Light Valley Solar

Environmental Statement Volume 3

Appendix 6.1: Habitats Report

Document Reference: EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.06.01

November 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN0110012
APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Light Valley Solar

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

Light Valley Solar

DCO Submission

Appendix 6.1: Habitats Report

Regulation Reference	APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)
Planning Inspectorate Case Reference	EN0110012
Application Document Reference	EN0110012/APP/06.03.06.01
Author	Light Valley Solar Limited

Version	Date	Status of Version
1.0	February 2026	DCO Submission
2.0	November 2026	Deadline 4 Submission

Contents

1 Introduction and context **1**
1.1 Site background 1
1.2 Quality control 2
2 Methodology **3**
2.2 Evaluation 4
2.3 Limitations 5
3 Results **6**
3.2 Solar Development Site 1 6
3.3 Solar Development Site 2 16
3.4 Solar Development Site 3 24
3.5 Solar Development Site 4 32
3.6 Solar Development Site 6 42
3.7 Solar Development Site 7 50
3.8 Solar Development Site 8 56
3.9 Order Limits outside of the Solar Development Sites 64
4 Summary **77**
Annex A Legislation and planning policy **87**
Annex B Additional field data **90**
References **107**

List of tables

Table 1 UK Habitat Survey Details 3
Table 2 Solar Development Site 1 Habitats and their Importance 7
Table 3 Solar Development Site 2 Habitats and their Importance 17
Table 4 Solar Development Site 3 Habitats and their Importance 25
Table 5 Solar Development Site 4 Habitats and their Importance 33
Table 6 Solar Development Site 6 Habitats and their Importance 43
Table 7 Solar Development Site 7 Habitats and their Importance 51
Table 8 Solar Development Site 8 Habitats and their Importance 57

1 Introduction and context

1.1 Site background

1.1.1 This UK Habitat Classification survey report has been produced by Tyler Grange Limited on behalf of Light Valley Solar Limited (the 'Applicant') and relates to the Proposed Development of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station and associated development comprising Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), substations, grid connection infrastructure and associated infrastructure.

1.1.2 The Proposed Development's boundary, herein referred to as the Order Limits, is made up of four broad areas, the Solar Development Sites (900 ha), Cable Route Corridor (328.5 ha), Highways Improvements Areas (17.1 ha), and Solar Development Site 8 Access (24.1 ha). Underground electric cables laid within the Cable Route Corridor will connect the Solar Development Sites and the existing Monk Fryston Substation, where the Proposed Development will connect to the National Grid. The Highways Improvement Areas are sections of the highway network that will contain localised improvements to allow movement of construction vehicles on narrower sections of the local highway network, such as improvements to the road edge, traffic management, and provision of temporary passing places or visibility splays. The Solar Development Site 8 Access area will provide optionality to access Solar Development Site 8 from the north. The entirety of the Order Limits is within the administrative area of North Yorkshire Council and falls within what was Selby district.

1.1.3 The main element of the Proposed Development comprises seven Solar Development Sites (Solar Development Sites 1-4 and 6-8), as presented in Figure 2.1: Illustrative Site Layout Plans (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.01]** and in the Outline Environmental Masterplan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.12**], that will accommodate the Solar PV Panels. A BESS Compound will be located within Solar Development Site 2. The Solar Development Sites 1-4 and 6-8 comprise parcels of agricultural fields bound by hedgerows, ditches, and some mature trees, a small block of woodland and some scrub. The Cable Route Corridor is similarly comprised of agricultural fields and associated boundary features and passes through the River Ouse and Selby Dam. The Highways Improvements Areas, and Solar Development Site 8 Access largely comprise hardstanding roads and adjacent habitats, with Solar Development Site 8 Access also passing through Selby Dam.

1.1.4 Within the report, the Cable Route Corridor, Highways Improvements Areas, and Solar Development Site 8 Access are collectively referred to as "Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites".

1.1.5 This report:

1) Presents the results of the UK Habitat Classification surveys (hereafter, UK Habitat surveys) completed within the Order Limits:

2) Assigns ecological importance of habitats within the Order Limits and summarises relevant policy and legislation (Annex A).

1.2 Quality control

1.2.1 All ecologists at Tyler Grange Group Limited are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) or are working towards membership, and act under the direction of members and abide by the Institute's Code of Professional Conduct (Ref 1).

2 Methodology

2.1.1 UK Habitat surveys were carried out between April and October 2024 for Solar Development Sites 1-4, in May 2025 for Solar Development Sites 6-8, and between July-September 2025 for the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites. Some small areas sections were also added to the Order Limits within the Change Application submitted into Examination on 13th October 2026, Badger surveys of these areas, which all lies within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites, were completed in September and early October 2026. All of the surveys were completed by suitably experienced ecologists (see Table 1). The methods used during the walkover survey followed those methods used in an 'extended' Phase I habitat survey (Ref 2) and entailed recording the main plant species and classifying and mapping habitat types with reference to the Habitat Definitions provided by the UK Habitat Classification Working Group (Ref 3).

2.1.2 Fields (F), hedgerows (H), treelines (TL) ponds (P) and ditches (D) were labelled on maps, described and classified.

2.1.3 In general, a minimum mappable area of 20 x 20 m was used, and a minimum mappable length of 20 m was applied to linear features such as hedgerows. Arable field margins were only separately mapped where > 5 m in width.

2.1.4 Some of the descriptions use the DAFOR scale of abundance to describe the frequency of plant species present, as follows: Dominant (D), Abundant (A), Frequent (F), Occasional (O) or Rare (R) in the sward.

2.1.5 Additionally, the habitats identified were evaluated for their potential to support legally protected and notable fauna species.

2.1.6 Where access allowed, habitats adjacent to the Order Limits were also considered in order to assess the Order Limits within the wider landscape and to provide information with which to assess possible impacts within the context of the Proposed Development.

Table 1 UK Habitat Survey Details

Section of Order Limits	Date	Surveyor Qualifications
Solar Development Site 1	15/04/24 16/04/24	BSc (Hons) ACIEEM MSc
	20/06/24	BSc (Hons) MCIEEM
	12/07/24 29/07/24	BSc (Hons)
Solar Development Site 2	27/04/24 09/05/24	BSc ACIEEM
Solar Development Site 3	25/04/24	BSc ACIEEM
Solar Development Site 4	06/08/24 08/08/24	BSc ACIEEM

Section of Order Limits	Date	Surveyor Qualifications
	19/08/24	
	18/09/24 19/09/24	BSc MSc ACIEEM
6-8	27/05/25 28/05/25 29/05/25	BSc ACIEEM
Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites	08/07/25 16/07/25 24/07/25 31/07/25 13/08/25 19/08/25 20/08/25 28/08/25 03/09/25 08/09/25 23/09/25 24/09/25 29/09/25 30/09/25 29/09/26 02/10/26 06/10/26 08/10/26	BSc (Hons) ACIEEM MSc

2.2 Evaluation

2.2.1 The evaluation of habitats and species is defined in accordance with published guidance (Ref 4). The scale of importance of each ecological feature is assigned within a defined geographical context, namely international and European, national, regional, county, and local. Below these are features considered to be of negligible importance.

2.2.2 Consideration is also given to legally protected or controlled species which are 'important features' in the context of this assessment, for which mitigation measures are required to ensure legal compliance, regardless of their geographic scale of importance. Thus, it is possible for a feature of negligible ecological importance to be legally protected and hence require mitigation.

2.2.3 Evaluation is based on various characteristics that can be used to identify ecological features likely to be important in terms of biodiversity. These include site designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), or for undesignated features, the size, importance, conservation status (locally, nationally or internationally), and the quality of the ecological feature. In terms of the latter, quality can refer to habitats (for instance if they are particularly diverse,

or a good example of a specific habitat type), other features (such as wildlife corridors or mosaics of habitats) or species populations or assemblages.

2.3 Limitations

2.3.1 Due to the spread of the Order Limits, some areas were surveyed early in the growing season (i.e. at the end of April 2024) or after mowing. In addition, due to the timing of the Change Application submitted during Examination, some small areas of habitat added to the Order Limits at this time were surveyed late in the growing season (2nd-8th October 2026). However, due to the agricultural habitat present (i.e. comprising widespread habitats of negligible/low ecological importance), this is not thought to have impacted results significantly.

2.3.2 No access was permitted to the western terminus of Cable Route Corridor 4-POC (as described in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**], where it meets Monk Fryston Substation due to the active construction site present in this location for the approved Yorkshire Green development (EN020024). Instead, the proposed site plans submitted for the Yorkshire Green development (5.4.3 ES Chapter 3: Description of the Project Figure 3.12 Outline Landscape Mitigation Strategy (Monk Fryston)) have been used to confirm the baseline habitats present within this area.

3 Results

3.1.1 Habitats present within Order Limits are discussed below, with tabulated information provided individually for each Solar Development Site and for the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites. Where there are numerous features of a singular habitat for each specific area (i.e. hedgerows, treelines, ditches etc) the detailed information for each feature is provided in Annex B, with an overview of the habitat as a whole included in Table 2-Table 9 in the main body of the report.

3.2 Solar Development Site 1

3.2.1 Solar Development Site 1 largely comprises arable fields, dissected and bound by wet ditches and hedgerows, with arable field margins present, some of which comprised neutral grassland and some were managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife. Smaller areas of neutral grassland, scrub, and modified grassland were present within Solar Development Site 1. In addition, there were five ponds, one treeline, 12 wet ditches and 70 hedgerows present[1], as well as occasional scattered trees at boundaries, and bare ground/hardcore tracks that extend through the Solar Development Site.

3.2.2 Further agricultural fields surround Solar Development Site 1 on all aspects, as well as a number of woodland copses including Gilbertsons Plantation Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). This SINC comprises ancient woodland and is located on the north-eastern boundary of Solar Development Site 1. This SINC and the other neighbouring woodland copses have potential to support protected species, such as great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*, badger *Meles meles*, roosting and foraging bats, nesting birds and hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*.

3.2.3 Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera,* an invasive non-native species, was located on the southern boundary of Field F1.7.

3.2.4 The habitats present across Solar Development Site 1 are summarised in Table 2 below, together with an assessment of their importance and suitability for protected species. Figure 6.6: UK Habitat Classification Results (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.06]** shows the location and extent of each habitat present within Solar Development Site 1, together with the locations of labelled habitats, such as hedgerows, ponds, treelines and ditches, and the location of invasive species. The field reference numbers are provided within Figure 2.3: Field Numbering Plan (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**].

[1] This appendix presents what was observed at the time of the various survey visits. Due to the ongoing management of hedges, such as coppicing and laying, comprising management techniques used to extent life of hedges and improve quality over time, the dimensions and characteristics presented in Annex B may differ to what is current present on site.

Table 2 Solar Development Site 1 Habitats and their Importance

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[2] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1 – cropland c1c6- arable field -wild bird mix c1b -temporary grass and clover leys Solar Development Site 1 mainly comprises arable fields, which were at the time of survey as follows. Field references are detailed in Figure 2.3: Field Numbering Plan (ES Volume 2) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03]: Fields F1.4, F1.18, F1.13, F1.19, F1.20, F1.21, F1.22, F1.23 were formed of c1c6- arable field -wild bird mix. Planted as legume fallow under Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) NUM3 and under Countryside Stewardship (CS) AB15. Fields F1.17, F1.16, F1.27, F1.26, north of F1.23, and the majority of F1.38 were formed of c1b -temporary grass and clover leys. The remaining fields comprised cropland.	Due to the highly managed nature of the habitat and low species diversity, it is assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. Although, some fields (F1.4, F1.18, F1.13, F1.19, F1.20, F1.21, F1.22, F1.23) were managed to provide bird food at the time of survey, the transient nature of the bird food crop within these field reduces their long-term ecological importance, as these fields may comprise standard cropland once again in coming years. All the arable fields and margins may however provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, overwintering birds, hedgehog and brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, with brown hare recorded during the UK Habitat survey. Protected, priority and notable species are discussed separately within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]. As the arable field margins included in this habitat are not managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife, they do not meet the criteria for Priority Habitat.	

[2] Priority species and habitats are those required to be listed pursuant to Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2005.

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[2] Species	Example Photograph/s
Most of the fields had narrow (<5 m) margins which generally supported a lightly managed neutral grassland. Species included: spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, reed canary grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, rush species *Juncus sp.*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, white dead nettle *Lamium album*, hogweed *Heracleum sp.,* cinquefoil sp. *Potentilla sp.*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, willowherb species *Epilobium sp.*, cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata*, teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, cleavers *Galium aparine*, and ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*. Such margins are included within the associated arable habitat type. Where the neutral grassland field margins exceeded 5 m width, or where they were managed specifically for wildlife (under SFI or CS), they have been included as their own separate habitat in the habitats below.		

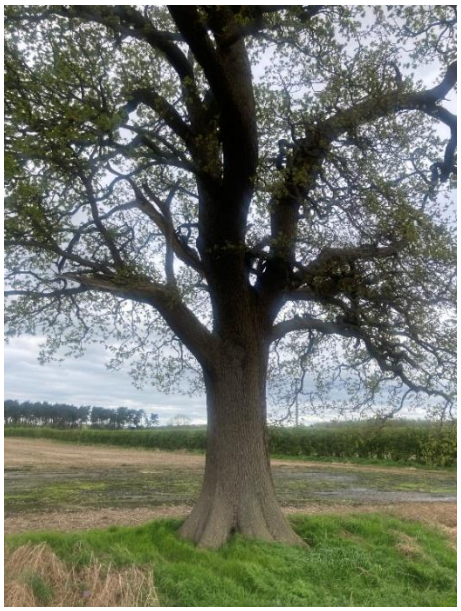
Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[2] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1a5- arable field margins tussocky c1a6 -arable field margins pollen and nectar c1a8 -arable field margins wild bird mix A number of arable field margins managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife were located within Solar Development Site 1. They were listed as the following under CS: AB1 nectar flower mix, AB16 bumblebird mix, AB9 winter bird food, AB8 flower rich margins, CIGL1 and CAHL3 grassland field corners or blocks taken out of management, so tussocky grass can develop. Species present in the AB16 arable field margin to the south of field F1.23 included broadleaved dock, ragwort, dandelion, spear thistle, teasle, sunflower *Helianthus annuus*, willowherb species, creeping buttercup, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, hairy bittercress *Cardamine hirsuta*, cock's foot, cowslips *Primula veris* and reed canary grass.	As the habitat is specifically managed for wildlife, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. Arable field margins also comprise Priority Habitat (Ref 5). The habitat may be used by a wide variety of foraging and commuting fauna, and by ground nesting birds.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[2] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): g3c-other neutral grassland A number of neutral grassland field margins >5 m were located within Solar Development Site 1, generally around wet ditches in the south of the Solar Development Site. Species present were similar to those listed above for neutral grassland margins <5 m, and included cock's foot, false-oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius,* timothy *Phleum pratense*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, creeping buttercup, ribwort plantain, rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, barren brome *Bromus sterilis*, hogweed, soft-brome *Bromus hordeaceus*, broad-leaved dock, white clover, dandelion and cut-leaved cranesbill *Geranium dissectum*. A larger area of neutral grassland was located in between field F1.26 and F1.27 and was managed under the SFI as LIG1 which requires the management of grassland with very low nutrient inputs. The grassland was found to be dominated by rush species, and a number of scattered mature and semi-mature trees were present.	Due to the less intensive management, and higher species diversity, with the larger area of neutral grassland managed for the benefit of wildlife, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. This habitat has the potential to support ground nesting and farmland birds, foraging and commuting bats, invertebrates, terrestrial habitat for amphibians and possibly grass snake *Natrix natrix* and water vole *Arvicola amphibius* where associated with wet ditches. Tussocky grassy margins and ditch banks also have thatch for small prey that could be used for foraging by barn owl *Tyto alba*.	 

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[2] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): g4- modified grassland One small section of modified grassland was present in the south-west of field F1.38, which was dominated by common nettle, with perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire fog, hogweed, and spear thistle.	Due to the lower species diversity and small size of the habitat, it is considered to be of negligible ecological importance. The modified grassland may however provide suitable cover for a range of fauna such as amphibians, birds, hedgehog and badger.	
Primary code(s): h3h-mixed scrub A small area of mixed scrub was located in the north of Solar Development Site 1 around Pond 1.3 (P1.3). The scrub comprised bramble *Rubus sp.*, willow species and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, some scattered semi mature trees were also present. A small second area of mixed scrub was also located in the centre of Solar Development Site 1 around Pond 1.5 (P1.5). A small triangle of scrub was located on the eastern boundary of Solar Development Site 1, east of field F1.34, and is managed under the	Due to the dense vegetation cover, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The scrub may provide suitable cover, foraging habitat and connectivity for a range of fauna such as amphibians, birds, bats, hedgehog and badger. The scrub could also provide habitat for nesting birds and badger setts.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[2] Species	Example Photograph/s
SFI as WD7, which requires the management of successional areas and scrub.		
Primary code(s): h2a5-species-rich native hedgerow (some with trees) h2a6-other native hedgerow (some with trees) A total of 70 hedgerows are located within Solar Development Site 1. A description of the individual hedgerows is presented in Annex B.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected wet ditches and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. Hedgerows also provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs, badger and amphibians. Mature trees within hedgerows have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds, and birds may also nest in the hedge themselves.	
Primary code(s): r2-50-ditches A total of 12 wet ditches are located within Solar Development Site 1. A description of the individual ditches is presented in Annex B.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in connection with the hedgerows and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The wet ditches could be used by foraging and commuting bats and grass snake and provide connectivity for otter.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[2] Species	Example Photograph/s
	Habitat for potential otter holts and lay-ups is generally limited to the woodland copses and hedges adjacent to the ditches, with no holts identified during the 2025 otter surveys, details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]). Wet ditches and their grassy vegetated banks provide potential habitat for water vole and common amphibians, and aquatic species are also anticipated to be present. The ditch may also be used as a commuting and foraging feature by a range of other fauna.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[2] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): w-200- rural trees w-203-mature tree Scattered trees are present around field boundaries, and include mature and semi-mature hawthorn, oak, lime *Tilia sp.*, ash, and sycamore.	Due to the limited number and scattered nature of the trees creating a lack of tree cover within Solar Development Site 1, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The trees may have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds including barn owl.	
Primary code(s): w1 33-line of trees Two treelines (TL1.1 and TL1.2) are located within Solar Development Site 1. A description of the treelines is presented in Annex B.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected hedgerows and ditches, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. Treelines may provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[2] Species	Example Photograph/s
	The treeline has potential to support badger setts as well as roosting bats and nesting birds.	
Primary code(s): u1c-developed land; unsealed surface A number of bare ground and hardcore access tracks extend through Solar Development Site 1. These were approximately 4 m wide, with a grass margin either side.	Due to the lack of vegetation cover and small size of the habitat, it assessed as being of negligible ecological importance.	
Primary code(s): 42-ponds A total of five ponds (P1.1, P1.2, P1.3, P1.5 and P1.12) were located within Solar Development Site 1. A description of the individual ponds is presented in Annex B.	Due to the relatively limited abundance of this habitat in the landscape, and connectivity to other habitats of ecological importance, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The ponds and surrounding vegetation may provide foraging and shelter for a range of fauna including hedgehog, badger, bats, birds and otter. Ponds may also form priority habitat (Ref 6) should they support protected and notable species, for example common toad *Bufo bufo* or a range of invertebrates.	

3.3 Solar Development Site 2

3.3.1 Solar Development Site 2 comprises primarily of arable fields, with a small number of grassland margins, some of which were managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife. Solar Development Site 2 is crossed by a central bare ground track from north to south, and a flowing wet ditch running east to west, Ditch 2.1 (D2.1), which is bordered by a wide strip of neutral grassland. Some of the fields are bound by hedgerows, Hedgerow 2.1-Hedwrow 2.5 (H2.1-H2.5) of varying structure and composition, as well as scattered trees, and small amounts of scrub.

3.3.2 Further agricultural fields surround Solar Development Site 2 on all aspects, with the A63 forming the southern boundary. A small woodland copse containing a pond is noted on the eastern boundary, which has the potential to support protected species, such as great crested newt, badger, roosting and foraging bats, nesting birds and hedgehog.

3.3.3 The habitats noted across Solar Development Site 2 are summarised in Table 3 below, together with an assessment of their importance and suitability for protected species. Figure 6.6: UK Habitat Classification Results (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.06]** shows the location and extent of each habitat present within Solar Development Site 2, together with the locations of labelled habitats, such as hedgerows and ditches. The field reference numbers are provided within Figure 2.3: Field Numbering Plan (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03]**.

Table 3 Solar Development Site 2 Habitats and their Importance

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[3] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1c-cereal crops The fields forming Site 2 (field F 2.1-F 2.5) were planted with cereal crop. Most of the fields had narrow (<5 m) margins which generally supported neutral grassland vegetation including cock's-foot (A), dandelion sp. (F), spear thistle (O), Yorkshire fog (A), ragwort sp., ribwort plantain (A), white clover (O), coltsfoot (R), creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* (F), rough meadow-grass (F), creeping buttercup (O), cranesbill sp. *Geranium sp.* (O), and horsetail *Equisetum sp.* (F), as well as tall forbs including hogweed (A) and common nettle (A). Other field margins comprised tall forbs such as hogweed, common nettle, cleavers, cow parsley, cock's-foot, broadleaved dock, and sometimes bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* or bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.* Such margins are included within the associated arable habitat type.	Due to the highly managed nature of the habitat and low species diversity, it assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. However, the arable fields and margins could provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, overwintering birds, hedgehog and brown hare. Hedgehog and brown hare were both recorded during the surveys at Solar Development Site 2. The margins may also be used by commuting amphibians and badgers. Protected, priority and notable species are discussed within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]. As the arable field margins included in this habitat are not managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife, they do not meet the criteria for Priority Habitat.	

[3] Priority species and habitats are those listed at Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act puts a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of these species, including when considering planning allocations and applications.

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[3] Species	Example Photograph/s
Where the neutral grassland field margins exceeded 5 m width, or where they were managed specifically for wildlife (under SFI or CS), they have been included as their own separate habitat.		
Primary code(s): c1a5- arable field margins tussocky c1a6 -arable field margins pollen and nectar Two arable field margins managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife were located within Solar Development Site 2. The first was a small triangular parcel located to the north-east of field F2.5 listed as AB1 nectar flower mix under CS. The margin had been left to grow long and comprises predominantly of clover sp., with sunflower, creeping buttercup, broadleaved dock, spear thistle, cranesbill sp., annual meadow-grass *Poa annua*, Yorkshire fog, coltsfoot *Tussilago farfara*, and knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. The second arable field margin comprised a wide field margin, approximately 40 m, located to the west of field F2.4 listed as CAHL3 under CS, whereby grassland field corners or blocks are taken out of management, so tussocky grass can develop. The margin comprised tall forbs from the previous growing season left in-	As the habitat is specifically managed for wildlife, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. Arable field margins also comprise Priority Habitat (Ref 5). The habitat may be used by a wide variety of foraging and commuting fauna, and by ground nesting birds.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[3] Species	Example Photograph/s
situ, including ragwort, willowherb sp., creeping thistle and broadleaved dock. A large brash pile was located within this field margin.		
Primary code(s): g3c-other neutral grassland Other neutral grassland, including tall forbs, formed a watercourse buffer strip along Ditch 2.1 that ran through the centre and along the south-east boundary of Solar Development Site 2. Sward height varied from approximately 10 cm to 30 cm at the time of survey. It also appeared to have been tracked over by machinery in places. Species included cock's-foot (A), dandelion sp. (F), spear thistle (O), Yorkshire fog (A), ragwort sp. (R), ribwort plantain (A), white clover (F), coltsfoot (O), creeping bent (F), rough meadow-grass (F), creeping buttercup (F), cranesbill sp. (F), horsetail sp. (O), knapweed (F), broadleaved plantain (O), marsh foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatu* (R), and cuckoo flower *Cardamine Pratensis* (R). Tall forbs included hogweed (A), cow parsley (F) and common nettle (A).	Due to the lower management and increased species diversity, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. This habitat has the potential to support ground nesting and farmland birds, foraging and commuting bats, invertebrates, terrestrial habitat for amphibians, and possibly grass snake and water vole due to the associated wet ditch.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[3] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): g4- modified grassland Two strips >5 m wide of modified grassland were present within Solar Development Site 2. The first was along the western margins of Field F2.4 between the crop and the arable field margin (c.6 m wide) and the second was along the western boundary of Field F2.2 (c.5 m wide). The sward here included cock's-foot, fescue species *Festuca sp.*, dandelion sp., spear thistle, Yorkshire fog, ragwort sp., ribwort plantain and white clover and was poached in places from farm machinery tracks.	Due to the lower species diversity, small extent of the habitat, and as it is common in the wider landscape, the habitat is assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. However, the modified grassland margins could provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, hedgehog and brown hare. Hedgehog and brown hare were both recorded during the surveys at Solar Development Site 2. The margins may also be used by commuting amphibians and badgers.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[3] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): r2-50-ditches Ditch 2.1 (Fleet Dike) was found to be approximately 1.5 m wide, with water depths of approximately 1 m, with a slow, steady flow eastward. The water turbidity levels were low and submerged aquatic species included bogbean *Menyanthes sp.* and *Lemna* sp., as well as emergent yellow flag iris *Iris Pseudacorus* and common reed *Phragmites australis*. The ditch had earth substrate and ran through a culvert under the central farm track. The channel banks were sloped, approximately 1-2 m high, and vegetated with ruderals and grasses including hogweed, broadleaved dock, red campion *Silene dioica,* common nettle, common reed, rye-grass sp., meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Primula* s*p.,* greater stitchwort *Rabelera holostea* and crosswort *Cruciata laevipes.* Small fish (potentially stickleback *Gasterosteidae sp.)* were identified within D2.1. The ditch continued along the south-eastern boundary of Solar Development Site 2 and was approximately 2 m wide, holding water approximately 30 cm deep. Emergent common	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in connection with the hedgerows and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The ditches could be used by foraging and commuting bats and grass snake and provide connectivity for otter. Habitat for potential otter holts and lay-ups is generally limited to the adjacent woodland copse, off-site to the east, and hedgerow bases adjacent to the ditch, however no holts identified during the 2025 otter surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]). Wet ditches and their grassy vegetated banks provide potential habitat for water vole and common amphibians, and aquatic species are also anticipated to be present. The ditches may also be used as a commuting and foraging feature by a range of other fauna, such as bats.	 

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[3] Species	Example Photograph/s
reed and yellow flag iris and submerged pondweed were present. The eastern bank (off-site) had scattered hawthorn and a belt of dense bramble scrub. Ditch 2.2 (D2.2) extended along a short section of the north-eastern corner of Solar Development Site 2 and comprised an agricultural ditch, with shallow water levels approximately <30 cm. D2.2 was approximately 1 m wide, and heavily overgrown with bramble/bracken.		
Primary code(s): h2a5-species-rich native hedgerow (some with trees/ditch) h2a6-other native hedgerow (some with trees/ditch) A total of five hedgerows (H2.1 to H2.5) were located within Solar Development Site 2. A description of the individual hedgerows is presented in Annex B.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected wet ditches and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. Hedgerows provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. The hedgerows have potential to support badger setts, with further details provided within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**].	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[3] Species	Example Photograph/s
	Mature trees within hedgerows have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds, and birds may also nest in the hedge themselves.	
Primary code(s): w-200- rural trees A small number of individual rural trees were mainly located at field boundaries within Solar Development Site 2. Species include ash, apple *Malus sp.,* hawthorn and oak, and were generally semi-mature.	Due to the limited number and scattered nature of the trees creating a lack of tree cover within Solar Development Site 2, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The trees may have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds including barn owl.	
Primary codes: u1c-developed land; unsealed surface A bare ground access track extended north to south through the centre of Solar Development Site 2.	Due to the lack of vegetation cover and small size of the habitat, it is assessed as being of negligible ecological importance.	

3.4 Solar Development Site 3

3.4.1 Solar Development Site 3 largely comprised two agricultural fields. The fields are bound by wet ditches Ditch 3.1-Ditch 3.2 (D3.1-D3.2) in combination with hedgerows Hedgerow 3.1-Hedgerow 3.5 (H3.1-H3.5), Treeline 3.1 (TL3.1), scattered mature trees and scrub.

3.4.2 Solar Development Site 3 is approximately 615 m east of the village of Hillam and is surround by further agricultural land on all aspects, with Hillam Common Lane forming the northern boundary.

3.4.3 The habitats noted across Solar Development Site 3 are summarised in Table 4 below, together with an assessment of their importance and suitability for protected species. Figure 6.6: UK Habitat Classification Results (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.06]** shows the location and extent of each habitat present within Solar Development Site 3, together with the locations of labelled habitats, such as hedgerows and ditches. The field reference numbers are provided within Figure 2.3: Field Numbering Plan (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**].

Table 4 Solar Development Site 3 Habitats and their Importance

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[4] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1c-cereal crop The majority of Solar Development Site 3 was formed of cropland comprising field F3.1 and F3.2. Most field grassland margins were <5 m, and in some cases no margin was present. Margins were dominated by tall forbs including hogweed (D), common nettle (D), broadleaved dock (D), with Yorkshire fog (F), perennial rye-grass (F), bramble (O), meadowsweet (O) and white dead nettle (O). Such margins are included within the associated arable habitat type. Where the neutral grassland field margins exceeded 5 m width, or where they were managed specifically for wildlife (under SFI or CS), they have been included as their own separate habitat.	Due to the highly managed nature of the habitat and low species diversity, it assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. However, the arable fields and margins could provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, overwintering birds, hedgehog and brown hare. As the arable field margins included in this habitat are not managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife, they do not meet the criteria for Priority Habitat.	

[4] Priority species and habitats are those listed at Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act puts a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of these species, including when considering planning allocations and applications.

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[4] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1a5- arable field margins tussocky The western extent of Field F3.1 comprised an area managed as CAHL3 under CS, whereby grassland field corners or blocks are taken out of management, so tussocky grass can develop. The sward was a mixture of low growing species (10 cm height at time of survey), with occasional tussocky grasses and forbs, which were quite patchy in cover. Species present included dandelion, daisy *Bellis perennis*, knapweed, creeping thistle, willowherb sp., Yorkshire fog and perennial rye-grass. Birds foraging in the sward included linnets *Linaria cannabina*.	As the habitat is specifically managed for wildlife, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. Arable field margins also comprise Priority Habitat (Ref 5). The habitat may be used by a wide variety of foraging and commuting fauna, and by ground nesting birds.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[4] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): g3c-other neutral grassland Two neutral grassland field margins wider than 5 m were present within Solar Development Site 3, forming buffers to the wet ditches. These included the northern boundary of field F3.1. Here the structure was not tussocky but varied in sward height between approximately 7 cm to 30 cm at time of survey. Species present included Yorkshire fog (A), rye-grass sp. (O), fescue sp. (A), cock's-foot (A), dandelion sp. (F), ribwort plantain (A), hogweed (A), vetch sp. *Vicia sp.*, (R) and horsetail sp. (O). A second neutral grassland margin was present at the southern margin of field F3.1 and northern margin of field F3.2. Species were as previously recorded but also included trefoil sp, (O), vetch sp., (R), white clover (F), cranesbill sp. (O) and cuckoo flower (R).	Due to the less intensive management and increased species diversity, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. This habitat has the potential to support ground nesting and farmland birds, foraging and commuting bats, invertebrates, terrestrial habitat for amphibians, and possibly grass snake and water vole where it is adjacent to the wet ditches.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[4] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): r2-50-ditches Ditch 3.1 comprised a wet ditch forming the northern boundary of Solar Development Site 3. It had a very slow flow east. The channel was approximately 1.5 m wide and 50 cm deep. Emergent and surface aquatics include *Lemna* sp. and bogbean. Banks were vegetated with grasses and tall forbs including the same species as listed in the neutral grassland field margins but also with common nettle, meadowsweet, common reed, willowherb sp., crosswort and marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*. Ditch 3.2 separates field F3.1 and field F3.2 in the southern aspect of Solar Development Site 3. It had a slow flow eastward. The channel was approximately 1.5-2 m wide and was reinforced at the base. It passed through a small stone-fronted culvert at a field crossing and had a water depth of approximately 20 cm. Emergent vegetation comprised bogbean, and channel banks were steep and grassy, with species listed in the neutral grassland field margins above, as well as meadowsweet, common reed, crosswort and greater stitchwort. Sections of the ditch were lined by scattered trees. Birds including moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*, a	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in connection with the hedgerows and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The wet ditches could be used by foraging and commuting bats and grass snake and provides connectivity for otter. Habitat for potential otter holts and lay-ups is generally limited within Solar Development Site 3, with no holts identified during the 2025 otter surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]). Wet ditches and their grassy vegetated banks provide potential habitat for water vole and common amphibians, and aquatic species are also anticipated to be present. The ditches may also be used as a commuting feature by a range of other fauna. The small stone-fronted culvert under D3.2 lacks any suitable potential roosting features for bats.	 

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[4] Species	Example Photograph/s
mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* family and little egret *Egretta garzetta* were recorded in the channel at the time of survey.		
Primary code(s): w1 33-line of trees Treeline 3.1 (TL3.1) was located on the western boundary of field F3.1. Species present included hawthorn, sycamore, hazel, blackthorn, oak, elder, willow sp., ash and elm, with young elder, hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble at the treeline's base. English bluebells, ivy *Hedera helix* and greater stitchwort formed the ground-flora, and a dry ditch was present along the field boundary.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected hedgerows and ditches, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. Treelines may provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. The treeline has potential to support badger setts as well as roosting bats and nesting birds. English bluebells are also present at the base of the treeline, which is a species of principal importance in England.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[4] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): h2a5-species-rich native hedgerow (some with trees/ditch) h2a6-other native hedgerow (some with trees/ditch) A total of five hedgerows (H3.1 to H3.5) were located within Solar Development Site 3. A description of the individual hedgerows is presented in Annex B.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected wet ditches and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. Hedgerows provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. The hedgerows have potential to support badger setts, with further information provided within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]. Mature trees within hedgerows have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds, and birds may also nest in the hedge themselves.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[4] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): w-200- rural trees Scattered mature and semi-mature trees are present along field boundaries and lining D3.2. These mainly comprise oak but also include ash, alder, hawthorn and hazel.	Due to the limited number and scattered nature of the trees creating a lack of tree cover within Solar Development Site 3, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The trees may have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds including barn owl.	

3.5 Solar Development Site 4

3.5.1 Solar Development Site 4 largely comprised arable fields bound by wet drainage ditches, with neutral grassland margins, some of which were managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife, and sporadic hedgerows and treelines. There were occasional scattered trees at boundaries and bare ground and hardcore tracks extended through Solar Development Site 4.

3.5.2 The surrounding landscape is one of further agricultural fields and includes a small number of ponds in proximity to the boundary of Solar Development Site 4, that may support breeding great crested newt and other amphibians. A number of woodland copses also border Solar Development Site 4, that may provide suitable habitat for a range of fauna including badger, roosting and foraging bats, nesting birds and hedgehog. The River Aire is also located approximately 460 m south of Solar Development Site 4. The river is anticipated to form an important commuting and foraging feature for fauna within the local area.

3.5.3 Himalayan balsam, an invasive non-native species, was recorded within Ditch 4.1, Hedgerow 4.13, and in the arable field margin north of field F4.14.

3.5.4 The habitats present across Solar Development Site 4 are summarised in Table 5 below, together with an assessment of their importance and suitability for protected species. Figure 6.6: UK Habitat Classification Results (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.06]** shows the location and extent of each habitat present within Solar Development Site 4, together with the locations of labelled habitats, such as hedgerows and ditches, and locations of invasive species. The field reference numbers are provided within Figure 2.3: Field Numbering Plan (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**].

Table 5 Solar Development Site 4 Habitats and their Importance

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[5] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1c - cereal crops c1d - non-cereal crops Solar Development Site 4 mainly comprised large open arable fields, which were at the time of survey as follows: Fields F4.1, F4.2: barley stubble Fields F4.3, F4.8: maize Fields F4.4, F4.9, F4.13: wheat (ploughed later in the season) Fields F4.6, F4.11: bean (possibly chickpea) Fields F4.5, F4.12: sugar beet or chard Fields F4.14, F4.7: ploughed Fields F4.10: carrot Most of the fields had narrow (<5 m) margins which generally supported a lightly managed neutral grassland, some of which had been recently cut. Species included: perennial rye-grass, hogweed, cock's-foot, common nettle, Yorkshire fog, ribwort plantain, white clover, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, greater plantain	Due to the highly managed nature of the habitat and low species diversity, it assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. However, the arable fields and margins may provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, overwintering birds, hedgehog and brown hare. Protected, priority and notable species are discussed separately within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]. As the arable field margins included in this habitat are not managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife, they do not meet the criteria for Priority Habitat.	

[5] Priority species and habitats are those listed at Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2005. Section 40 of the NERC Act puts a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of these species, including when considering planning allocations and applications.

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[5] Species	Example Photograph/s
Plantago major, broadleaved dock, spear thistle, creeping thistle, false oat-grass, soft brome, common couch *Elymus repens*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris,* crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red bartsia *Odontites vernus*, ragwort, tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, creeping buttercup, cow parsley, dandelion, red campion and great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*. Some margins had some scattered scrub including hawthorn saplings, dog rose *Rosa canina*, bramble and bracken.		
Primary code(s): c1a8 -arable field margins wild bird mix A number of arable field margins managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife were located within Solar Development Site 4 managed under CS as AB9 winter bird food. Within the majority of these parcels there was a tall sward, approximately 150 cm maximum with minimal thatching. Species included: false oat-grass (O), perennial rye-grass (F), cock's-foot (O), Yorkshire fog (A), soft grass (F), tufted hair-grass (A), creeping thistle (O), broadleaved dock (F), creeping buttercup (A), common nettle (R), ribwort plantain (R), sunflower (R), reed canary grass (R), spear thistle (R), bristly oxtongue *Helminthotheca*	As the habitat is specifically managed for wildlife, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. Arable field margins also comprise Priority Habitat (Ref 5). The habitat may be used by a wide variety of foraging and commuting fauna, and by ground nesting birds.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[5] Species	Example Photograph/s
echioides (F), prickly sow-thistle *Sonchus asper* (F), common ragwort (O), willowherb sp. (O), soft brome (O), creeping bent (O), purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* (R) and common knapweed (R). The southern extent of field F4.10, managed as AB9 winter bird food, comprised a mosaic of recently mown modified grassland, dominated by perennial rye-grass, which was lacking abundant forbs, with these restricted to creeping thistle. Log piles were also recorded in the grassland. The eastern aspect of the sward was longer and comprises common couch, rough meadow-grass, false oat-grass, Yorkshire fog, hogweed, creeping thistle and spear thistle. The southern boundary of field F4.12, managed as AB9 winter bird food, comprised an approximate 11 m strip of disturbed and sparsely vegetated land. Species included chamomile *Chamaemelum nobile*. (O), mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* (F), shepherd's purse *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (O), knotgrass sp. *Polygonum aviculare* (A), creeping thistle (O), spear thistle (O), common poppy *Papaver rhoeas* (R), broadleaved dock (R), dandelion (O), goose-foot *Chenopodium sp.* (A) redshank		

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[5] Species	Example Photograph/s
Persicaria maculosa (O), borage sp. *Borago sp.* (O), sow thistle *Sonchus oleraceus* (O), cock's-foot(O), hogweed (O), couch grass (O) and black bent-grass *Agrostis gigantea* (A). Himalayan balsam was present within the dry ditch, in the arable field margin north of field F4.14.		
Primary code(s): g3c-other neutral grassland A number of neutral grassland field margins >5 m were located within Solar Development Site 4, around wet ditches and field boundaries. A description and species composition for these margins is presented in Annex B.	Due to the less intensive management and increased species diversity, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. This habitat has the potential to support ground nesting and farmland birds, foraging and commuting bats, invertebrates, terrestrial habitat for amphibians and possibly grass snake and water vole, where associated with wet ditches. Tussocky grassy margins and ditch banks also have thatch for small prey that could be used for foraging raptors such as barn owl.	
Primary code(s): h2a5-species-rich native hedgerow (some with trees/ditch) h2a6-other native hedgerow (some with trees/ditch)	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected wet ditches and treelines, and as	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[5] Species	Example Photograph/s
A total of 10 hedgerows are located within Solar Development Site 4. A description of the individual hedgerows is presented in Annex B.	such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The hedgerows provide habitat for badgers, with further information provided within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]. Hedgerows also provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. Mature trees within hedgerows have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds, and birds may also nest in the hedge themselves.	
Primary code(s): u1f Sparsely vegetated land The following disturbed areas were recorded within Solar Development Site 4: In the south-western corner of Field 4.5 an area of disturbed ground and tracks was present. The area had been initially colonised by pineappleweed *Matricaria discoidea*, knotgrass, annual meadow-grass, chamomile, scentless mayweed *Tripleurospermum inodorum*, and daisy. At the margins, earth bunds were vegetated with tall forbs. Species included	Due to the lack of vegetation cover, and small area, the habitat is assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. The habitat may however be of use to ground nesting birds, with skylark *Alauda arvensis* flushed from the habitat during the survey.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[5] Species	Example Photograph/s
mugwort (A), creeping thistle (A), ragwort sp. (O), common nettle (A), broadleaved dock (F), herb Robert *Geranium robertianum* (O), spear thistle (F), weld *Reseda luteola* (F), smooth sow-thistle *Sonchus oleraceus* (O), burdock *Arctium lappa*. (R), common poppy (R), perennial rye-grass (O), false oat-grass (O), Yorkshire fog (R), broadleaved willowherb (O), cock's-foot (O), hogweed sp. (O), white dead nettle (O), and barren brome (O). On the western boundary of field F4.13 an area of previously disturbed ground was present that had been tracked with farm machinery, with dug earth present which was vegetating over with species including: chamomile (O), mugwort (F), shepherd's purse (O), knotgrass sp. (A), creeping thistle (O), spear thistle (O), common poppy (R), broadleaved dock (R), dandelion (O), goose-foot (A) and black bent-grass (A). In the north-west of field F4.9 an approximate 10 m wide strip of bare ground and arable weeds was present between the arable field and arable field margin. Species include chamomile, ribwort plantain, fat-hen Chenopodium *album*, perennial rye-grass, redshank, creeping thistle, knotgrass,		

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[5] Species	Example Photograph/s
fiddleneck *Phacelia tanacetifolia*, bristly oxtongue, wild radish, borage, and pineappleweed.		
Primary code(s): r2-50-ditches A total of 10 wet ditches were located within Solar Development Site 4. A description of the individual ditches is presented in Annex B.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in connection with the hedgerows and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The ditches could be used by foraging and commuting bats and grass snake and provide connectivity for otter. Habitat for potential otter holts and lay-ups is generally limited to the off-site woodland belts/boundary treelines and hedges adjacent to the ditches, with no holts identified during the 2025 otter surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]). Wet ditches and their grassy vegetated banks provide potential habitat for water vole and common amphibians, and aquatic species are also anticipated to be present.	 

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[5] Species	Example Photograph/s
	The ditch may also be used as a commuting and foraging feature by a range of other fauna.	
Primary code(s): w-200- rural trees w-203-mature tree Scattered trees were present around field boundaries, and include hawthorn, pedunculate oak, elder, field maple, ash and willow.	Due to the limited number and scattered nature of the trees creating a lack of tree cover within Solar Development Site 4, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The trees may have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds including barn owl.	
Primary code(s): w1 33-line of trees A total of four treelines (TL4.1 to TL4.4) were located within Solar Development Site 4. A description of the individual treelines is presented in Annex B.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected hedgerows and ditches, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. Treelines may provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. The treelines have potential to support badger setts as well as roosting bats and nesting birds.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[5] Species	Example Photograph/s
	Where the treelines are adjacent to wet ditches, potential otter holts and lay-ups could be located, however no holts were identified during the 2025 otter surveys, (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]).	
Primary code(s): u1c-developed land; unsealed surface A number of bare ground and hardcore access tracks extend through Solar Development Site 4. These were approximately 4 m wide, with grass margin either side, e.g. along southern boundary of field F4.1 and the southern boundary of field F4.8.	Due to the lack of vegetation cover and small size of the habitat, it assessed as being of negligible ecological importance.	

3.6 Solar Development Site 6

3.6.1 Solar Development Site 6 largely comprised arable fields bound by wet drainage ditches and associated modified grassland margins, as well as sporadic hedgerows and treelines. There were also occasional scattered trees at boundaries, with a small woodland copse in the west of Solar Development Site 6. Some discrete areas of neutral and modified grassland were also present.

3.6.2 The surrounding landscape is one of further agricultural fields and includes a number of ponds in proximity to the boundary of Solar Development Site 6, that may support breeding great crested newt and other amphibians. However, the association of some of these ponds to Gascoigne Wood Fishery, to the north of Solar Development Site 6, may reduce the likelihood of GCN being present in these ponds due to fish predation of young GCN.

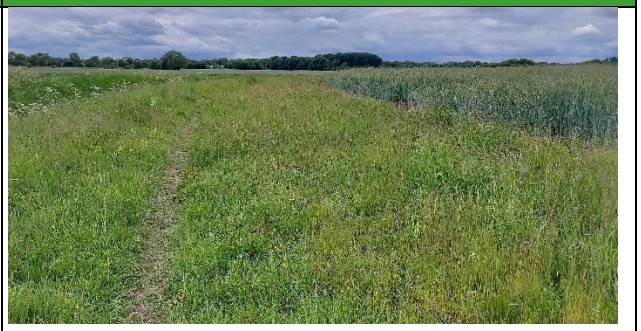
3.6.3 Turpin Lane and Common Lane divide some fields forming part of Solar Development Site 6, and Solar Development Site 6 is also bound to the west by a railway line, which may form a commuting feature for species such as badger or bats. An area of woodland flanks Solar Development Site 6 to the north, which may provide suitable habitat for a range of fauna including badger, roosting and foraging bats, nesting birds and hedgehog.

3.6.4 The habitats present across Solar Development Site 6 are summarised in Table 6 below, together with an assessment of their importance and suitability for protected species. Figure 6.6: UK Habitat Classification Results (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.06]** shows the location and extent of each habitat present within Solar Development Site 6, together with the locations of labelled habitats, such as hedgerows and ditches. The field reference numbers are provided within Figure 2.3: Field Numbering Plan (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03]**.

Table 6 Solar Development Site 6 Habitats and their Importance

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[6] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1c - cereal crops c1d - non-cereal crops Solar Development Site 6 mainly comprised large open arable fields, which were at the time of survey as follows: Field F6.5: oil seed rape Fields F6.3, and F6.2: barley Fields F6.4, F6.1, and F6.8: wheat Field F6.6: ploughed Most of the fields had narrow (<5 m) margins which generally supported modified grassland that had been herbicide sprayed and used as access tracks for farm vehicles.	Due to the highly managed nature of the habitat and low species diversity, it is assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. However, the arable fields and margins may provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, overwintering birds, hedgehog and brown hare. Protected, priority and notable species are discussed separately within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]. As the arable field margins included in this habitat are not managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife, they do not meet the criteria for Priority Habitat.	
Primary code(s): g4-modified grassland A number of modified grassland field margins >5 m were located within Solar Development Site 6, around wet ditches and field boundaries.	Due to the lower species diversity, small extent of the habitat, and as it is common in the wider landscape, the habitat is assessed as being of negligible ecological importance.	

[6] Priority species and habitats are those listed at Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2005. Section 40 of the NERC Act puts a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of these species, including when considering planning allocations and applications.

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[6] Species	Example Photograph/s
These margins were partly used as access tracks, with bare ground present in places. They appeared regularly cut and were within the influence of the pesticide/herbicide spraying regime. There was an average of five species per m^2, which were largely dominated by agricultural grasses. Species present included perennial rye, timothy, black grass, red fescue, greater plantain, scentless mayweed, bristly ox-tongue, field horsetail, common hogweed, ribwort plantain, cats-ear, and common knapweed.	However, the modified grassland margins could provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, hedgehog and brown hare, with brown hare recorded during the surveys at Solar Development Site 6. The margins may also be used by commuting amphibians and badgers.	
Primary code(s): g3c-other neutral grassland One field margin >5 m forming the eastern boundary of F6.6 was found to comprise neutral grassland. The margin was approximately 6 m wide and appeared less disturbed and relatively more floristically diverse than the other field margins with Solar Development Site 6. The margin was also less dominated by agricultural grasses and herbs and had some scattered young self-set scrub present. Species present included: Yorkshire fog, annual meadow-grass, red fescue, crested dog's tail, cock's-foot, perennial rye, ribwort	Due to the less intensive management and increased species diversity, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. This habitat has the potential to support ground nesting and farmland birds, foraging and commuting bats, invertebrates, and form terrestrial habitat for amphibians.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[6] Species	Example Photograph/s
plantain, smooth tare, common mouse-ear, dandelion, cats-ear, colt's foot, ragwort, white clover, horsetail sp., common vetch, ox-eye daisy, common oak (sapling), hawthorn (sapling), silver birch (sapling), willow sp. (sapling), common knapweed, meadow buttercup, tufted vetch and lesser stitchwort. One additional area of neutral grassland was located in the northern corner of F6.4, and on consultation of historic aerial images, had been left fallow since 2022. Yorkshire fog and fescue species were dominant in the grassland and there was on average 7 species per m^2. Other species present included annual meadow-grass, bent sp., creeping buttercup, white clover, creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock, yarrow, ox-eye daisy, ribwort plantain, ragwort, prickly sow thistle, bristly ox tongue, red clover and bush vetch.		
Primary code(s): h2a5-species-rich native hedgerow (some with trees) h2a6-other native hedgerow (some with trees) A total of 14 hedgerows (H6.2 to H6.15) were located within Solar Development Site 6. A description of the individual hedgerows is presented in Annex B.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected wet ditches and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The hedgerows provide habitat for badgers, however no badger setts were identified within	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[6] Species	Example Photograph/s
	Solar Development Site 6 during the 2025 surveys, further details provided within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]. Hedgerows also provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. Mature trees within hedgerows have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds, and birds may also nest in the hedge themselves. H6.10 also had English bluebells present which is a species of principal importance in England, and makes the hedge "important" as per The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (Ref 7).	
Primary code(s): w1g-other broadleaved woodland A very small woodland copses was located within Solar Development Site 6, on the southern boundary of F6.4. The copse had a limited understorey due to dense canopy layer, which had two age classes present, and minor browsing damage from deer. Species included sycamore (D) and common ash (O), with an understorey of elder and bramble, and a field	Due to the general scarcity of this habitat within Solar Development Site 6, and its connection to linear commuting features, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The woodland may provide foraging and shelter for a range of fauna including hedgehog, badger, bats, birds and otter. The trees may provide roosing opportunities for bats, nesting opportunities for birds, with the	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[6] Species	Example Photograph/s
layer of ivy (D), common hogweed and common nettle.	woodland floor providing potential sett building locations for badgers and potential holt locations for otter, however no holts were identified within the habitat during the 2025 surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]).	
Primary code(s): r2-50-ditches A total of six wet ditches (D6.1 to D6.6) were located within Solar Development Site 6. A description of the individual ditches is presented in Annex B.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in connection with the hedgerows and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The ditches could be used by foraging and commuting bats and grass snake and provide connectivity for otter. Habitat for potential otter holts and lay-ups is generally limited to the off-site woodland/boundary treelines and hedges adjacent to the ditches, with no holts identified during the 2025 otter surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]). Wet ditches and their grassy vegetated banks provide potential habitat for water vole and common amphibians, and aquatic species are also anticipated to be present. The ditch may also be used as a commuting and foraging feature by a range of other fauna.	 

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[6] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): w-200- rural trees w-203-mature tree Mature and semi-mature scattered trees were present around field boundaries, and included pedunculate oak, ash, small leaved lime and willow species.	Due to the limited number and scattered nature of the trees creating a lack of tree cover within Solar Development Site 6, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The trees may have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds including barn owl.	
Primary code(s): w1 33-line of trees A total of three treelines (TL6.1 to TL6.3) were located within Solar Development Site 6. A description of the individual treelines is presented in Annex B.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected hedgerows and ditches, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. Treelines may provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. The treelines have potential to support badger setts as well as roosting bats and nesting birds. Where the treelines are adjacent to wet ditches, potential otter holts and lay-ups could be located, however no holts were identified	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[6] Species	Example Photograph/s
	during the 2025 otter surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]).	

3.7 Solar Development Site 7

3.7.1 Solar Development Site 7 comprised one small agricultural field. The field was bound by one wet ditch, Ditch 7.1 (D7.1), as well as three hedgerows Hedgerow 7.1-Hedgerow 7.3 (H7.1-H7.3), and one scattered tree.

3.7.2 Common Lane forms the southern boundary of Solar Development Site 7, with railway tracks present on the western and northern boundary. Further agricultural land forms the vast majority of the surrounding landscape.

3.7.3 The habitats noted across Solar Development Site 7 are summarised in Table B3 below, together with an assessment of their importance and suitability for protected species. Figure 6.6: UK Habitat Classification Results (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.06]** shows the location and extent of each habitat present within Solar Development Site 7, together with the locations of labelled habitats, such as hedgerows and ditches. The field reference numbers are provided within Figure 2.3: Field Numbering Plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**].

Table 7 Solar Development Site 7 Habitats and their Importance

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[7] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1-cropland The majority of Solar Development Site 7 was formed of a small recently ploughed and tilled cropland field F7.1. All field grassland margins were <5 m, and in the south-east comprised broad-leaved dock (O) meadowsweet (O) Yorkshire fog (F), common hogweed (F), cock's-foot (A), barren brome (O) false oat-grass (A), creeping thistle (F), oil-seed rape (F), meadow foxtail (O), common sorrel (O), cow parsley (F), black knapweed (O), and teasel (R).	Due to the highly managed nature of the habitat and low species diversity, it assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. However, the arable fields and margins could provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, overwintering birds, hedgehog and brown hare. As the arable field margins included in this habitat are not managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife, they do not meet the criteria for Priority Habitat.	

[7] Priority species and habitats are those listed at Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act puts a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of these species, including when considering planning allocations and applications.

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[7] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): r2-50-ditches Ditch 7.1 was an agricultural drainage ditch with a channel width of approximately 1 m, a bank top width of approximately 4-5 m, and steep banks (approximately 2.5 m high). It was dominated by perennials, with some scattered scrub however the watercourse was left largely unshaded. There was no discernible flow, and the channel bed was not visible. Some water starwort was present, but no other emergent or aquatic species were noted. The banks were dominated by meadowsweet, with common hogweed, reed canary grass and bramble. To the east of the dog kennel facility, which was present on the southern boundary of Solar Development Site 7, the ditch was dry.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in connection with the hedgerows and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The wet ditches could be used by foraging and commuting bats and grass snake and provides connectivity for otter. Habitat for potential otter holts and lay-ups is generally limited within Solar Development Site 7, with no holts identified during the 2025 otter surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]). Wet ditches and their grassy vegetated banks provide potential habitat for water vole and common amphibians, and aquatic species are also anticipated to be present. The ditches may also be used as a commuting feature by a range of other fauna.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[7] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): h2a5-species-rich native hedgerow (some with trees/ditch) h2a6-other native hedgerow A total of three hedgerows (H7.1 to H7.3) were located within Solar Development Site 7. H7.1 formed the western aspect of the northern boundary of Solar Development Site 7 and comprised an immature (guards present) and unmanaged species rich native hedgerow with trees. Species comprised hawthorn (D) with field maple (A), elder (O), blackthorn (F), ash (F), field rose (R), cherry (O), and goat willow (R). The hedge was approximately 2 m tall and 2.5 m wide, with a dry ditch present on its northern side. The hedge was bound by an undisturbed railway embankment on north side, and a <1 m margin to the arable field on south side. Trees present included ash, cherry and goat willow, which were all semi-mature. The hedge base was dominated by common nettle (D), bramble (A) and creeping thistle (A), with some ox-eye (O) and lesser burdock (O). H7.2 formed the eastern aspect of the northern boundary of Solar Development Site 7 and comprised an immature (guards present) other	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected wet ditches and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. Hedgerows provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. The hedgerows have potential to support badger setts, as discussed separately within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]. Mature trees within hedgerows have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds, and birds may also nest in the hedge themselves.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[7] Species	Example Photograph/s
native hedgerow. Species comprised hawthorn (D) with blackthorn (F). The hedge was approximately 2 m tall and 1.5 m wide and was bound by an undisturbed railway embankment on north side, and a <1 m margin to the arable field on south side. The hedge base comprised mustard sp. (O), pepperwort sp. (O), field forget-me-not (O), bristly ox-tongue (F), willowherb sp. (F), herb bennet (O), ox-eye daisy (F), common vetch (F), and meadow vetchling (O). H7.3 formed the eastern boundary of Solar Development Site 7 and comprised a species rich native hedgerow with trees. Species comprised blackthorn (D) with hawthorn (A), field maple (O), hazel (F), dog rose (O), and common oak (O). The hedge was approximately 2 m tall and 2-3 m wide and was bound by an arable field on east side, and a <1 m margin to the arable field on the west side. Some gaps were present along the length of the hedge including one >5 m. The hedge base comprised creeping thistle (A), meadow vetchling (O), tufted vetch (F), false oat-grass (A), common hogweed (O), blackthorn (suckers) (F), mugwort (O), and cow parsley (O).		

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[7] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): w-200- rural trees One mature ash tree was located on the western boundary of Solar Development Site 7 adjacent to the railway line.	Due to the limited number and scattered nature of the trees creating a lack of tree cover within Solar Development Site 7, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The tree may have potential to support nesting birds.	No picture

3.8 Solar Development Site 8

3.8.1 Solar Development Site 8 largely comprised three arable fields bound by one wet drainage ditch, Ditch 8.1 (D8.1), with a modified grassland margin, and sporadic hedgerows and treelines comprising Hedgerow 8.1 (H8.1), Hedgerow 8.2 (H8.2), and Treeline 8.1 (TL8.1). There were five scattered trees located at the boundary of Solar Development Site 8, with an area of modified grassland in the east and an area of sparsely vegetated land in the centre of Solar Development Site 8.

3.8.2 Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, an invasive non-native species, was recorded in the centre of Solar Development Site 8, adjacent to the area of sparsely vegetated land.

3.8.3 Phillip Lane forms the eastern boundary, with Hagg Lane forming the western boundary beyond D8.1, and a railway line present immediately south of Solar Development Site 8. Further agricultural land is present to the east, north and south, with an area of woodland present past Hagg Lane to the west. Selby Dam is located approximately 380 m east of Solar Development Site 8, with Bishop Wood SINC located approximately 600 m north-east.

3.8.4 The habitats present across Solar Development Site 8 are summarised in Table 8 below, together with an assessment of their importance and suitability for protected species. Figure 6.6: UK Habitat Classification Plan (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.06]** shows the location and extent of each habitat present within Solar Development Site 8, together with the locations of labelled habitats, such as hedgerows and ditches. The field reference numbers are provided within Figure 2.3: Field Numbering Plan (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**].

Table 8 Solar Development Site 8 Habitats and their Importance

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[8] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1c - cereal crops c1d - non-cereal crops Solar Development Site 8 mainly comprised three open arable fields, which were at the time of survey as follows: Fields F8.1 and F8.2: wheat Fields F8.3: beans All arable field grassland margins were <5 m, comprising species such as common nettle and bramble, or no margin was present, apart from the western boundary adjacent to D8.1, which is described in the modified grassland row below.	Due to the highly managed nature of the habitat and low species diversity, it assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. However, the arable fields and margins may provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, overwintering birds, hedgehog and brown hare. Protected, priority and notable species are discussed separately within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]. As the arable field margins included in this habitat are not managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife, they do not meet the criteria for Priority Habitat.	

[8] Priority species and habitats are those listed at Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2005. Section 40 of the NERC Act puts a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of these species, including when considering planning allocations and applications.

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[8] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): g4-modified grassland An approximate 6-10 m modified grassland margin was present between the arable field and D8.1. The margin had not been created for the benefit of wildlife and had been recently mown with the arisings left in situ. The margin was dominated by grasses and a few common agricultural forbs including common hogweed (F), cock's-foot (D), Yorkshire fog (A), creeping buttercup (O), white clover (O), and creeping thistle (F). A second area of modified grassland was present in the north-east of Solar Development Site 8. The majority of the grassland had been recently mown, and species comprised broad-leaved dock (O), scentless mayweed (O), cock's-foot (D), creeping buttercup (O), white clover (F), red fescue (F), annual meadow grass (F), smooth sow thistle (O), and bitter cress (R). A section of the grassland, surrounding a scattered tree, was dominated by common nettle (D) with common hogweed (F), broad-leaved dock (F), lesser burdock (O), scentless mayweed (F), and field bindweed (F).	Due to the lower species diversity and small size of the habitat, it is considered to be of negligible ecological importance. The modified grassland may however provide suitable cover for a range of fauna such as amphibians, birds, hedgehog and badger.	 

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[8] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): h2a6-other native hedgerow Two hedgerows (H8.1 to H8.2) were located within Solar Development Site 8. H8.1 formed part of the north-eastern boundary of Solar Development Site 8 and comprised an old other native hedgerow. Species comprised blackthorn (D) with hawthorn (O), elder (O), and wych elm (O). The hedge was approximately 1.5-2 m tall and 3-4 m wide and was bound by a <1 m margin to the arable field on the west side. This western side had been cut, however, there was limited management evident on the eastern aspect. The hedge base comprised common nettle (D), bramble (A), cock's-foot (A), annual meadow-grass (F), blackthorn (suckers) (A), false oat-grass (F), creeping thistle (F), fescue sp. (F), and barren brome (O). H8.2 formed part of the north-eastern boundary of Solar Development Site 8 and comprised a defunct blackthorn other native hedgerow. Species comprised blackthorn (D) with willow species (O), elder (O), common oak (O), and hazel (O). The hedge was approximately 1.5 m tall and 1.5-2 m wide and was bound by a <1 m margin to the arable field on the west side. The	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected wet ditches and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The hedgerows provide habitat for badgers, as discussed separately within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]. Hedgerows also provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians, and birds may nest in the hedge themselves.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[8] Species	Example Photograph/s
hedge had large and frequent gaps, and the hedge base comprised common nettle (D) and cock's-foot (A).		
Primary code(s): u1f-sparsely vegetated urban land An area of assumed previously demolished farm buildings was present in the centre of Solar Development Site 8. Sections of concrete hardstanding were present, as well as spoil/rubble heaps around outer edges which had been colonised to various extents. Modified grassland and areas of short perennials and tall forbs were located between the hardstanding sections. A small patch of Japanese knotweed was located at approximate What3words location ///woke.unscathed.comfort. Species present included dandelion (F), cinquefoil (F), Yorkshire fog (A), cock's-foot (D), annual meadow-grass (A), common nettle (D), fiddleneck (F), white clover (F), bent species (A), fescue species (F), broad-leaved dock (F), hemlock (F), charlock (F), scentless mayweed (A), lesser burdock (O), smooth sow thistle (F), pineapple weed (F), mugwort (O), weed, groundsel (O), shepherd's purse (F), spear thistle (O), germander speedwell (O), ribwort plantain (F), greater plantain (O), fat hen (O),	Due to the urban nature and small area of the habitat, it is assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. Japanese knotweed is an invasive non-native species listed on schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Ref 8).	 

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[8] Species	Example Photograph/s
white dead nettle (O), Canadian golden rod (R), fig-leaved goosefoot (A), herb Robert (R), dove's-foot cranesbill (O), cow parsley (O), prickly sow thistle (R), canary reed-grass (O), cut-leaved cranesbill (R), and weld (R).		
Primary code(s): r2-50-ditches One wet ditch (D8.1) formed the western boundary of Solar Development Site 8. The ditch is known as Habholme Dike and comprised a part-reinforced/straightened channel flowing northward. The channel width was approximately 2 m, with a bank top width of approximately 7 m, bank height of approximately 4 m, and steep banks >45%. There was limited aquatic vegetation, with some fool's watercress present but mostly at the margins. The banks were dominated by tall forbs including common hogweed, common nettle, teasel, bramble, meadow buttercup, false oat-grass, and cock's-foot.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in connection with the hedgerows and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The ditches could be used by foraging and commuting bats and grass snake and provide connectivity for otter. Habitat for potential otter holts and lay-ups is provided within the off-site woodland to the west of the ditch, with no holts identified during the 2025 otter surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.06.02**]). Wet ditches and their grassy vegetated banks provide potential habitat for water vole and common amphibians, and aquatic species are also anticipated to be present. The ditch may also be used as a commuting and foraging feature by a range of other fauna.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[8] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): w-200- rural trees w-203-mature tree Five scattered trees were located within Solar Development Site 8. One in the area of modified grassland in the north-east of the Solar Development Site comprising a semi mature ash. The four remaining trees were located in the south-west of Solar Development Site 8, adjacent to TL8.1, comprising two poplar and one common oak which were semi-mature, as well as a mature common oak.	Due to the limited number and scattered nature of the trees creating a lack of tree cover within Solar Development Site 8, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The trees may have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds including barn owl.	
Primary code(s): w1 33-line of trees One treeline TL8.1 was located in the south-west of Solar Development Site 8 and formed an Ecologically Valuable Line of Trees due to the presence of mature trees. The treeline was dominated by hybrid poplar and flaked the eastern bank of D8.1. The ground flora was dominated by bramble, common hogweed and cock's-foot.	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected hedgerows and ditches, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. Treelines may provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. The treeline has the potential to support badger setts as well as roosting bats and nesting birds. Where the treeline is adjacent to the wet ditch, potential otter holts and lay-ups could be	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[8] Species	Example Photograph/s
	located, however no holts were identified during the 2025 otter surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]).	

3.9 Order Limits outside of the Solar Development Sites

3.9.1 The Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites, comprises the Cable Route Corridor, Highways Improvements Areas, and Solar Development Site 8 Access. The Cable Route Corridor extend approximately 30 km largely through cropland, and passes through the River Ouse, Sely Dam, roads and railways. The Highways Improvements Areas, and Solar Development Site 8 Access largely comprise hardstanding roads and adjacent habitats, with Solar Development Site 8 Access also passing through Selby Dam.

3.9.2 No access was permitted to the western terminus of Cable Route Corridor 4-POC (as described in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**]) where it meets Monk Fryston Substation due to the active construction site present in this location for the approved Yorkshire Green development (EN020024). Instead, the proposed site plans submitted for the Yorkshire Green development (5.4.3 ES Chapter 3: Description of the Project Figure 3.12 Outline Landscape Mitigation Strategy (Monk Fryston)) have been used to confirm the baseline habitats present within this area.

3.9.3 The Cable Route Corridor passes through small sections of Ouse Bank-Westfield- Riccall Ings SINC, adjacent to the River Ouse, and Nightingale Wood SINC, approximately 980 m south of Solar Development Site 1. In addition, the Highways Improvements Areas overlaps approximately 3.5 m of Scarrow Green Pond, Little Skipwith SINC adjacent to Glade Road.

3.9.4 Himalayan balsam, an invasive non-native species, was recorded in seven locations within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites, all of which were located within Cable Route Corridor 1-4, along ditches, hedgerows, treelines, and roads. More detail is provided within each applicable habitat type in Table 9 below.

3.9.5 The habitats present across the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites are summarised in Table 9 below, together with an assessment of their importance and suitability for protected species. Figure 6.6: UK Habitat Classification Plan (ES Volume 2) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.06] shows the location and extent of each habitat present within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites, together with the locations of labelled habitats, such as hedgerows and ditches, and the locations of invasive species. The field reference numbers are provided within Figure 2.3: Field Numbering Plan (ES Volume 2) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03].

Table 9 Cable Route Corridor Habitats and their Importance

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1c - cereal crops c1d - non-cereal crops The Cable Route Corridor (CRC) mainly comprised sections of large open intensively managed arable fields. Field margins were only recorded where they exceeded 5 m width, and in these cases are discussed in the appropriate habitat row below.	Due to the highly managed nature of the habitat and low species diversity, it is assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. However, the arable fields and margins may provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, overwintering birds, hedgehog and brown hare. As the arable field margins included in this habitat are not managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife, they do not meet the criteria for Priority Habitat. Protected, priority and notable species are discussed separately within Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**].	

[9] Priority species and habitats are those listed at Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2005. Section 40 of the NERC Act puts a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of these species, including when considering planning allocations and applications.

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): c1a8 -arable field margins wild bird mix Four sections of arable field margins managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife were located within the CRC. They were located adjacent to arable fields and species included cornflower, scentless mayweed, yarrow, common knapweed, ribwort plantain, fat hen and red shank.	As the habitat is specifically managed for wildlife, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. Arable field margins also comprise Priority Habitat (Ref 5). The habitat may be used by a wide variety of foraging and commuting fauna, and by ground nesting birds.	
Primary code(s): g3c-other neutral grassland Sections of neutral grassland were recorded within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites, namely at some road verges, at some field/ditch margins >5 m, and extending over the area of Ouse Bank-Westfield- Riccall Ings SINC present within the CRC. Species present included common knapweed, sneezewort, meadowsweet, oxeye daisy, white clover, vetch species, creeping buttercup, spear thistle dandelion, yarrow, white dead nettle, common nettle, broad	Due to the less intensive management and increased species diversity, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. This habitat has the potential to support ground nesting and farmland birds, foraging and commuting bats, invertebrates, terrestrial habitat for amphibians and possibly grass snake and water vole, where associated with wet ditches. Tussocky grassy margins and ditch banks also have thatch for small prey that could be used for foraging raptors such as barn owl.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
leaved dock, devil's foot cranesbill, greater plantain, cock's foot, ragwort, cow parsley, and hawksweed. Proposed grassland is also shown on the proposed site plans submitted for the Yorkshire Green development (5.4.3 ES Chapter 3: Description of the Project Figure 3.12 Outline Landscape Mitigation Strategy (Monk Fryston)) at the western terminus of CRC 4-POC where the CRC meets Monk Fryston Substation. This grassland has been included as moderate condition neutral grassland.		

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): g4-modified grassland Sections of modified grassland were recorded within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites, namely at some road verges, at some field/ditch margins >5 m, within fields used from grazing/silage production, and surrounding Selby Dam (which was sheep grazed). Species present included creeping buttercup, cow parsley, dandelion, ribwort plantain, common nettle, spear thistle, cock's foot, rough meadow grass, common bent, curly leaved dock, common rush, perennial rye grassland, and Yorkshire fog. Two small areas of bracken were also recorded at road/access track verges within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites and have been mapped on Figure 6.6: UK Habitat Classification Plan (ES Volume 2) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.06]. However, as the areas of bracken are both 0.009 ha or less, the habitat has been included within modified grassland habitat type.	Due to the lower species diversity, and as it is common in the wider landscape, the habitat is assessed as being of negligible ecological importance. However, the modified grassland could provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, hedgehog and brown hare. The margins may also be used by commuting amphibians and badgers.	 

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): h3j-willow scrub h3h-mixed scrub h3d-bramble scrub Scrub recorded within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites largely comprised bramble scrub, with smaller areas of mixed scrub and willow scrub. The scrub was located at road, rail, and field margins, with mixed scrub forming the southern bank of the River Ouse. Species recorded within the mixed scrub included bramble, blackthorn, oak, hawthorn, elder, and willow species.	Due to the dense vegetation cover, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The scrub may provide suitable cover, foraging habitat and connectivity for a range of fauna such as amphibians, birds, bats, hedgehog and badger. The scrub could also provide habitat for nesting birds and badger setts.	
Primary code(s): h2a5-species-rich native hedgerow (some with trees) h2a6-other native hedgerow (some with trees) h2b-non-native ornamental hedgerow Hedgerows with the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites formed field boundaries and lined hardstanding roads. The hedgerows had varying management and condition, with species present including	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected wet ditches and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The hedgerows provide habitat for badgers, as discussed in Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**].	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, oak, elder, ash, and holly. Within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites there were: 84 native hedgerows 44 native hedgerows with trees 7 species rich hedgerows 10 species rich hedgerows with trees There was also one non-native ornamental hedgerow located within the CRC, largely comprising cherry laurel, that formed the boundary of a residential garden. Two proposed hedgerows are also shown on the proposed site plans submitted for the Yorkshire Green development (5.4.3 ES Chapter 3: Description of the Project Figure 3.12 Outline Landscape Mitigation Strategy (Monk Fryston)) at the western terminus of CRC 4-POC where the CRC meets Monk Fryston Substation. The hedgerows have been included as moderate condition species rich hedgerows with trees.	Hedgerows also provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. Mature trees within hedgerows have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds, and birds may also nest in the hedge themselves.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
Himalayan balsam, an invasive non-native species, was located within H9.2, H9.4, and H9.53.		
Primary code(s): w1g-other broadleaved woodland w2-coniferous woodland A number of small sections of woodland were present in the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites. The woodland mainly comprised broadleaved woodland located at field boundaries, adjacent to roads, and formed the area of Nightengale Wood SINC present within the CRC. Species present included hawthorn, silver birch, oak, lime species, poplar species, willow species, and sycamore. Scrub dominated the understory in places, with ground flora comprising common nettle, rosebay willowherb, and herb Robert. Two small areas of coniferous woodland were located adjacent to roads/farm tracks within the CRC. Species comprised pine, with an understory dominated by bracken and bramble. Proposed woodland is also shown on the proposed site plans submitted for the Yorkshire Green development (5.4.3 ES	Due to the general scarcity of this habitat within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites and due to its connection to further woodland outside of the Order Limits, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The woodland may provide foraging and shelter for a range of fauna including hedgehog, badger, bats, birds and otter. The trees may provide roosing opportunities for bats, nesting opportunities for birds, with the woodland floor providing potential sett building locations for badgers and potential holt locations for otter, however no holts were identified within the habitat during the 2025 surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]).	 

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
Chapter 3: Description of the Project Figure 3.12 Outline Landscape Mitigation Strategy (Monk Fryston)) at the western terminus of CRC 4-POC where the CRC meets Monk Fryston Substation. This woodland has been included as moderate condition broadleaved woodland.		
Primary code(s): r2-50-ditches A total of 15 wet ditches were located within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites, all of which formed agricultural drainage ditches located at field boundaries. The ditches had varying management and condition. Himalayan balsam, an invasive non-native species, was located within D9.18, D9.26, and D9.28	Considering the Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in connection with the hedgerows and treelines, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The ditches could be used by foraging and commuting bats and grass snake and provide connectivity for otter. Habitat for potential otter holts and lay-ups is generally limited, with no holts identified during the 2025 otter surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]). Wet ditches and their grassy vegetated banks provide potential habitat for water vole and common amphibians, and aquatic species are also anticipated to be present. The ditch may also	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
	be used as a commuting and foraging feature by a range of other fauna.	
Primary code(s): r2b-other rivers and steams The CRC passes through the River Ouse and Selby Dam, and the Solar Development Site 8 Access also passes through Selby Dam in a second location further upstream. The River Ouse was flanked by neutral grassland, mixed scrub and scattered trees. The river was approximately 50 m wide and flowing. Selby Dam was found to be approximately 5 m wide and flowing west to east. The bank vegetation comprised common nettle, hairy willowherb, creeping thistle, common rush, false oat grass, and compact reed and some duckweed was present in the channel. The river was flanked by grazed modified grassland.	Due to its reach within the landscape, the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. The rivers could be used by foraging and commuting bats and grass snake and provide connectivity for otter, no holts were identified during the 2025 otter surveys (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]). The rivers and their vegetated banks provide potential habitat for water vole and common amphibians, and aquatic species are also anticipated to be present. The rivers may also be used as a commuting and foraging feature by a range of other fauna.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
		

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
Primary code(s): w-200- rural trees w-203-mature tree Within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Site, scattered trees were present around field boundaries, and include hawthorn, pedunculate oak, elder, field maple, ash and willow.	Due to the limited number and scattered nature of the trees creating a lack of tree cover within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites, the habitat is assessed as being of local ecological importance. The trees may have potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds including barn owl.	
Primary code(s): w1 33-line of trees w1 34-ecologically valuable line of trees Treelines formed field boundaries and lined hardstanding roads within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites. The treelines had varying management and condition, with species present including ash, sycamore, oak, hazel, hawthorn, and willow species.	Considering all Order Limits as a whole, the habitat provides habitat corridors and links to the wider landscape in association with the connected hedgerows and ditches, and as such the habitat is assessed as being of county level ecological importance. Treelines may provide suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. The treelines have potential to support badger setts as well as roosting bats and nesting birds.	

Habitats and UK Habitat Classification Codes (Ref 3)	Ecological Importance/Suitability for Protected/Priority[9] Species	Example Photograph/s
Within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites there were: Four ecologically valuable lines of trees 16 lines of trees Himalayan balsam, an invasive non-native species, was located within TL9.1, and TL9.4.	Where the treelines are adjacent to wet ditches, potential otter holts and lay-ups could be located, however no holts were identified during the 2025 otter surveys, (details provided within Appendix 6.2: Otter Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.06.02**]).	
Primary code(s): u1c-developed land; unsealed surface u1b- developed land; sealed surface u1 828 vegetated garden A number of bare ground and hardcore access tracks extend through the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites, as well as hardstanding roads. A small area of residential garden is also located within the CRC, adjacent to a hardstanding road. The approximate 3.5 m of Scarrow Green Pond, Little Skipwith SINC that overlaps with the Highways Improvements Areas comprises a hardstanding road.	Due to the lack of vegetation cover and small size of the habitat, it assessed as being of negligible ecological importance.	

4 Summary

4.1.1 The following area habitats were recorded across the Order Limits:

1) c1 – cropland
2) c1c-cereal crops
3) c1d - non-cereal crops
4) c1c6- arable field -wild bird mix
5) c1b -temporary grass and clover leys
6) c1a5- arable field margins tussocky
7) c1a6 -arable field margins pollen and nectar
8) c1a8 -arable field margins wild bird mix
9) g3c-other neutral grassland
10) g4- modified grassland
11) h3h-mixed scrub
12) h3j-willow scrub
13) h3d-bramble scrub
14) w1g-other broadleaved woodland
15) w2-coniferous woodland
16) 42-ponds
17) u1c-developed land; unsealed surface
18) u1b- developed land; sealed surface
19) u1 828 vegetated garden
20) u1f Sparsely vegetated land

4.1.2 The following linear/point habitats were recorded across the Order Limits:

1) h2a5-species-rich native hedgerow (some with trees)
2) h2a6-other native hedgerow (some with trees)
3) h2b-non-native ornamental hedgerow
4) r2-50-ditches
5) r2b-other rivers and steams
6) w-200- rural trees
7) w-203-mature trees
8) w1 33-line of trees
9) w1 34-ecologically valuable line of trees

4.1.3 Habitats of county level importance recorded across the Order Limits included:

1) h2a5-species-rich native hedgerow (some with trees)
2) h2a6-other native hedgerow (some with trees)
3) w1 33-line of trees
4) w1 34-ecologically valuable line of trees
5) r2-50-ditches
6) r2b-other rivers and steams

4.1.4 Habitats of local importance recorded at Solar Development Site 1 included:

1) c1a5- arable field margins tussocky
2) c1a6 -arable field margins pollen and nectar
3) c1a8 -arable field margins wild bird mix
4) g3c-other neutral grassland
5) h3h-mixed scrub
6) w-200- rural trees
7) w-203-mature tree
8) 42-ponds

4.1.5 Habitats of local importance recorded at Solar Development Site 2 included:

1) c1a5- arable field margins tussocky
2) c1a6 -arable field margins pollen and nectar
3) g3c-other neutral grassland
4) w-200- rural trees

4.1.6 Habitats of local importance recorded at Solar Development Site 3 included:

1) c1a5- arable field margins tussocky
2) g3c-other neutral grassland
3) w-200- rural trees

4.1.7 Habitats of local importance recorded at Solar Development Site 4 included:

1) c1a8 -arable field margins wild bird mix
2) g3c-other neutral grassland
3) w-200- rural trees
4) w-203-mature tree

4.1.8 Habitats of local importance recorded at Solar Development Site 6 included:

1) g3c-other neutral grassland
2) w1g-other broadleaved woodland
3) w-200- rural trees
4) w-203-mature tree

4.1.9 Habitats of local importance recorded at Solar Development Site 7 included w-200- rural trees only.

4.1.10 Habitats of local importance recorded at Solar Development Site 8 included w-200- rural trees and w-203-mature trees only.

4.1.11 Habitats of local importance recorded within the Order Limits Outside of the Solar Development Sites included:

1) c1a8 -arable field margins wild bird mix
2) g3c-other neutral grassland
3) h3h-mixed scrub
4) h3j-willow scrub
5) h3d-bramble scrub
6) w1g-other broadleaved woodland
7) w2-coniferous woodland
8) w-200- rural trees
9) w-203-mature tree

4.1.12 The habitats recorded within the Order Limits may provide suitable habitat for a range of protected and priority species including those listed below. Protected, priority and notable species are discussed separately within the relevant technical appendices (ES Volume 3) and Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06.00**]:

1) Farmland, nesting, wintering and ground-nesting birds;
2) Roosting, foraging and commuting bats;
3) Reptiles such as grass snake;
4) Amphibians including great crested newts;
5) Badgers;
6) Otter;
7) Water vole;
8) Brown hare;
9) Hedgehogs; and
10) Aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates.

4.1.13 Himalayan balsam, an invasive non-native species, was located within Site 1 on the southern boundary of Field F1.7, within Site 4 in Ditch 4.1, Hedgerow 4.13, and in the arable field margin north of field F4.14, and within Cable Route Corridor 1-4 in H9.2, H9.4, H9.53, D9.18, D9.26, D9.28, TL9.1, and TL9.4. Japanese knotweed, another invasive non-native species, was recorded in the centre of Site 8, adjacent to the area of sparsely vegetated land.

Annex A Legislation and planning policy

A.1. Legislation

A.1.1. Specific habitats and species receive legal protection in the UK under various pieces of legislation, including:

1) The Environment Act 2021;
2) The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
3) The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000;
4) The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006;
5) The Protection of Badgers Act 1992;
6) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); and
7) The Hedgerows Regulations 1997.

A.1.2. The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna 1992, often referred to as the 'Habitats Directive', provides for the protection of key habitats and species considered of European Importance. Annexes II and IV of the Directive list all species considered of community interest. The legal framework to protect the species covered by the Habitats Directive has been enacted under UK law through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

A.1.3. In Britain, the WCA 1981 (as amended) is the primary legislation protecting habitats and species. SSSIs, representing the best examples of our natural heritage, are notified under the WCA 1981 (as amended) by reasons of their flora, fauna, geology or other features. All breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young are protected under the Act, which makes it illegal to knowingly destroy or disturb the nest site during nesting season. Schedules 1, 5 and 8 afford protection to individual birds, other animals and plants.

A.1.4. The CRoW Act 2000 strengthens the species enforcement provisions of the WCA 1981 (as amended) and makes it an offence to 'recklessly' disturb a protected animal whilst it is using a place of rest or shelter or breeding/nest site in the absence of a licence.

Environment Act 2021: Town and Country Planning Act

A.1.5. As of the 12 February 2024 it is mandatory for development (with a small number of exceptions) to achieve at least a 10% gain in biodiversity units under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021). Although this is not yet applicable to NSIPs, the Proposed Development is seeking to provide a 10% gain in biodiversity units as a minimum.

Natural Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System

A.1.6. ODPM Circular 06/05 was prepared to accompany PPS9, however continues to be valid, and material in the consideration of planning applications since PPS9's replacement by the NPPF.

A.1.7. ODPM Circular 06/05 provides guidance on applying legislation in relation to nature conservation and planning in England. Part I considers the legal protection and conservation of internationally designated sites (namely candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs), SACs, potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs), SPAs and Ramsar sites) and Part II considers the legal protection and conservation of nationally designated sites, namely Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

A.1.8. Part III considers the protection of habitats and species outside of designated areas (particularly UK Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats, which it states are capable of being a material consideration in the preparation of local development documents and the making of planning decisions.

A.1.9. Part IV considers species protected by law and states that the presence of a protected species is a material consideration in the consideration of a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat and that it is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the Proposed Development, is established before the planning permission is granted.

National planning policy

A.1.10. For further details on national planning policy relating to ecology, please refer to Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06.00**].

Local planning policy

Biodiversity Action Plans

A.1.11. The Selby District Biodiversity Action Plan 2004 is a strategic document that outlines the Council's approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity within the district. The following habitats have associated Habitat Action Plans (HAP) within the district:

1) Woodland
2) Lowland wood pasture and parkland
3) Ancient and / or species-rich hedgerows
4) Arable farmland
5) Grazing marsh
6) Unimproved grassland
7) Lowland heathland
8) Fens
9) Reedbed
10) Lake and ponds

11) Canals
12) River streams and ditches
13) Towns and villages

A.1.12. The following species have associated Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) within the district:

1) Otter
2) Water vole
3) Great crested newt
4) Tansy beetle *Chrysolina graminis*
5) Dingy skipper butterfly *Erynnis tages*
6) Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera*
7) Cylindrical whorl snail *Truncatellina cylindrica*
8) An aquatic beetle *Agabus ulignosis*
9) Whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*
10) Brandt's bat *Brandt's myotis*
11) Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*
12) Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*
13) Common pipistrelle bat *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
14) Soprano pipistrelle bat *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*
15) Noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*
16) Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri*
17) Brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*

Annex B Additional field data

B.1. Solar Development Site 1

Table B1 Solar Development Site 1 Hedgerow (H), Ditch (D), Pond (P) and Treeline (TL) Descriptions

Reference	Description
H1.1	H1.1 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact.
H1.2	H1.2 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact. The hedge also had a >1 m wide margin of undisturbed perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of its length.
H1.4	H1.4 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact. The hedge also had a >1 m wide margin of undisturbed perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of its length, however there was evidence of nutrient enrichment within the margin. Scattered trees of one age class were present along the length of the hedgerow.
H1.5	H1.5 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact. The hedge also had a >1 m wide margin of undisturbed perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of its length, however there was evidence of nutrient enrichment within the margin. Scattered trees of one age class were present along the length of the hedgerow.
H1.6	H1.6 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall but less than 1.5 m wide, and intact. The hedge also had a >1 m wide margin of undisturbed perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of its length, however there was evidence of nutrient enrichment within the margin
H1.7	H1.7 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall but less than 1.5 m wide, and intact.
H1.8	H1.8 comprised an other native hedgerow. Species included hazel (D) coppice, bramble (F), and hawthorn (F). The hedge was defunct but previously planted up with hazel in the gaps. It was associated with D1.13, which appeared dry most of the year, and ran along the eastern side of the hedge. It was approximately 3 m tall and 3 m, and unmanaged. The hedge bottom and ditch bank was dominated by bramble and canary reed-grass.
H1.9	H1.9 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact. The hedge also had a >1 m wide margin of undisturbed perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of its length.
H1.10	H1.10 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees Species included hawthorn (D), with semi-mature oak trees along its length (F). The hedge was associated with D1.12, which appeared dry most of the year. The

Reference	Description
	hedge was 2.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, with one >5 m horizontal gap present however it was bridged by mature oak trees.
H1.11	H1.11 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was defunct and comprised hawthorn.
H1.12	H1.12 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact.
H1.13	H1.13 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact.
H1.14	H1.14 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was gappy and dominated by hawthorn, with ash, blackthorn and sessile oak.
H1.15	H1.15 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was dominated by hawthorn, pedunculate oak, blackthorn and sessile oak, with a number of oak trees present along its length.
H1.16	H1.16 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was defunct and approximately 2.5 tall and 2 wide. It was dominated by hawthorn with 1 elder, 1 hazel, 2 sycamore, 4 mature/semi mature oak along its length. English bluebells were also present, which is a species of principal importance in England.
H1.17	H1.17 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 2 tall and 1 wide. It was dominated by hawthorn, with 1 semi mature sycamore, and 2 semi mature oak along its length.
H1.18	H1.18 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedgerow was defunct, and was approximately 2-5 m tall and 2 m wide. It comprised hawthorn some hazel and bramble and ash, oak, sycamore, hazel trees, It was located adjacent to a ditch.
H1.19	H1.19 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedgerow was approximately 2-3 m tall and 2 m wide and managed. It was full at the bottom and was located north of a bare ground track.
H1.20	H1.20 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall but less than 1.5 m wide. Also, the gap between the ground and the base of the canopy was <0.5 m for >90% of its length.
H1.21	H1.21 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact.
H1.22	H1.22 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge comprised a roadside hedgerow that had recently been clear-cut along its entire length, with cut material still in situ. A new replacement hedgerow was being planted by contractors in its place during the survey.
H1.23	H1.23 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact.
H1.24	H1.24 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees

Reference	Description
	The hedge comprised a roadside hedgerow that had recently been clear-cut along its entire length, with cut material still in situ. A new replacement hedgerow was being planted by contractors in its place during the survey. The original hedge comprised hawthorn and blackthorn, with four immature ash trees along length.
H1.25	H1.25 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge comprised an unmanaged 3-4 m tall hawthorn hedge, with hazel and elder present. There were small gaps in the hedge and it was leggy.
H1.27	H1.27 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge comprised a hawthorn hedge, with two small gaps present.
H1.28	H1.28 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge comprised a hawthorn hedge, with sessile oak. There were gaps in the hedge and two juvenile oak trees were present at the southern end of the hedge.
H1.31	H1.31 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge comprised a hawthorn hedge, with blackthorn and sessile oak. There were six juvenile oak trees were present along the hedge.
H1.32	H1.32 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge comprised a hawthorn hedge with a large 5 m gap in centre and small gaps distributed throughout.
H1.33	H1.33 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge comprised a defunct hedgerow on field a boundary between the field and farm.
H1.34	H1.34 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact. The hedge also had a >1 m wide margin of undisturbed perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of its length.
H1.35	H1.35 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact. The hedge also had a >1 m wide margin of undisturbed perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of its length. Scattered trees of more than one age class were present along the length of the hedgerow.
H1.36	H1.36 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact. The hedge also had a >1 m wide margin of undisturbed perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of its length. Scattered trees of more than one age class were present along the length of the hedgerow.
H1.37	H1.37 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge comprised a hawthorn hedge, with blackthorn, pedunculate oak and sessile oak.
H1.38	H1.38 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact. The hedge also had a >1 m wide margin of undisturbed perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of its length.

Reference	Description
H1.39	H1.39 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge comprised a hawthorn hedge, with blackthorn.
H1.40	H1.40 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge comprised a hawthorn hedge, with blackthorn, pedunculate oak and sessile oak, and 3 mature oak trees.
H1.42	H1.42 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge comprised a hawthorn hedge, with blackthorn, and pedunculate oak.
H1.44	H1.44 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge comprised a hawthorn hedge, with blackthorn, and oak trees. The hedge was also gappy.
H1.49	H1.49 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 3-4 tall and had a 2.5 m grassland verge. It was dominated by hawthorn, with sycamore trees.
H1.50	H1.50 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge comprised a roadside hedgerow that had recently been clear-cut along its entire length, with cut material still in situ. A new replacement hedgerow was being planted by contractors in its place during the survey
H1.51	H1.51 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact. Scattered trees of one age class were present along the length of the hedgerow.
H1.52	H1.52 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge comprised a roadside hedgerow that had recently been clear-cut along its entire length, with cut material still in situ. A new replacement hedgerow was being planted by contractors in its place during the survey
H1.53	H1.53 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact.
H1.54	H1.54 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact.
H1.55	H1.55 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was at least 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and intact. Scattered trees of one age class were present along the length of the hedgerow.
H1.56	H1.56 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 3 m tall and was dominated by hawthorn with sycamore. Scattered trees included field maples, sycamore and oak, with a 1 m grassland margin.
H1.57	H1.57 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was approximately 3-4 m tall and was dominated by hawthorn with a 2.5 m grassland margin.
H1.58	H1.58 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 3 m tall and was dominated by hawthorn, with occasional elder and was managed. Scattered trees included field maple, oak and ash, with a 2.5 m grassland margin. It was located adjacent D1.1 and D1.2

Reference	Description
	and the adjacent treeline and woodland, and became leggy and gappy to the east.
H1.59	H1.59 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 2 m tall and 1.5 m wide, was dominated by hawthorn, with occasional guelder road and field maple, and was full at the base. Scattered trees included field maple and the hedge was managed.
H1.60	H1.60 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge comprised a managed 2 m tall hawthorn hedge which was gappy.
H1.61	H1.61 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 2 m tall and 1 m wide, was dominated by hawthorn, with field maple and hazel, and guards were present including recent planting. Scattered trees included semi mature cheery and mature oak, and the hedge was managed.
H1.62	H1.62 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 2 m tall and 1 m wide, was dominated by hawthorn, with plumb. Scattered trees included semi mature plumb oak, and sycamore.
H1.63	H1.63 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was approximately 2-4 m tall and surrounded a broadleaved woodland copse. It was dominated by hawthorn, with elder. It was partially managed.
H1.64	H1.64 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was approximately 3 m tall and 1 m wide. It was dominated by hawthorn, with elder and blackthorn. It was managed and leggy.
H1.65	H1.65 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was gappy and approximately 3 tall and 1 wide. It was dominated by hawthorn with, blackthorn, and 2 mature oak along, 1 semi mature ash and one mature ash along its length. English bluebells were also present, which is a species of principal importance in England. There was no field margin to the west of the hedge and to the east was a grass margin and then a bare ground track.
H1.66	H1.66 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedgerow was approximately 4-5 m tall and 2 m wide. It comprised hawthorn with elder, 6 large oak trees, 1 small oak, and 2 medium oak. It was located adjacent to a ditch and was unmanaged.
H1.67	H1.67 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedgerow was approximately 2 m tall and 1 m wide. It comprised hawthorn with sycamore, and 2 small sycamore trees. It was located adjacent to a 0.5 m road verge and was managed and leggy.
H1.68	H1.68 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedgerow was approximately 4 m tall and 1 m wide. It comprised hawthorn and was gappy and leggy. It had hardstanding to the south and an arable field to the south and was unmanaged.

Reference	Description
H1.71	H1.71 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees Species included hawthorn (D), ash (F), sycamore (F), common oak (O), bramble (F), hazel coppice (F), blackthorn (F), field maple (O), rose sp, blackthorn, elder, buckthorn, and ivy. The hedge was gappy and defunct, and had been flailed, with 2 mature oak/ash present.
H1.72	H1.72 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees Species included hawthorn, ash, pedunculate oak, bramble, hazel, blackthorn, and elder. The hedge was gappy at the southern end, with 2 mature/semi-mature ash present.
H1.73	H1.73 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees Species included hawthorn, rose sp., pinus sp., and elder, with 3 mature/semi-mature ash present.
H1.75	H1.75 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was unmanaged and comprised hawthorn and blackthorn, with oak trees.
H1.76	H1.76 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was an unmanaged grown out hedge with scrub and comprised bramble, ash, common nettle, hawthorn and blackthorn to the east of H1.64.
H1.77	H1.77 comprised an other native hedgerow Species included hawthorn (D), with bramble (F) one mature pedunculate oak along its length. The hedge was 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, with one >5 m horizontal gap present and has been recently flailed. A 6 m field margin was also present adjacent to the hedge.
H1.78	H1.78 comprised an other native hedgerow Species included hawthorn (D), and it was unmanaged. The hedge was 3 m tall and 2 m wide, and fenced on both sides. A 6 m field margin was also present adjacent to the hedge.
H1.80	H1.80 comprised an other native hedgerow Species included hawthorn (D), blackthorn (F), and bramble (F). The hedge was 2 m tall and 2 m wide, and had been flailed. It had been supplementary planted with oak saplings at southern the end.
H1.81	H1.81 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees Species included hawthorn (D), pedunculate oak (F), bramble (A) and ivy (F). The hedge was 2.5 m tall and 2.5 m wide, and was unmanaged. It was defunct and associated with D1.10.
H1.82	H1.82 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge comprised a roadside hedgerow that had recently been clear-cut along its entire length, with cut material still in situ. A new replacement hedgerow was being planted by contractors in its place during the survey.
H1.83	H1.83 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge comprised a recently planted native hedgerow, with whips still in plastic guards, planted along the outer edge of a ditch riparian zone.

Reference	Description
D1.1	D1.1 comprised a very small/shallow drainage ditch, at the base of a hedgerow, with <10 cm depth of water. It was likely dry all year except following period of heavy rain.
D1.2	D1.2 was shaded on the south side by a hedgerow. The channel was approximately 1 m wide, with 10 cm water depth, 45° banks, and some limited aquatic vegetation (willowherb sp., watercress, myosotis) and therefore presumed to be wet for most of the year. Algae was also recorded.
D1.3	D1.3 had a channel width of approximately 2 m, >1 m water depth, banks of 45-90°. Grassy banks were present, that were largely unshaded except for occasional mature oak. The ditch was dredged recently with algae present.
D1.4	D1.4 was found to hold very little water. The channel was 0.7 m wide, with steep grassy banks > 45°. A hedge was present along one western / southern side. The bankside had been strimmed recently.
D1.5	D1.5 had a channel width of approximately 1-1.5 m wide, <30 cm water depth, steep banks of 45-90°, and the bankside was dominated by bramble. It was also shaded on the south side by a woodland/hedgerow. Some bulrush was present in the ditch further west.
D1.6	D1.6 comprised Dam Dike with an approximate channel width of 4 m, water depth >1 m, and scrub present on the south bank where it enters the Solar Development Site. It had a meandering course, and was presumably a pre-existing ditch/stream which has been engineered over time. It was largely unshaded.
D1.7	D1.7 had an approximate channel width of 1 m, water depth 30 cm to >1 m, steep banks of 45-90°, with flow from an outfall running south. Water figwort and large bitter cress was present within the ditch.
D1.9	D1.9 comprised a wet ditch adjacent to H37. It was shaded on one side by the hedgerow, with an approximate channel width of 1.5 m, banks >45°, and water depth approximately 30 cm. Bankside and margins were dominated by bramble and canary reed, and was recently strimmed.
D1.10	D1.10 had an approximate channel width of 1-1.5 m wide, and the bankside was dominated by grasses, bracken and bramble. The ditch dissected the offsite pine plantation so was heavily shaded. It was culverted at the eastern end where it met the field.
D1.11	D1.11 comprised 'Pallion Dyke'. It is presumed based on its meandering course it was a natural stream but has been agriculturally engineered. The channel was approximately 4 m wide, water depth >1.5 m, with little/no aquatic or marginal vegetation, and was shaded on west side by native hedge and trees. It was recently dredged and strimmed.
D1.12	D1.12 was presumed likely dry for most of year, but was holding water at the time of surveys, with approximate <20 cm water depth. The channel was approximately 0.5 m wide, with >45° bank profile, and margins choked by ruderals, such as reed canary grass and brambles. It was largely unshaded except for three oak trees along the west bank top.
D1.13	D1.13 was presumed likely dry for most of year, but was holding water at the time of survey, with approximate <5-15 cm water depth. The channel was

Reference	Description
	approximately 1 m wide. The bankside was dominated by brambles and ruderals (hogweed and willowherb species). A native hedgerow was present along western/southern bank.
P1.1	P1.1 was a non-woodland pond located in the north-east of field F1.4. The pond comprised a very small scrape, assumed to be only seasonally wet, with bullrush rush species reed canary grass. The pond was found to be dry during the great crested newt eDNA survey completed in June 2025.
P1.2	P1.2 was a non-woodland pond located in the north-west of field F1.13. The pond comprised a very small scrape in the corner of the arable field, assumed to be only seasonally wet, with celery leaved buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus* present. The pond was found to be dry during the great crested newt eDNA survey completed in June 2025.
P1.3	P1.3 was a non-woodland pond located in the south-east of field F1.4. The pond was surrounded by bramble, willow and hawthorn scrub with some scattered semi mature trees. Common reed and some young willow trees were present within the pond.
P1.5	P1.5 was a non-woodland pond located in the north-west of field F1.39. The pond was surrounded and shaded by scrub and alder trees.
P1.12	P1.12 was a non-woodland pond located in the south-west of field F1.38. The pond was surrounded by ruderal vegetation including common nettle and willowherb species and had very steep banks.
TL1.1	TL1.1 was connected to the mixed plantation woodland in the north of Solar Development Site 1 and extended south along a field boundary. The treeline comprised semi-mature oak, hawthorn, and ash.
TL1.2	TL1.2 flanked the road leading to Mount Pleasant Farm and comprised semi mature cherry species *Prunus sp.*

B.2. Solar Development Site 2

Table B2 Solar Development Site 2 Hedgerow (H) Descriptions

Reference	Description
H2.1	H2.1 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees and ditch. The hedge was a defunct young hedgerow with trees and a dry ditch, and comprised young hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and rose sp. *Rosa sp.*, with three standard ash and one sycamore tree. It was approximately 1 m tall 0.5 m wide, located adjacent to field F2.4 and the A63, forming the southern boundary of Solar Development Site 2.
H2.2	H2.2 comprised a species rich native hedgerow with trees. The hedge was a tall intact hedgerow with trees forming the western boundary of field F2.2. It was managed/cut to keep it back from field edge but it was growing up on top. It was approximately 2-3 m high and 1.5 m wide. It was hawthorn abundant, with sycamore, hazel, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and elder, with young and semi mature ash, oak and sycamore trees. Ground-flora mainly comprised bramble and cleavers. There was a narrow (<1 m) margin between the

Reference	Description
	hedge and a bare ground track to the east (site side), and stock fencing with sheep grazing to the west (off-site), with no margin.
H2.3	H2.3 comprised an other native hedgerow. The hedge formed part of the western boundary of field F2.1 and was a tall, 4 m by 2.5 m wide, defunct hedgerow comprised of hawthorn, with guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* and rose sp. Gaps in the hedge were filled in with bramble. The was an approximate 1 m grassy margin to the east with common nettle, hogweed, broadleaved dock and bramble present.
H2.4	H2.4 comprised an other native hedgerow with ditch. The hedge comprised a short section of unmanaged but intact, tall hawthorn and blackthorn hedge forming the south-east boundary of field F2.1. The hedge was leggy and approximately 4 m tall by 2 m wide. There was a dry ditch on the west side covered with vegetation comprising bramble, hogweed, willowherb sp., salix sp. and Rose sp.
H2.5	H2.5 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow with trees and ditch This hedgerow was similar to H2.1; it was defunct with trees and a dry ditch with scattered scrub and tall forb ground-flora. It formed the south boundary of field F2.5 and lined the road verge of the A63. As with H2.1, it was formerly a mature hedgerow that had been removed leaving a defunct line of young hawthorn and rose sp., with mature trees including ash and crack willow. Ground-flora was dominated by barren brome and tall forbs; common nettle, hogweed and cleavers.

B.3. Solar Development Site 3

Table B3 Solar Development Site 3 Hedgerow (H) Descriptions

Reference	Description
H3.1	H3.1 comprised an other Native hedgerow. The hedge was an unmanaged, 4 m tall and 3 m wide, blackthorn, hazel and elder hedge. There were ruderals present at the field margin with bramble. The hedge was dense and intact but short with a standard ash tree at the southern end.
H3.2	H3.2 comprised an other native hedgerow with ditch and trees. The hedgerow was a defunct hedgerow with trees and a dry ditch forming the southern boundary of field F3.2. The hedgerow was approximately 2 m wide and 3-4 m tall and species poor, comprising blackthorn with hazel, with dense bramble and scattered mature oak and ash and bushy tall hawthorn. It was unmanaged on the site side and gappy. The ditch beneath the bramble was dry, and extended along southern boundary of Solar Development Site 3.
H3.3	H3.3 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow with ditch The hedge was an unmanaged hedgerow comprising hazel, oak, blackthorn, hawthorn and ash located on the east bank of a dry ditch. It was 4-5 m tall and leggy and approximately 2-3 m wide. It formed the eastern boundary of field F3.2.
H3.4	H3.4 comprised an other native hedgerow with ditch and trees The hedge was a defunct, unmanaged hedge of hazel with hawthorn. It formed the south-east boundary of field F3.1 with a grassy margin of 1 m and a total of 7

Reference	Description
	hazel and one hawthorn tree along its length. It was 3 m tall and 1 m wide. Bramble was present at its base as well as a narrow vegetated dry ditch approximately 30 cm wide and 30 cm deep covered with ruderals and bramble.
H3.5	H3.5 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow The hedge was a defunct hedgerow that has not been managed or trimmed. It was 4-5 m tall and approximately 1.5 m wide. Species comprised young oak and hazel with willow sp., hawthorn and blackthorn.

B.4. Solar Development Site 4

Table B4 Solar Development Site 4 Neutral Grassland Margins >5 m Descriptions

Location	Description
F4.3 South	This grassland margin comprised other neutral grassland that was tracked over, extending approximately 5 m from the crop to the top of D1.4. The sward comprised perennial rye-grass A, Yorkshire fog A, false oat-grass O, creeping bent O, soft brome F, hogweed F, ribwort plantain F, broadleaved dock R, dandelion O, dove's-foot sp. R, horsetail sp. R, creeping thistle R, common vetch R, vetch spp. R, ragwort R, common nettle R, creeping buttercup R, white clover O, barren brome R, red fescue O, cock's-foot O, couch grass R, and crested dog's-tail R. The sward was approximately 1 m tall.
F4.5 East	This grassland margin comprised an approximate 5 m strip including 3 m wide grassed over earth track and 2 m wide area of longer grassland and herb margin up to the arable crop. The sward was approximately 60 cm tall, and composed of: rye-grass sp. A, cock's-foot R, annual meadow-grass O, soft brome R, shepherd's purse F, oat sp. R, chamomile F, pineappleweed F, knotgrass F, greater plantain F, ribwort plantain F, broadleaved dock O, creeping thistle R, white clover F, dandelion F, white dead-nettle F, common nettle F, cleavers O, hogweed O, speedwell sp. F, creeping buttercup R, smooth sow thistle R, common poppy R, and barren brome R.
F4.5 North	This grassland margin comprised a 5 m wide margin of other neutral grassland. It appeared to have been cut earlier in year and was approximately 50-70 cm tall at the time of survey. Thatching was present and species were similar to F4.3 south. Some bracken was present on west bank of D1.4.
F4.5 West	This grassland margin comprised a 5 m wide margin of other neutral grassland with a vegetation filled shallow drainage ditch. It was a tall uncut sward, approximately 120 cm tall. Species included false oat-grass, hogweed, ragwort, common knapweed and meadow vetchling.
F4.6 West and North	This grassland margin was 5-6 m wide and recently cut to the top of the east bank of D4.3 and the top of the south bank of D1.4/D4.2, with arisings left in situ. Species present were similar to F4.5 but with common knapweed.
F4.9 North and south	This grassland margin comprised a 6 m wide margin of cut other neutral grassland similar to F4.6 margin.

Location	Description
F4.13 South	This grassland margin comprised a 6 m wide margin of other neutral grassland. Similar to F4.5 but a shorter length. It includes a small amount of timothy in this taller sward.
F4.12 East and north	This grassland margin comprised a 6-7 m wide margin of other neutral grassland to D7. The sward was tall, and species were as previously recorded within the other tall margins.
F4.7 South	This grassland margin comprised a 5 m wide margin of cut grassland to the top of D4.5 bank.
F4.11 North and west	This grassland margin comprised a 6 m wide field margin with 3-4 m width of cut other neutral grassland that was tracked over.
F4.14 East	This grassland margin comprised a 6 m wide mown neutral grassland boundary with the arisings left in-situ.

Table B5 Solar Development Site 4 Hedgerow (H), Ditch (D), and Treeline (TL) Description

Reference	Description
H4.1	H4.1 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow with trees The hedge was a defunct hedgerow on the western boundary of filed F4.1 and was approximately 2 m wide and 2 m tall semi-mature and young ash and oak with mature ash. Gaps in the hedge were filled with dog rose and bramble. Species included hawthorn, buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*, young oak, ash, grey willow and dog rose. Ground-flora was similar to that recorded in the adjacent field F4.1 margin, with the margin extending 1 m to between the hedge and the cropland.
H4.2	H4.2 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow The hedge was a defunct unmanaged native, species rich hedgerow located on the bank of D4.1. The hedge was approximately 4 m tall and 2 m wide and was uncut on its western side and on top. Species present included field maple, blackthorn, hawthorn, ash, oak sp., elder, hazel, rose sp. and holly. Two 10 m gaps and two 20 m gaps were present and ground-flora mainly comprised bramble and common nettle.
H4.3	H4.3 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was unmanaged and approximately 4 m tall and 2-3 m wide, located adjacent to D4.1. Species included hawthorn (A) and elder (R).
H4.4	H4.4 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was a defunct hedge with adjacent to D4.7. It was approximately 5 m tall and 2 m wide. Species included pedunculate oak, hawthorn and hazel. Ground-flora comprised bracken, willowherb species, bramble, and common knapweed.
H4.5	H4.5 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow with trees The hedge was a defunct former hedge adjacent to D4.1, along east margin of field F4.14. It was approximately 6-7 m high and 2-3 m wide. It was gappy in places, and unmanaged. Ground-flora comprised brambles, tall forbs and bindweed *Convolvulus*. Species included ash (R) (semi-mature), hawthorn (A),

Reference	Description
	oak (F) (mature and saplings), elder (R), blackthorn (R), rose sp. (R), hazel (R), field maple (R) and white willow *Salix alba* (R).
H4.10	H4.10 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow The hedge was a defuncted hedge, and species included elder, pedunculate oak, bramble, hazel, dog rose, goat willow and sycamore. Further north there was also blackthorn and the hedge was gappy. Typical ground flora was similar to field F4.4 field margin. The was an ash tree at the northern end of hedge.
H4.11	H4.11 comprised an other native hedgerow with trees The hedge was a defunct hawthorn hedge on the western boundary of field F4.10 with tall ruderal ground flora. A large oak was present at the southern end.
H4.12	H4.12 comprised a species-rich native newly planted hedgerow with ditch Species comprised hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn, guelder rose and oak. False oat-grass dominated the ground flora, with nettle hogweed and cock's-foot. The hedge was newly planted on western boundary of filed F4.12.
H4.13	H4.13 comprised a species-rich native newly planted hedgerow The hedge comprised a newly planted species-rich native hedgerow on the north boundary of field F4.14 and was surrounded by dense bramble. Species included hawthorn, hazel, silver birch *Betula pendula*, field maple and guelder rose. Himalayan balsam, an invasive non-native species was present within the hedge.
H4.14	H4.14 comprised a species-rich native newly planted hedgerow The hedge was a newly planted species-rich native hedgerow in front of line of trees TL4.1 Species included hawthorn, hazel, silver birch, field maple and guelder rose.
TL4.1	TL4.1 comprised a tree line along the road on the western boundary of F4.14. It comprised semi-mature ash, oak, hazel, sycamore and beech. Tree line appeared to have been subject to adjacent agricultural spraying on lower leaves. Ground-flora included hedge woundwort (R), marjoram *Origanum majorana* (R), ivy (F), herb Robert (R), sycamore, ash and hawthorn seedlings (R), bramble (F), bindweed (F), green alkanet (R), umbellifer sp. *Umbelliferae sp.* (R), false brome (O) and yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* (R).
TL4.2	TL4.2 comprised an ecologically valuable line of trees, comprising mature poplar sp. and pedunculate oak. Ground-flora was dominated by bracken with hawthorn (F) and blackthorn (O) and sycamore (O). The treeline led into the off-site woodland on the western boundary of field F4.12.
TL4.3	TL4.3 comprised a tree line of Lombardy polars along the road opposite the farm buildings, forming part of the eastern boundary of field F4.4.
TL4.4	TL4.4 comprised an ecologically valuable line of trees, comprising oak, at southern boundary of field F4.10.
D4.1	D4.1 comprises Maspin Moor Drain/Mearly Drain and forms a main ditch that ran around the perimeter of the northern fields of Solar Development Site 4. Many other ditches fed into it, and it was culverted under roads and tracks in places. On average, the channel was approximately 1.5 m wide, with steep earth banks. Abundant emergent vegetation included: flag iris, reed canary grass and meadowsweet. Sections of the channel were dominated by common reed. Grassy margins were approximately 2-3 m wide and 120 cm tall – similar to field F4.3

Reference	Description
	north grassland margin but taller with false oat-grass, cock's-foot (A), common nettle (F) and hedge bindweed (R). Where the water was visible it was covered with *Lemma* sp. and filamentous algae was abundant. The ditch passed an off-site woodland, and had Himalayan balsam, an invasive non-native species, present on its banks.
D4.2	D4.2 joined D4.1 at the northern end and was culverted to join D4.6 at the southern end. Much like D4.1 and D4.3; the channel was approximately 1.5-2 m wide, with steep earth banks that were vegetated with common reed, meadowsweet and purple *loosestrife Lythrum salicaria* comprising other neutral grassland and tall ruderals as previously recorded for D4.1 and D4.3. Bracken was also present at the south end. Unable to establish water level at the time of survey due to vegetation cover.
D4.3	D4.3 connected to D4.1 at the north end and D4.4 and D4.5 to the south. It was holding water at time of survey, but water levels were low. Emergent species included reed canary grass and fool's watercress noted in channel. Banks were similar to D4.1 but also with meadowsweet (A), common knapweed (F), reedmace (O), bramble (F), nettle, hogweed and rosebay willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium* (O). Other neutral grassland margin was present 2-3 m from the top of bank to the track, which was cut on the east side.
D4.4	D4.4 comprised a narrow drainage ditch approximately 1 m wide. It was holding some water at the time of survey, and appeared nutrient enriched (next to farm buildings). Emergent species included reed canary grass, horsetail and tall forbs: nettle (A), meadowsweet, hogweed, bramble and, creeping thistle. There was an approximate 1 m cut grass margin either side of the ditch, with false oat-grass (A), tufted vetch *Vicia cracca* (R), common knapweed (R), great willowherb (O), rosebay willowherb (R) and bramble (O).
D4.5	D4.5 was similar to D4.3 but also with common reed dominant for 85% of its length.
D4.6	D4.6 was similar to D4.2 however unable to establish water level at the time of survey due to vegetation cover. Some silver birch, elder and willow sapling were growing through the ditch and were fairly dense in patches. The eastern section had more common reed present. Neutral grassland margins were left uncut from the top of the bank on each side. Additional species included: common speedwell *Vicia cracca* (A), common valerian *Valeriana officinalis* (R), hemlock *Conium maculatum* (R), hard rush *Juncus inflexus* (R), reedmace (O) and field bindweed (R). Mature sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa* and oak were present where the ditch met D4.2, as well as bracken on north bank.
D4.7	D4.7 comprised a damp drainage ditch, with a channel width of approximately 1 m. Emergent vegetation included meadowsweet, reed canary grass, bullrush and frequent common reed. Banks were lined with vegetation and an adjacent hedgerow. Bankside vegetation included: abundant bracken along with other tall forbs and neutral grassland species as previously recorded. The ditch was culverted under the field margin and emerged further west where it was dry, with scattered young birch within the ditch.
D4.8	D4.8 comprised a stagnant ditch with poor water quality and outflow pipe at the eastern end. There were managed steep grass banks, with evidence of recent dredging with silt on the banks.

Reference	Description
D4.13	D4.13 comprised a wet ditch on the western boundary of field F4.4, however it only extended the northern half of the field before it became a dry ditch. The channel was approximately 1 m wide, with water depths of 30 cm. It had earth banks dominated by bramble and was partly shaded by trees.
D4.14	D4.14 comprised a wet ditch on the western boundary of field F4.10. The channel was approximately 1 m wide, with water depths of 10 cm. The banks were vegetated with tall ruderals including common reed and were gently sloping and short. No emergent vegetation was present. Offsite cropland was present to the east and a track and mature trees were present to the west.

B.5. Solar Development Site 6

Table B6 Solar Development Site 6 Hedgerow (H), Ditch (D) and Treeline (TL) Descriptions

Reference	Description
H6.2	H6.2 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 2.5 m tall and 2.5 m wide roadside hedgerow, dominated by hazel (D), with English elm (F), field maple (F), blackthorn (O), common ash (O) and hawthorn (O). It was associated with dry ditch and had an approximate 3 m margin on its south side. The ground flora was dominated by common nettle, cleavers, common hogweed and bramble.
H6.3	H6.3 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 4 m tall and 3 m wide and unmanaged. It was associated with a dry ditch, gappy in places, and had an undisturbed margin on both sides. It was dominated by hawthorn (D), with hazel (F), field maple (O), elder (O), poplar (hybrid) (O), willow species (O), dogwood (O), common ash (F), and dog rose (F). Bramble was also present.
H6.5	H6.5 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow The hedge was approximately 2 m tall and 2 m wide and managed. It was located alongside a railway line with disturbed margins on both sides. It was dominated by hawthorn (D), with blackthorn (O), elder (O), and dog rose (A). The ground flora was dominated by cleavers and bramble.
H6.6	H6.6 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 5 m tall and 4 m wide, unmanaged and had become tall and scrubby. It was dominated by blackthorn (D), with hawthorn (F), hazel (O), sycamore (O), field maple (O), and field rose (O). Bramble was also present.
H6.7	H6.7 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow

Reference	Description
	The hedge was approximately 4 m tall and 3 m wide and unmanaged. It formed the boundary of dog walking field. The ground flora was dominated by common nettle, with creeping thistle, common hogweed and bramble. It was dominated by blackthorn (D), with hawthorn (O), elder (O), field maple (O), and wych elm (F).
H6.8	H6.8 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow The hedge was approximately 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide and associated with dry ditch. It had an undisturbed margin on the south side, and was dominated by hawthorn (D), with sycamore (O), blackthorn (F), dog rose (R), and elder (O). The ground flora was dominated by common nettle and cleavers.
H6.9	H6.9 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow with trees The hedge was approximately 3-4 m tall and 3 m wide, unmanaged and defunct, with horizontal gaps along its length. It was associated with dry ditch, with an undisturbed margin on south side. It was dominated by hawthorn (D), with hazel (O), sycamore (O), blackthorn (O), common ash (F), elder (O), and field maple (R). The ground flora was dominated by common nettle, bramble and cleavers.
H6.10	H6.10 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow The hedge was approximately 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and associated with dry ditch. It was dominated by hazel (D), with elder (A) wych elm (O), field maple (O), and hawthorn (O).The ground flora was dominated by bramble, common nettle, cleavers, false oat-grass, and creeping bent, but also included wild garlic and English bluebell.
H6.11	H6.11 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was approximately 3 m tall and 1.5 m wide, and associated with ditch D6.1. It appeared to be managed, and was dominated by hawthorn (D), with elder (F), and hazel (A). Some gaps were present but none >5 m. It was disturbed on east side by pesticide spraying and grass cutting. Bramble was also present.
H6.12	H6.12 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was approximately 3 m tall and 3.5 m wide and dominated by hawthorn (D), with elder (A), and dog rose (F). There was no margin on its north side, and the ground flora was dominated by common nettle, false oat-grass, cleavers and creeping thistle.
H6.13	H6.13 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was approximately 5 m tall and 3.5 m wide and dominated by hawthorn (D), with elder (A). There was no margin on its north side, and horizontal gaps were present along its length, some >5 m wide. The ground flora was dominated by common nettle, false oat-grass, cleavers and creeping thistle.
H6.14	H6.14 comprised a species-rich native hedgerow

Reference	Description
	The hedge was approximately 1.5 m tall and 1.5 m wide and dominated by hawthorn (D), with blackthorn (A), common ash (O), dog rose (A), elder (F), and common oak (R). It appeared managed, and had horizontal gaps along its length. There was a disturbed margin at both sides, and the ground flora was dominated by common nettle, bramble, creeping thistle, cleavers, ivy, with tufted vetch, black bryony, and common dodder.
H6.15	H6.15 comprised an other native hedgerow The hedge was connected to TL6.2 and was located on the southern boundary of Solar Development Site 6.
TL6.1	TL6.1 comprised an ecologically valuable line of trees. The treeline formed the southern boundary of F6.6 and comprised mature and multi-stemmed oak, aspen and ash extending along a dry ditch.
TL6.2	TL6.2 comprised an ecologically valuable line of trees. The treeline was located on the southern boundary of F6.5 and was formed of similar species to TL6.1 plus common alder, crack willow and white willow.
TL6.3	TL6.3 comprised a line of trees dominated by sycamore, with blackthorn (A), bramble (A), hawthorn (F), field rose (O), and willow sp. (O), with ground flora dominated by common nettle, cleavers, and false oat-grass, with some lesser burdock. It is likely the treeline was originally planted as a hedge.
D6.1	D6.1 dissects Field 6.8 in the north of Solar Development Site 6. The ditch was an agricultural drainage ditch, and the channel width was approximately 3 m, with a bank top width of 4 m, steep sides, and a water depth of >0.5 m. There was also fish present within the ditch. Bankside vegetation included meadowsweet, common reed, cow parsley, common hogweed, common nettle, and false oat-grass. Marginal and aquatic vegetation included water starwort, common reed and watercress.
D6.2	D6.2 formed the south-western boundary of F6.8 adjacent to Common Lane in the north of Solar Development Site 6. The ditch was as agricultural drainage ditch had a channel width of approximately 1 m, a bank top width of approximately 4 m, steep sides >45°, and was largely unshaded. The ditch became dry to the east and west. Bankside vegetation included meadowsweet, common hogweed, false oat-grass, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, ox-eye daisy, creeping thistle, meadow buttercup, broad-leaved dock, ribwort plantain, colt's-foot, and mugwort. There was no marginal or aquatic vegetation present.
D6.3	D6.3 bound F6.3 to the west, north and east. The ditch was an agricultural drainage ditch and had a channel width of approximately 1-1.5 m, a bank top width of approximately 4-7 m, steep sides >45°, a bank height of approximately 3 m, water depth of approximately 0.3 – 1 m and was unshaded. The western/northern section was showing signs of pollution, likely from nearby industrial works. Bankside vegetation included meadowsweet, common reed, cow parsley, common hogweed, canary reed-grass, false oat-grass, cock's-foot, ox-eye daisy, creeping thistle, meadow buttercup, broad-leaved dock, fescue sp., barren brome, annual meadow-grass, ribwort plantain, comfrey, pendulous

Reference	Description
	sedge, colt's-foot, creeping buttercup, common nettle, bramble, prickly lettuce, hawksbeard sp., and common vetch. Marginal and aquatic vegetation included water mint, common reed and soft rush.
D6.4	D6.4 formed the northern boundary of F6.6. The ditch was an agricultural drainage ditch and had a channel width of approximately 1.5 m, a bank top width of approximately 8 m, steep sides >45°, a bank height of approximately 3 m, water depth of approximately >1 m and was unshaded. There were several land bridges along the length of the ditch. Bankside vegetation included meadowsweet, common reed, cow parsley, common hogweed, false oat-grass, cock's-foot, Yorkshire fog, rosebay willowherb, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage and common sorrel. Marginal and aquatic vegetation included water starwort, common reed and watercress.
D6.5	D6.5 divided F6.2 and F6.4 adjacent to Turpin Lane. The ditch was an agricultural drainage ditch and had a channel width of approximately 1 m, a bank top width of approximately 3 m, steep sides, a bank height of approximately 1.5 m, water depth of approximately <20cm and was heavily polluted, presumably from adjacent industrial works.
D6.6	D6.6 formed the southern boundary of F6.4. The ditch was an agricultural drainage ditch and had a channel width of approximately 3 m, a bank top width of approximately 7 m, steep sides, a bank height of approximately 3 m, water depth of approximately <30 cm and was unshaded with no obvious signs of pollution. Bankside vegetation included common reed, cow parsley, common hogweed, canary reed-grass, false oat-grass, cock's-foot, creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock, barren brome and common nettle. Marginal and aquatic vegetation included common reed and watercress.

References

Ref 1 CIEEM (2022) Code of Professional Conduct, CIEEM, Winchester.

Ref 2 Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit. JNCC, Peterborough.

Ref 3 UKHab Ltd. (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 [Online] Available at: [redacted]

Ref 4 CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Ref 5 UK Biodiversity Action Plan, “Arable Field Margins (UK BAP Priority Habitat description),” 2008. [Online]. Available at: https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/529a621b-e1a6-4283-ba82-408744d079b4/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-02-ArableFieldMargins.pdf

Ref 6 Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), “Ponds (UK BAP Priority Habitat description),” 2008. [Online]. Available at: https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/dec49c52-a86c-4483-90f2-f43957e560bb/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-42-Ponds.pdf

Ref 7 UK Government, “The Hedgerows Regulations 1997,” 1997. [Online]. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents

Ref 8 UK Government, “Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended),” 1981. [Online]. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents

Light Valley
Solar

W: Lightvalleysolar.co.uk
E: info@lightvalleysolar.co.uk