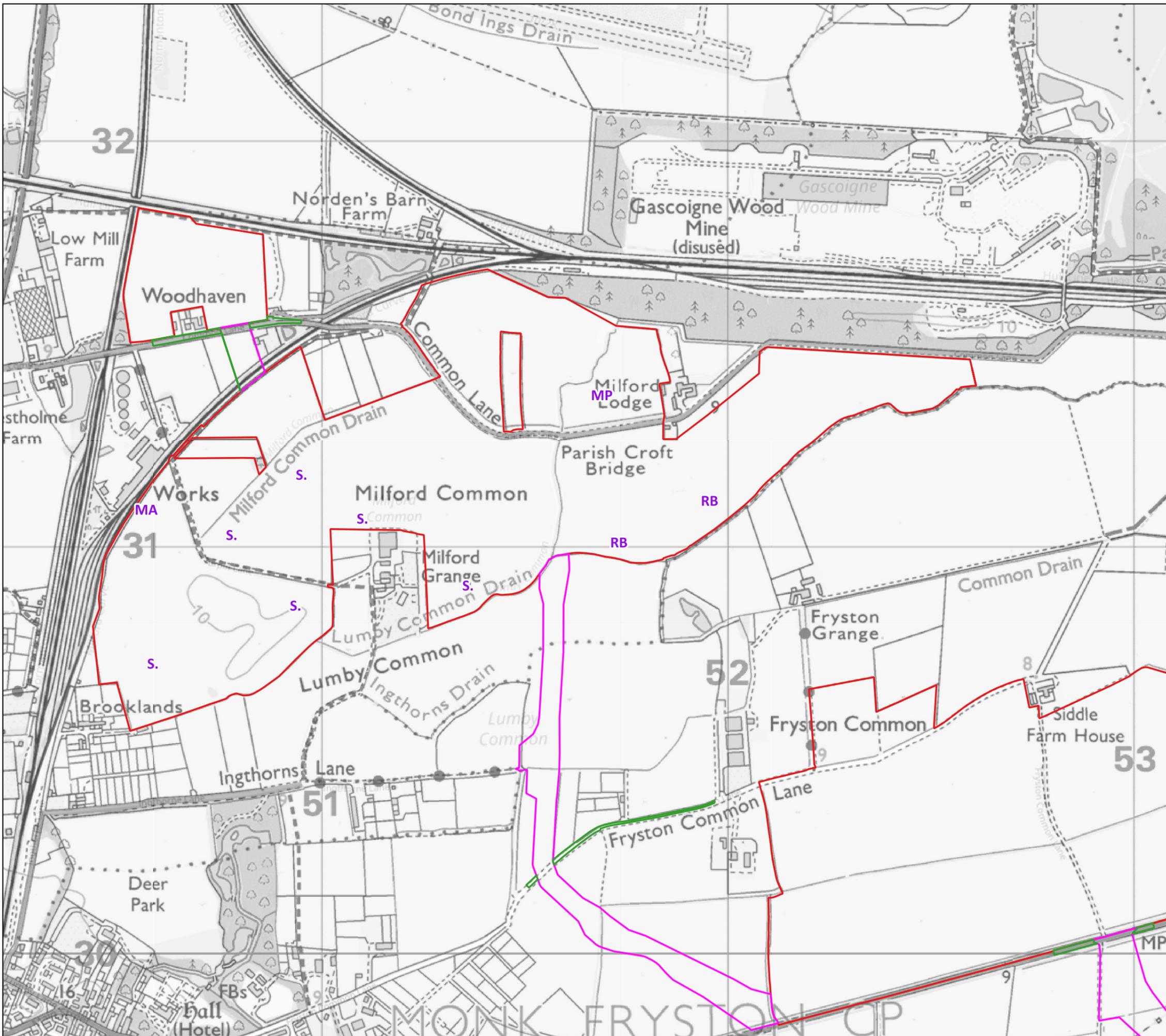
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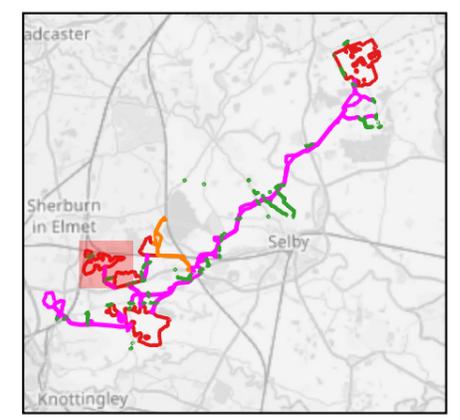
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- Order Limit**
- Solar Development Sites
 - Solar Development Site 8 Access
 - Cable Route Corridor
 - Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)
 - Construction Compound
- Breeding Bird Results**
- MA-Mallard
 - MP-Meadow Pipit
 - P-Grey Partridge
 - RB-Reed Bunting
 - S-Skylark
 - YW-Yellow Wagtail
 - CB-Corn Bunting



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Figure 3: Breeding Bird Results - Solar Development Site 6 & 7 - Map 11

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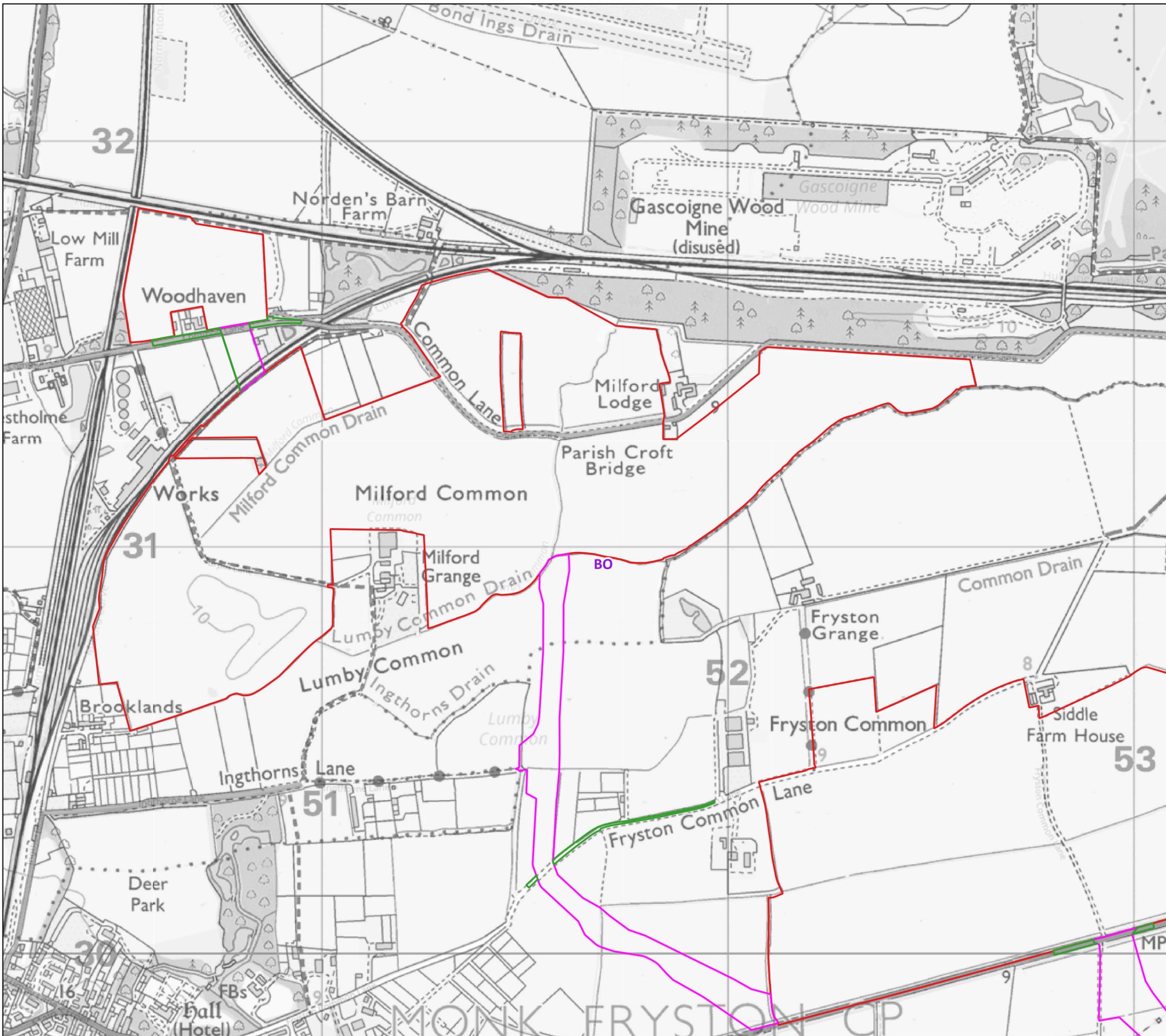
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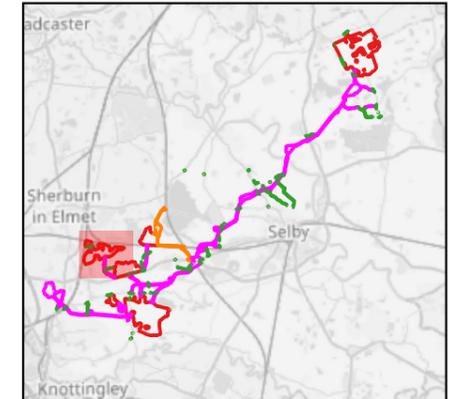
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- Order Limit
- Solar Development Sites
 - Solar Development Site 8 Access
 - Cable Route Corridor
 - Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)
 - Construction Compound
- Breeding Bird Results
- BO-Barn Owl



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Figure 4: Confidential Breeding Bird Results - Solar Development Site 6 & 7 - Map 11

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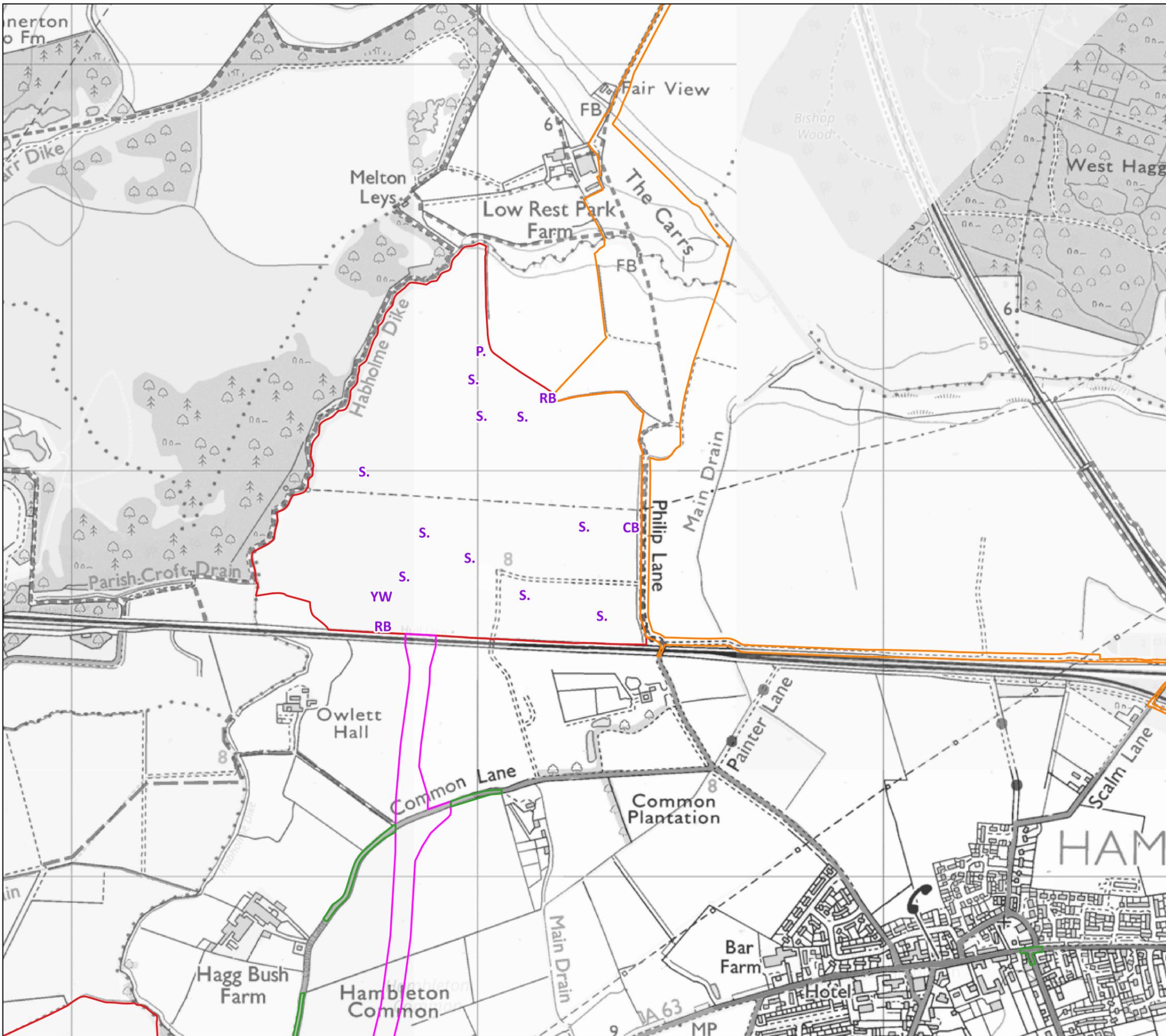
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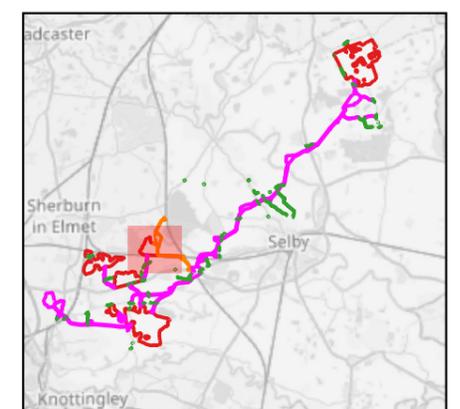
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- Solar Development Sites
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 - Construction Compound
- Breeding Bird Results**
- MA-Mallard
 - MP-Meadow Pipit
 - P-Grey Partridge
 - RB-Reed Bunting
 - S-Skylark
 - YW-Yellow Wagtail
 - CB-Corn Bunting



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Figure 5: Breeding Bird Results - Solar Development Site 8 - Map 9

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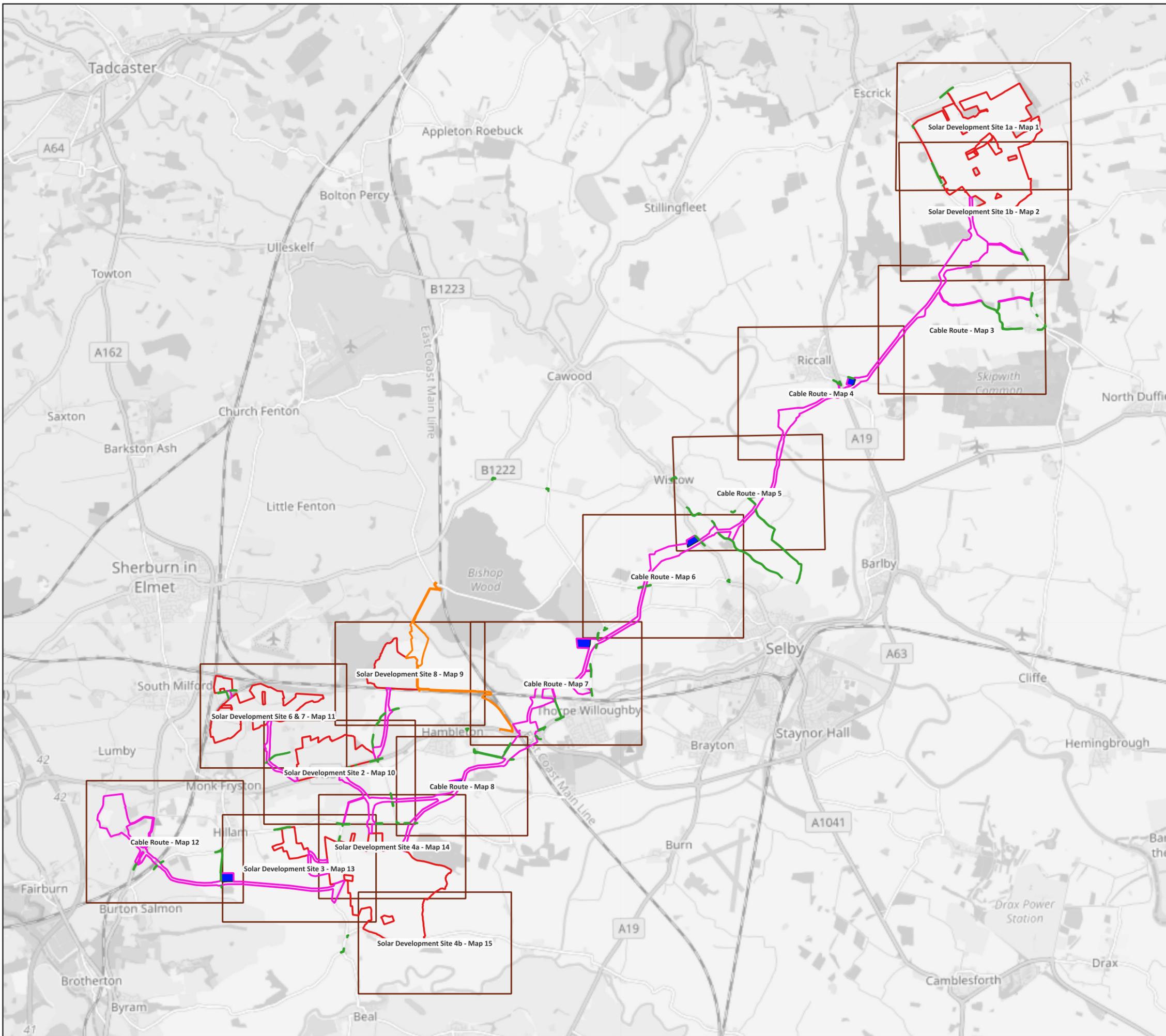
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 - Construction Compound

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Figure 6: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Overview

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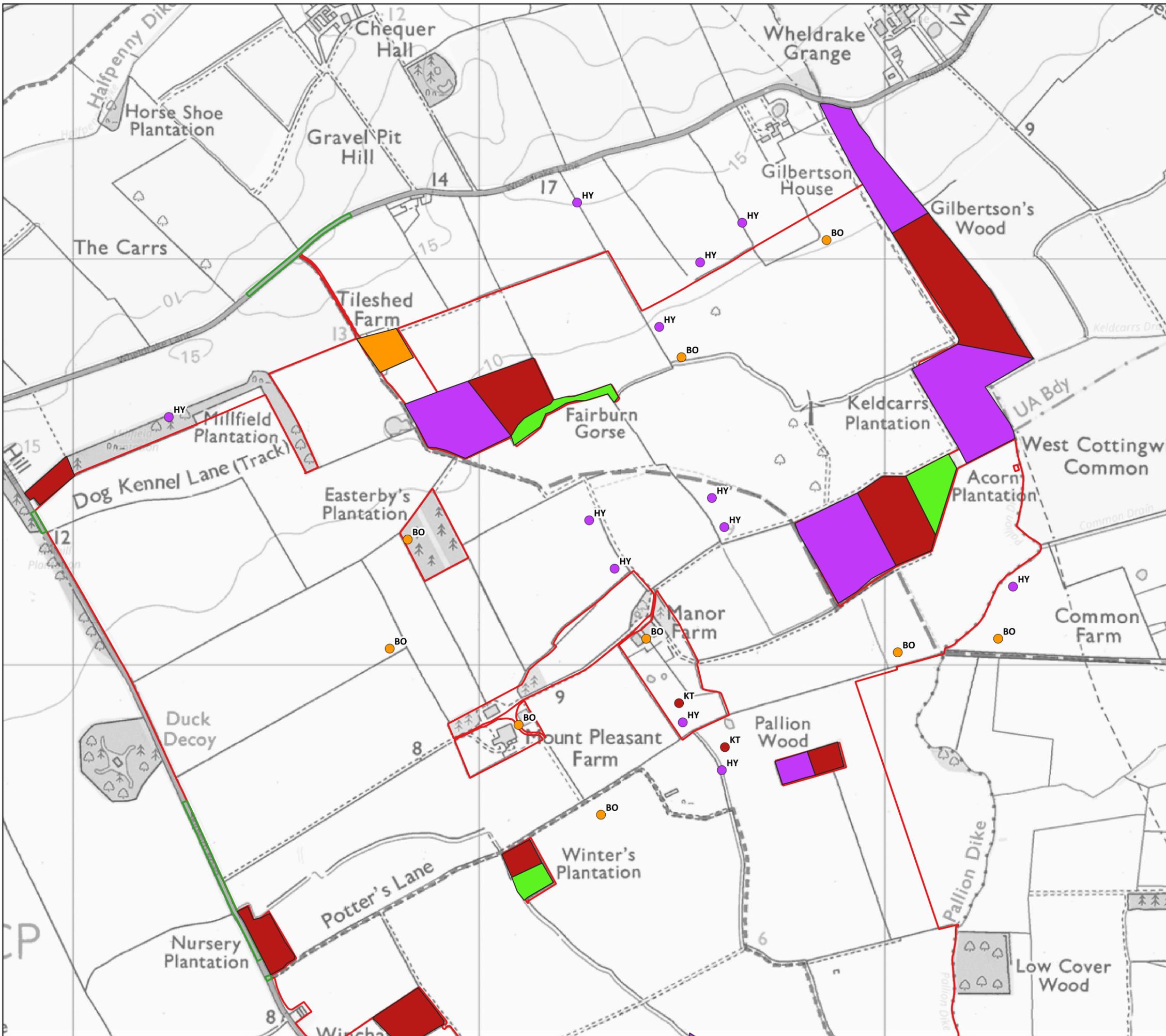
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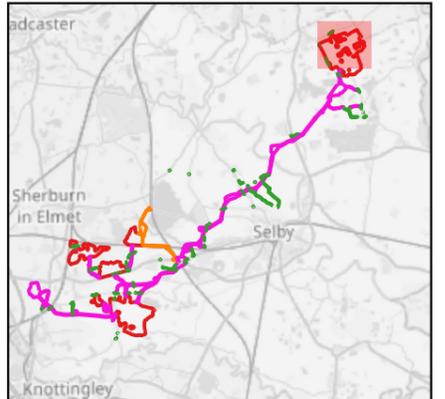
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- Order Limit**
- Solar Development Sites
 - Solar Development Site 8 Access
 - Cable Route Corridor
 - Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)
 - Construction Compound
- Kingfisher
 - Barn Owl
 - Common Crossbill
 - Hobby
 - Red Kite
- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



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Figure 7: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Solar Development Site 1a - Map 1

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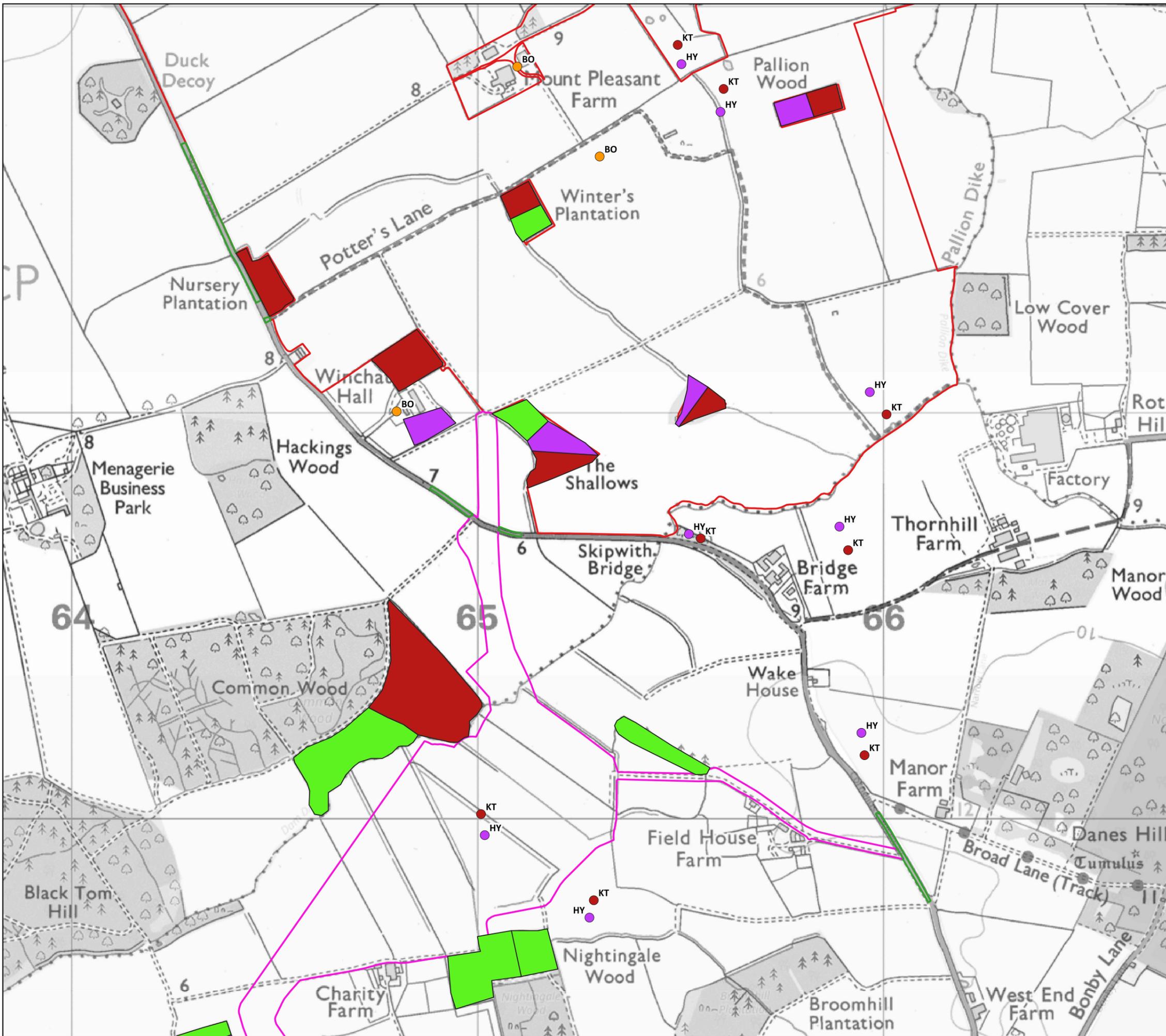
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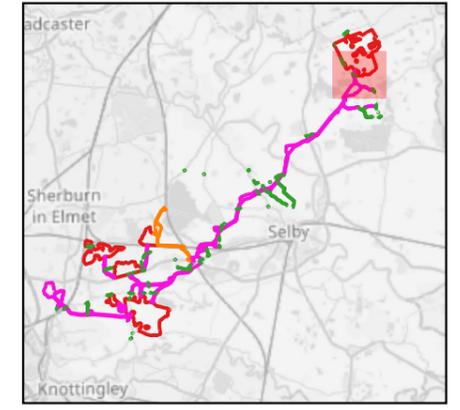
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 - Red Kite

- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



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Figure 8: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Solar Development Site 1b - Map 2

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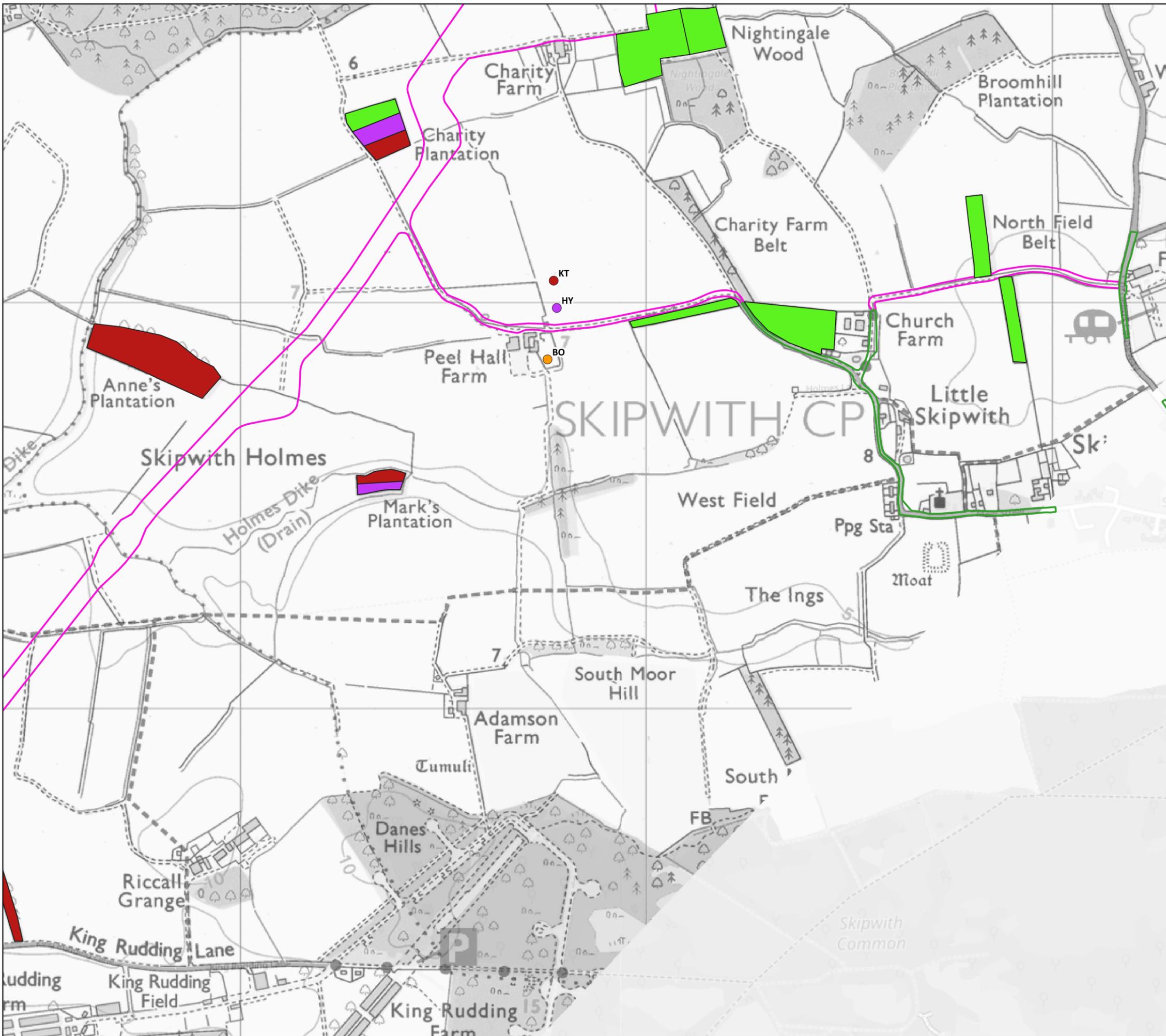
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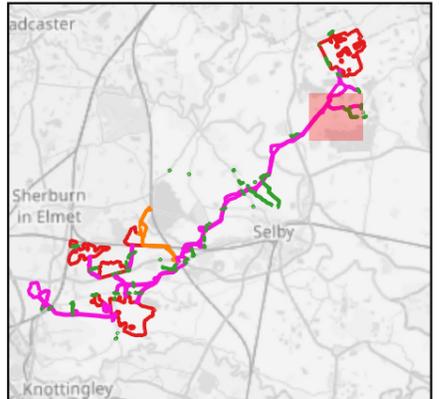
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- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
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 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



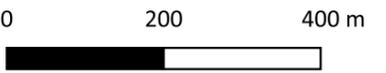
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Figure 9: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Cable Route - Map 3

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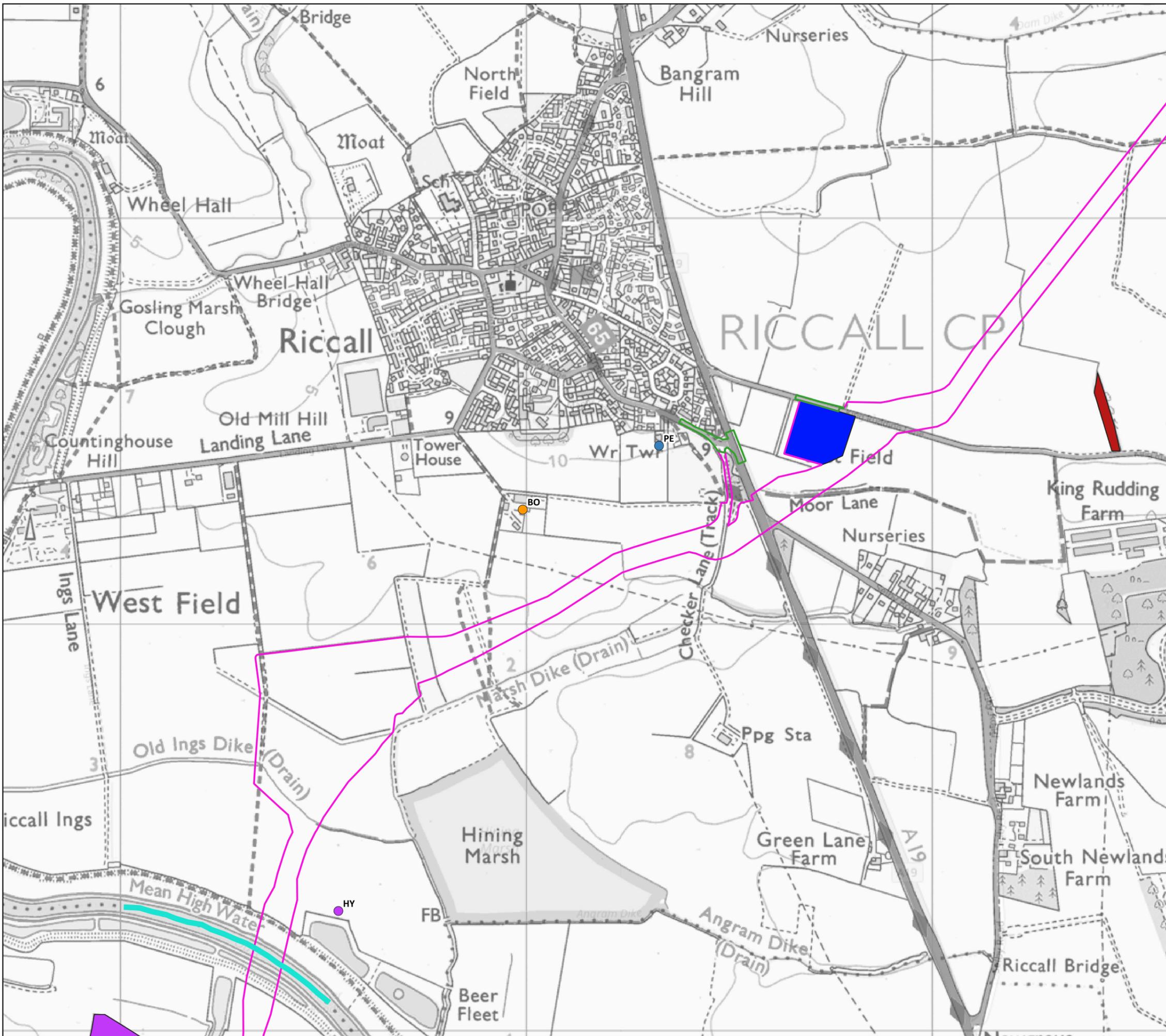


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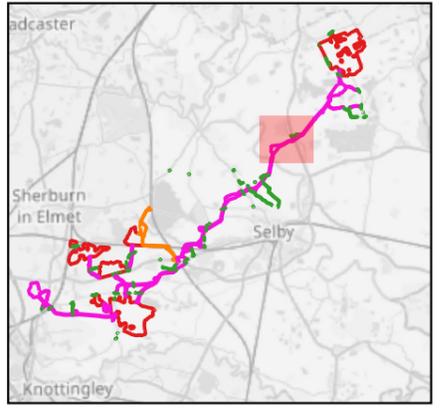


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 - Red Kite



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Figure 10: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Cable Route - Map 4

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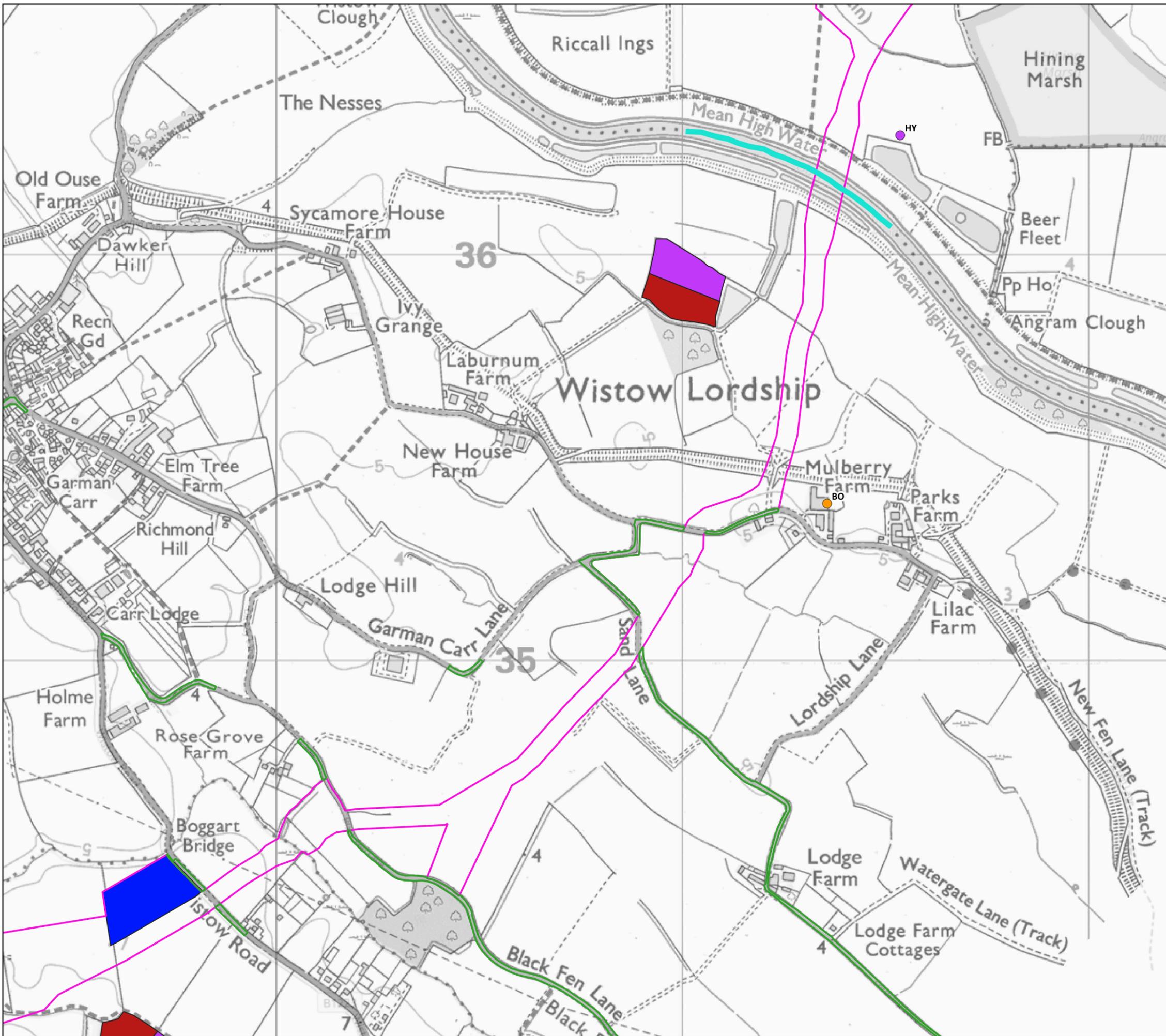
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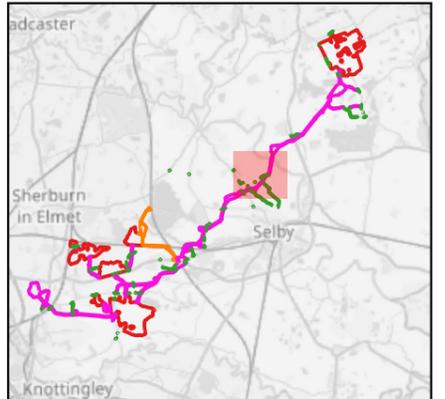
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 - Red Kite
- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



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Figure 11: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Cable Route - Map 5

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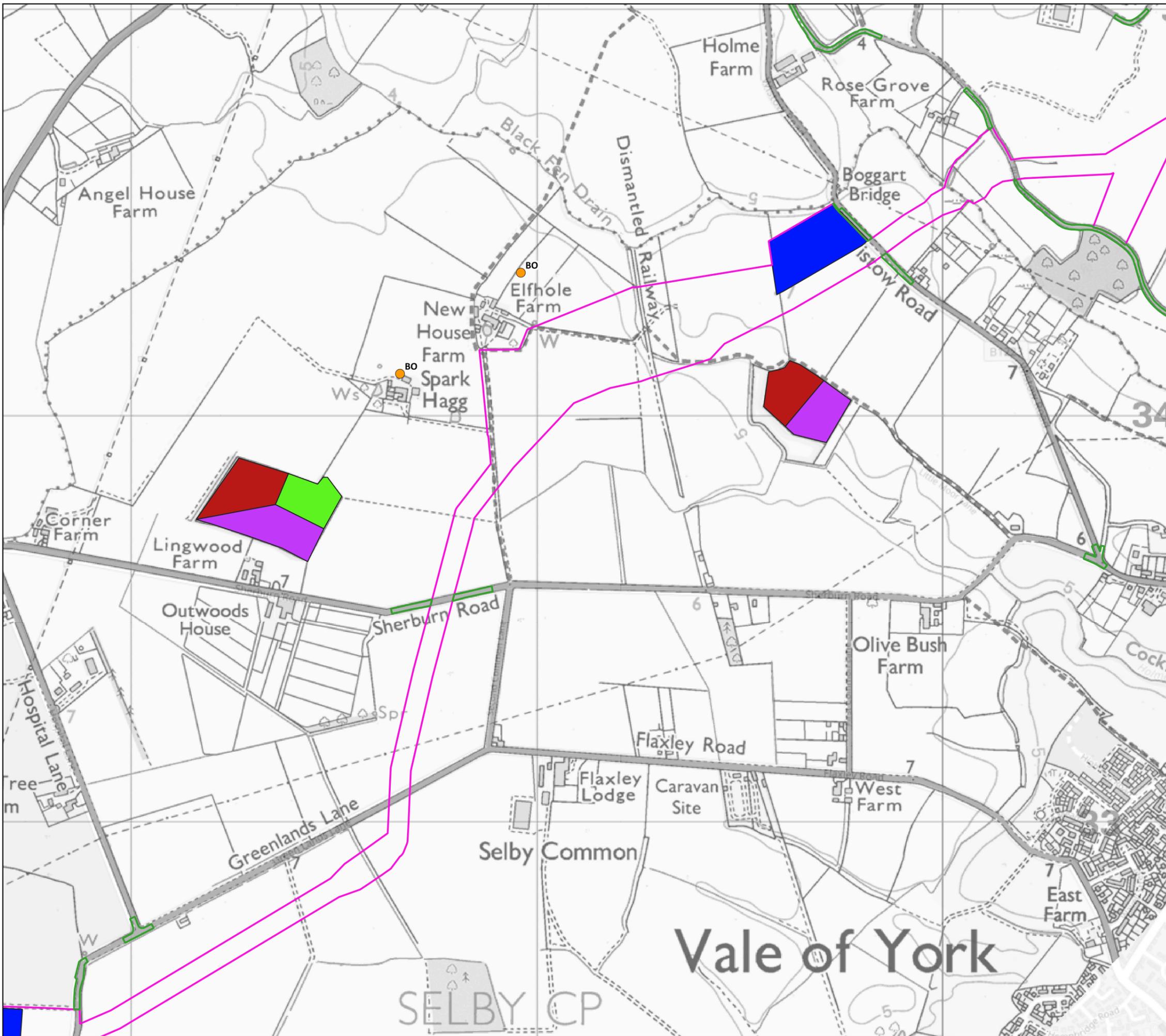
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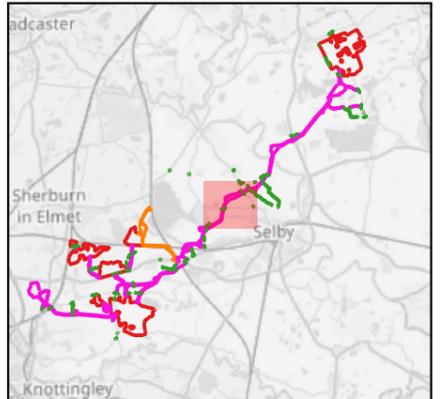
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 - Red Kite
- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



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Figure 12: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Cable Route - Map 6

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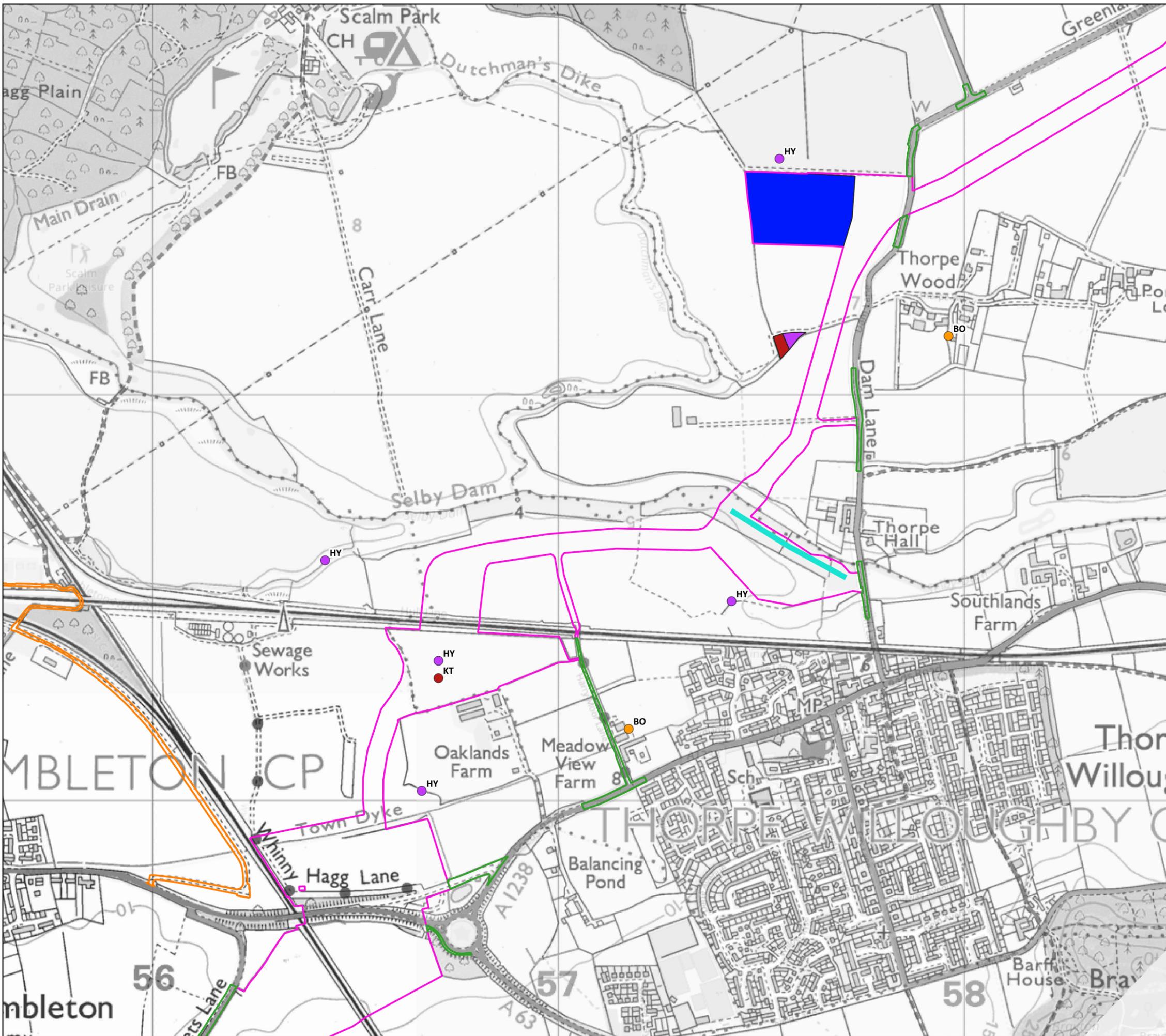
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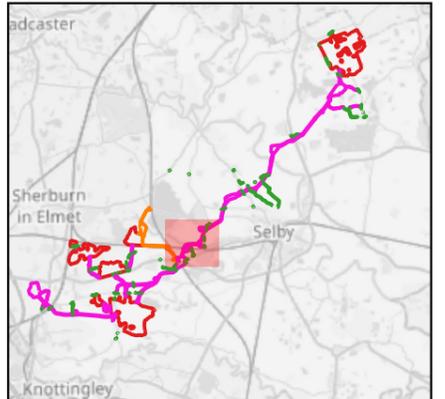
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 - Red Kite
- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 13: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Cable Route - Map 7

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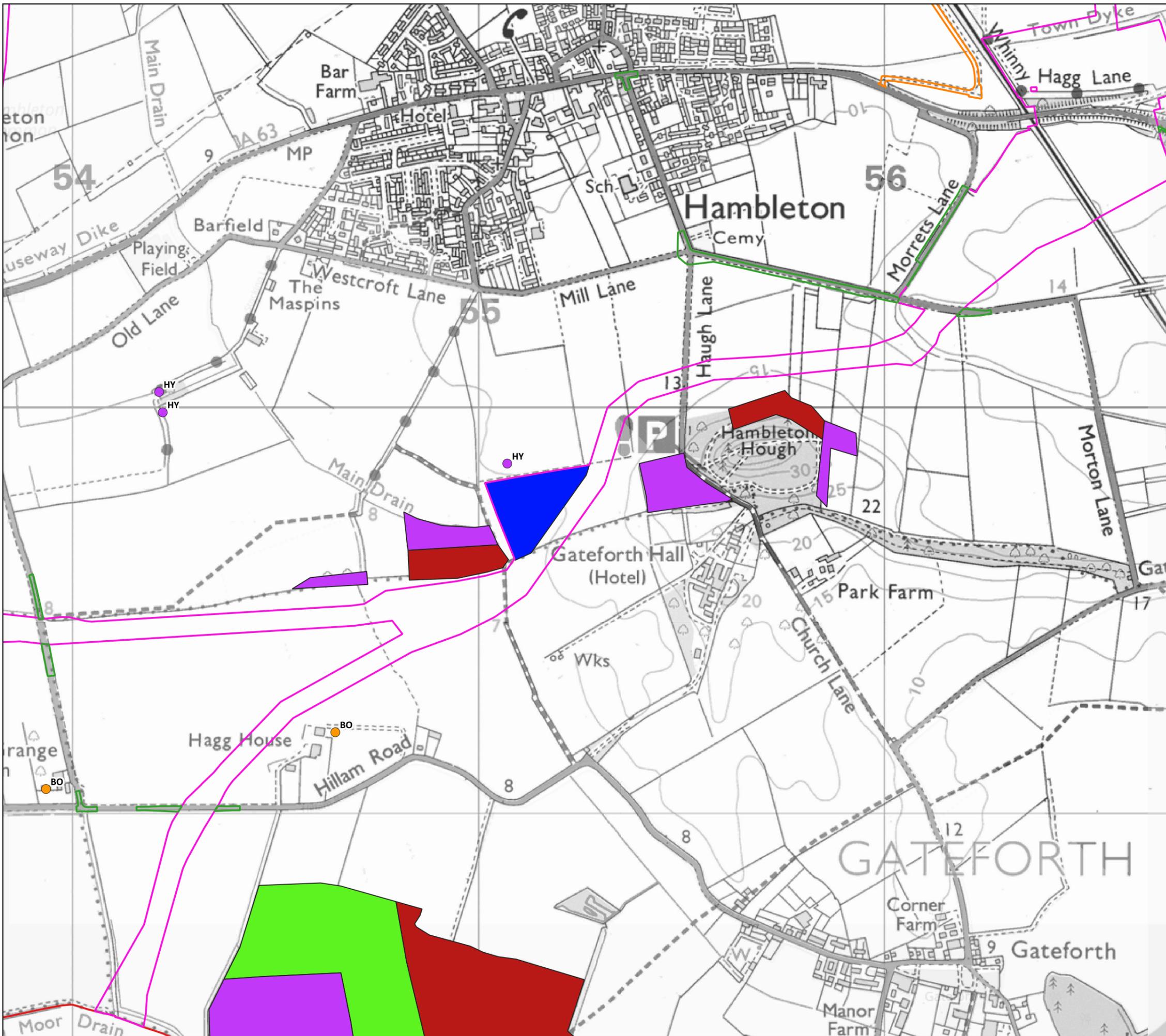
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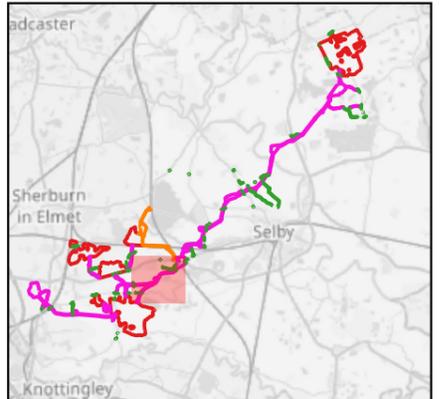
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- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
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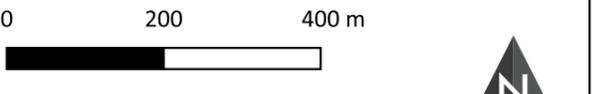
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Figure 14: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Cable Route - Map 8

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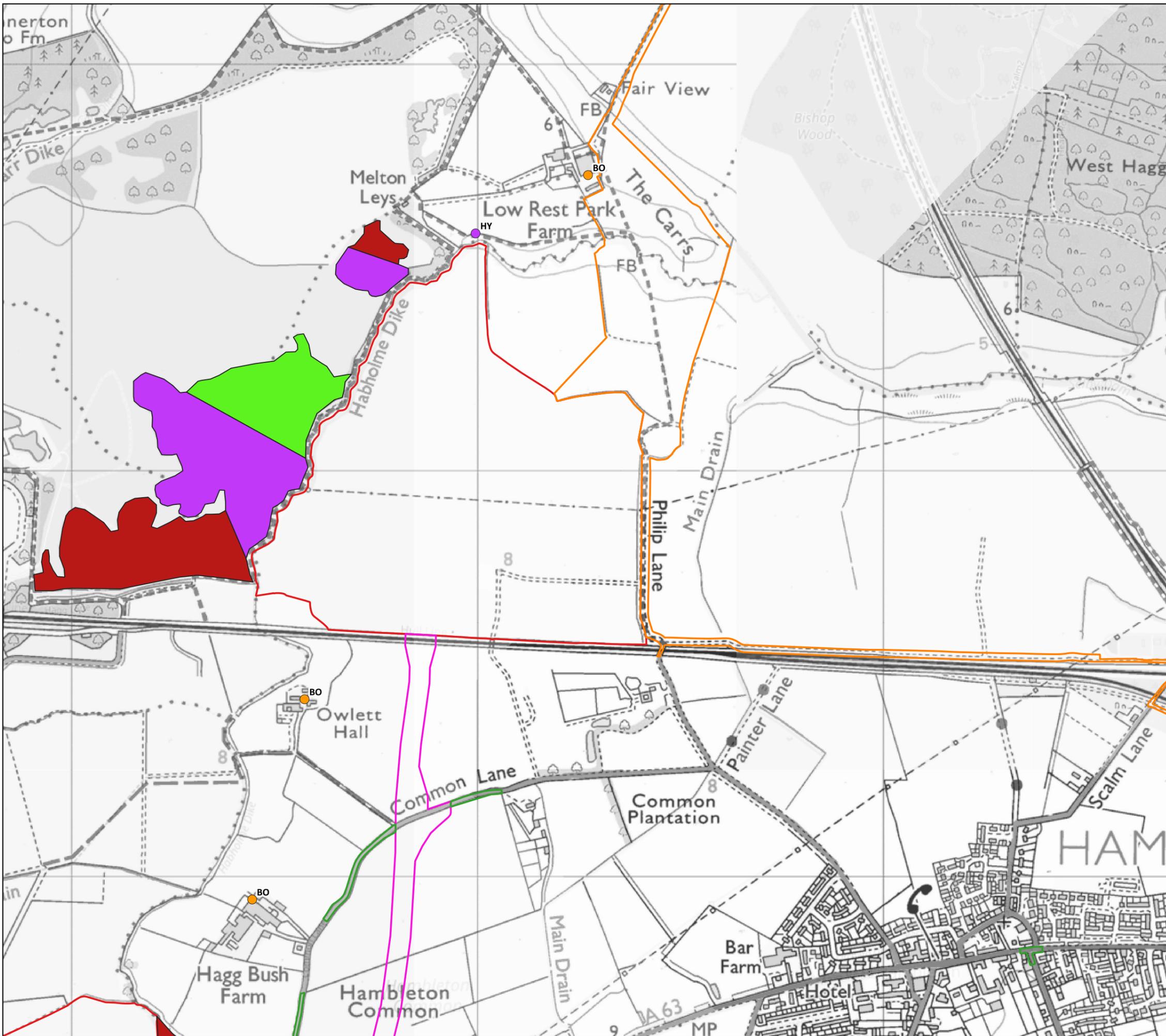
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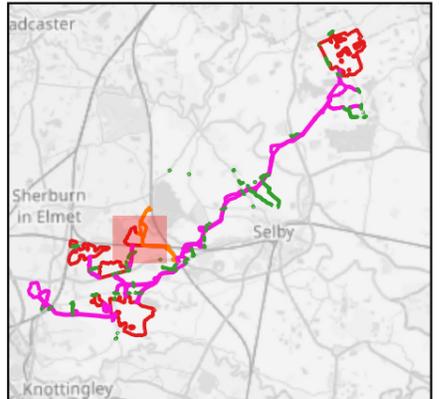
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 - Construction Compound
- Kingfisher
 - Barn Owl
 - Common Crossbill
 - Hobby
 - Red Kite
- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



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Figure 15: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Solar Development Site 8 - Map 9

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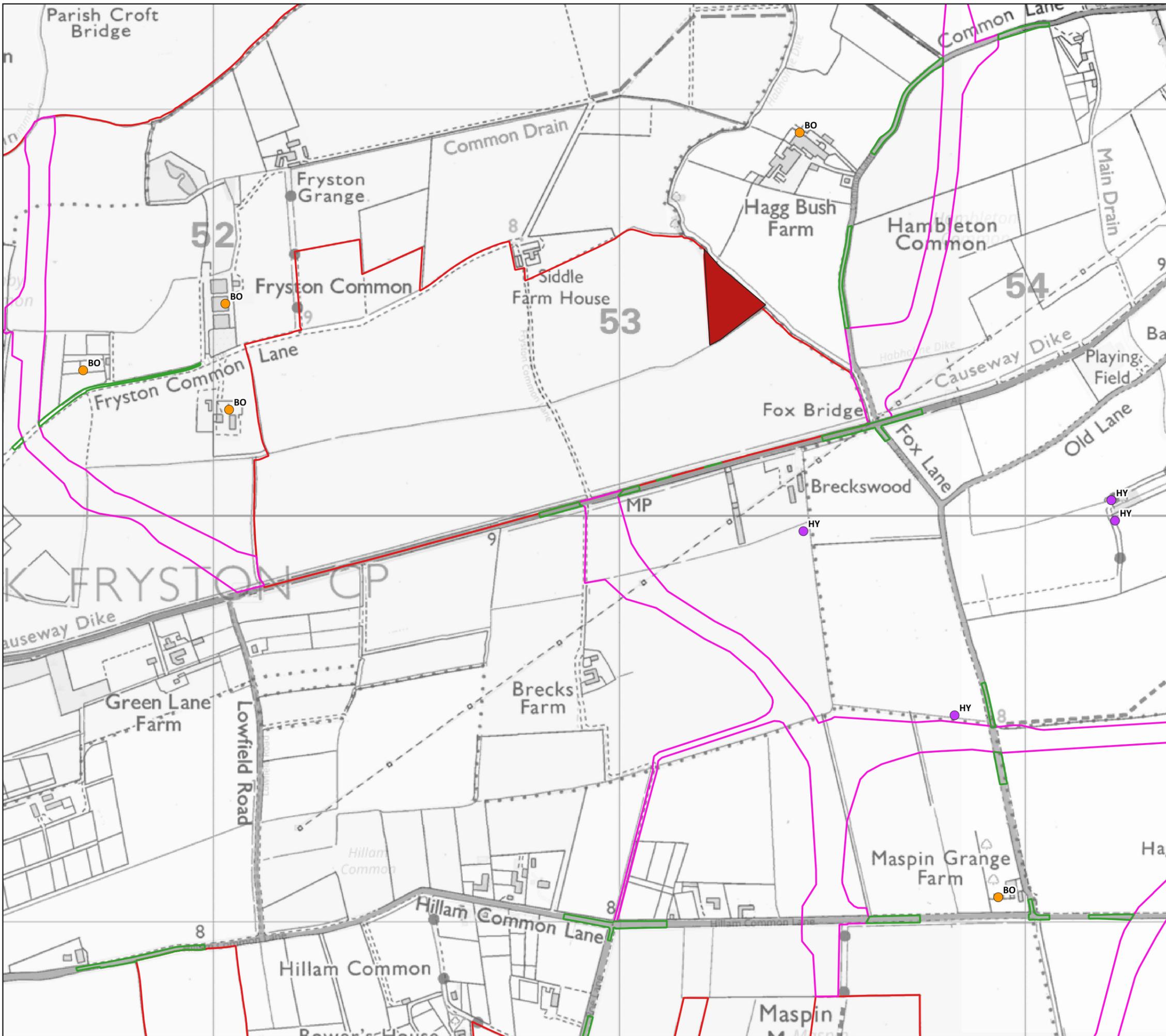
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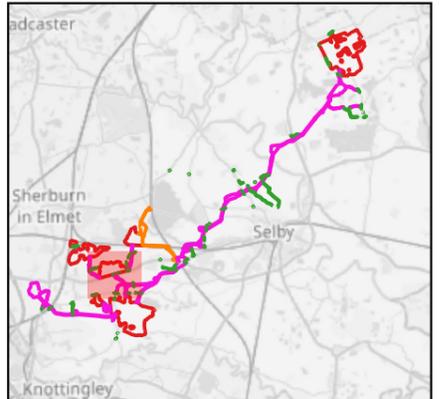
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- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
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 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



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Figure 16: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Solar Development Site 2 - Map 10

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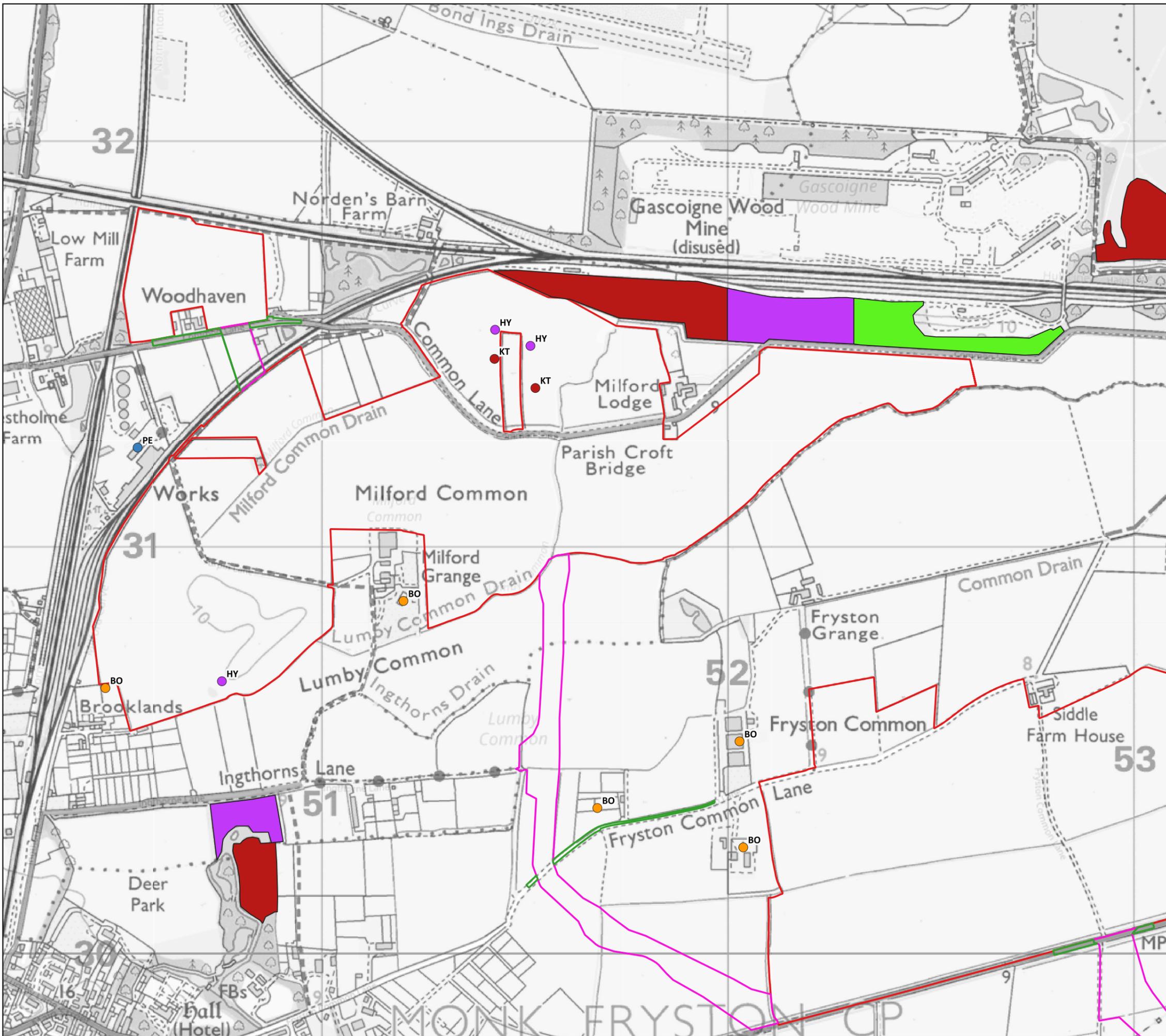
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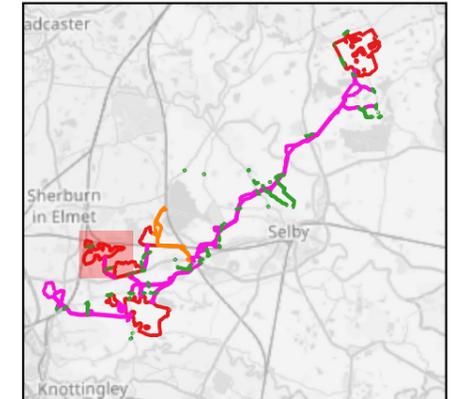
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 - Hobby
 - Red Kite

- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



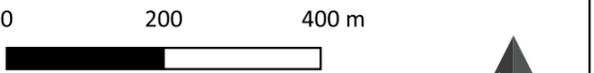
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Figure 17: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Solar Development Site 6 & 7 - Map 11

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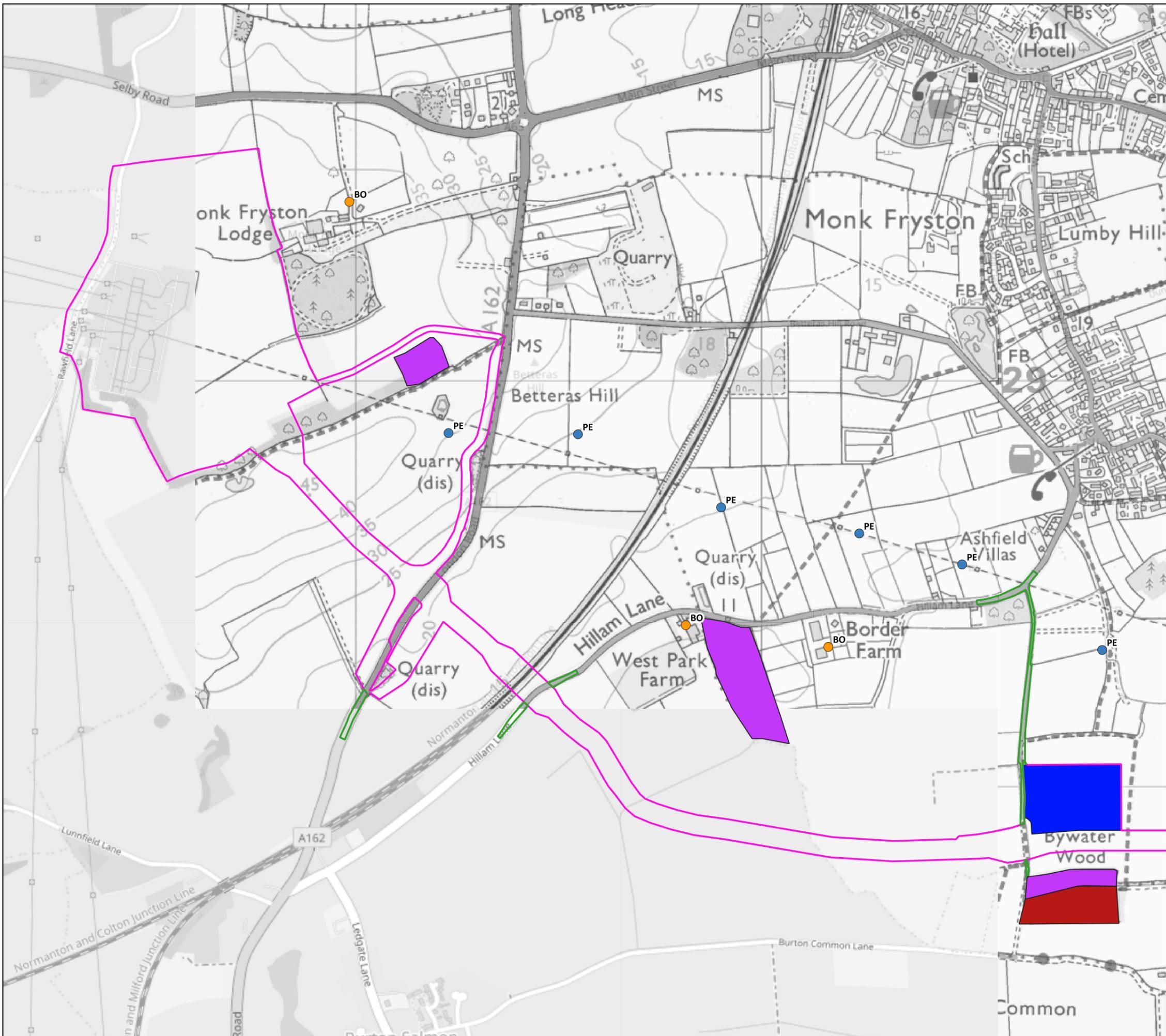
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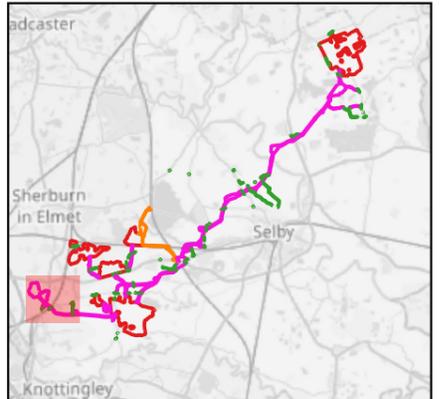
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- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



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Figure 18: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Cable Route - Map 12

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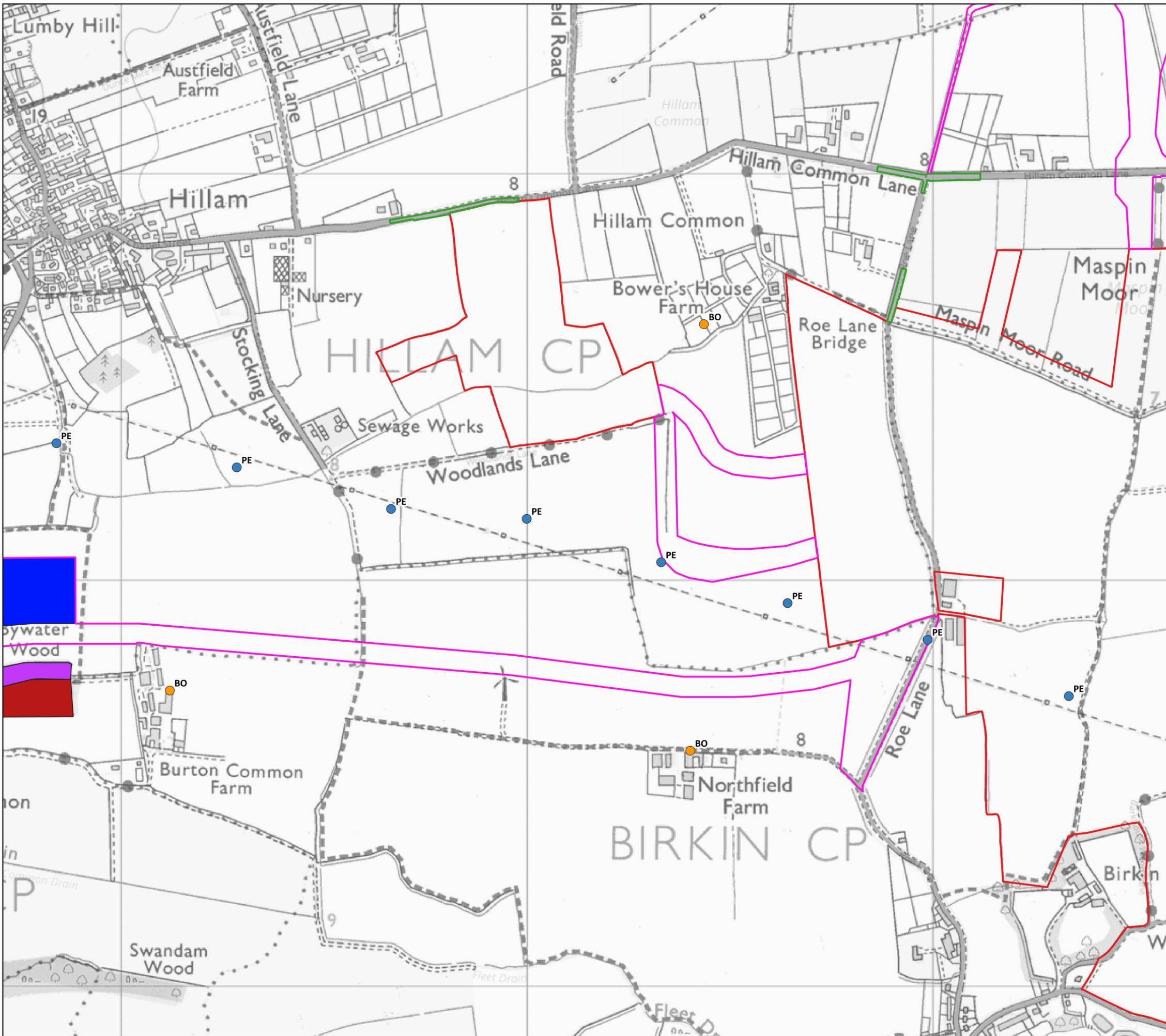
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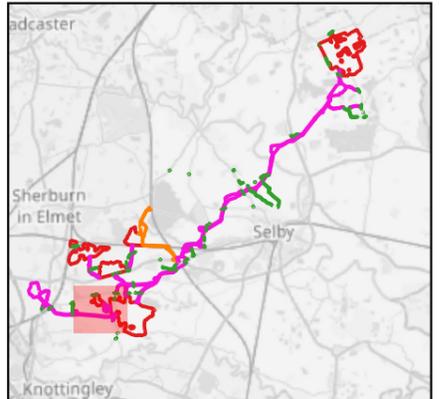
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 - Red Kite

- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



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Figure 19: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Solar Development Site 3 - Map 13

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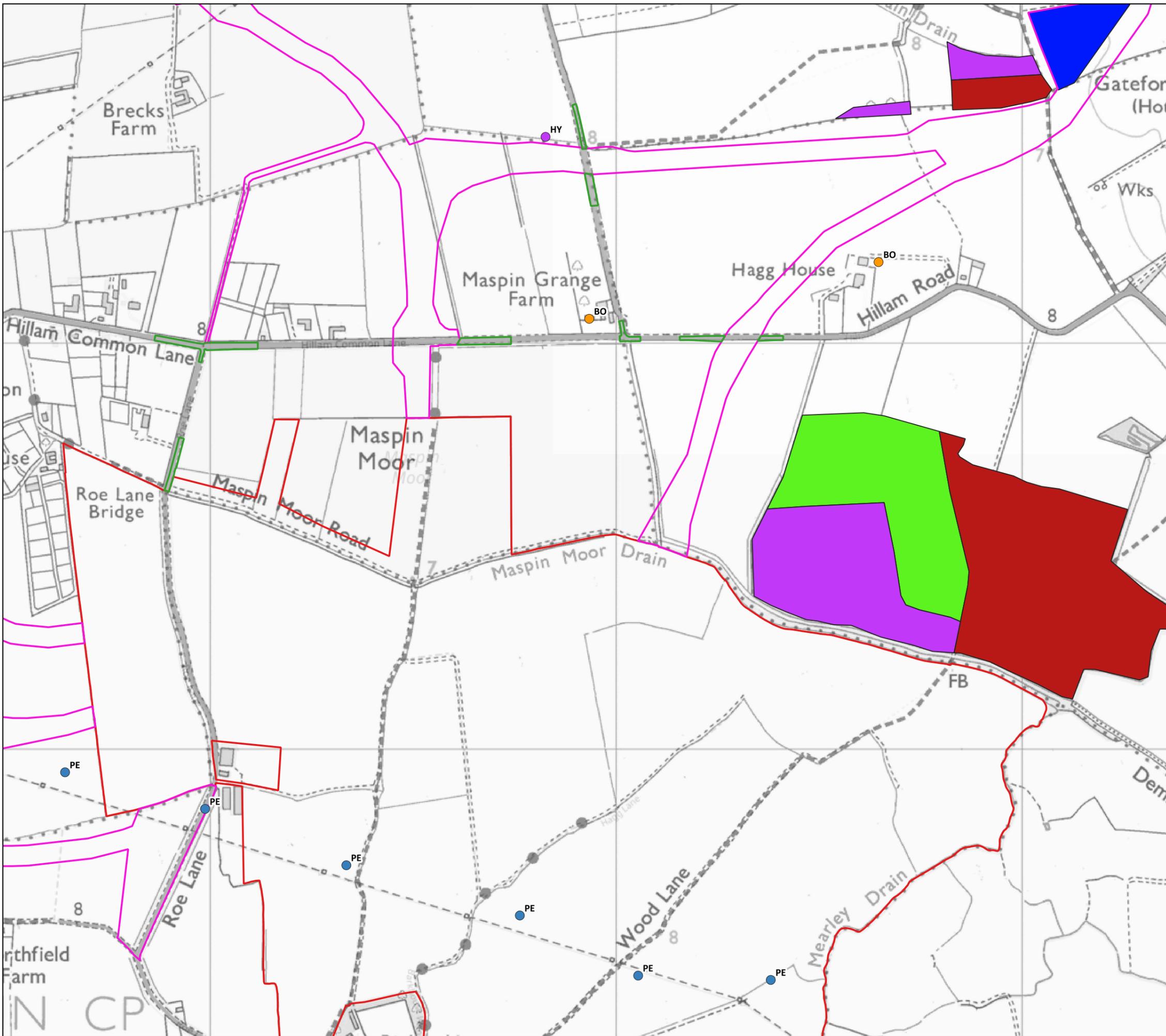
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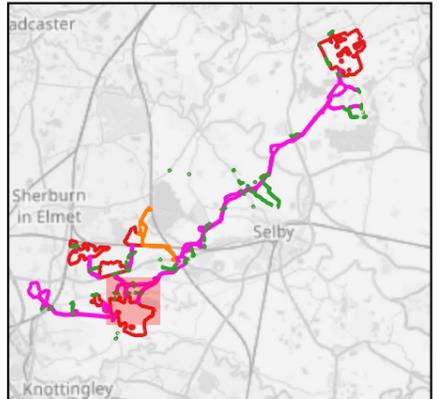
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- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
- Barn Owl
 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



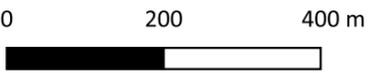
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Figure 20: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Solar Development Site 4a - Map 14

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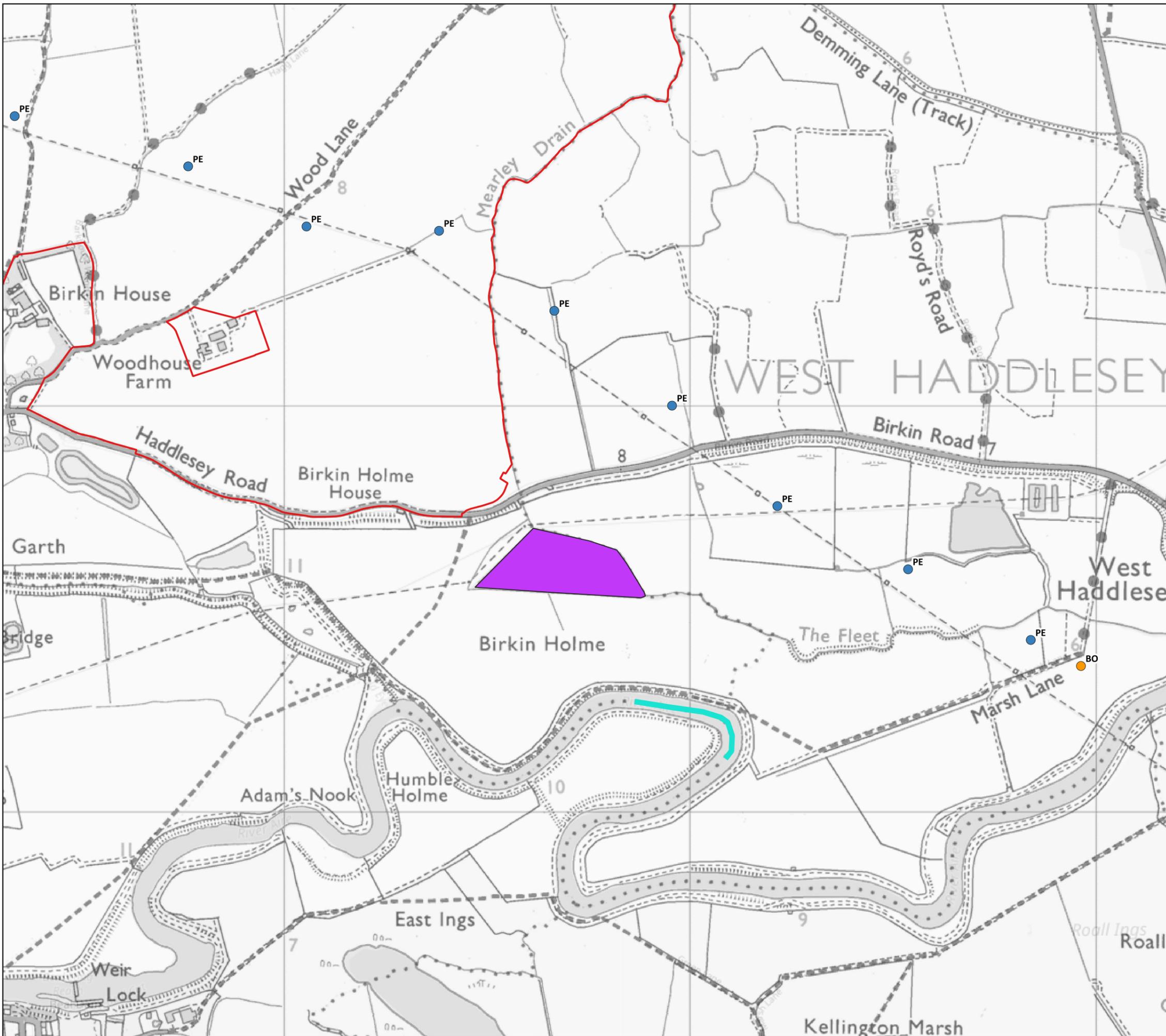


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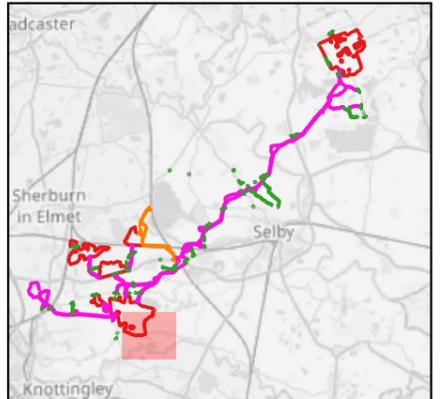


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- Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitat**
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 - Hobby
 - Peregrine
 - Red Kite



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Figure 21: Breeding Bird Schedule 1 Habitats - Solar Development Site 4b - Map 15

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