



**East Pye Solar
Environmental Statement
Volume 3: Appendix 8.1 – Ecological Desk Study and
Extended Habitat Survey**

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Introduction

- 1.1.1 Stantec was commissioned by East Pye Solar (the 'Applicant') to undertake baseline desk study and habitat surveys in relation to an application to be made to the Secretary of State under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended), seeking a DCO for the Scheme on land located south of Norwich and north of Harleston (the Order Limits), see further details below.
- 1.2.1 This report provides detailed baseline ecological information, gathered to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Baseline data has been compiled from an ecological desk study, as well as from extended habitat surveys (as described in section 2 below) and includes an evaluation of the geographical importance of the habitats within the Order Limits.
- 1.3.1 The Environmental Statement (ES) will include a final assessment of potential impacts and subsequent effects on any identified important ecological features, including badgers.

Scope of report

- 1.4.1 The objectives of the report are to:
- present the methodology used and identify any constraints encountered during the habitat surveys;
 - present the results of the ecological desk study.
 - present the results of the habitat surveys; and
 - based on the results of the desk study and surveys, assess the geographical importance of the habitats within the Order Limits.
- 1.5.1 This report provides an assessment of the habitats present within the Order Limits. This will be used to identify any potential ecological constraints associated with the Scheme that may risk contravention of legislation or policy.
- 1.6.1 The assessment is based on the following sources of information:
- A desk-based assessment of the surrounding habitats;
 - A data search from Norfolk Biodiversity Information Services (NBIS);
 - Field survey data collected during 2024 and 2025;
- 1.7.1 This assessment has been prepared with reference to best practice guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2017; 2018) and as detailed in British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity - Code of Practice for Biodiversity and Development (BSI, 2013).
- 1.8.1 Survey results plans are provided within **Figure 1**, Target Notes are provided in **Annex 1** and Photographs in **Annex 2**.

1.2 Order Limits Context and Scheme Description

- 2.1.1 The Order Limits are located within the administrative areas of Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council. Order Limits are the maximum extent of land anticipated to be acquired and/or used for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. A description of the Order Limits can be found in **Chapter 3 – The Order Limits [EN0110014/APP/6.1.3]**.
- 2.2.1 The location of the Order Limits and surrounding landscape is shown in **Figure 1**.

The Scheme

- 2.3.1 The Scheme comprises the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station with a total capacity exceeding 100 megawatts (MW) and associated development including a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), up to three 132 kV Project Substations and up to three 400 kV Project Substations, Grid Connection Infrastructure and a new National Grid Substation. A description of the Scheme can be found in **Chapter 4 – The Scheme [EN0110014/APP/6.1.4]**.

2 Methodology

2.1 Overview

1.1.1 The section below sets out the methodology used to inform this report. This includes an ecological desk study and extended habitat survey and includes any associated survey/methodology limitations.

Nomenclature

1.2.1 Common and scientific species names are used throughout this report, with scientific names given at first mention only.

2.2 Ecological Desk Study

Data Sources

2.1.1 The following organisations/web resources were consulted during the desk study:

- Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service¹;
- Natural England: Designated Sites View²;
- Natural England: Access to Evidence³;
- Ramsar Sites Information Service⁴;
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information Centre (MAGIC)⁵;
- Norfolk Biodiversity Action Plan⁶;
- Online aerial imagery⁷.

2.2.1 The desk study was undertaken in accordance with the best practice methodologies current at the time of commissioning (Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning, 2019)⁸.

2.3.1 A summary of pertinent biological records provided by the desk study is presented in **Section 3.6** of this report. Records from the past 10 years (2015 to 2025) are deemed to be recent records but all records have been used to inform the assessment of the potential for protected, priority or otherwise notable species to be present within the Order Limits and provide recommendations for further survey.

¹ 2km data purchased from the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service, updated biological data was purchased in August 2025. Additional information available here: [Home | Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service \(nbis.org.uk\)](https://www.norfolk-biodiversity.org.uk/) (accessed September 2025)

² Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/> (accessed September 2025)

³ Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/> (accessed September 2025)

⁴ Available at: <https://rsis.ramsar.org/> (accessed September 2025)

⁵ Available at: www.magic.gov.uk/ (accessed September 2025)

⁶ Available at: <https://www.norfolk-biodiversity.org.uk/habitats-and-species/> (accessed September 2025)

⁷ Assessed using freely available aerial imagery, available at <https://www.google.com/maps/> and <https://www.bing.com/maps/> (accessed September 2025)

⁸ Desk study undertaken in adherence to the Biodiversity Data Search Guidance for Ecological Consultants guidance available at: <https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/BDS-Guidance-final.pdf> (accessed September 2025)

Zone of Influence

2.4.1 The study areas or zone of influence (Zol) adopted within the ecological desk study to are set out below. Due to differing Zones of Influence (Zol) within which ecological features may be subject to impacts and subsequent effects during the Scheme's construction, operation and decommissioning phases, a range of Study Areas have been used. The selection of the Study Areas has been informed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland*⁹.

2.5.1 Based on this CIEEM guidance, the Zol for the Scheme varies for different ecological features depending on their sensitivity to an environmental change. The identified Zol have been used to establish the extent of the desk study. Therefore, the Zol within and surrounding the Scheme adopted for the desk study has consequently comprised of:

- **Statutory designated sites:** within 0km-5km of the Order Limits extended to 10km for European/International Sites (comprising Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar sites¹⁰);
- **Non-statutory designated sites:** within 2km of the Order Limits (comprising County Wildlife Sites (CWS) and Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR));
- **Irreplaceable habitats**¹¹: within 2km of the Order Limits and CRC;
- **Priority habitats**¹²: within 2km of the Order Limits and CRC¹³; and,
- **Protected and priority species**¹⁴: within 2km of the Order Limits and CRC.

2.6.1 Statutory designated sites within 5km are provided in **Figure 3**, and European/international sites extended to 10km provided in **Figure 2**. Non-statutory designated sites located within 2km of the Order Limits are presented in **Figure 4**. Irreplaceable habitats are provided in **Figure 5** and priority habitats (as mapped on the MAGIC website) are provided in **Figure 6**.

Limitations

2.7.1 The following limitations apply to the ecological desk study process:

- Where only four figure grid references are provided for protected species by third parties, the precise location of species records can be difficult to

⁹ CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.3. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester. Available at: [EclA-Guidelines-v1.3-Sept-2024.pdf](#) (accessed February 2025).

¹⁰ Based on professional judgement and guidance provided within Nature Scot. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – Version 3. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2022-12/Assessing%20connectivity%20with%20special%20protection%20areas.pdf> (accessed February 2025).

¹¹ Habitats classified as irreplaceable are listed within *The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2024/48/note/made> (accessed February 2025)

¹² Habitats referred to as 'priority habitats' consist of: Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, those included in the Norfolk Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP), Ancient Woodland Inventory sites, and Important Hedgerows as defined by the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

¹³ This is a standard requirement to inform planning applications, as detailed within CIEEM. (2020). *Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. Winchester. Available at: <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Accessing-and-Using-Biodiversity-Guidance-Version-3.pdf> (accessed February 2025).

¹⁴ Species referred to as 'priority species' consist of: Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under S41 of the NERC Act 2006, those included in the NBAP; amber and red listed birds within the Birds of Conservation Concern (Stanbury *et al.* 2021); and/or Red Data Book/nationally notable species (JNCC, undated).

determine. Equally, six figure grid references are accurate to the nearest 100m only.

- The lack of data for a particular species/species-group, or a lack of biological records (in general) within a defined geographical area does not prove that a specific species/species-group is absent from the search area or that there is a lack of overall biodiversity in general, the area may simply be under-recorded/not accessible for biological recording purposes.
- Ecological survey data are typically valid for 12-18 months unless otherwise specified (CIEEM, 2019).

2.3 Extended Habitat Survey

Methodology

- 3.1.1 The extended habitat survey Sub-Site was carried out over a five-month period between the 30 April 2024 and 19 September 2024. The surveys were carried out in suitable conditions and covered Sites 1 to 10 (including boundary features) and the BESS Site. The extended habitat survey of Sub-Site 2 was completed in April 2025. The CRC were surveyed in August and September 2025, alongside additional surveys to incorporate minor changes to Sub-Sites boundaries. Finally, the Highway Works areas and several small extension areas within the CRC and Sub-Sites, added due to changes to the Order Limits, were surveyed in January 2026.
- 3.2.1 Habitats were described and mapped following standard UK Habitats survey methodology (UKHab Ltd, 2023¹⁵) and mapped digitally using ESRI ArcGIS software. Habitats were also assessed against descriptions of Habitat of Principal Importance¹⁶ as set out by the Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC) where appropriate. An assessment of the condition of the habitats was also completed, in accordance with the guidelines set out within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology (July 2024)¹⁷.
- 3.3.1 Records for dominant and notable plants are provided, as are incidental records/field signs of birds and other fauna noted during the course of the extended habitat survey. The latter have been used to justify the potential presence of important ecological features, where applicable, and guide the additional species/species-group specific surveys undertaken to inform the EIA process.
- 3.4.1 The Order Limits was also surveyed for the presence of invasive plant species as defined by Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and indicative locations provided on the habitat plans (**Figure 7**).
- 3.5.1 Target notes are used to provide information on specific features of ecological interest or habitat features that were too small to be mapped ¹⁸(**Annex A**). Habitat maps are

¹⁵ Available at: <https://www.ukhab.org/> (accessed September 2025)

¹⁶ Available at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap-priority-habitats/> (accessed September 2025)

¹⁷ Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides> (accessed September 2025)

¹⁸ The minimum mappable unit for UKHab is taken to be 25m² area or 5m length (Butcher *et al.*, The UK Habitat Classification User Manual v1.1, available at <https://www.ukhab.org/>)

provided in **Figure 7** per Sub-Site. Photographs of the Order Limits are presented in **Annex B**.

3.6.1 The UKHab survey was further extended to assess the suitability of the Order Limits to support legally protected/priority species, this preliminary suitability assessment was also informed by relevant desk study records¹⁹ combined with field observations from the habitat survey.

2.4 Limitations

4.1.1 Every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the Order Limits; however, the following standard limitations apply to the extended habitat survey process.

- The preliminary suitability assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected/priority species occurring within the Order Limits. It should not be taken as providing a full and definitive survey of any protected species group. Additional species-specific surveys have been undertaken on the basis of the preliminary suitability assessment, in addition to statutory consultee recommendations.
- The extended habitat survey does not constitute a full botanical survey or provide accurate mapping of invasive plant species.
- Extended habitat survey data is typically valid for at least 12-18 months, unless otherwise specified (CIEEM, 2019²⁰). Whilst the original habitat surveys for the Sub-Sites were completed up to 18 months ago, ongoing ecological surveys within the Order Limits have confirmed no significant changes to the habitats present with ongoing use of the majority of the Order Limits as arable farmland.
- Due to changes to the Order Limits some areas, including the Highway Works areas were surveyed outside of the optimal survey season. This is not considered to have significantly impacted the findings of the surveys as many of the areas were extensions to existing parcels that had been surveyed during the main growing season and therefore existing data could be used to inform the January surveys. Additionally, the habitats present were not complex or rare, largely comprising sealed surface, arable and road verges and as such it is unlikely that any significant species were overlooked.

4.2.1 Despite limitations, it is considered that this report accurately reflects the habitats present and the potential of the Order Limits to support protected/priority and otherwise notable species.

¹⁹ Factors informing the assessment of data received included specific information regarding the age of the records, distance from the Site, species-specific habitat suitability, professional judgement drawing on experience of carrying out surveys of a large number of urban and rural sites, and best practice survey guidance.

²⁰ CIEEM (2019). *Advice note on the life span of ecology reports and surveys*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester. Available at <https://cieem.net/resource/advice-note-on-the-lifespan-of-ecological-reports-and-surveys/> (accessed September 2025)

2.5 Report Qualification

- 2.5.1 The above surveys/ecological desk study have been completed in line with/guided by best practice guidance/CIEEM guidance (as referred to above).
- 2.5.2 The surveys described here were undertaken in accordance with the best practice methodologies current at the time of commissioning. Site circumstances, scientific knowledge or methodological requirements can change during the course of a project, and these external factors may impact on the scope of subsequent work requirements.
- 2.5.3 All survey work and reporting was undertaken by experienced and qualified ecologists, in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2024²¹).
- 2.5.4 This report does not purport to provide detailed, specialist legal advice. Where legislation is referenced, the reader should consult the original legal text, and/or the advice of a qualified environmental lawyer.

²¹ CIEEM. (2024). Code of Professional Conduct. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester. Available at: <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Code-of-Professional-Conduct-October-2024.pdf> (accessed September 2025)

3 Ecological Desk Top Study Results

3.1 International/European Statutory Designated Sites

- 3.1.1 No international/European designated sites for nature conservation are present within the Order Limits.
- 3.1.2 Internationally/European designated sites present within 10km of the Order Limits are described in **Table 1** (below) and presented on **Figure 2**.

Table 1: International/European Designated Sites within 10km of the Order Limits

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
Norfolk Valley Fens Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	2.4km NW of Sub-Site 4A	3.2km NW of CRC11	Norfolk Valley Fens is one of two sites in East Anglia where there is a main concentration of the Annex I habitat, Alkaline fens. The SAC comprises a series of valley-head spring-fed fens which are rare in the lowlands. Most of the vegetation is of the small sedge fen type but there are also areas of reed swamp and other fen and wet grassland types providing a range of variation. A rich flora is associated with these fens, including species such as grass-of-Parnassus <i>Parnassia palustris</i> , common butterwort <i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i> , marsh helleborine <i>Epipactis palustris</i> , and narrow-leaved marsh orchid <i>Dactylorhiza traunsteineri</i> . Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection are the narrow-mouthed whorl snail, <i>Vertigo angustior</i> , and Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>
The Broads SAC	6.6km NE of Sub-Site 10E	6.8km NE of CRC14	There are five parcels of land covered by the Broads SAC within 10km of the Site. The SAC is designated for notable habitats including eutrophic lakes, <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peat or clay-silt soil, transition mires and quaking bogs, calcareous and alkaline fens and alluvial woods. Notable species include Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> , otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> , fen orchid <i>Liparis loeselii</i> , and little ram's-horn whirlpool snail <i>Anisus vorticulus</i> .
Broadland Special Protection Area (SPA)	6.6km NE of Sub-Site 10E ²²	6.8km NE of CRC14	There are five parcels of land covered by the Broadland SPA within 10km of the Site. The SPA is designated for the following reasons: a) It is used regularly by 1% or more of the GB population of species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) in any season: bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> , whooper swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> , hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> , and ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> . b) It is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographic population of a regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed on Annex I) in any season: wigeon, gadwall, and shoveler.
Broadland Ramsar	6.6km NE of Sub-Site 10E ²³	6.8km NE of CRC14	There are five parcels of land covered by the Broadland Ramsar within 10km of the Site. The Broadland Ramsar is designated as a mosaic of wetland habitats which includes open water, reedbeds, carr woodland, grazing marsh, and fen meadow, with an extensive complex of flooded medieval peat diggings.

²² The Broadland SPA is located within 10km of the following Sub-Sites: 7K (9.18km NE), 7I (9.33km NE), 8A (9.45km NE), 8B (9.04km NE), 9 (6.86km NE), 10A (8.08km NE), 10B (7.18km NE), 10C (7.80km NE), 10D (7.44km NE), 10E (6.65km NE).

²³ The Broadland Ramsar site is located within 10km of the following Sub-Sites: 7K (9.18km NE), 7I (9.33km NE), 8A (9.45km NE), 8B (9.04km NE), 9 (6.86km NE), 10A (8.08km NE), 10B (7.18km NE), 10C (7.80km NE), 10D (7.44km NE), 10E (6.65km NE).

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
			Assemblages of rare plants and invertebrates occur at the site including nationally rare dragonflies, spiders, moths, and butterflies, and the area is a stronghold for swallowtail butterfly <i>Papilio machaon brittanica</i> . A number of rare breeding birds are present here including bittern and marsh harrier as well as wintering bird species such as Bewick's swan, <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> .

3.2 National & Local Statutory Designated Sites

3.2.1 No national or local statutory designated sites for nature conservation are present within the Order Limits. Eleven Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and three Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are present within 5km of the Order Limits²⁴, including Shotesham-Woodton Hornbeam Woods SSSI located adjacent to Sub-Sites 7F, 7G, 7H and CRC8, and Pulham Market Big Wood SSSI located adjacent to CRC4.

3.2.2 Data regarding the closest national or local statutory designated sites for nature conservation, within 5km of the Sub-Sites and CRC, is provided in **Table 2** below and presented on **Figure 3**.

Table 2: National and Local Statutory Designated Sites within 5km of the Order Limits

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
Shotesham-Woodton Hornbeam Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	SSSI Unit 1: 0.14km W of Sub-Site 8B SSSI Unit 2: adjacent to Sub-Sites 7F & 7G SSSI Unit 3: adjacent to Sub-Site 7H	SSSI Unit 1: 0.45km NW of CRC10 SSSI Unit 2: 0.1km W of CRC10 SSSI Unit 3: 0.1km north of CRC8	This site consists of a group of four ancient coppice-with-standards woodlands (Units 1 – 4: three of which are located in close proximity to the Sites) that were probably once part of a continuous cover of primary hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus</i> forest. The hornbeam woods of south Norfolk and north-east Suffolk form a very distinctive group and Shotesham Little Wood, Saxlingham Grove, Hempnall Little Wood and Winter's Grove are some of the most representative examples of this type. The major stand-type is pedunculate oak <i>Quercus robur</i> -hornbeam woodland and both the heavy soil form and the nationally uncommon light soil variant are present. The standard trees are mostly pedunculate oak and ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> and the main coppice species are hornbeam, maple <i>Acer campestre</i> , hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> and ash.
Hedenham Wood SSSI	0.1km E of Sub-Site 10B	0.5km S of CRC14	Hedenham Wood is an ancient woodland situated at the head of a shallow valley on the South Norfolk boulder clay. Much of the wood comprises oak standards over mixed hornbeam coppice but the valley bottom contains wet ash-maple wood with stands of elm <i>Ulmus</i> . The ground flora is diverse and includes several uncommon species. Heavy calcareous clay on the valley sides supports hornbeam coppice with maple, ash and hazel under large standards of oak, ash and hornbeam. Other woody species include goat willow <i>Salix caprea</i> , aspen <i>Populus tremula</i> , spindle <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> , guelder rose <i>Viburnum opulus</i> , dogwood

²⁴ An additional SSSI: Broome Heath Pit is located approximately 4.73km to the south-east of sub-Site10B, however, this site is designated for geological features alone, with no qualifying. ecological features listed within the site citation.

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
			<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> and midland hawthorn <i>Crataegus laevigata</i> . On lighter soils hornbeam and ash coppice is almost pure.
Fritton Common SSSI	0.6km S of Sub-Site 5B	0.85km SE of CRC4	Fritton Common is one of only a few large grassy commons remaining in south Norfolk still under traditional management by light cattle grazing. The site forms an excellent example of the locally uncommon damp acidic grassland habitat developed over loess soils. Several natural ponds are present and these support well developed marginal and aquatic vegetation. Damp acidic grassland covers much of the site and is dominated by common bent-grass <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> , red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i> and sweet vernal-grass <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> . Other frequent species include mat-grass <i>Nardus stricta</i> , heath grass <i>Danthonia decumbens</i> , purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i> , heath bedstraw <i>Galium saxatile</i> and tormentil <i>Potentilla erecta</i> . Wetter areas, on low-lying ground with impeded drainage, are characterised by abundant soft rush <i>Juncus effusus</i> , fleabane <i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i> and hairy sedge <i>Carex hirta</i> .
Pulham Market Big Wood SSSI	1.20km E of Sub-Site 2C	0.1km west of CRC4	Pulham Market Big Wood is an ancient woodland site on heavy boulder clays, overlain in places by acidic sandy loams. The site is probably of primary origin and appears to be the sole remaining fragment of a once much larger area of woodland. The structure is coppice with standards, and the wood is notable for the exceptional range of stand-types which reflect the underlying variations in soil acidity. A rare variant of plateau alderwood is present and there are also stands of lowland birch–pedunculate oak woodland and the uncommon birch–hazel variant of pedunculate oak–hornbeam woodland. The ground flora is fairly diverse and contains a few uncommon species.
Tindall Wood, Ditchingham SSSI	1.75km SE of Sub-Site 10B	2.1km SE of CRC14	Tindall Wood is one of the largest hornbeam woods in the county and is considered representative of the type. It is an ancient woodland situated on poorly drained south Norfolk boulder clay which is overlain in places by sandy loam. The dominant stand-type is pedunculate Oak–Hornbeam woodland with a structure of coppice-with-standards. Standard trees are of oak, ash and hornbeam. The coppice layer is overgrown and is mainly hornbeam with scattered ash, field maple and hazel. Spindle, dogwood, guelder rose and midland hawthorn are frequent shrubs on the heaviest soils where there is also a rich ground flora. Dog's mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> is dominant with Enchanter's nightshade <i>Circaea lutetiana</i> and primrose <i>Primula vulgaris</i> .
Shotesham Common SSSI	1.81km NW of Sub-Site 8B	2.2km NW of CRC13	Shotesham Common comprises two contiguous parcels of land. Shotesham Common is a valley site in the catchment of the River Tas. Extensive areas of unimproved grassland are now rare in Norfolk due to agricultural improvement but the majority of Shotesham Common has remained under a traditional management regime and a good variety of grassland types are present. The areas of marshy grassland are dominated by blunt-flowered rush, sharp-flowered rush <i>Juncus acutiflorus</i> and meadowsweet <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> with frequent bogbean <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> , marsh marigold <i>Caltha palustris</i> , ragged robin <i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> and southern marsh orchid <i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i> . More uncommon species present include marsh lousewort <i>Pedicularis palustris</i> , marsh helleborine and common cotton-grass <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> .

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
Smockhill Common Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	1.9km NW of Sub-Site 7D	2.2km NW of CRC12	Smockmill Common has a variety of habitats including woodland, grassland and fen along the river. There is a rich diversity in the flora at Smockmill Common due to the different habitats.
Sexton Wood SSSI	2.20km S of Sub-Site 10A	3.3km S of CRC9	Sexton Wood is one of the largest woods in south-east Norfolk and is almost entirely of ancient origins. The structure is largely coppice-with standards, with a few areas of high forest. The main stand-type is hornbeam-pedunculate oak on a boulder clay plateau, and the ground flora is characteristic of an ancient wood of this type. The standard trees are mostly of oak with some hornbeam and suckering elm. The coppice is chiefly hornbeam with ash, field maple and willow. Other shrub species present include midland hawthorn, spindle-tree and guelder rose.
Flordon Common SSSI	2.4km NW Sub-Site 4A	3.2km NW of CRC11	Flordon Common is situated in the valley of the River Tas on shallow fenland peats. Springs emerge on the valley-side bearing base-rich waters from the underlying chalk and in these areas' species-rich calcareous fen has developed. The flushed areas on the wetter parts of the fen are dominated by Bog-rush <i>Schoenus nigricans</i> and blunt-flowered rush over a carpet of mosses. These species-rich areas contain a number of uncommon plants including butterwort, bog pimpernel <i>anagallis tenella</i> , fragrant orchid <i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> , marsh helleborine and the rare narrow-leaved marsh orchid. Conditions are locally acidic, and this has encouraged the recent growth of a few tussocks of Bog Moss <i>Sphagnum sp.</i> The very rare narrow-mouthed whorl snail has been recorded from the site.
Alsacton Parish Land SSSI	2.4km NW of Sub-Site 1B	3.2km NW of CRC1	Alsacton Parish Land SSSI forms a characteristic example of a type of unimproved spring-line meadow which at one time was widely distributed in the valley of the River Tas. A range of inter-grading wet and dry grassland types are present and the flora which is rich, reflecting the variety of soil and habitat conditions, contains a number of uncommon and declining species. Wet marshy grassland has developed at the spring-line, ground seepage flushes and here the vegetation is dominated by blunt-flowered rush <i>Juncus subnodulosus</i> with southern marsh orchid, marsh helleborine and marsh marigold. A few pairs of Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> breed in most years.
Fornsett Meadows SSSI	2.8km N of Sub-Site 1B	3.5km W of CRC4	Fornsett Meadows form one of only three examples of unimproved meadow now remaining in the valley of the River Tas. The upper parts of the valley slope support a short rabbit-grazed sward with frequent anthills. The chalky nature of the soil is reflected in the rich variety of species present which include common quaking grass <i>Briza media</i> , hairy sedge, bird's foot trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> , cowslip <i>Primula veris</i> , germander speedwell <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> , crosswort <i>Cruciata laevipes</i> , lady's bedstraw <i>Galium verum</i> and the locally rare green-winged orchid <i>Orchis morio</i> . This community grades into damper grassland with crested dog's-tail <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> and Sweet Vernal-grass as the dominant grasses. Associated species include common spotted orchid <i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> , twayblade orchid <i>listera ovata</i> , yellow rattle <i>Rhinanthus minor</i> , cuckoo flower <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> and the locally rare adder's tongue fern <i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i> .

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
Bath Hills LNR	3.6km SE of Sub-Site 10B	5.1km S of CRC14	Bath Hills is a sheltered and south facing area of a steep valley side and forms a natural sun trap on higher ground where spring flowers bloom earlier than anywhere else in England.
Broome Heath LNR	4.7km SE of Sub-Site 10B	5.1km SE of CRC14	Grazing land located on Broome Marshes in the Waveney Valley. Also designated as a SSSI for geological reasons.

3.2.3 There are approximately 270 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) overlapping the Sites including thirteen with conditions regarding solar developments, which consequently require the competent authorities (Local Planning Authority/Planning Inspectorate) to consult with Natural England regarding potential impacts to these sites. Development Consent Order applicants are also required to consult with Natural England (which is currently ongoing) to determine impacts and effects of the development on the zones of influence for international and national statutory designated sites.

3.3 Non-Statutory Designated Sites

3.3.1 Two CWSs are present within the Order Limits, these being: Lower Spring Wood, partially located within CRC9, and Fritton Grange Meadows CWS partially located within CRC7. Four Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) are also partially located within the Order Limits, these being: Bussey’s Loke RNR (Sub-Site 7G), Market Lane RNR (Sub-Site 8A), Parkers Lane RNR (Area 1) (CRC4), and Parkers Lane RNR (Area 2) (CRC4). Seven of the non-statutory designated sites are also located immediately adjacent to the Order Limits.

3.3.2 There are a further 48 non-statutory designated sites present within 2km of the Sub-Sites/CRC. Of these, 35 are County Wildlife Sites (CWS) and 19 are Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR). 30 are located within 500m of the Order Limits.

3.3.3 Data regarding non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation is provided in **Table 3** below and presented on **Figure 4**.

Table 3: Non-Statutory Designated Sites within 2km of the Sites and CRC

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
Fritton Grange Meadows CWS	adjacent to Sub-Site 7B	Partially located within CRC7	This site consists of a long series of fields, a mixture of tall rank grassland and tall fen vegetation in lower areas. The site also contains a number of ponds and an area of game crops. Springs feed into an extensive dyke system. Part of the area has recently been planted with conifers; another part is grazed but the whole site is generally used for shooting. The higher drier areas are dominated by reed <i>Phragmites australis</i> , reed canary-grass <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> , and false oatgrass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> , which combine to give a very tall sward.
Lower Spring Wood CWS	0.85km east of Sub-Site 7K	Partially located within CRC9	Mature woodland dominated by ash trees, with previously coppiced hazel and a shaded ground flora primarily consisting of dog’s mercury. Conifer species and standing and fallen deadwood are present throughout. The northern track connects

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
			the woodland to nearby areas and features stored hazel coppice, field maple, mature ash, willow, and elder. The western boundary shows unmanaged sections with dominant ash, mature oak, occasional hawthorn, and rare wych elm. Sunny southern areas support various flora like creeping thistle, ground ivy, and primroses. The eastern boundary has a wide track linking to The Spong, characterized by frequent hedge woundwort and spear thistle. The Spong is a narrow woodland strip with a similar canopy to Lower Spring Wood, featuring mature ash and oak, abundant deadwood, and a shaded ground flora dominated by dog's mercury. A small pond in The Spong supports diverse marginal vegetation. Lower Spring Wood, excluding The Spong, is listed as ancient semi-natural woodland with areas of ancient replanted wood.
Bussey's Loke RNR	Partially located within Sub-Site 7G	0.3km SE of CRC10	Roadside reserve along Bussey's Loke.
Market Lane RNR	Partially located within Site 8A	0.1km E of CRC10	The RNR encompasses a highway boundary for 140m on one side of Market Lane Road. Qualifying species present is sulphur clover <i>Trifolium ochroleucon</i> .
Parkers Lane RNR (Area 1)	1.5km south of Sub-Site 4B	Partially located within CRC4	Roadside reserve along Parkers Lane
Parkers Lane RNR (Area 2)	2km south of Sub-Site 4B	Partially located within CRC4	Roadside reserve along Parkers Lane
Spring Wood, Hempnall CWS	Adjacent to Sub-Sites 3	0.3km E of CRC6	This is a large area of conifer plantation whose main interest lies in the rides found near to the centre. The rides constitute strips of grassland with an unusual mix of plants typical of acid, neutral and basic soils. The sward is dominated by cock's-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , with other neutral grasses together with wavy hairgrass <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> , which is typical of acid conditions and fescues <i>Festuca spp.</i> , more typical of basic conditions. To the west, separated by an old runway, is an area of replanted ancient woodland. The area to the north has a mixed canopy of hornbeam, downy birch, <i>Betula pubescens</i> , and ash. South of this area, partly separated from it by some old hardstanding, is an area of denser, wetter woodland, densely planted with conifers at the western end. Native species include ash and grey willow <i>Salix cinerea</i> , with a shrub layer of dogwood, and aspen.
Saxlingham Grove CWS	Adjacent to Sub-Site 7F	0.2km W of CRC10	This is an ancient woodland situated on a boulder clay plateau surrounded by a broad wood bank and ditch. The majority of the wood is coppice with standards oak and hornbeam woodland. The coppice is mainly overgrown having been abandoned many years ago. In the ground layer dog's mercury is dominant over the whole wood with enchanter's nightshade co-dominant in places. The ground flora is sparse under dense hornbeam coppice but is generally very diverse with many uncommon species and those indicative of ancient woodland. These include bugle <i>Ajuga reptans</i> , lords-and-ladies <i>Arum maculatum</i> , wild strawberry <i>Fragaria vesca</i> , and primrose.
Pope's Wood CWS	Adjacent to Sub-Site 7C	0.02km E of CRC11	This is an excellent coppiced ancient woodland site on wet clay-loam soils with abundant hornbeam. There is a high diversity of species and wide grassy rides have a marshy grassland flora. Nearly the entire wood consists of coppiced stools with ash and

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
			hornbeam the two commonest species. The latter is often old and forms pure groves. Along the ride edges in deep shade dog's mercury is dominant with frequent enchanter's-nightshade and more rarely species such as yellow pimpernel <i>Lysimachia nemorum</i> , and barren strawberry <i>Potentilla sterilis</i> .
Lodge Road RNR	Adjacent to Sub-Site 2B	Adjacent to CRC2	Roadside reserve on Market Lane.
D'Oyly's Grove CWS	Adjacent to Sub-Site 7C	0.3km S of CRC12	This is a wet woodland on boulder clay composed largely of oak and ash standards, with some c.10-year-old stools of coppiced hazel ash and hornbeam. Occasional individuals of elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , field maple and holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> also occur. Much of the coppice is being actively managed. Ash dieback is present in the woodland and has formed areas of open canopy.
Fylands Road RNR	Adjacent to Sub-Sites 7I & 7J	0.4km CRC8	The RNR runs alongside both sides of Fylands road for 164m, the qualifying species is sulphur clover.
Woodton Road RNR (24)	Adjacent Sub-Site 7K	0.9km N of CRC8	The RNR covers 315m of one-side of Woodton road (Woodton parish), the qualifying species is Dyer's greenweed <i>Genista tinctoria</i> .
Tyrrel's Wood and New Plantation CWS	3.3km S of subsite 5A.	0.1km E of CRC4	Listed as ancient woodland. The woodland is divided into five smaller woods: Big Wood, New Plantation, Dale Plantation, Low Wood, and Bales Plantation, each varying in age with the oldest in the center. It includes a County Wildlife Site, intersected by the Pulham Market Big Wood SSSI, where the south-east is managed by the Woodland Trust and the rest privately owned. Public access is available throughout the main wood, resulting in wide muddy paths, while Bales Plantation lacks public access due to isolation. The southern section near Wood Lane features mature trees like hybrid oaks, ash, and large-leaved lime, with abundant ivy and a dense shrub layer of hazel, hawthorn, and holly. North of the SSSI, the wood splits into two areas with mature ash, hybrid oak, and various ground flora to the west, and a lighter, dryer eastern area with hornbeams, silver birch, and notable pollards. The northern section borders Crow Green, a secondary woodland with different understory vegetation.
Wood Green CWS	2.3km south of Sub-Site 5A	0.4km east of CRC04	Registered common land featuring species-rich grassland, scrub, and diverse ponds, each with unique characteristics. The grassland primarily consists of neutral, boulder clay soil, with a section of free-draining sandy soils hosting acid grassland and gorse. The ponds likely originate from clay extraction, with two major ponds restored in the 1990s alongside the planting of young tree belts and spinneys. The south-east area is species-rich grassland with tall grasses such as Yorkshire fog and cocksfoot, abundant sweet vernal grass, and rare orchids like green-winged and common spotted orchids. Herbs include meadow vetchling, lesser knapweed, ox-eye daisy, cowslip, and lesser bird's foot trefoil. Close to a large pond, lady's bedstraw and ragwort are occasional, while the shallow ditch nearby supports cuckoo flower and marsh bedstraw. The permanent large pond has common reed dominance and various marginal species like yellow flag iris, water mint, and common fleabane. The free-draining center of the common has sandy soils and heathy flora with heath bedstraw, heath speedwell, and spreading gorse. Seasonal and permanent ponds throughout the area support diverse aquatic vegetation like broad-leaved pondweed, tubular water dropwort, and common club rush.

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
Brooke Wood CWS	0.1km W of Sub-Site 9	0.2km N of CRC13	Brooke Wood is a semi-natural, replanted ancient woodland site surrounded by a ditch and arable fields. The site contains both broadleaved and conifer plantation, both in separate and mixed blocks. The woodland sits on sandy soils which become wetter towards the north and is managed by its owner. The canopy species vary throughout the wood owing to the frequent blocks of conifer plantation which break up what would have been continuous broadleaved woodland. The areas of plantation contain mostly Scot's pine, <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> , and cedar sp. <i>Cedrus sp.</i> ; these areas can be found throughout the entire woodland. The main broadleaved species within the canopy comprise frequent oak, ash, and hornbeam.
Pye's Covert & Privett Plantation CWS	0.2km E of Sub-Site 8B	0.2km N of CRC13	This is a small, semi-natural ancient woodland site sitting on sandy soils, containing a mixture of broadleaved and conifer plantation. Overall, the woodland is predominantly oak, ash, and field maple. However, there are two distinct areas. The eastern (Pye's Covert) area displays a rather dense canopy of abundant oak, frequent ash and field maple, over a shrub layer of abundant wild privet <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> . The western area (Privett Plantation) can be divided further in two. This area is separated by a small ditch running from west to east across the centre of the wood. The northern half of this ditch is predominantly oak and ash, with locally frequent beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , and sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatymus</i> . The eastern area south of the ditch contains a forest school; this area comprises ash, oak, beech and occasional pine sp.
Rhees Green RNR	0.6km south of Sub-Site 4B	0.4km W of CRC4	Roadside reserve along Brooke Road.
Woodton Road RNR (16)	0.13km N Sub-Site 7kSub-Site	0.9km N of CRC08	Runs alongside one-side of Woodton road (Shotesham parish) for 157m, the qualifying species is Dyer's greenweed.
The Krons Meadows CWS	0.2km SE of Sub-Site 7B	0.07km NE from CRC7	A series of species-rich wet and dry meadows with mature hedges, lying south of the Hempnall Beck. The beck is shallow and there is little, or no flora associated with it here, although mature trees overhang it. The meadows are parish charity land, and those easts of the lane have permissive public access. The meadows are part of a chain of wet pasture and meadow that runs west of Hempnall and south, along the Shelton Beck. Species associated with the pond include frequent lesser pond sedge <i>Carex acutiformis</i> , abundant water mint <i>Mentha aquatica</i> , plus occasional water forget-me-not <i>Myosotis scorpioides</i> and abundant brooklime <i>Veronica beccabunga</i> .
Tasburgh Red Poll Meadow CWS	0.3km N of Sub-Site 4A	1.4km W of CRC11	Tasburgh redpoll meadow is a small piece of high-quality wet grassland over peaty soils. Surrounded by ditches and a tributary of the River Tas in the north, the meadow supports a rich vegetation community. It is grazed by redpoll cattle in late summer. Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> scrub is found infrequently across the meadow whilst tall trees line the northern and southern borders. The eastern boundary is a ditch with areas of bare ground adjacent where vehicle movements have poached the ground. The ditch is wide with bog stitchwort <i>Stellaria alsine</i> , large bitter cress <i>Cardamine amara</i> , and rare greater chickweed <i>Stellaria neglecta</i> found on the banks.
Park Plantation CWS	0.4km E of Sub-Site 9	1.3km E of CRC13	A large plantation on heavy clay soils with a variety of canopy and shrub species, a mixed tree structure, areas of open and dense canopy and shrub, and a fair amount of natural regeneration. The ground flora is relatively poor, however,

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
			dominated by dog's mercury in the shaded areas, bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. in the open areas with few other species occurring with any frequency. The main body of the wood is dominated by ash, with oak, hornbeam and field maple frequent.
Woodton Road RNR (25)	0.4km N of Sub-Site 7K	0.9km S of CRC13	Covers 216m of one-side of Woodton road (Brooke parish), the qualifying species is sulphur clover/Dyer's greenweed.
Nunn's Grove CWS	0.5km SW of Sub-Site 9	0.1km S of CRC13	This wood consists mainly of oak as mature trees of a similar age. Hornbeam is dominant as derelict coppice and some standards in part of the wood. The ground flora is predominately bramble, with dog's mercury locally common. It does not appear diverse. The wood is shot and has pheasant release pens. The understorey is not well developed, and the ground flora is not diverse.
Brooke Road RNR	0.5km NW of Sub-Site 8B	0.9km NW of CRC13	The RNR runs alongside one side of Brooke road for 58m. The qualifying species present is sulphur clover.
Pecks Plantation CWS	0.5km W of Sub-Site 4A	2.1km NW of CRC4	Woodland sitting largely over the remains of old mineral workings. The Site houses an active bat hibernaculum. The woodland is a mixture of ash, oak, and locally silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> . Shrubs include dog-rose, hawthorn, and elm. The ground flora includes frequent nettle, and rosebay willowherb.
Beckett's Wood CWS	0.6km SE of Sub-Site 7L	0.1km S of CRC9	An ancient, broadleaved semi-natural woodland within the catchment of the river Waveney, sitting on slightly acidic clayey soils. A ditch runs the length of the northern and western boundaries. The woodland canopy is dominated by ash, with frequent oak, hornbeam and field maple. The centre of the wood has been felled and replanted with a now mature, relatively large stand of cedar sp. The ground flora throughout the woodland is variable, however is mostly dominated by dog's mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> .
Backwood Lane RNR	0.6km W of Site 9	0.2km N of CRC13	The RNR runs 542m alongside the road adjacent to Brooke wood CWS. The qualifying species present is sulphur clover.
Seething Observatory CWS	0.7km W of Sub-Site 10B	1.2km W of CRC14	A damp, basic grassland comprising part of Seething Airfield and Seething Observatory. The grassland in the southern field is largely unmanaged and rank; this part of the Site lies over heavy clay soils enclosed by ditches and a wire fence. The sward varies over the Site, depending on a level of disturbance and soil water content. There are limited patches of false oat-grass, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , and black medick <i>Medicago lupulina</i> . The small eutrophic pond to the west of the observatory car park is known to support great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> .
Fox Burrows CWS	0.7km SW of Sub-Site 10A	1.8km S of CRC9	Mosaic of habitats including semi-improved acid grassland, scrub, woodland and standing open water; situated around an old mineral working which is now a well-stocked fishing lake. Small patches of free-draining and heavily grazed acid grassland are dotted through the Site. These support an array of indicator species including sheep's sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i> , parsley-piert <i>Aphanes arvensis</i> , and heath bedstraw <i>Galium saxatile</i> . In places there is abundant to dominant lichen <i>Cladonia</i> sp., cover, while bryophytes are also very frequent.
Great Wood CWS	0.7km W of Sub-Site 8B	1km NW of CRC10	This Site consists of a long series of fields, a mixture of tall rank grassland and tall fen vegetation in lower areas. The Site also contains a number of ponds and an area of game crops. Springs feed into an extensive dyke system. Part of the area has recently

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
			been planted with conifers, another part is grazed but the whole Site is generally used for shooting. The higher drier areas are dominated by reed, reed canary-grass, and false oat-grass which combine to give a very tall sward.
Howe Lane CWS	0.7km N of Sub-Site 8B	0.9km N of CRC13	Plantation woodland on a level Site situated on clay soils. The woodland canopy is made up primarily of tall oak and ash with rare Norway spruce <i>Picea abies</i> , and beech. Thick ivy is frequent on some trees. There is a diverse and varied understorey composed of young sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> , field maple, and hazel.
Long Row CWS	0.9km SE of Sub-Site 10B	1.2km SE of CRC14	Woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, situated on the neutral boulder clays of South Norfolk and is largely composed of derelict coppice with standards. Much of the wood is currently used for pheasant shooting. Oak and ash are the dominant standard trees throughout the wood. The canopy is virtually closed throughout the wood, although some coppicing and clearance following storm damage has created open areas to the south of the track. Bluebell occurs in large numbers throughout the wood.
RHEES CWS	0.9km west of 10C	0.4km N of CRC9	A small abandoned coppice wood; it is not listed as ancient woodland, probably because it falls below the 2 ha threshold. It is linked to Lower Spring Wood and Spring Wood by a network of tall, mature hedges and grass field margins. Much of Round Wood is dominated by stored hornbeam coppice, with most trees now mature or even veteran; mature oak and ash are also dominant in the canopy. Mature field maple occurs but is rare. The ground flora throughout is dominated by dog's mercury with occasional primrose and rare cuckoo pint.
Spring Wood CWS	0.83km W of Sub-Site 7LSub-Site	0.42km north of CRC9	Spring Wood is listed as ancient woodland. The south-west of the wood is dominated by mature hornbeam some of which are large coppice stools, with hazel frequent, mostly as stored coppice. Hornbeam remains dominant-abundant across the south of the wood. The wood appears largely unmanaged, with no evidence of glades or rides.
Church Road Wood CWS	0.9km W of Site 9	1.9km E of CRC13	This is a varied broad-leaved woodland Site with a wide range of canopy and shrub layer species, and good age and structural variation. The wood is bordered on most sides by an earthbank and ditches, and there are several internal ditches and banks . Two heavily shaded ponds and a pit occur in the north-east. The north part of the wood is dominated by oak with occasional ash. The shrub layer is dominated by young elm <i>Ulmus agg.</i> The ground flora is relatively sparse with much bare ground, but dog's mercury and ivy are locally abundant.
Green Man Lane, Kirstead CWS	1km N of Sub-Site 10E	1.4km N CRC9	Marshy grassland to the north of Green Man Lane confined within a narrow stream valley, a tributary of the River Chet. The eastern side of the Site rises slightly to the abrupt valley side and is more freely draining, supporting a narrow strip of neutral-acidic grassland and scrub with patches of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> . A stream runs through or, in places, demarcates the Site's western boundary and there is a network of relict longitudinal and lateral ditches, with a small area of tall, dense scrub in the northwestern corner of the Site. The Site is enclosed predominantly by arable farmland, with additional small areas of grassland and plantation woodland. A public footpath runs laterally across the northern end. Grass snake <i>Natrix helvetica</i> occurs on the Site and water vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i> is present along the tributary stream.

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
Creasy's Grove CWS	1.1km N of Sub-Site 8B	1.5km N of CRC13	An area of actively managed woodland and consequently has a varied structure. The Site is surrounded by a neatly trimmed hedge. The majority of the woodland has a canopy of oak and ash, with the former being more prevalent in the north. The southern area has a sub-canopy of old hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , locally scarce midland hawthorn <i>Crataegus laevigata</i> , and wych elm <i>Ulmus glabra</i> .
Kirstead Hall Wood CWS	1.2km NE of Site 9	2.1km NE of CRC13	Woodland on sandy-loam to heavy clay along the edge of former parkland on the Brooke Hall Estate. The wood ranges in width from just 20m to about 75m and contains two ponds. Within an area known as the Triangle there are two sections of internal woodbank with ditch. The woodland suffered extensive storm damage in the 1987 storm, with subsequent replanting of ash, sweet chestnut <i>Castanea sativa</i> , and field maple. The oldest trees in the wood occur mainly in the Triangle and are approximately 100 years old, and consist mainly of ash, wych elm, and sycamore.
Grub Street RNR	1.2km N of Sub-Site 8B	1.8km NW of CRC13	Roadside reserve along Backwood Lane.
Birch Way RNR	1.45km E of Sub-Site 10E	3.55km E of CRC9	Roadside reserve along Birch Way.
Tibenham Airfield CWS	1.2km W of Sub-Site 1A	1.8km W of CRC1	A small piece of high quality wet grassland over peaty soils. Surrounded by ditches and a tributary of the River Tas in the north, the meadow supports a rich vegetation community. It is grazed by redpoll cattle in late summer. Alder scrub is found infrequently across the meadow whilst tall trees line the northern and southern borders. The eastern boundary is a wide ditch with bog stitchwort <i>Stellaria alsine</i> , large bitter cress <i>Cardamine amara</i> , and rare greater chickweed <i>Stellaria neglecta</i> , found on the banks
Common Road RNR	1.1km NE of Sub-Site 1B	1.5km W of CRC4	The RNR runs alongside road next to Grange farm, extending 292m one way and 210m the other. The qualifying species is adder's tongue <i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i> .
Low Road RNR	1.2km SW of site 3	1.9km E of CRC4	Roadside reserve along Shotesham Lane.
Cooper's Grove CWS	1.6km SE of Sub-Site 10B	1.9km SE of CRC14	An area of ancient woodland directly to the north of and contiguous with Tindall Wood SSSI. Situated on heavy clay soils, the wood has woodbanks and ditches to the west and east, with deep drainage dykes forming the north and south boundaries. Most of the interior of the wood was felled in March 2012, leaving just one fifth of the mature trees, all pedunculate oak. The remaining 80% of the canopy is composed of young spindly ash, Hornbeam, and goat willow, form a significant component of the felled trees, along with further ash and field maple along the western edge. The ground flora is diverse, with a large number of ancient woodland indicators including bluebell, locally dominant dog's mercury, and frequent enchanter's nightshade.
King's Road RNR	1.7km S of Sub-Site 7K	1.4km S of CRC8	The RNR runs 45m along one-side of King's road, the qualifying species is pyramidal orchid <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> .
Ditchingham Park CWS	1.7km S of Sub-Site 10B	2.3km SE of CRC14	Large area of parkland with some impressive old trees considered likely to support interesting lichen communities. The underlying grassland is cut for silage and grazed by cattle but is relatively species-poor. The majority of the trees are oak, with cedar <i>Cedrus sp.</i> , frequent near to the hall. A variety of ages are present from saplings to over-mature specimens with a mean age of around 120 years.

Designated Site Name	Distance & Direction from the Closest Sub-Site	Distance & Direction from the Closest CRC	Qualifying features/Description
Hill Farm Woodland CWS	1.7km SW of Sub-Site 4A	2.2km W of CRC4	A small semi-natural woodland whose main feature is the presence of about ten massive old oak pollards, some 400-500 years old. Old, coppiced hornbeam and field maple edge the wood in places along with younger species, making up an incomplete hedge with some standard trees. The veteran trees, which are distributed throughout the wood, are in various stages of decay, with three completely dead.
Howe Grove CWS	1.8km N of Sub-Site 8B	2km N of CRC13	Species-rich ancient woodland, mostly coppice under a dense canopy. The north-east section has been underplanted with conifers in the past and is now being managed as high forest. The woodland as a whole is used commercially for timber and limited shooting. The south and west of the wood are characterised by tall mature standards of oak, and ash, over vigorous growth of hazel coppice and more locally hornbeam. The ground flora is often overgrown with bramble, but elsewhere is found abundant bluebell, <i>Hyacinthoides non-scriptus</i> , herb-Robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i> , and enchanter's-nightshade.
Gissing Common CWS	1.3km SW of the BESS	2.1km SW of CRC1	The 9.6ha Site is predominantly unimproved neutral grassland with patches of marshy grassland, boundary scrub and areas of broadleaved woodland and scattered trees. The predominant habitat is semi-improved neutral grassland. In ungrazed areas, grasses tend to dominate, with abundant Yorkshire fog and sweet vernal grass. A strip of marshy grassland in the north supports hard rush <i>Juncus inflexus</i> , meadowsweet, and water mint.
Shotesham Road RNR	1km N of Sub-Site 7D	1.7km N of CRC12	The RNR runs alongside Shotesham road for 141m. The qualifying species is sulphur clover.
Atlas Gravel Working CWS	1.9km N of Site 9	2.5km N of CRC13	This Site is on the remains of an old mineral workings and holds a complex mosaic of scrub, neutral grassland and areas of skeletal soils amongst its pits and steep slopes. There is a small lake in the centre of the Site. Where the original topsoil remains, the grassland is a mixture of Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> , and false oat-grass. Here rosebay willowherb <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> may form thick stands along the scrub edge. On the unstable slopes and skeletal soils within the old workings, mosses and lichens often predominate.
Smockmill Common CWS	1.9km N of Sub-Site 7C	2.2km N of CRC12	A complex and very rich Site with a diversity of species-rich habitats. The Site lies over a variable soil which ranges from dry acidic through to water-logged and basic-rich soils. The ground rises eastwards from the track and here oak dominates a woodland canopy with ash, sycamore, downy birch, and occasional old beech.
Primrose Hill RNR	2.23k S of Sub-Site 2A	1.8km SW of LSR3	Roadside reserve along Woodton Road

3.4 Irreplaceable Habitats

3.4.1 There are 31 areas of woodland listed as ancient woodland within the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)²⁵, and four areas of lowland fen (totalling fourteen individual

²⁵ Available at: https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/a14064ca50e242c4a92d020764a6d9df_0/explore?location=52.830611%2C-2.004678%2C7.54 (accessed October 2025)

parcels) located within 2km of the Sub-Sites and CRC. These habitat sites receive protection via the NPPF²⁶, in which they are listed as an ‘irreplaceable habitat’ and under the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024²⁷.

3.4.2 Six of the ancient woodland parcels are located directly adjacent to the Sub-Sites and CRC, and an area of lowland fen (associated with Fritton Grange Meadows CWS) is located within CRC7.

3.4.3 In addition, veteran (or ancient) trees are also categorised as ‘irreplaceable habitat’ under the NPPF and Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024. Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service provided 544 records of veteran trees within the 2km search radius, 46 of these being located within the Sites and a further six being located within the CRC route [**Preliminary Arboriculture Impact Assessment [EN0110014/APP/6.3.7.10]**]. Further details of important trees are provided within the arboricultural impact assessment for the scheme.

3.4.4 Further information is provided in **Table 4** below:

Table 4: Irreplaceable Habitats

Habitat	Information
Lowland Fens	There are thirteen parcels of lowland fen habitat within 2km of the Sub-Sites, primarily associated with the Hempnall Beck (tributary of the River Tas) in the north-western part of the Site. According to habitat mapping provided within the MAGIC website. One of these parcels lies within the boundary of CRC7 (within Fritton Grange Meadows CWS) adjacent to the southern boundary of Sub-Site 7B. Upon further survey (see section 4 below) this lowland fen habitat (represented by reedbed habitat) extends further north into the south-eastern corner of Sub-Site 7B.
Ancient Woodland	Pope’s Wood adjacent to Sub-Site 7C & CRC 11, Doyly’s Grove adjacent to Sub-Site 7C, Saxlingham Grove adjacent to Sub-Sites 7F & 7G, Little wood adjacent to Sub-Site 7H & CRC8, Ringers Grove adjacent to 8A, Spring Wood to Sub-Site 3, Tyrrel’s Wood adjacent to CRC4, Beckett’s Wood adjacent to CRC8 & 9, Lower Spring Wood adjacent to CRC9, and Privet Wood adjacent to CRC9.
Veteran Trees	There are 49 trees with veteran features recorded within the Order Limits and a further 21 within 30m of the site boundary. The spread of veteran trees across the Order Limits are one in Site 3, four in Sub-Site 4A, two in Sub-Site 4B, ten in Sub-Site 5A, three in Sub-Site 5B, five in Sub-Site 7F, four in Sub-Site 7B, five in Sub-Site 7C, five in Sub-Site 7K, four in Sub-Site 7L, two in Site 9 and one in Sub-Site 10A. Within the CRC there were three veteran trees within CRC6.

3.5 Priority Habitats

3.5.1 A number of Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) listed under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 were identified during the desk study within a 2km radius of the Sub-Sites and CRC. In addition, these HPI are also listed within the Norfolk Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP)²⁸. Collectively these HPI and NBAP habitats are referred to as ‘priority habitats’.

5.1.1 Desk study analysis indicates that the Sub-Sites and CRC are dominated by arable field parcels, which include priority hedgerow habitat field boundaries, aerial mapping also suggests that multiple ponds are present within and surrounding the Sub-Sites

²⁶ Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/15-conserving-and-enhancing-the-natural-environment> (accessed October 2025)

²⁷ Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/48/note/made> (accessed October 2025)

²⁸ Available at: <https://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/habitats-and-species/> (accessed February 2025)

and CRC. Occasional blocks of lowland deciduous woodland are present within and surrounding the Sub-Sites and CRC. Notably, floodplain grazing marsh is located within Sub-Site 7B and within CRC7 (Fritton Grange Meadows CWS) along with lowland fen priority habitat (classified as irreplaceable habitat – see above).

5.2.1 Further information is provided in **Table 5** below:

Table 5: Priority Habitats

Habitat	Information
Arable field margins	Present throughout the Sub-Sites
Native Hedgerows	Present throughout the Sub-Sites.
Ponds ²⁹	Numerous ponds present throughout the Sub-Sites.
Rivers	Watercourses passing through CRC7/CRC6/CRC4 and passing between Sub-Site 8A/8B.
Lowland Deciduous Woodland	There are 406 parcels of deciduous woodland within 2km of the Sub-Sites / CRC. The vast majority are under 10ha in extent and of those approximately half are under 1ha with only a few scattered parcels exceeding 10ha. Only one of these is included within the Sub-Sites at Sub-Site 4B with numerous others adjacent to the Site boundaries. Ten of these adjacent woodlands also classify as ancient woodland irreplaceable habitat (see Table 4 above)
Floodplain Grazing Marsh	There are 17 parcels within 2km of the Sub-Sites / CRC, a section of one area of mapped habitat is located within the eastern section of Sub-Site 7B (see paragraph 4.2.39 for further details).
Lowland Fens	There are fourteen parcels of lowland fen habitat within 2km of the Sub-Sites / CRC. One of these parcels lies within CRC7, adjacent to the southern boundary of Sub-Site 7B (within Fritton Grange Meadows CWS). Upon further survey (see Section 4 below) this lowland fen habitat (represented by reedbed habitat) extends further north into the south-eastern corner of Sub-Site 7B.
Traditional Orchard	There are no areas of traditional orchard within the Sub-Sites. There are 27 parcels within 2km of the Sub-Sites. The closest of these is 0.07km to the east of Sub-Site 7D.
Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land	A parcel of open mosaic habitats on previously developed land is mapped within the MAGIC website approximately 0.23km NW of Sub-Site 5A. However, the area mapped is now an operational natural and recycled materials plant subject to regular disturbance and therefore the identified habitat is not considered to be present,
Lowland Meadows	Three parcels mapped, the closest being located approximately 1.59km SE of Sub-Site 10A.
Wood-pasture and Parkland	Three parcels mapped, the closest being located approximately 1.59km SW of Sub-Site 10B.
Lowland Dry Acidic Grassland	One parcel mapped appropriately 1km S of Sub-Site 5B.

3.6 Protected and Priority Species

3.6.1 **Table 6** provides a summary of protected and priority species records identified during the ecological desk study exercise.

²⁹ numerous ponds are located within and surrounding the Scheme; however, detailed pond surveys would be required to fully determine priority habitat status of these, therefore priority habitat status is assumed for all.

Table 6: Protected and Priority Species

(Key to conversation status: **WCA S1/5/8** – Species listed on Schedule 1, 5 or 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981; **WCA S9** – Invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981; **S41 NERC** – Species listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006; **RB** – Species listed in the Red Data book; **NN** – Invertebrate species listed as Nationally Scarce/Notable; **HR** – Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; **BoCC – Red/Amber** – species listed on red or amber of the Birds of Conservation Concern (Stanbury *et al.* 2021); **PBA** – Proection of Badgers Act, 1992.

Species	Legal / Conservation Status ^{30, 31}	Information
Flora	WCA S8 S41 NERC (some)	The data search returned 749 records of 136 different species listed as either internationally (74 species), Nationally (29 species) protected or Locally Significant (12 species). This included 10 species of threatened arable plants though all records were over 20 years old, except three species last recorded in 2010; Dyer's greenweed, creeping spearwort and sulphur clover.
Invertebrates	S41 NERC, RD/NN	<u>Terrestrial Invertebrates</u> 71 records for moth species were returned in the data search including IUCN red-listed species gypsy moth <i>Lymantria dispar</i> and small eggar <i>Eriogaster lanestrus</i> , as well as Red Data Book (RDB) ³² Nationally Scarce species giant water-veneer <i>Schoenobius gigantella</i> , comfrey ermine <i>Ethmia quadrillella</i> , marsh grass-moth <i>Crambus uliginosellus</i> , and rolled grass-moth <i>Pediasia contaminella</i> . <u>Aquatic invertebrates</u> Records of five species of dragonfly within the last 20 years were returned including the Norfolk Aeshna <i>Aeschna isosceles</i> which is a Species of Principle importance. Other invertebrates Records of five species of other invertebrates from within the last 20 years were returned including two bees – the yellow shouldered Nomad Bee <i>Nomada ferruginata</i> (red listed as endangered) and the Red-girdled Mining bee <i>Andrena labiata</i> (red data book).
White-clawed crayfish	WCA S5	The NBIS data search and a search of the environment agency ecology and fish data explorer did not return any records of white-clawed crayfish within the 2km search area.
Fish	S41 NERC, WCA S5	Five fish species were returned in the data search records: Brown trout <i>Salmo trutta</i> , bullhead <i>Cottus perifretum</i> , Common carp <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> , Grass carp <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> and eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> . The records are mostly historic dating from between 1987 and 2000 with slightly more recent record of a bullhead in the river Tas near Shotsham church in 2007 and Common carp in Taswood Lakes. The closest records are from the River Tas and Hempnall beck between Sub-Sites 4a/4b and Sub-Site 7a the closest being 200m south of Sub-Site 7a.
Amphibians	HR WCA S5	There was one historic European protected species mitigation licence (EPSML) for great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> within 2km of the Site boundary (licence number -2009-524-EPS-MIT). This is an expired licence located approximately 2km to the north of parcel 10E, which ran between 25/03/2009 and 31/10/2010. There were over 70 records of great crested newt returned by the data search; the most recent of which was from 2024. Of those records within 250m of the red line boundary one was near Sub-Site

31 The following abbreviations have been used to signify the policy of conservation assessments applying to notable species: SPI = Species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006; LBAP = Local Biodiversity Action Plan species; BoCC = Birds of Conservation Concern - amber list / red list (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021); and/or RD/NN = red data book/nationally notable species (JNCC, undated).

32 Wells, S.M., Pyle, R.M. and Collins, N.M. (compilers). 1983. The IUCN Invertebrate Red Data Book. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. Available at <https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/wells-et-al-1983> (accessed October 2025)

Species	Legal / Conservation Status ^{30, 31}	Information
		<p>1b, 9 were on / near Sub-Site 4b, two were near Sub-Site 7b and one was near Sub-Site 10c.</p> <p>Thirteen historic records were also received of common toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>, no records related to animals within the Sub-Sites and/or CRC.</p>
Reptiles	WCA S5	<p>One recent record of grass snake <i>Natrix helvetica</i> was returned in the data search, dated from 2019 (approximately 1.5km north of Sub-Site 1), and a further four historic records received, between 0.15km and 1.61km from the Site).</p> <p>There were no recent (within 10 years) records for any other reptile species although five more historic records exist for slow worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i> between 0.35km and 2km from the Site boundaries.</p>
Birds	WCA Sections 1-8, BoCC Red / Amber	<p>The data search returned a total of 26 bird species recorded in the previous ten years. These records include six Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red list species and ten BoCC Amber list species. The data received also included records of seven Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) Schedule 1 species; osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>, hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>, hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>, red kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>, black redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>, and hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i> in the previous ten years. Multiple turtle dove records were returned from across the search area including historic records (from 1980s) from Sub-Sites 1b, 2b, 3, 7c and a more recent entry of three records from Sub-Site 7I dating from 2004-2012.</p>
Bats	HR WCA S5	<p><u>Roosting Bats</u></p> <p>There are six EPSML for bats within 2km of the Site boundary. The nearest (licence number - 2015-14218-EPS-MIT-2) is an expired licence located approximately 50m to the west of parcel 4B. This was for the destruction of a resting place for brown long-eared bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>, common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>, soprano pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> and natterer's bat <i>Myotis nattereri</i> and ran between 24/05/2016 and 31/12/2023.</p> <p>The biological data provided by Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service returned numerous records of at least 11 different species dating back as far as 1961. Approximately 28 different roost sites were recorded supporting eight different species (common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule, serotine, brown long-eared bat, natterer's bat, Daubenton's bat, barbastelle), of these 12 were hibernation sites. Three of the roost sites show records from the past 10 years. the closest of which is a roost site for common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bats recorded in Stratton St. Michael at a roost site 30m south of Sub-Site 4b.</p> <p>There is also a single hibernation record from a tree roost in Kirstead (1.5km east of Sub-Site 9) in 1987.</p> <p><u>Foraging/Commuting Bats</u></p> <p>425 records were returned for bats within the search area with 415 identified to species level. These included barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>, brown long-eared bat, common pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>, Leisler's bat <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>, Nathusius' pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>, Natterer's bat, noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>, serotine <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>, soprano pipistrelle, and whiskered <i>Myotis mystacinus</i> /Brandt's bat <i>Myotis brandtii</i>. The most recent record was from 2020 of a brown long-eared bat 750m west of parcel 3.</p>
Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	PBA	<p>One recent record of badger exists in the data search. This record (dead animal from a road traffic collision) is from 2016 and was registered at a location adjacent to Parcel 4B. No records of badger setts within the Sub-Sites or CRC were received.</p>

Species	Legal / Conservation Status ^{30, 31}	Information
		Additionally, dead badgers were observed on the A140 and the B1527 Roads during the extended habitats surveys at locations close to Parcel 4A, 4B, 7A and 5A and 5B respectively.
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	HR WCA S5	There are a total of 13 records of otter within 2km of the Site boundaries including one on the boundary of Parcel 2b dating from 2012. Six of the records date from the last 10 years. The closest of the more recent records is located across the road from Parcel 4b (190 metres north) dating from 2015. The land on which this record is from is owned by an angling club with at least one pond stocked with fish. Two records are approximately 700 metres north-west of Parcel 4a where otter spraints were found in 2017, and an otter was observed fishing along a tributary of the River Tas in 2019. There are a further two records from 2018 of otter associated with the River Tas near Smockmill Common approximately 1.65km north of a potential road widening area (LCH) through Saxlingham Nethergate (over 2km from the main site).
Water Vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	WCA S5	In total, 22 records of water vole were returned within 2km of the Site boundaries, though only four were from the last 10 years. The closest records are of two dead water voles in Brooke in 2015 (approximately 600 metres north and 830 metres north-east of Parcel 9), though these records are only accurate to 1km, so exact distances cannot be confirmed. A third record is present in Newton Flotman, approximately 2km north of Parcel 7a, but no further information is provided in relation to this record. The only confirmed live record is of a water vole on Fritton Common, approximately 860m south of Parcel 5b. The Site does not overlap with Alert Areas, Key Local Areas or Regional Key Areas from the National Water Vole Monitoring Programme ³³ (Glossop and Morse, 2024).
Other Priority Mammals	NERC S41	<p><u>Brown Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i></u> There were over 80 recent records of brown hare returned from within the search area and the species was frequently observed during both 2024 and 2025 surveys.</p> <p><u>Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i></u> There were over 100 recent records of hedgehog returned from within the 2km search area; the most recent of which was from 2022. Of these, fifteen records were on or from within 100m of the Site, perhaps attributable to the popularity of recording the species in residential areas rather than farmland.</p> <p><u>Harvest Mouse <i>Micromys minutus</i></u> Only five historical records were received (the most recent being 2001), one historical record (1986) was received from Sub-Site 7E.</p>
Invasive Non-native Species	WCA S9	<p><u>Flora</u> 9 invasive non-native species listed within Schedule 9 of the WCA were returned within the data search. Many of these are aquatic species found within watercourses and can spread easily. Other Schedule 9 species included terrestrial species Japanese knotweed <i>Reynoutria japonica</i> and Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>. One record of Japanese knotweed is potentially located within Sub-Site 3 (Photograph 13) although the grid reference is only given to the nearest 2km. None of the other records are on or adjacent to the Site, the nearest being a record of giant hogweed located approximately 290m south of Sub-Site 7a.</p> <p><u>Fauna</u> Several recent records of Schedule 9 non-native invasive animal species were returned in the data search including American mink <i>Neogale vison</i>, Chinese water deer <i>Hydropotes inermis</i>, and</p>

³³ Glossop, A. and Morse A. (2024) National Water Vole Database Project. The Wildlife Trusts.

Species	Legal / Conservation Status ^{30, 31}	Information
		muntjac <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i> . One older record of signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i> was provided from 2005 within a tributary of Hempnall Beck, 1.5km to the south-west of Sub-Site 3.

4 Extended Habitat Survey Results

4.1 Habitat Summary

4.1.1 UK Habitat Classification types (UKHab Ltd, 2023) are mapped in **Figure 8**, terrestrial habitat areas are provided in **Table 7** below and linear habitat lengths provided in **Table 8**. Target notes, which are used to provide information on specific features of ecological interest, are included in **Appendix 1** and photographs are located in **Appendix 2**.

4.1.2 Due to the size of the Order Limits and complexities of the mapping, secondary codes have only been included in the table where of particular relevance.

Table 7: UK Habitat Classification Areas (terrestrial habitats)

UKHab Primary Habitat (Secondary Code)	Total Area (ha)	% of Total Area	Sites only (ha)	% of Sites Total	CRC only (ha)	% of CRC total
c1 - Arable/horticulture (600 - Ploughed, 510 – bare ground)	29.86	2.46	29.86	2.83	0.00	0.00
c1a – Arable field margin	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
c1a5 - Arable field margins - tussocky	5.87	0.48	5.79	0.55	0.08	0.05
c1a6 - Arable field margins – pollen and nectar	5.84	0.48	5.75	0.54	0.10	0.06
c1a8 - Arable field margins – wild bird mix	5.52	0.46	5.30	0.50	0.22	0.14
c1b – Temporary grass and clover leys	114.76	9.46	114.76	10.88	0.00	0.00
c1b5 – Rye-grass and clover ley	6.43	0.53	0.00	0.00	6.43	4.06
c1c - Cereal crops	515.12	42.47	452.83	42.94	62.29	39.34
c1c5 - Winter stubble	106.56	8.79	88.61	8.40	17.95	11.34
C1c6 – Arable fields – wild bird mix	5.43	0.45	3.36	0.32	2.07	1.31
c1c7 - Other cereal crops	179.13	14.77	161.11	15.28	18.02	11.38
c1c8 - Arable fields - pollen and nectar	2.77	0.23	2.07	0.20	0.70	0.44
c1d – Non-cereal crops	1.58	0.13	0.00	0.00	1.58	1.00
c1d5 - Miscanthus	17.70	1.46	17.70	1.68	0.00	0.00
c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops	80.25	6.62	61.33	5.82	18.92	11.95
f2a – Lowland fens	0.72	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.45
f2e - Reedbed	0.09	0.01	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.00
g3c - Other neutral grassland	43.67	3.60	29.84	2.83	13.83	8.74
g3c5 - Arrhenatherum neutral grassland	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01
g4 - Modified grassland	69.49	5.73	60.62	5.75	8.87	5.60
h3a – Blackthorn scrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
h3d - Bramble scrub	0.25	0.02	0.23	0.02	0.01	0.01
h3f – Hawthorn scrub	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
h3h - Mixed scrub	0.72	0.06	0.55	0.05	0.17	0.11
h3j - Willow scrub	0.16	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.14	0.09
r1g - Other standing water (pond – priority habitat)	0.74	0.06	0.74	0.07	0.00	0.00
u1b - Developed land; sealed surface	12.04	0.99	6.12	0.58	5.92	3.71

UKHab Primary Habitat (Secondary Code)	Total Area (ha)	% of Total Area	Sites only (ha)	% of Sites Total	CRC only (ha)	% of CRC total
u1b6 – other developed land	0.46	0.04	0.35	0.03	0.11	0.07
u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	1.10	0.09	0.73	0.07	0.37	0.24
w1d - Wet woodland	0.47	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.30
w1d5 - Alder woodland on floodplain (H91E0)	0.23	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.14
w1f - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	1.08	0.09	1.08	0.10	0.00	0.00
w1f7 - Other Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.21	0.02	0.11	0.01	0.10	0.06
w1g - Other broadleaved woodland	2.94	0.24	2.86	0.27	0.08	0.05
w1h - Other woodland; mixed	0.29	0.02	0.29	0.03	0.00	0.00
w1h5 - Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved	1.69	0.14	1.69	0.16	0.00	0.00
w2c – Other coniferous woodland	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
w2b - Other Scot's Pine woodland	0.10	0.01	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.00

Table 8: UK Habitat Classification Areas (linear habitats)

UKHab Primary Habitat	UKHab Secondary Code	Total length (km)	% of linear habitats
h2a - Native hedgerow	11 - Hedgerow with trees 50 - Ditch	12.9523	16.03
h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow	11 - Hedgerow with trees 50 - Ditch	45.1442	55.87
h2a6 - Other native hedgerow	11 - Hedgerow with trees 50 - Ditch	10.3134	12.76
r1 – Standing open water / canal		0.3285	0.41
r1g - Other standing water	50 - Ditch	8.4225	10.42
r2b – Other river /stream		0.2536	0.31
u1e - Built linear feature	612 - Fence	1.0641	1.32
w1g - Other broadleaved woodland	34 - Ecologically valuable line of trees 50 – Ditch 33 - Line of trees	2.3013	2.85
w1h - Other woodland; mixed	33 - Line of trees	0.0238	0.03

4.2 Habitat Descriptions

4.2.1 Habitat survey results for Sub-Sites 1 - 10 and BESS and the CRC are described in the paragraphs below. They are discussed in numerical order of occurrence and referenced from Sub-Sites 1A to 10E and BESS Site (see **Figure 1**). The habitat maps are also provided within **Figure 8**; with a map per Sub-Site or CRC parcel provided.

Sub-Site BESS Site

- 4.2.2 The BESS Sub-Site is predominantly comprised of a roughly square arable field sown with a cereal crop (maize at the time of survey). The crop is bounded 7m wide Tussocky arable field margins (tall sward height), with grasses comprising false-oat grass, cock's-foot, crested dog's-tail, perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis*, soft brome *Bromus hordeaceus*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, with occasional curled dock *Rumex crispus*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, Ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, and St John wort *Hypericum perforatum*. The margins across the BESS sub-Site are being managed for conservation, under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) mid-tier agreement for the provision of AB1 and as such are classed as a priority habitat, arable field margin, pollen and nectar.
- 4.2.3 There are two short sections of native hedgerow along the borders of the BESS Sub-Site. A tall, wide hedgerow with trees located along the south-east boundary and a tall, narrow, gappy hedgerow with ditch along the western edge of the southern boundary, both predominantly comprised of hawthorn, with blackthorn and elm. The northern boundary of the BESS Site is formed of a narrow woodland belt comprising native mature hornbeam, ash, and field maple, with younger elm and blackthorn understorey. In the south-west edge of the BESS Site there is a broadleaved mixed and yew *Taxus baccata* woodland belt within the red line boundary with lots of dead wood and trees with cavities present.
- 4.2.4 An unsealed access track is included at the southern boundary, connecting with Station Road to the south of which a portion is also within the Sub-Site boundary. The track is bound by other neutral grassland to the west, modified grassland to the south-east and cereal crop to the east however very little falls within the Order Limits. A low growing native hedgerow is present within the BESS Sub-Site boundary along Station Road, comprising field maple, blackthorn, hawthorn and crab apple with one dead mature tree present.

Sub-Site 1 (Sub-Sites 1A - 1D)

- 4.2.5 Sub-Site 1A is comprised of an irregular shaped block of adjoining arable plots. Sub-Site 1A is a small roughly 'L' shaped field of winter stubble (at the time of survey). The field is bounded on all sides by 2-3m wide modified grassland field margins with a wider tussocky arable field margins (Priority habitat) along the southern boundary. The field margins are of tall height, dominated by false oat-grass, perennial ryegrass, and cock's-foot and red fescue with commonly occurring tall herb and flowering species of common nettle, curled dock, white clover *Trifolium repens*, and ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*. Sub-Site 1A's boundaries are delineated by tall, continuous species-rich native hedgerows with trees, including mature oak trees with veteran features located on the western border. Typical hedgerow species include ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, oak, elm, hornbeam, and dogwood. The south-western boundary is marked by a dry ditch, the banks of which are of similar composition to tussocky grassland but with the additional species such as water mint, bramble, and soft rush. At the eastern end of the ditch is a small pond with good water quality surrounded by reedmace *Typha latifolia* and soft rush. A small off-site woodland lies in the south-west corner. Within Sub-Site 1A, notable features included an oak with veteran features in the north-west

hedgerow (TN1), two fallen dead trees in the north-west corner (TN2), a brash pile in the south (TN3) and a mature oak in the western section of modified grassland (TN4).

- 4.2.6 Sub-Site 1B is a large roughly rectangular field divided into four arable plots, bounded and bisected by species-rich native hedgerows (Priority habitat) associated with a ditch. Three of the fields were freshly ploughed during the survey, with the north-western field being left as winter stubble. Modified grassland field margins, 1-1.5m wide were present but wider 6-10m wide arable field margins (priority habitat) are also present comprising false oat-grass, false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, doves-foot crane's-bill *Geranium molle* and creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*. Hedgerow species include crab-apple *Malus sylvestris*, pedunculate oak, dogwood, hawthorn, field maple, elm, blackthorn, and dog rose *Rosa canina*. Three small stretches of the boundary where hedgerows are absent give way to lines of mature trees comprising ash, oak, hawthorn, and field maple. A suitable amphibian/reptile hibernaculum was present in the west boundary of the plot (TN5) and a brash pile was identified in the south border (TN3).
- 4.2.7 Sub-Site 1B is comprised of an irregular parcel of land comprising part of two arable fields. The northern field comprised a grass ley at the time of survey with boundary features including ditches along the northern and eastern boundaries and other neutral grassland margins 1.5-2m wide along the southern and western boundaries. Native species rich hedgerows comprising hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and dogwood with oak and ash trees and ditches, are present along the southern boundary either side of a track.
- 4.2.8 The southern field contained a non-cereal crop, and just inside the Sub-Site boundaries at the north and south corners of this field are sections of other neutral grassland field margins, with a tall sward, predominantly comprising cock's-foot and false oat-grass, with occasional scented mayweed, *Matricaria chamomilla*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* and cut-leaved cranesbill *Geranium dissectum*. An infield pylon in the north of the Sub-Site has a square patch of modified grassland beneath its footings.
- 4.2.9 The southwestern and southern boundaries of the Sub-Site are formed by other neutral grassland margins with a native hedgerow along the southern boundary adjacent Station Road. Ditches are also present, with a dry ditch within the hedgerow on the southern boundary and a wide damp ditch along the western boundary with grassland species such as water mint *Mentha aquatica*, greater willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* present. Part of Station Road is included with the Order Limits in the south-east corner as is an access track running north into the field.
- 4.2.10 A concrete pad for farm storage and a permeable gravel access track were located on the eastern boundary of Site 1, linking with Frith Way road, a short section of which is included within the Sub-Site boundary. No vegetation was associated with either feature.
- 4.2.11 Sub-Site 1C comprised two fields of winter stubble and temporary grassland interspersed by a bare track bounded by two species-rich native hedgerows. A wet

ditch is located along the eastern boundary of the Sub-Site between Sub-Site 1C and 1B.

- 4.2.12 Sub-Site 1D is a small section extending from the north-eastern corner of Sub-Site 1B, covering a short section of Frith Way and part of two cereal crop fields separated by a ditch with scattered trees and a small area of other neutral grassland.

Sub-Site 2 (Sub-Sites 2A, 2B & 2C)

- 4.2.13 Sub-Site 2 comprises three arable Sub-Sites immediately west of the A140, they are not known to be under any CSS agreements. Sub-Site 2A is comprised of four arable fields. The eastern two fields are freshly ploughed so crop could not be confirmed, whilst the south-western field was recently sown with a cereal crop and the north-western field appeared to be sown with a cover crop. Field margins were classified mostly as 'other neutral grassland' with dog's mercury, cowslip, cow parsley and common hogweed all present. Margins classified as 'modified grassland' had particularly low species diversity including cleavers, ribwort plantain, cock's foot, red dead-nettle and thistles. Boundary hedgerows were present around the majority of the field boundaries with trees and/or ditches associated with some. Hedgerow species richness varied with hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, elm and dog rose all recorded and ash and oak trees also present. A large pile of fallen wood (**TN3**) was present in the north-west corner of the cereal crop field.
- 4.2.14 Sub-Site 2B includes the whole of two arable fields and the northern half of a third. The eastern two fields are both sown with a cereal crop whilst the western field is sown with oil seed rape with wide field margins along the southern and western boundaries which are largely bare earth and groundsel and it is unclear if they have been sown with a seed mix. Grass field margins were generally narrow (c.2m) and classified as 'other neutral grassland' with forb species present including dog's mercury, cowslip, common hogweed, docks and thistles. Boundary features include hedgerows with trees and ditches (largely dry), blackthorn and hawthorn were dominant and most hedgerows were species poor. Three small woodland parcels are present, one on the northern boundary comprising oak trees including one with veteran features, with hornbeam and ash and an understorey of hawthorn and blackthorn. The second parcel is central within the Sub-Site and is bounded by a green lane. The third parcel of woodland comprises oak and ash trees with elm and hawthorn in the scrub layer and ground flora including ground ivy, cow parsley and common nettle. A pond is also present within this woodland parcel with poor water quality and algae present.
- 4.2.15 Sub-Site 2C is a roughly square site comprising of three arable fields all under cereal crop cultivation. The top field is the full width of the site, with two smaller fields immediately south. Field margins are largely narrow, c. 2m width and classified as 'other neutral grassland' with common species present including Yorkshire fog, red fescue, cow parsley, dog's mercury and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. Hedgerows of varying species richness and condition are present along most of the field boundaries with blackthorn and hawthorn dominant and occasional dogwood, elm, field maple and dog rose. Trees present in hedgerows included ash and occasional oak. Hedgerows are absent along the south-eastern and south-western boundaries with ditches only present. A pond is located centrally, surrounded by scrub and mature

oak and willow trees. Water quality appeared poor with algal growth present and lacking other aquatic vegetation.

Sub-Site 3

- 4.2.16 The five fields located within Sub-Site 3 are largely sown with a cereal crop, with one non-cereal crop in the north of the Site. This Site is within a CSS agreement for the provision of nectar-rich flower mixes. Species composition of marginal habitats included frequently occurring common nettle, cleavers *Galium aparine*, hogweed, white deadnettle *Lamium album*, and barren brome *Anisantha sterilis*. The largest arable plot in the south-west of the Sub-Site contained five mature in-field oak and willow trees and a pond. To the south is a further pond with a mature willow tree *Salix sp.*, surrounded by other neutral grassland and species-rich native hedgerow with trees. Forming the boundaries of the entire Sub-Site are species-rich native hedgerows, some with trees and some without. Typically, the hedgerows comprised dogwood, hawthorn, blackthorn, willow, and oak. The individual arable plots are separated by narrow (1-2m) field margins and in the centre of the Sub-Site (north-south) via a central gravel access track/road which passes through the woodland parcels at the south of the Sub-Site with a small area of mixed scrub and mixed woodland falling within the site boundary (the majority being outside).
- 4.2.17 There are three recorded patches of invasive non-native species (INNS) Japanese knotweed (**TN6**; Photograph 13), along the access track off Spring Lane within c. 250m of the Order Limits, but not recorded within it.

Sub-Site 4 (Sub-Sites 4A & 4B)

- 4.2.18 Site 4 is comprised of two arable plots with Sub-Site 4A west of the A140 road and Sub-Site 4B on the east of the A140.
- 4.2.19 Sub-Site 4A is comprised of an irregularly shaped block of arable fields (at the time unsown and containing winter stubble). The block of fields is immediately bordered on its eastern side by the A140 with the boundary including sections of the A140 and associated roundabout. The cropland is typically surrounded on all sides by 1-2m wide other neutral grassland margins. The field margins are dominated by false oat-grass, perennial ryegrass, barren brome, and cock's-foot grasses with frequently occurring tall herb and flowering species of creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, and cow parsley.
- 4.2.20 Site 4's boundaries are delineated by species-rich native hedgerows with trees (Priority habitat), including mature oak trees with veteran features. Typical hedgerow species include ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, oak, elm, hornbeam, and dogwood. Many of the hedgerows also have associated dry ditches; the banks of which are of similar composition to the rest of the grassland within the Sub-Site but with the addition of frequently occurring water mint, bramble, and soft rush. Newly planted hedgerows are present along the verges with the A140 and B1527 with the verges themselves on the banks being other neutral grassland with a variety of flowering forbs (likely recent sown from a seed mix) including oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, hedge bedstraw *Galium mollugo*, perforate St Johns Wort, weld *Reseda luteola*, Common knapweed and wild carrot *Daucus carota*.

- 4.2.21 Two ponds of good water quality are present in the middle of the Sub-Site 4a. They are in woodland dells and are both surrounded by other broadleaved woodland, with good connectivity to each other and the surrounding hedgerow and woodland just off-Site on the western boundary of the Sub-Site. They held little water at the time of survey.
- 4.2.22 Three blocks of mature broadleaved woodland are situated within the Sub-Site boundary, connecting to the wider hedgerow mosaic. The two southern blocks of woodland are connected to and surrounding the abovementioned ponds. They comprise of oak, ash, hawthorn, and field maple. There are several trees with specific veteran features. Two ivy-shrouded trees with veteran features were identified, one on the northernmost field boundary and one on the western boundary. Additionally, a mature/veteran oak is present in the field margin bisecting the centre of the site, along with another oak with veteran features (all four labelled as **TN1**).
- 4.2.23 There are no buildings within the Sub-Site, with the only non-semi natural habitat being the Hempnall roundabout and sections of the A140 and an im-permeable hardcore access track that comes directly off the roundabout on the northeastern corner of the Sub-Site.
- 4.2.24 Sub-Site 4B is comprised of a roughly rectangular block of adjoining arable plots containing cereal crops, bordered immediately to the west by the A140. The cropland is surrounded by 4m wide arable field margins (priority habitat), dominated by false oat-grass, perennial ryegrass, barren brome, and cock's-foot, with frequently occurring tall herb and flowering species of creeping buttercup, cow parsley, and common nettle. The Sub-Sites boundaries are delineated by continuous, managed species-rich native hedgerows with trees (priority habitat), including mature oak trees with veteran features, and associated ditches. Each hedgerow is accompanied by dry ditches with banks similar in composition to the surrounding arable field margin (as mentioned above) with additional species like water mint, bramble, and soft rush. A shaded pond is present along the immediate southern boundary of the Sub-Site, surrounded by a narrow belt of trees (Photograph 8).
- 4.2.25 A planted triangular shaped area of lowland mixed deciduous woodland is situated in middle of the sub-parcel, this is comprised of Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*, bird cherry *Prunus avium*, sycamore, oak and field maple. It contains one tree with veteran features along its south-eastern boundary. A second small triangle of other broadleaved woodland is also present next to the western boundary and the A140. This area is comprised of oak, elm, field maple, horse chestnut, ash, hawthorn, and elder. There are no buildings on-Site, with the only non-semi-natural habitat being a permeable hardcore access track that ran from the northern to southern edge of the Site, bisecting it into eastern and western halves and a short section of the B1527 on the northern boundary.

Sub-Site 5 (Sub-Sites 5A and 5B)

- 4.2.26 Sub-Site 5A is comprised of an irregularly shaped block of arable fields, containing cereal crops. The cropland is typically surrounded on all sides by narrow (<2m) modified grassland-field margins. The field margins are dominated by false oat-grass, cock foot, and Yorkshire fog grasses with frequently occurring creeping buttercup,

curled dock, common nettle, and hogweed. One 4m boundary to the south of the Sub-Site qualifies as a tussocky arable field margin priority habitat. Sub-Site 5A is under a CSS agreement for the provision of flower rich margins and plots and winter bird food margins and plots. Extensive plots wild bird mix arable field margin (priority habitat) were evident to the north and south of Long Plantation in the centre of Sub-Site 5A and plots of pollen and nectar arable field margin (priority habitat) were observed in the east and the west of the Sub-Site.

- 4.2.27 Sub-Sites 5A's boundaries are defined by mostly continuous, un-managed species-rich native hedgerows with trees (Priority habitat), including mature trees, and associated ditches. Typical hedgerow species include ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, oak, elm, hornbeam, and dogwood.
- 4.2.28 The banks of the ditches were of similar species composition to the surrounding modified grassland but with the addition of frequently occurring water mint, nettle, willowherb sp. and bramble.
- 4.2.29 A flowing wet ditch runs parallel to the eastern boundary, with a grassy bank, gravel bottom, and brick culvert at its end. Species within this ditch included garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, common nettle, water mint, cock's-foot, and dove's-foot cranesbill *Geranium molle*.
- 4.2.30 A pond is present in the north of the Sub-Site. It is immediately surrounded by mature horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*. Within the redline boundary, two blocks of other mixed broadleaved woodland (Photographs 4, 6 and 7) were situated along the western boundary and hedgerow. Both blocks contained mature trees (TN4) with five in total, including oak, ash, hawthorn, hornbeam, holly, Douglas fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, and field maple. The understorey of both woodlands contained dogs' mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, an ancient woodland indicator species.
- 4.2.31 The central ditch and woodland on-site contains significant areas of INNS Giant Hogweed *Aesculus hippocastanum* (TN8; Photograph 14).
- 4.2.32 Sub-Site 5B is comprised of an 'L' shaped block of 3 arable fields containing cereal crops. The cropland is typically surrounded on all sides by 1.5-4m wide modified grassland-field margins, dominated by tall grasses, false brome, cock's-foot, and false oat-grass. Frequent vascular species present include cow parsley, bramble, nettle, and common hogweed. Sub-Site 5B is under a CSS agreement for the provision of flower-rich margins and winter bird food. At the time of the survey, margin habitats were grassy in nature with most resembling priority tussocky arable margins. The margin along the eastern boundary bordering The Street resembled a more enriched ruderal sward with cow parsley and nettle predominant.
- 4.2.33 Sub-Site 5B's other boundaries were defined by defunct native hedgerows in the north and good quality species-rich native hedgerows with trees and associated ditches in the south. Typical hedgerow species across the whole Site included oak, hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, elder, hornbeam, crab apple, and ash. The banks of the ditches were of similar species composition to the rest of the modified grassland on Site but with the addition of frequently occurring nettle, willowherb sp. and bramble. The northern most arable field lacked both hedgerows and field margins. Lowland mixed

deciduous woodland was present between two arable fields in the north of the Sub-Site. A single mature oak tree was noted within the middle arable field (**TN4**).

4.2.34 There are no buildings within Sub-Site 5 with developed land limited to short sections of road (sealed surface) and access track (unsealed surface).

Sub-Site 6

4.2.35 Sub-Site 6 is comprised of a single irregularly shaped arable field, containing cereal crop, bounded most sides by modified grassland field margins, which varied in width from 0.5m to 1m wide. Three field margins in the north-east and north boundaries were 5m wide and thus qualify as arable field margin (tussocky), a priority habitat. The field margins were dominated by tall common nettle, hogweed, bramble, thistle, barren brome and cleavers. The Site's boundaries were delineated mostly by native hedgerows (priority habitat), with a small section of species-rich native hedgerow (priority habitat) present in the south of the Site. The native hedgerows were in mostly good condition, with some gappy areas in the west. Typical hedgerow species included field maple, ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, oak, elm, hornbeam, and dogwood.

4.2.36 There are no buildings other associated developed land within Sub-Site 6.

Sub-Site 7 (Sub-Sites 7A-L)

4.2.37 Sub-Site 7 is comprised of twelve Sub-Sites, further divided into largely arable (x21) and grazing pasture (x5) fields with associated habitats typical of farmland in the area such as grassland field margins, hedgerows, ponds, and small woodlands. Site 7 forms a near continuous linear feature west to east across the landscape.

4.2.38 Sub-Site 7A is comprised of a single 'L' shaped arable field, containing cereal crops. The crop is bounded on the southern side by other neutral grassland field margins, approximately 1m wide. Wider tussocky margins (up to 5m wide) are present around the north-western, north-eastern and south-eastern borders and featured varying sward heights (Photograph 1). The field margins are dominated by common nettle, common hogweed, bramble agg., creeping thistle, barren brome, and common cleavers with both fine and broadleaved grasses creating a tussock structure. The Sub-Sites boundaries are delineated by continuous species-rich native hedgerows (priority habitat) and mixed scrub, the hedgerow on the north boundary showed signs of damage from human activities. The consistent hedgerow species include field maple, ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, oak, elder, dogwood, and elm. The mixed scrub contains blackthorn, field maple, bramble, elder, and elm. There is a mature oak (**TN1**) within the northern boundary.

4.2.39 There are no buildings within the Sub-Site, a section of Fairstead Lane (sealed land) is included on the southern boundary.

4.2.40 Sub-Site 7B is comprised of a narrow arable plot sown with cereal crops, separated from the nearest Sub-Site 7C by a B-road. The majority of the Sub-Site is comprised of arable cereal crops, bordered by 2-4m wide margins of other neutral grassland. The eastern end of the Site also featured a field of other neutral grassland (classified as floodplain grazing marsh priority habitat within the MAGIC website). The field have

varied sward height and contain species such as cock's-foot, Yorkshire fog, annual meadowgrass *Poa annua*, speedwells *Veronica sp.*, bittercress *Cardamine hirsuta*, creeping thistle, teasel, and creeping buttercup. Based on the species composition, ground condition and slope of the majority of the area that grassland that falls within the Coastal floodplain and grazing marsh polygon returned via the desk study, it is not considered that habitats within the Site meet the criteria for this habitat³⁴. At the far western end of the Sub-Site and along the central southern boundary is a band of tall forb grasses. Priority tussocky arable margins were present at the eastern and north-western borders. The northern boundary of the Site is delineated by a native hedgerow with trees along the road, whilst the southern boundary is connected to semi-natural wetland habitats (classified as lowland fen priority habitat within the MAGIC website and located within the Fritton Grange Meadows CWS), with a small patch of reedbed (which forms part of the lowland fen habitat) present in the south-eastern corner of the Sub-Site. Himalayan Balsam (an INNS) is present within the reedbed.

- 4.2.41 Sub-Site 7C is located north of Sub-Site 7B, across the B-road. This parcel is comprised of a roughly 'L' shape formation of four large arable fields sown with a cereal crop and a small parcel of temporary grass and clover ley. The arable fields are bounded by substantial tussocky arable field margins (priority habitat) of widths between 4-6m, and containing typical species such as cock's-foot, annual meadow grass, creeping buttercup, cow parsley and ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea*. The field boundaries are delineated by species-rich native hedgerows with trees and other native hedgerows, typical species present are hawthorn and blackthorn with oak, elm, field maple, elder, and willow. The native hedgerows bordering the southern field are overmanaged and defunct, with some areas being extremely thin and flailed. Three ponds are present on along field boundaries within the Sub-Site, one in the west of the Site, one along the northern boundary and one in the south of the Sub-Site. The pond located in the west is nutrient enriched, with reeds and open water, surrounded by mixed scrub including yellow flag iris *Iris pseudacorus*. The pond located along the northern boundary is colonised by dense vegetation and enclosed by willow and mature trees. The field pond in the south of the sub-Site is shaded by dense tree cover.
- 4.2.42 Other features include five large mature oak trees located along the field boundaries in the centre, and along the northern and southern boundaries (**TN1** and **TN4**).
- 4.2.43 Sub-Sites 7D to 7H are adjoining fields forming the central band of Parcel 7. The majority of the Sub-Sites (7D, 7E, 7G, 7H) are arable land sown with cereal crops, with one Sub-Site of grazing pasture (7F). Cereal crop land, Sub-Sites 7D and 7E were bounded by modified and other neutral grassland field margins, and in Sub-Sites 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H priority habitat, arable field margins included wild bird mix, and/or pollen and nectar mix margins/plots were present (Photograph 3). Typical species included cock's-foot, fescue, common knapweed, Dutch clover, meadow buttercup, speedwell sp., and prickly oxtongue *Helminthotheca echioides*. Both Sub-Sites 7D and 7E featured elements for game hunting, such as small native woodlands (broadleaved, and mixed woodland in 7D, and lowland mixed deciduous woodland in 7E) used for pheasant rearing. These areas also included associated field margins with wild bird mix and mixed scrub for game cover (priority habitat). Sub-Site 7E also comprised

³⁴ <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/82b0af67-d19a-4a89-b987-9dba73be1272/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-07-CoastFloodGrazingMarsh.pdf>

pollen and nectar arable field margins (priority habitat) and two ponds surrounded by grassland leys with pollen and nectar field margin (priority habitat) composition. Sub-Site 7H contained two plots sown with pollen and nectar mix (priority habitat).

- 4.2.44 Large oaks with cavities and veteran features (**TN4**) are present along the inner field boundaries of 7D. There is an oak tree with cavities present in Sub-Site 7G's north boundary.
- 4.2.45 Short sections of sealed surface, Broaden Road and Bussey's Loke, are included within the boundaries of Sub-Sites 7D, 7E and 7H. As is a short section of The Green and an adjoining access track (unsealed surface) linking to Sub-Site 7F.
- 4.2.46 Grazing pasture is present within Sub-Site 7F; where five fields are used for grazing cattle and sheep. The modified grassland is dominated by fescue sp., rough meadow grass, and creeping bent, with flowering plants limited to white clover and dandelions *Taraxacum* sp. Species-rich native hedgerows, along with native hedgerows associated with ditches, form the boundaries of the five fields and Sub-Site 7F as a whole. Typical hedgerow species include blackthorn, hawthorn, elm, dog rose, and field maple. Two small parcels of other broadleaved woodland are present along the southern boundaries of the Sub-Site within the red line boundary; the western woodland parcel surrounding a pond, and the eastern parcel surrounding a wet ditch. Dominant tree species included oak and ash, with both woodlands containing the ancient woodland indicator dog's mercury. Several trees with veteran features oak trees (**TN1**) within the southern boundary hedgerows, and a dead ash tree (**TN2**) on the eastern boundary, were noted to contain cavities. None of the fields in this Sub-Site presented distinguishable field margins.
- 4.2.47 Sub-Sites 7I, 7J, 7K, and 7L formed the eastern end of Parcel 7. These Sub-Sites comprised adjoining arable plots sown with cereal crops, bordered largely by modified grassland margins, with other neutral grassland margins and tussocky arable field margins (priority habitat) present on 7K. The margins over 6m and above on sub parcel 7L are under the CSS mid-tier agreement AB1 and therefore have been plant with nectar and pollen mix. Typical grass species included false oat-grass, timothy, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, and soft brome. The boundaries of the Sub-Sites and their internal fields were delineated by species-rich native hedgerows often associated with ditches. Typical hedgerow species included hawthorn, blackthorn, elm, and field maple. Individual mature trees with features such as cavities and woodpecker holes (**TN4**) were present along the field boundaries of Sub-Site 7K. Ponds are located along the field boundaries of 7K (x3), 7L (x1), and 7I (x1). The pond within 7L is bounded by neutral grassland, sedges, rush and willow sp., it has good connectivity to the surrounding ditch and species-rich hedgerow. Other broadleaved woodland is present in the south-west corner of 7L within the red line boundary. There was a woodpile (**TN11**) present next to the pond in Sub-Site 7L.
- 4.2.48 7L is also under the CSS mid-tier scheme for AB15 legume fallow, however no large area of legume was noted during the survey.
- 4.2.49 Short sections of roads (sealed surfaces) are included with Fylands Road between Sub-Site 7L and 7J and sections of Woodton Road included on the western boundary of Sub-Sites 7K and 7L.

Sub-Site 8 (Sub-Sites 8A & 8B)

- 4.2.50 Sub-Site 8A is comprised of a roughly diamond shaped block of adjoining arable plots, two fields contain cereal crops, with one smaller field containing clover/grass ley. The western end of the Sub-Site surrounds an off-site area of ancient woodland. The cropland is typically surrounded on all sides by 1-2m wide modified grassland-field margins. They are dominated by false oat-grass, perennial ryegrass, Yorkshire fog, and cock's-foot grasses with frequently occurring tall herb vegetation, including; creeping buttercup, common nettle, common fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*, and bristly oxtongue. Along the south-western boundary, there are broad strips of tussocky other neutral grassland. These have a wide variety of grasses and vascular plants, such as Yorkshire fog, fescue sp., meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, common ragwort, curly dock, perforated St John's wort *Hypericum perforatum*, and selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*.
- 4.2.51 The Sub-Sites boundaries are delineated by well-managed species-rich native hedgerows with trees, including some mature oak and ash trees with veteran features (TN4), except for the hedgerows on the northern and eastern border which are dilapidated and gappy. Typical hedgerow species include ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, oak, elm, hornbeam, and dogwood. Many of the hedgerows also have associated dry ditches; the banks of which are of similar composition to the rest of the modified grassland within the Sub-Site but with the addition of frequently occurring water mint and bramble. A pond is present on the immediate southern boundary of the Sub-Site, this is surrounded by other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved woodland that extends off-Site. The pond itself was dry at the time of survey and was completely shaded by the woodland with no aquatic vegetation.
- 4.2.52 Sub-Site 8B is comprised of an irregularly shaped block of adjoining arable plots, two fields cereal crop, with one to the south-west consisting of a clover/grass ley. The cropland is typically surrounded on all sides by 1-3m wide modified grassland field margins, dominated by false oat-grass, perennial ryegrass, Yorkshire fog, and cock's-foot, creeping buttercup, common nettle, common fleabane, with some areas on the eastern edge incorporating areas of bracken. Along the edge of the eastern boundary, the field margins were other neutral grassland, with false oat-grass, fescue spp., meadow foxtail, ragwort, and common knapweed present. The Sub-Site's boundaries are delineated by species-rich native hedgerows with trees, including some mature oaks with veteran features (TN4), and associated dry ditches. Typical hedgerow species included ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, oak, elm, hornbeam, and dogwood. Some field boundaries within the Site contain dry ditches with remnants of old hedgerows. The banks of which are of similar composition to the rest of the modified grassland on Site but with the addition of frequently occurring willowherb sp., nettle, and bramble. Occasional areas of ditch (located adjacent to Market Lane) contained a more diverse range of species, including bee orchid *Ophrys apifera* and false fox sedge *Carex otrubae*.
- 4.2.53 Two ponds are present within the Sub-Site. One on the north-east boundary of Sub-Site 8B, the second was adjoining a hedgerow in the middle of the Sub-Site. The northern pond is surrounded by a species-rich hedgerow and other neutral grassland. It has poor water quality but good surrounding vegetation and connectivity. The southern pond is surrounded by modified grassland on the south side and species rich

native hedgerow with large mature oak standards to the north. It was dry during the time of survey except for some minor puddling.

4.2.54 There are no buildings, or other associated non-semi-natural habitats present within Sub-Site 8 except for a short section of Brooke Road and Market Lane.

Sub-Site 9

4.2.55 Sub-Site 9 consists of a rectangular block of adjoining arable plots separated either by hedgerows associated with a ditch or by standalone ditches. The plot contains five arable fields: three with temporary grass and clover leys, and one with other cereal crops. A small section on the north side of the Sub-Site, along with the north-eastern field, features modified grassland with perennial ryegrass, false oat-grass, cock's-foot, and vetch sp. present.

4.2.56 The hedgerows vary from native hedgerow with trees associated with banks or ditches to species-rich native hedgerow with trees associated with bank or ditch. Both classifications of hedgerows had semi-mature and mature trees dispersed throughout such as mature oaks and a crack willow *Salix fragilis*. The native hedgerows with tree species included hawthorn, blackthorn, ash, elm and field maple. The species-rich hedgerow with tree species included hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, hawthorn, oak, sycamore, ash, and field maple. A mature boundary hedgerow bisecting the Site has been subject to coppicing as CSS higher-tier agreement for the provision of BN6 (Hedge coppicing). Other neutral field margins, ranging from 1-3 meters wide, are present on either side of the hedgerows and ditches. These margins include species such as rye, false oat-grass, hogweed, and willowherb sp. A central field margin within the Sub-Site contains other neutral grassland species, including oat *Avena fatua*, false oat-grass, white clover, perforate St. John's wort, and red fescue. Under the CSS higher-tier agreement for the provision of BN6 hedge Coppicing, therefore field margins are managed in order to satisfy the requirements of the hedge enhancements.

4.2.57 There are two spoil heap piles present within the Sub-Site: one consisting of metal debris (**TN13**) situated in the ditch of the hedgerow bisecting the western-most field and another being a brush pile (**TN13**) located in the south-western boundary field margin. An ash tree (**TN4**) with cavities is present within the eastern boundary woodland. Additionally, the hedgerow bisecting the western-most field features a semi-mature ash tree, black walnut saplings *Juglans nigra*, and a mature oak with cavities (**TN4**).

4.2.58 A pond is located in the centre of the Site adjacent to a dry ditch, with minimal water observed during the Site visit. All ditches within the Site were dry during the surveys and many overgrown with vegetation including, hogweed, nettle, willowherb sp. and spear thistle.

4.2.59 There are no buildings on-Site with the only other non-semi-natural habitat compromising a concrete pad for farm storage and a short section of Littlebrook Lane which falls within the site boundary.

Sub-Site 10 (Sub-Sites 10A - 10E)

- 4.2.60 Sub-Site 10A is an irregularly shaped field primarily composed of temporary grass and clover leys, with the exception of a triangular section of habitat located in the centre of the Sub-Site but excluded from the red line boundary. The overall Sub-Site resembles a rectangle with a section extending to the south. It is bordered on all but three sides by a species-rich hedgerow, which includes sections with and without trees. The hedgerow with trees consists of oak, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, and dog rose, while the section without trees featured hawthorn, field maple, dogwood, *Malus*, and blackthorn. The southern border of the Sub-Site consists of a dry ditch with a steep bank. The cropland is bordered by <2m wide field margins, primarily composed of other neutral grassland with species such as hemlock *Conium maculatum*, common nettle, cock's-foot, cow parsley, and red fescue. The south west edge of the Sub-Site and a section in the centre are classified as tussocky arable field margin (priority habitat), featuring Yorkshire fog, creeping thistle, soft brome, oxeye daisy, clover, and ground ivy. The western border lacks boundary features as the field extends off-site. Notably, two large pedunculate oaks are present, one on the south-western border and another in the south field, whose roots and canopy extended onto the site.
- 4.2.61 Sub-Site 10B is a large roughly rectangular Sub-Site divided into four sections of temporary grass and clover leys. It is bisected by a species-rich native hedgerow with associated trees and ditches. Most of the area of this Sub-Site is under a CSS agreement for the provision of winter bird food. Margin width ranged from narrow strips to 20m-wide belts of arable wild bird mix habitats in the western part of the Sub-Site, as well as priority arable tussocky habitats. Other neutral grassland swards were also present centrally, outside of the CSS agreement area. The eastern boundary features a species-rich hedgerow and a line of trees.
- 4.2.62 Sub-Site 10C extends to the north-west of Sub-Site 10B and is comprised of four adjoining arable fields, consisting of agricultural stubble and bare earth at the time of survey. The fields are bordered on all sides by field margins of other neutral grassland, ranging from 1-3m in width. These margins are dominated by cock's foot, false oat-grass, curled dock, hogweed, bramble, bristly oxtongue, and willowherb sp. Species-rich native hedgerows with trees, including oak, hawthorn, field maple, dog rose, dogwood, blackthorn, and bramble, define all boundaries, except along the south-west edge and adjacent field edge. The south-west boundary is bordered by a ditch, with additional ditches running along the hedgerows, bisecting the plot. The hedgerows throughout the Sub-Site are well-managed and continuous. To the west of the Sub-Site, a woodland block contains English elm, pedunculate oak, ash, field maple, elder, and dog rose. Within the centre of the fields there are three wooded agricultural ponds, featuring grey willow, willow, oak, dog rose, and hazel. The south-west boundary included an area of woodland and scrub, where hawthorn, blackthorn, ash, field maple, bramble, thistle, and willowherb were observed.
- 4.2.63 Sub-Site 10D consists of a small triangular area extending from the northern edge of Site D, featuring other neutral grassland interspersed with patches of bramble and mixed scrub, along with modified grassland on the eastern side. An unmanaged native hedgerow with trees runs alongside the southern and western edge of the Sub-Site. The species present in the other neutral grassland included oxeye daisy, perennial ryegrass, pyramidal orchid, dandelion, cow parsley, and white clover.

- 4.2.64 Sub-Site 10E is situated to the north of the other connected Sub-Sites and primarily comprised of temporary grass and clover leys, with a small section of boundary to the west of the Sub-Site as a tussocky arable field margin (priority habitat) and a section of modified grassland with ruderal and ephemeral species along the eastern boundary. Margins at this Sub-Site are generally narrow and where wide enough generally qualify as modified grassland. A margin of other neutral grassland is situated at the western-most boundary. The field margins comprise such species as common spotted orchid, creeping buttercup, and cow parsley. An area of disturbed other neutral grassland is present at the south-east of the main field, with a high proportion of ruderals present on the earth piles / spoil heaps in this area. Species present include nettle, great willowherb, broadleaved dock, hedge bindweed, and bristly oxtongue.
- 4.2.65 A scattered tree was present in the east of the field (**TN14**), and species-rich hedgerows, interspersed with ditches and trees, border all but two sides of the Sub-Site. Where hedgerows are absent, ditches alone mark the boundaries. Dominant hedgerow species include field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, oak, and elder. The field extends northward on the west side, encompassing a pond surrounded by a narrow woodland belt featuring willow, elm, and ash. Along this field border, notable features include a dead tree, a mature oak, and a mature ash. This northern extension of the field contains cereal crops, with bramble and willow scrub present along the western border.
- 4.2.66 Although 10E is under a CSS mid-tier agreement for the provision of AB1 Nectar and Flower Mix, no habitats on this Sub-Site were identified as falling into this category.
- 4.2.67 There are no buildings within Site 10. Non-semi-natural habitats are limited to a concrete track that runs adjacent to the field margin in the northern-most part of the Site and short sections of Harvey's Lane and Upgate Road which are included in the Order Limits.

Cable Route Corridor

Sub-Site CRC1

- 4.2.68 CRC1 is a small rectangular parcel alongside the B1134 / Station Road to the south-west of Sub-Site 2A. It comprises part of an arable field, ploughed at the time of survey, with 1-2m wide other neutral grassland verges on three sides and a native hedgerow with a ditch along the northern boundary, separating the field from an adjacent residential property. The grassland margins comprised common species such as perennial ryegrass, cock's foot and ruderals including nettle, creeping thistle and willowherbs in the dry ditches.

Sub-Site CRC2

- 4.2.69 CRC2 is an irregular shaped parcel connecting the north-eastern corner of the BESS Site with the south-western corner of Sub-Site 2B.
- 4.2.70 The route passes through four arable (cereal) fields and takes in the corners of two further fields. Boundary features include species-rich hedgerows with trees and ditches

and other neutral grassland with dry ditches and occasional scattered mature oak and ash trees. Lodge Road forms both the north-eastern boundary, adjacent Sub-Site 2B and the south-eastern boundary, with sections of developed sealed surface within the boundary.

- 4.2.71 A pond holding a shallow amount of water was present in the field margin at the north-eastern end of CRC2, alongside Lodge Road, surrounded by a small area of broadleaved woodland including mature pedunculate oak with hazel, dogwood, hawthorn and blackthorn.
- 4.2.72 Grassland within field margins is dominated by grass species including fescue species and cock's-foot with forbs including herb-robert, common hogweed and field bindweed. The section of other neutral grassland along the southern boundary of Lodge Road including a higher number of herb species such as agrimony, dog's mercury, creeping buttercup, common knapweed and cow parsley.

Sub-Site CRC3

- 4.2.73 CRC3 is a roughly rectangular parcel between Sub-Site 2A to the south and 2B to the north. It is formed of sections of two fields with the northern field containing winter stubble and the southern field a beet crop at the time of survey. The two fields were bound by species rich hedgerows along the eastern boundary, before meeting the A140, Norwich Road. The field parcels were separated by a farm access road, again bordered by species rich hedgerows with ditches. Hedgerows comprise of native species including elm, pedunculate oak, field maple and blackthorn with grassland margins, including where there are dry ditches, comprising of species such as common hogweed, common knapweed, cock's-foot grass, false oat- grass and creeping thistle.

Sub-Site CRC4

- 4.2.74 CRC4 comprises a linear parcel in an approximate 'T' shape connecting Sub-Sites 2B and 2C on the western side of the A140 in the south of the scheme with Sub-Sites 4B and 5A approximately 6km to the north.
- 4.2.75 The route of CRC4 passes primarily through or incorporates part of 25 arable fields used for a mixture of cereal and non-cereal (root vegetable) crops, although many at the time of survey were recently ploughed. Boundary features were primarily formed of narrow (generally 1 – 2m) margins of other neutral grassland verge either with or without native hedgerows and on occasion ditches. CRC4 crosses public roads (sealed surfaces) at nine locations along its route including the A140.
- 4.2.76 The southern most field, on the western side of the A140 included a small area of sealed surface used as storage with earth pile present, an earth bund also separated this area from the A140. A small pond was present just outside the southern boundary, formed as part of the ditch within the native hedgerow which forms the northern boundary of adjacent Sub-Site 2B.
- 4.2.77 Moving eastwards from the A140, CRC4 incorporates part of three arable fields which at the time of survey were all recently ploughed or with some stubble remaining. Not all boundary features are included in the CRC boundary. Alongside the A140 is a 5m

other neutral grass verge with a dry ditch with steep banks to a depth of c.2m. Species present included perennial ryegrass, cock-foot, false oat-grass, broadleaved dock, hogweed, common knapweed and perennial sow-thistle with the roadside stretch being unmown and the section on the field side of the ditch being recently cut and including species such as yarrow, ribwort plantain and cudweeds. Within the ditch there was reed canary grass present indicating damp conditions particularly at the northern end where there was foals watercress and duckweed present. Occasional scrub was present along the ditch with bramble, dog rose and blackthorn all recorded. The western boundary was also comprised of a grassland margin of similar composition and a dry ditch.

- 4.2.78 Along Common Road and Wood Lane the arable fields (stubble) were bounded by native hedgerows and line of trees (mature oaks). The other neutral grassland verge along Wood Lane is a roadside nature reserve with species present including crosswort, common knapweed, meadowsweet, false oat-grass and greater willowherb.
- 4.2.79 Heading north from Wood Lane the CRC encompasses part of a large arable field. The western field boundary is comprised of a 10m wide strip of other neutral grassland, partially mown, with a line of oak and horse chestnut trees lining a dry ditch c. 2m depth. Grassland species present included cock's foot, false oat-grass, ragwort, common knapweed, common hogweed and meadowsweet.
- 4.2.80 The CRC then heads north through the centre of multiple arable fields (mostly ploughed) up to Parkers Lane c. 1.4km north. Field boundaries crossed were primarily other neutral grassland with dry or marginally damp ditches containing aquatic vegetation such as water mint. Whilst most of the fields were ploughed at the time of survey, one was fenced off with newly planted hedgerow and closely cut modified grassland verges, containing a 'Maize maze' attraction of the adjacent Pulham Patch farm enterprise.
- 4.2.81 Between Parkers Lane and Hall Lane to the north the CRC continues through arable fields, primarily containing non-cereal crops such as brassicas, at the time of survey. Field margins were primarily narrow (1 – 3m) other neutral grassland verges with high levels of ruderals typical of nutrient enriched areas such as common nettle, spear thistle, fat hen, cleavers and common hogweed.
- 4.2.82 The CRC follows the southern side of Mill Road, through an arable field before again heading north across Edge's Lane to Brick Kiln Lane through a mixture of cereal and non-cereal crops. The boundary of the CRC avoids the adjacent broadleaved woodland parcels but does include some boundaries marked by native hedgerows and ditches along grassland field margins generally c. 3-5m wide in this section.
- 4.2.83 The CRC covers part of seven arable fields along Brick Kiln Lane / Church Lane, running from Sub-Site 4B in the west to Sub-Site 5A in the east. Field boundary features were primarily native hedgerows, including some species-rich, with species such as field maple, blackthorn, hawthorn, elm and with mature oaks present. The edge of a broadleaved woodland parcel also falls within the CRC boundary. Along Brick Kiln Lane is a line of hybrid poplar trees and a small pond.

Sub-Site CRC6

- 4.2.84 CRC6 is a roughly 'Y' shaped parcel connecting the eastern boundary of Sub-Site 5B to the north-western boundary of Sub-Site 3 (approximately 2.5km south-east of Sub-Site 5B) and connecting to the western boundary of Sub-Site 6 (approximately 1.8km east of Sub-Site 5B).
- 4.2.85 The majority of the route comprises parts of multiple arable (cereal) fields with some ploughed or left as winter stubble. Field boundaries were a mixture of other neutral grassland verges with occasional scattered trees or native hedgerows.
- 4.2.86 The southern section of CRC6 comprises three arable fields separated by a tarmacked road (Lundy Green). The route in the southernmost two fields avoids features such as a small pond surrounded by mixed scrub but includes a short sections of hedgerows with oak and willow trees along a dry ditch forming the field boundaries.
- 4.2.87 North of Lundy Green road the CRC comprises part of a large arable field with the route splitting to avoid features such as woodland parcels and arable margins which appeared to be managed intentionally as set aside, either seeded or just allowed to develop naturally with a high proportion of ruderals present. Species included red campion, St John's wort, burdock, nettle, ragwort, creeping thistle broad leaved dock, vipers bugloss and common mallow.
- 4.2.88 The central field of CRC6 was a large arable field with the route in the centre of the field, avoiding most of the native species hedgerows running along the western and southern boundaries and the double hedgerow with numerous mature trees following a public footpath on the eastern field boundary. A triangular field of other neutral grassland was present in the south-west.
- 4.2.89 Where the CRC splits the north-western section comprises a further section through a large arable field in the south before meeting a stream. Along the stream length were woodland habitats including a parcel of wet broadleaved woodland comprised of mature willow and aspen with elder and dogwood in understorey and a ground flora containing nettles and dog's mercury. A parcel of dense mixed scrub including blackthorn, elder and bramble was also present. A margin of tall other neutral grassland passes through / between the woodland parcels, species included perennial ryegrass, marsh thistle, creeping thistle, hemp agrimony, chicory, common fleabane and burdock.
- 4.2.90 The area west of the stream, before the CRC meets Sub-Site 5B is comprised of a mixture of modified grassland fields used for grazing, other neutral grassland fields and arable fields.
- 4.2.91 The north-eastern leg of this CRC parcel part of five arable (cereal crop) fields with boundary features predominantly comprising strips of 3 – 6m wide other neutral grassland (including a footpath) with occasional scattered oak trees. Grassland species include common knapweed, cock's foot, false oat-grass, smooth sow-thistle, Timothy grass, yarrow and red dead-nettle. Where the CRC crosses Alburgh road there are native hedgerows (one of which was largely defunct). A small paddock of grazed modified grassland with daisy, ragwort and creeping thistle is also present.

Sub-Site CRC7

- 4.2.92 CRC7 is a short 'L' shaped parcel connecting the northern boundary of Sub-Site 5B with the southern boundary of Sub-Site 7B, crossing the Hempnall Brook in the process. The main body of the CRC is an arable field used for cereal crops, with native species rich hedgerows, bramble scrub and a Leylandii hedgerow along the southern and south-eastern boundaries along the roads. Mature oak trees were present in the centre of the field and within the southern hedgerow. The northern portion of the field was sown with a wild bird mix as an arable field margin priority habitat.
- 4.2.93 The northern part of CRC7 comprised a mosaic of habitats along the Hempnall Brook with a mixture of Lowland fen, willow scrub, alder woodland and other broadleaved woodland present. On the MAGIC map this area is classified as lowland fen priority habitat (and located within the Fritton Grange Meadows CWS), however at the time of survey the area lacked dominant species indicative of these habitats (i.e. wasn't dominated by rushes and sedges) with a relatively species poor damp grassland recorded, with species present including soft rush, meadow foxtail, horsetail and water mint, indicating the habitat has degraded over time however the lowland fen classification is retained. Along the wet ditches there were higher proportions of rushes / sedges and wetland species
- 4.2.94 Himalayan Balsam, an INNS, was present in the northern section, following the course of a wet ditch and within the willow woodland.

Sub-Site CRC8

- 4.2.95 CRC8 is a narrow irregular shaped parcel connecting the northern boundary of Sub-Site 6 with the southern boundary of Sub-Site 7H to the north as well as having a narrow linear section travelling eastwards connecting with Sub-Site 7K and meeting CRC9. Where the CRC meets Sub-Site 6 at Bungay Road it passes through three large arable fields up to Bussey's Loke, and a small section of a fourth. Boundary features are a mixture of species rich hedgerows containing species such as blackthorn, elm, dog rose, hawthorn, elder and field maple, and other neutral grassland field margins. Grassland margins were up to 7m wide in places and species present included wild carrot, ox-eye daisy, wild oat, common knapweed, false oat-grass, nettle and sowthistle.
- 4.2.96 The CRC travels eastwards with a narrow section through multiple arable fields under cereal crop cultivation, with boundaries primarily demarked by native hedgerows with trees and ditches. The route focusses on the arable field and avoids nearby ponds and small sections of broadleaved woodland are also present.

Sub-Site CRC9

- 4.2.97 CRC9 is comprised of a narrow linear parcel connecting with CRC8 in the west along Shotesham Road and with Sub-Site 10C alongside the B1132. The western part comprises part of an arable field (ploughed at the time of survey). The eastern area is primarily comprised of other neutral grassland fields used for grazing with false oat-grass, nettles, yarrow, nettle, creeping thistle and chicory present. Boundary features

primarily comprised native hedgerows with ash, elm, hawthorn, oak and field maple all recorded.

4.2.98 A narrow belt of broadleaved woodland is present in the centre of the CRC with oak, field maple, hawthorn, elm and hornbeam present.

Sub-Site CRC10

4.2.99 CRC10 is a linear parcel connecting the northern boundary of Sub-Site 7G with the southern boundary of Sub-Site 8A to the north. The northern section comprises sections of two arable fields whilst the central field is cattle / sheep grazed modified grassland with a small section of cultivated flower crop and the southern field was a grass lay at the time of survey. Boundary features comprised species rich native hedgerows with dogwood, hawthorn, field maple, hazel, blackthorn, elder, crab apple and dog rose all recorded, some boundaries also contained mature oak and ash trees and ditches.

4.2.100 Field margins were generally about 5m wide across the CRC, comprised of other neutral grassland with typical species present including Yorkshire fog, cock's foot, perennial ryegrass, creeping thistle, cow parsley and bristly oxtongue.

Sub-Site CRC11

4.2.101 CRC11 is a short section connecting Sub-Sites 7A and 7C and is comprised of parts of two arable fields with cereal crops. Other neutral grassland margins are present along the western and northern boundaries of CRC11 and following a native species rich hedgerow with trees through the centre. Margins were c.5m wide and species present included meadow fescue, cock's foot, false oat-grass, thistles and oxeye daisy. The hedgerow included hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, elm and holly with mature oak standards along the length.

Sub-Site CRC12

4.2.102 CRC12 is a short section connecting Sub-Sites 7C and 7D comprising a modified grassland field dominated by perennial ryegrass with cock's foot and red fescue present. All boundary features were assessed within the adjacent Sub-Sites.

Sub-Site CRC13

4.2.103 CRC13 is a linear parcel running east-west between the south-eastern boundary of Sub-Site 8B and the south-western boundary of Sub-Site 9.

4.2.104 It comprises of part of 7 adjacent arable fields with a small area of priority habitat – arable field margins (tussocky) present in one of the central fields.

4.2.105 Boundary features comprise predominantly native hedgerows, some of which are classified as species rich and many include trees and / or ditches.

Sub-Site CRC14

- 4.2.106 CRC14 is a roughly linear parcel linking 10E to the north and 10B to the south and runs partly along Seething Road. It is comprised of sections of two modified grassland fields which were species poor, dominated by red fescue and perennial ryegrass with ruderal species such as spear thistle, bristly oxtongue, common nettle and prickly sow-thistle also present.
- 4.2.107 Hardstanding forming an access track, with adjacent hedgerows either side divides the two fields. Further hedgerows are present on the northern boundary (separating the CRC and Parcel 10E) and along the eastern boundary adjacent Upgate Road, two small sections of the road fall within the site boundary.
- 4.2.108 A line of broadleaved trees runs along the southern boundary of CRC14, adjacent Harvey Lane which separates CRC14 and Sub-Site 10A. Tree species include sycamore, pedunculate oak and ash.

Highway Works

- 4.2.109 Seven separate Highway Works are included.
- 4.2.110 LSR1 – 4 are short sections along the B1134/Station Road including a short section around the roundabout with the A140. LSR 1 comprises solely of sealed surface (road) whilst LSR2 comprises a section of road and also includes an adjacent small arable field with other neutral grassland margins and native hedgerow along the northern boundary. LSR3 comprises sealed surface (road) and a narrow band or adjacent modified grassland and line of trees along the southern boundary of the road. LSR4 comprises two exits of the A140 roundabout and small sections of grassland / scrub on the southern verge.
- 4.2.111 LIR comprises a short section of sealed surface forming a junction from Ipswich Road and Hall Lane within Long Stratton. LHL comprises a short section of Hall Road, largely restricted to sealed surface with a small area of other neutral grassland on the roadside verge.
- 4.2.112 LCH is a section of The Street running through Saxlingham Nethergate and comprises solely of sealed surface.

5 Baseline Survey Interpretation

- 5.1.1 There are no IIWS or nationally designated Sites within the Order Limits. The nearest internationally designated Site is part of the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. A designation that includes 15 separate Sites around Norfolk. The nearest nationally designated Sites are two discrete parcels of the Shotesham-Woodton Hornbeam Woods SSSI. The first of these is situated on the northern boundary of Parcel 7F and the second is situated on the boundary of Parcel 7H.
- 5.1.2 Nine non-statutory sites fall within or adjacent the red line boundary including three roadside nature reserves, five woodlands and an area of meadows / fenland along Hempnall Brook.
- 5.1.3 Within the Order Limits, the landscape is dominated by an arable field system, separated by hedgerows, ditches and grassland margins with occasional scattered trees and pockets of semi-natural and plantation woodland and scrub. Ponds and streams are also present.
- 5.1.4 The fields, hedgerows and grassland margins provide nesting and foraging opportunities for Red and Amber listed farmland bird species of BoCC and Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species such as skylark, turtle dove and corn bunting. Tall ruderal species and emergent aquatic vegetation in the ditches provide further nesting opportunities for other birds such as LBAP species reed bunting.
- 5.1.5 Trees, woodland, scrub and hedgerows all provide nesting opportunities for other passerine species of birds as well as shelter and foraging for a wide range of mammals including bats and terrestrial invertebrates. Trees may also offer suitable roosting opportunities for a range of bat species.
- 5.1.6 Field margins may support common reptile species and great crested newts (and other amphibians) in their terrestrial stages. Ponds present across the scheme may support great crested newts and other amphibian species.
- 5.1.7 Aquatic habitats such as streams and ditches provide habitat for otter and water vole. Otter will be able to utilise these for foraging, dispersal and commuting, and water vole will be able to burrow into the banks and forage along the vegetated banks.
- 5.1.8 Within the Order Limits, stands of giant hogweed and Himalayan Balsam were encountered during the survey on parcels 5A and CRC7 (respectively), with Japanese knotweed recorded within recorded within 250m of Site 3.
- 5.1.9 Ecosystem services provided by habitats within the Order Limits include a range of supporting services (e.g. soil formation) provided by crops, trees, woodland, scrub and hedgerows; regulating services (e.g. climate, flood hazard, noise, and air quality regulation) provided by ditches, woodlands, lines of trees and hedgerows; and cultural services (e.g. amenity, health, recreation).
- 5.1.10 The habitats within the Order Limits were suitable for a range of internationally, nationally and locally noteworthy species, including SPI and LBAP species, as reported in the desk study or recorded during the survey, as follows:

- bats including LBAP species, barbastelle, noctule, soprano pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat;
- great crested newt;
- otter;
- skylark and other widespread but declining species of birds that are also species of conservation concern³⁵ and LBAP species;
- Schedule 1 breeding birds (hobby);
- grass snake and common lizard;
- water vole;
- badger;
- brown hare;
- hedgehog; and
- invertebrates.

5.1.11 Whilst the habitats within the Order Limits are considered typical of the arable landscape in which they are situated, due to the size of the Order Limits they are likely to overall support protected species populations of importance at a local level.

5.1.12 Further species-specific surveys have been undertaken for aquatic habitat assessment, breeding birds, invertebrates, bats (activity transects, statics and ground level tree assessments for roost potential), badgers, great crested newts and otters and water voles to inform the ecological assessment of the Order Limits. Further details can be found in the corresponding reports.

³⁵ Birds of Conservation Concern - amber list / red list (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021);

6 Figures

Figure 1: Location Plan

Figure 2: European/international Sites within 10km

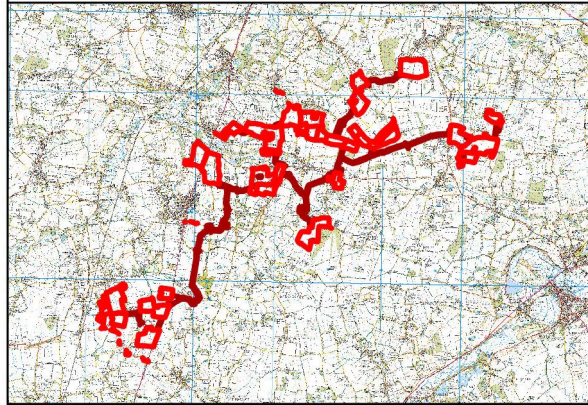
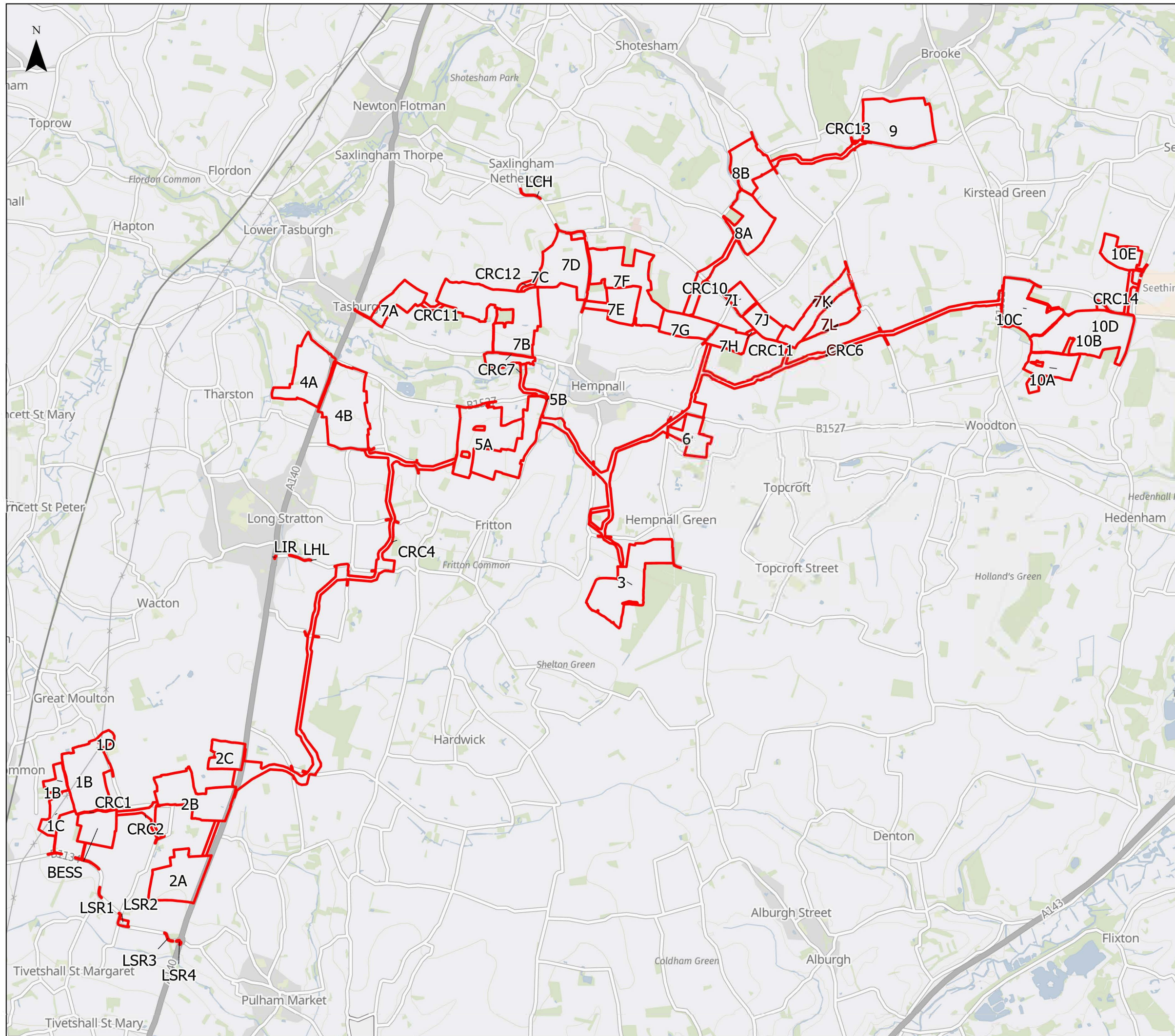
Figure 3: Statutory Designated Sites within 5km

Figure 4: Non-statutory Designated Sites within 2km

Figure 5: Irreplaceable Habitats within 2km

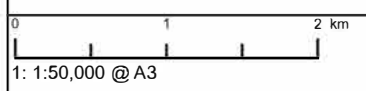
Figure 6: Priority Habitats within 2km

Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results



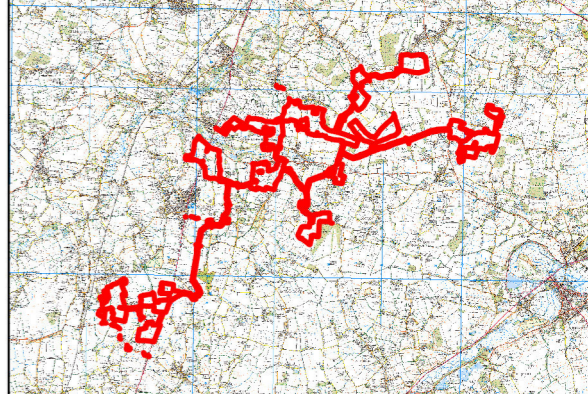
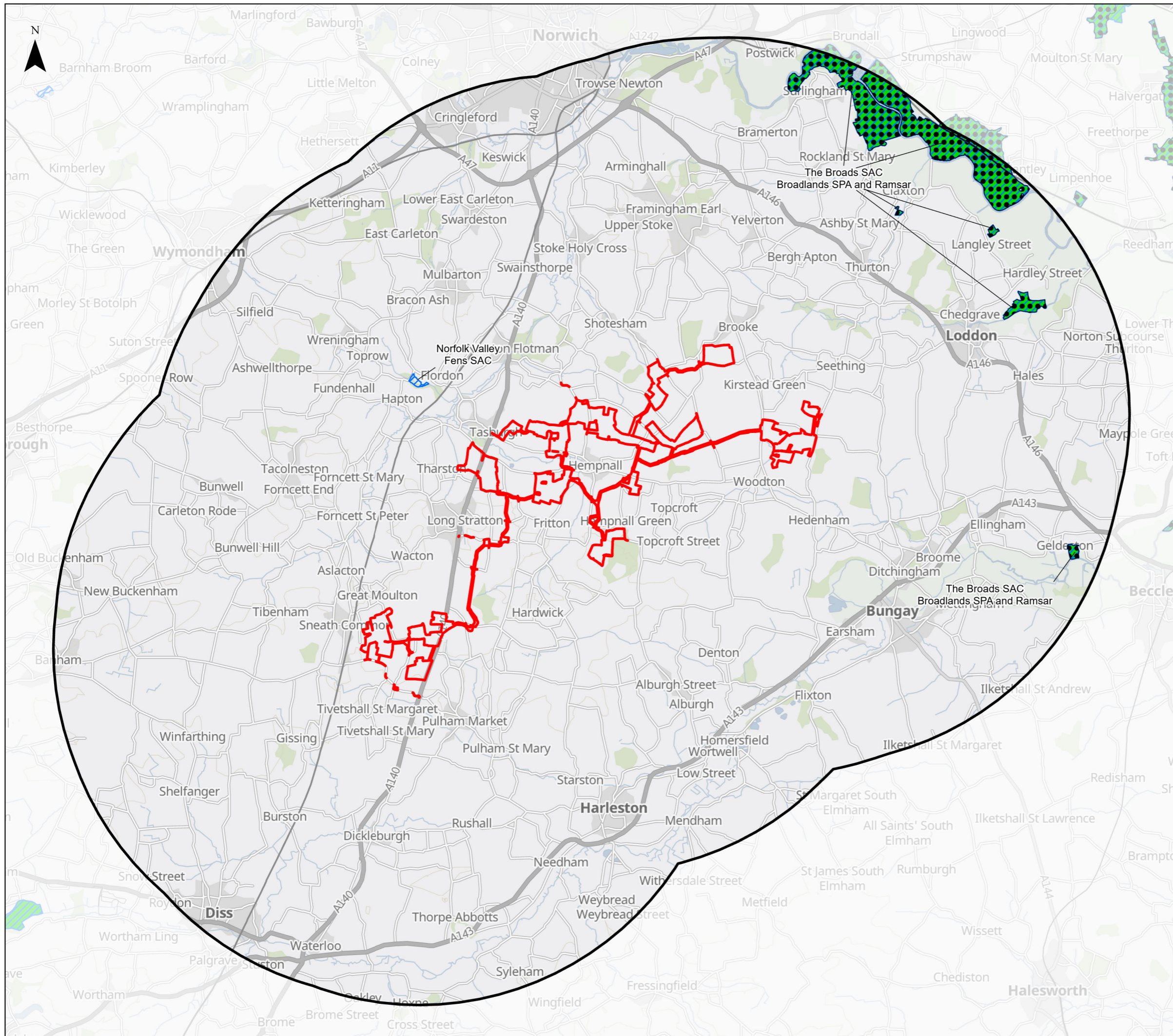
Legend
 Order Limits

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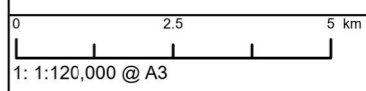
Figure 1
Site Location Plan
 Revision A



Legend

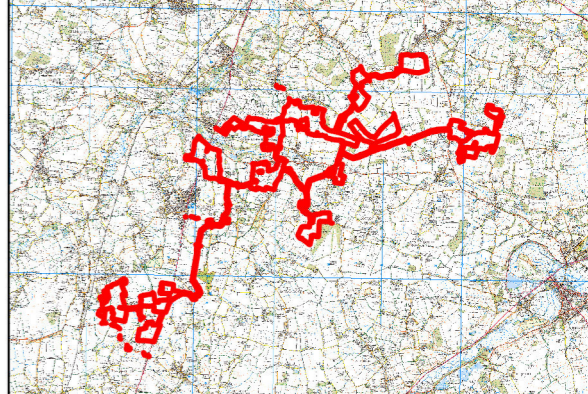
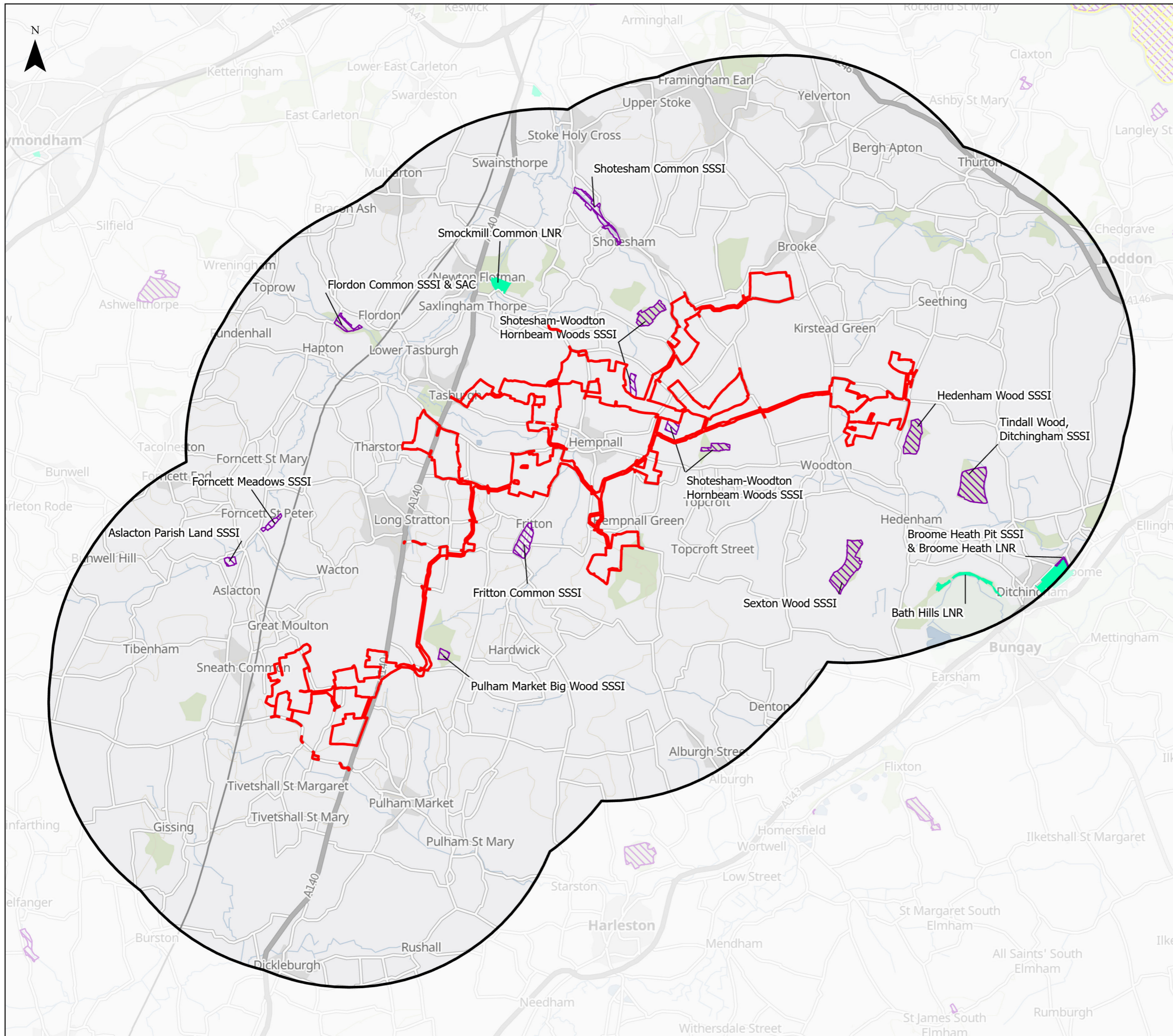
- ▭ Order Limits
- 10km Buffer
- Ramsar
- Special Protection Area
- Special Areas of Conservation

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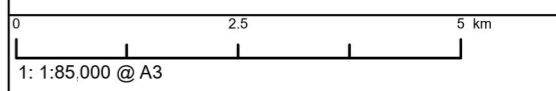
APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)	Application Doc No. APP/6.3.8.1
Ref: Appendix 8.1	Date: 25/02/2026
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Figure 2: Internationally Designated Sites within 10km
Revision A



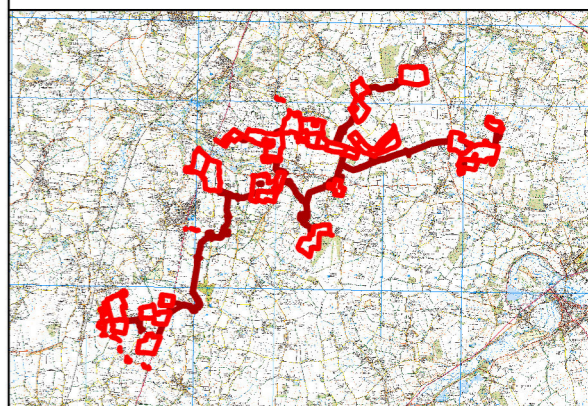
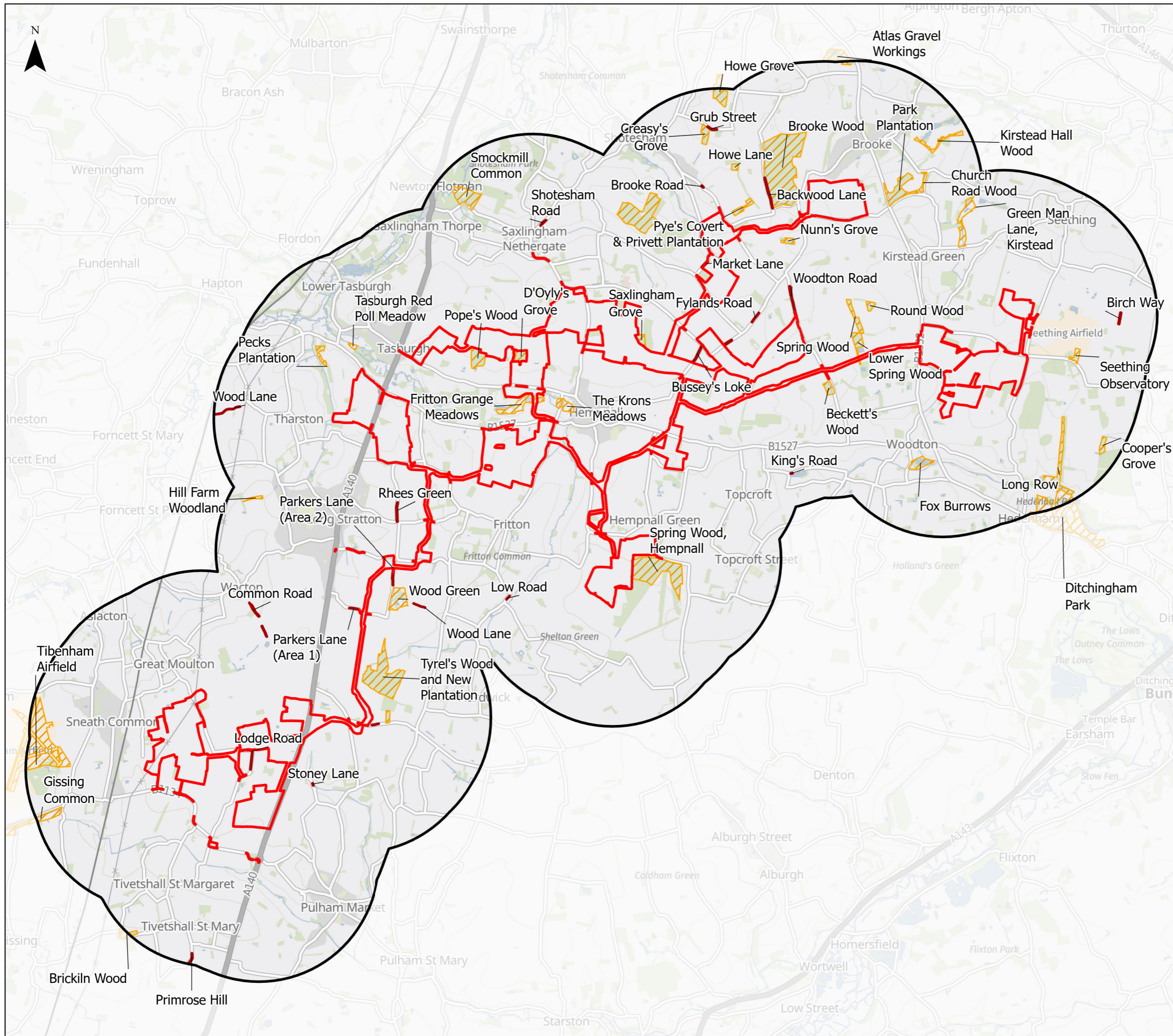
- Legend**
- Order Limits
 - 5km Buffer
 - Local Nature Reserve
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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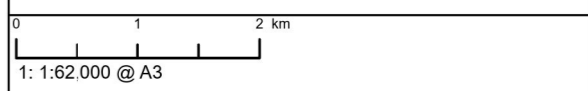
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Ref: Appendix 8.1	Date: 25/02/2026
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Figure 3: Statutory Designated Sites within 2km
Revision A



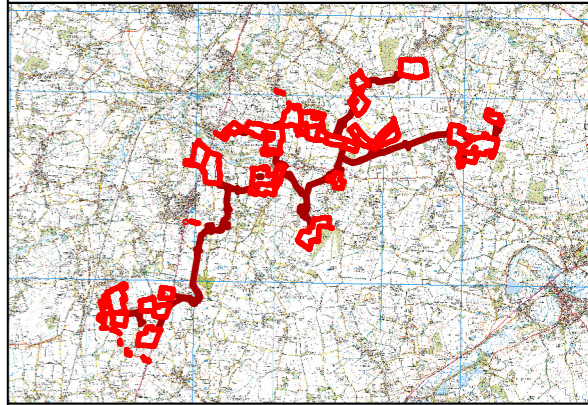
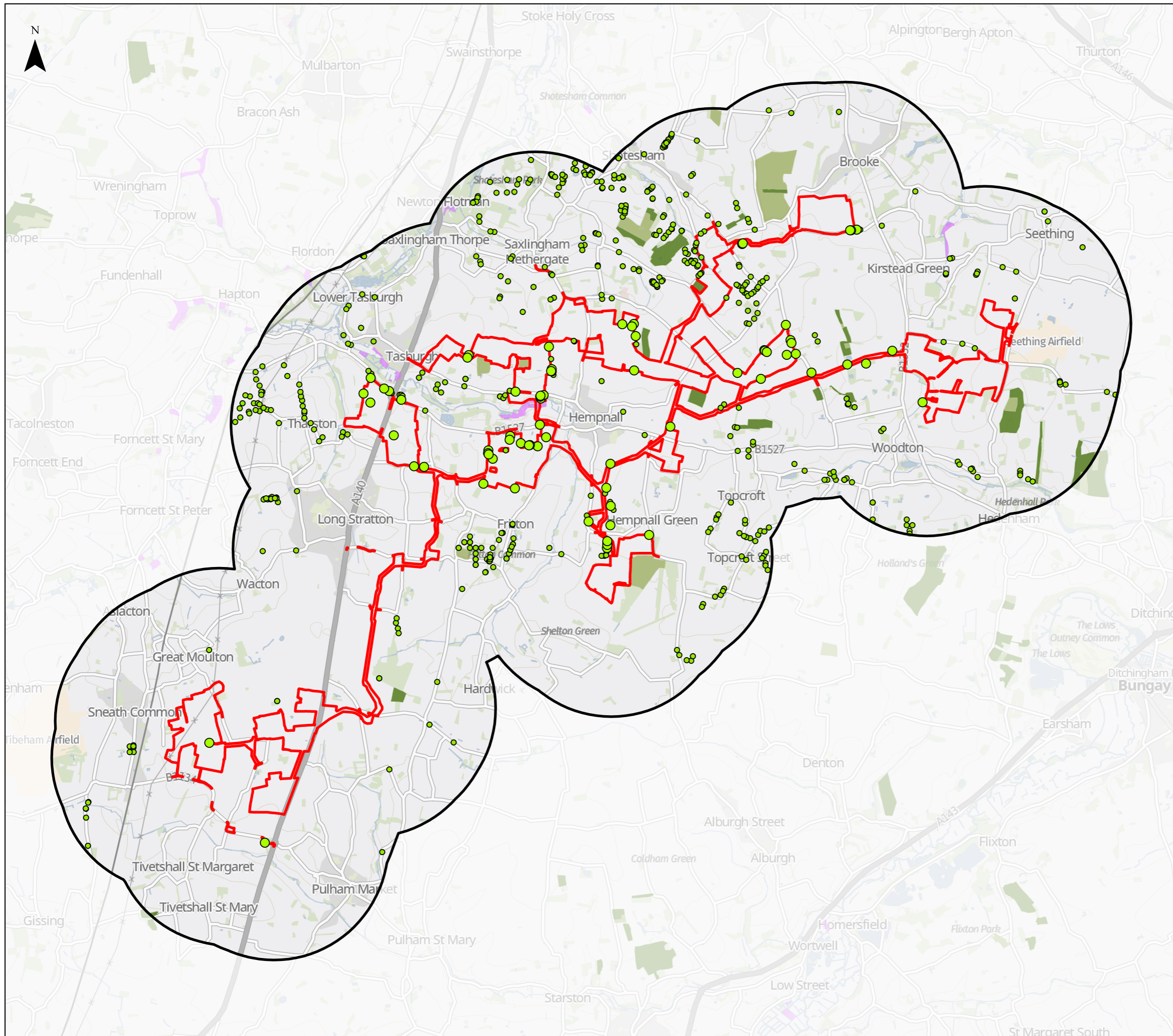
- Legend**
- Order Limits
 - County Wildlife Sites
 - Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR)
 - 2km Buffer

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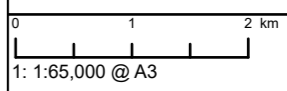
Figure 4: Non-Statutory Designated Sites within 2km
Revision A



Legend

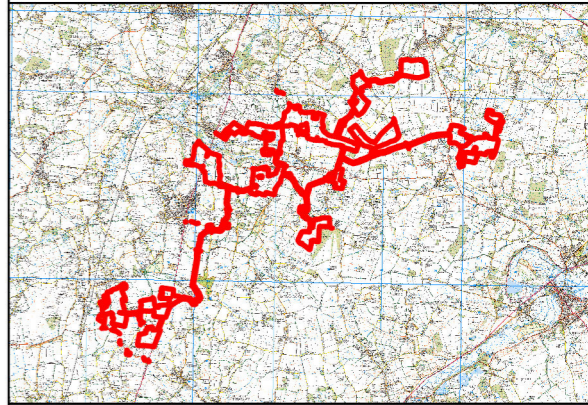
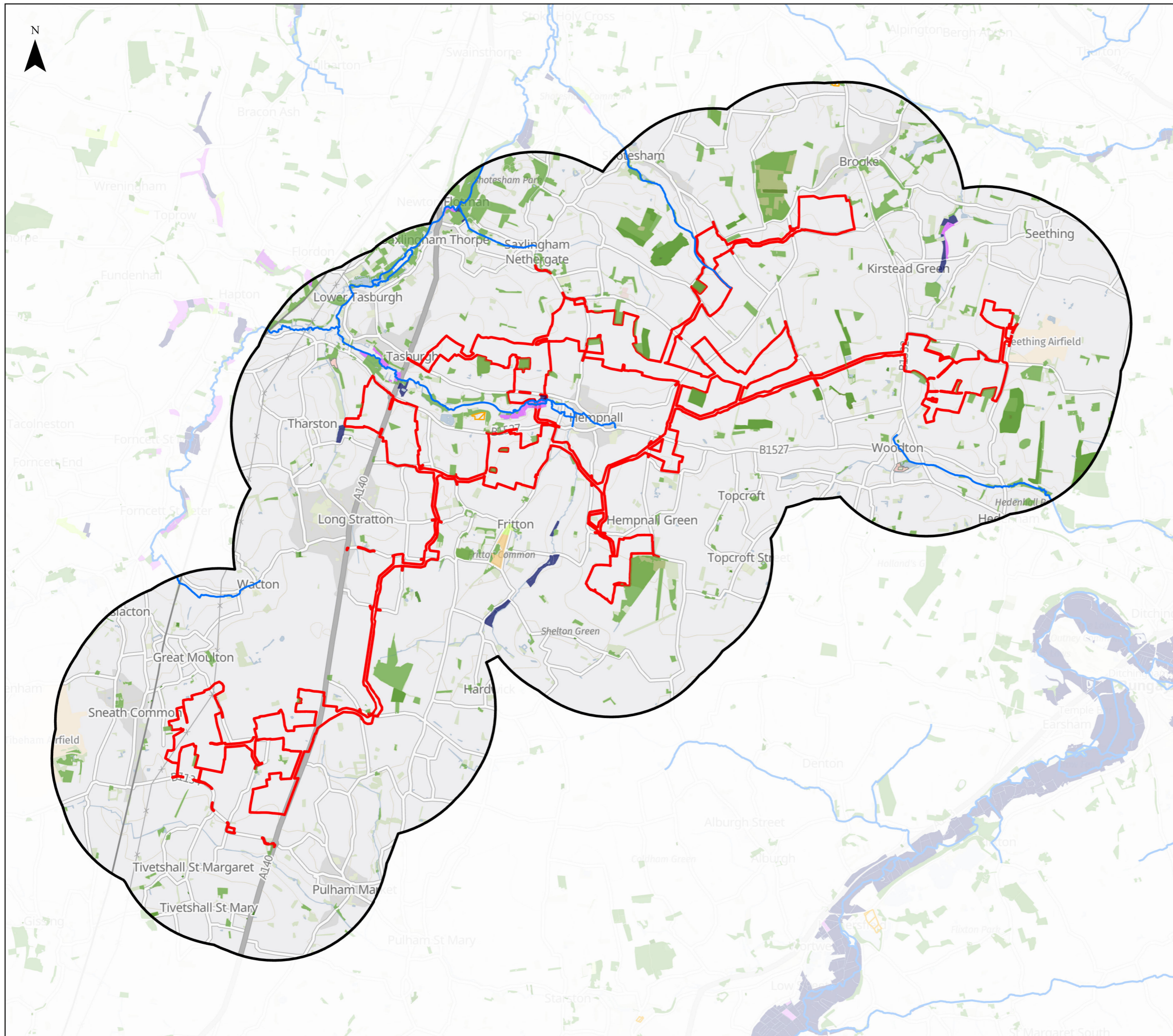
- Order Limits
- 2km Buffer
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland
- Lowland fens
- Veteran Tree
- Ancient Trees - Ancient Tree Inventory

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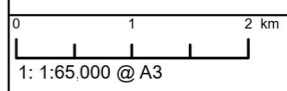
Figure 5: Irreplaceable Habitats Within 2km
Revision A



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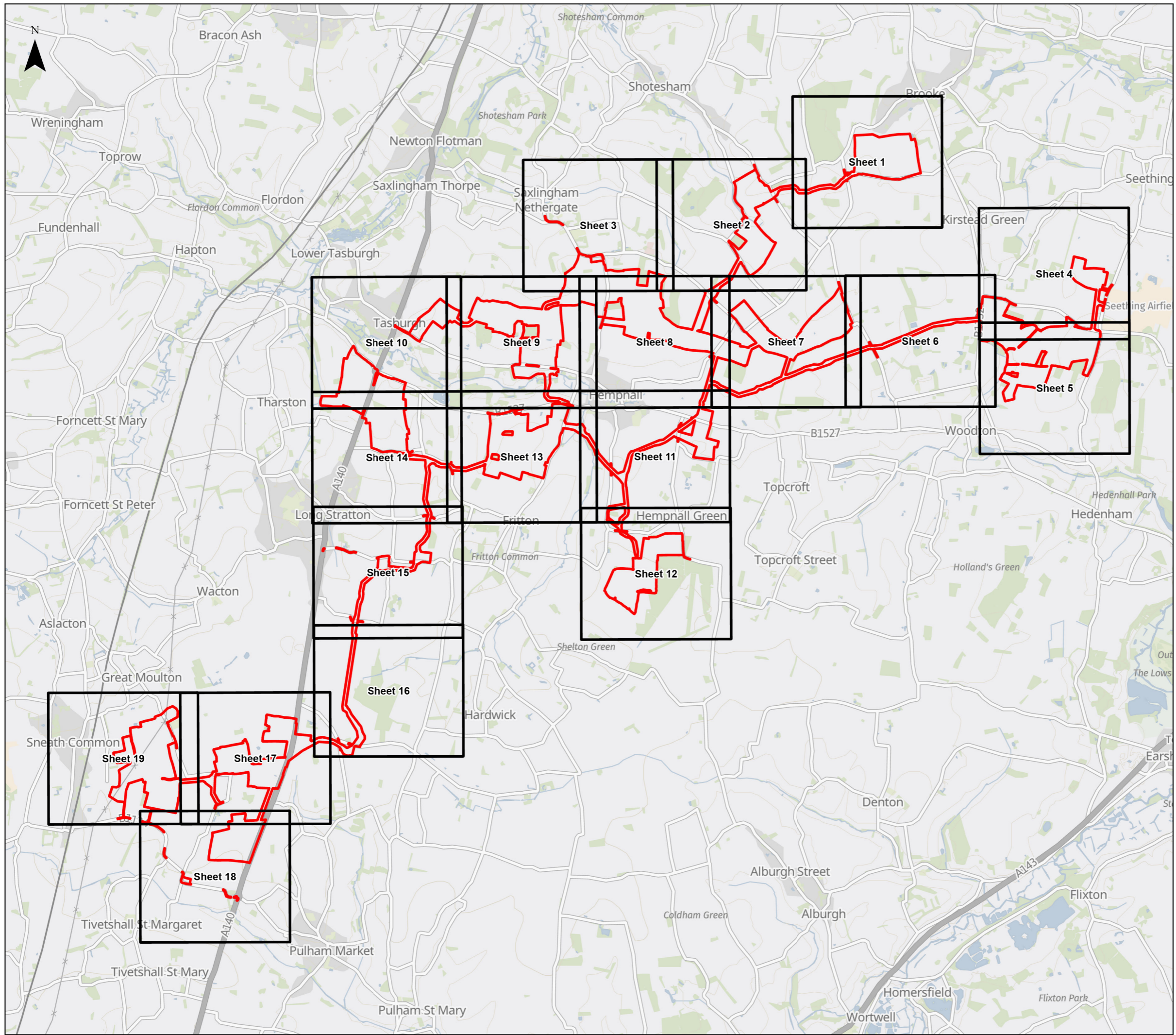
- Order Limits
 - 2km Buffer
 - Rivers (Statutory Main River)
- Priority Habitat**
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
 - Deciduous woodland
 - Lowland calcareous grassland
 - Lowland dry acid grassland
 - Lowland fens
 - Lowland heathland
 - Lowland meadows
 - Purple moor grass and rush pastures
 - Traditional orchard
 - Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

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Figure 6: Priority Habitats Within 2km
Revision A

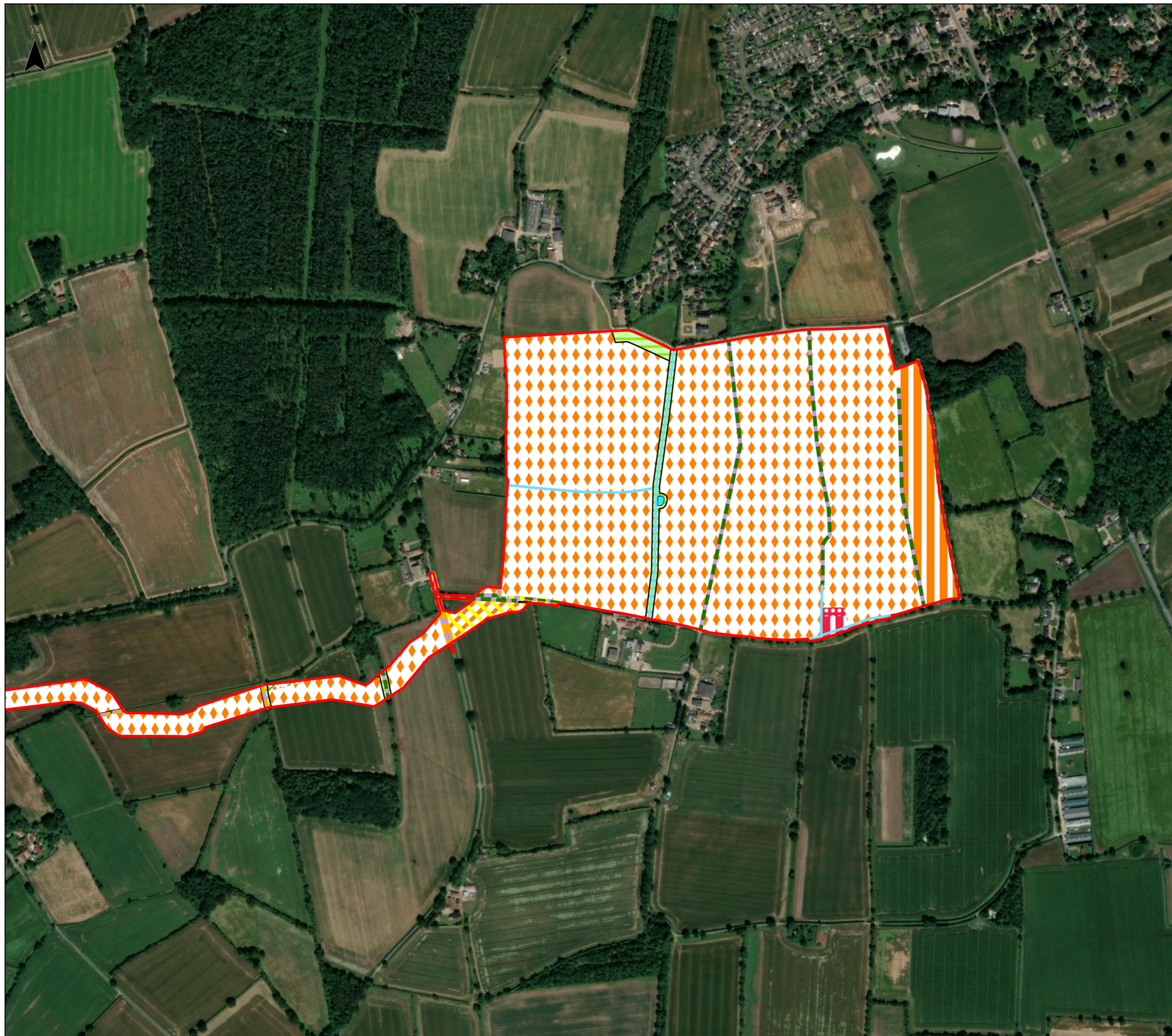


Legend
 Order Limits
 Sheet Index












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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results Overview
 Revision A



Legend

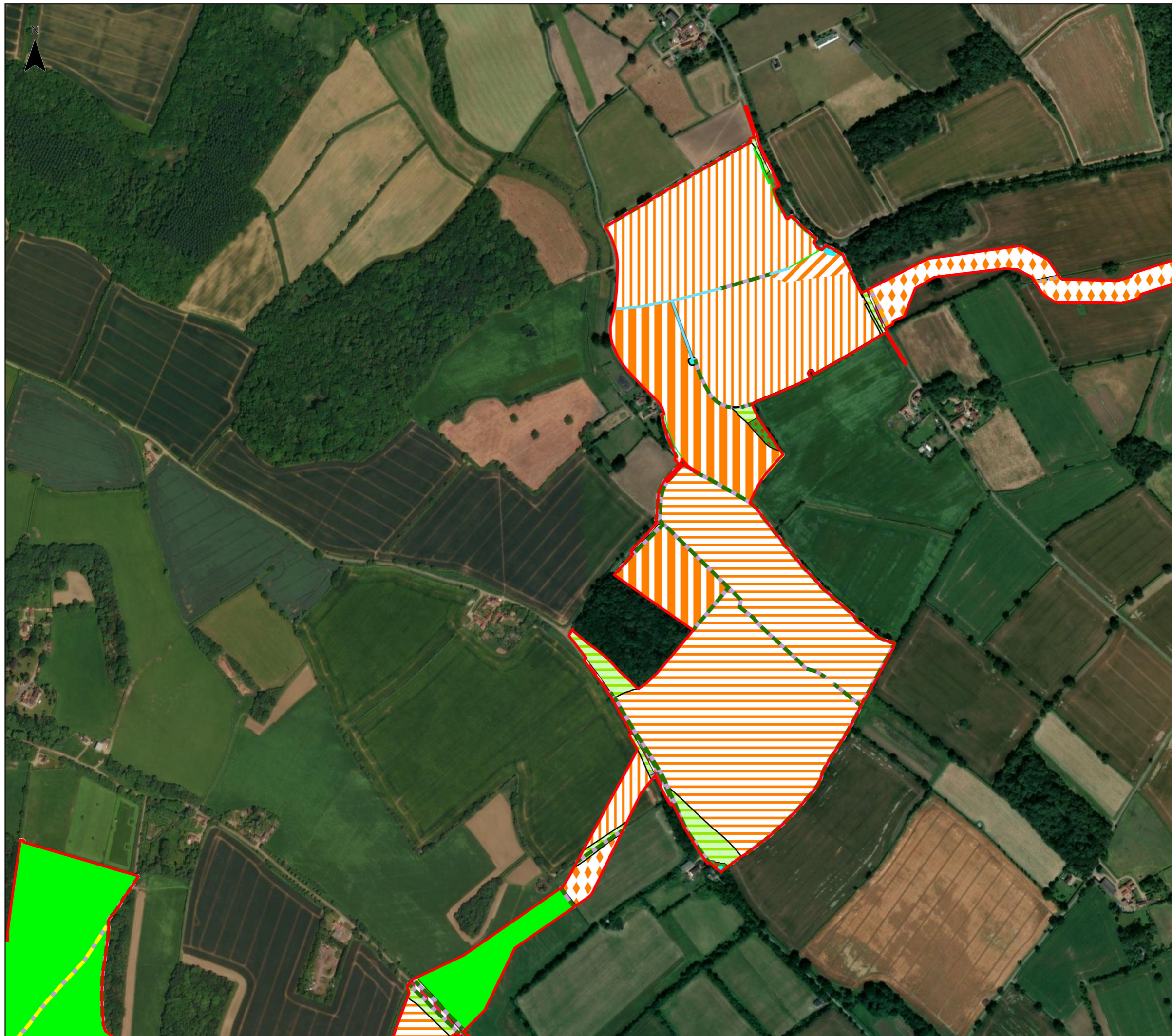
-  Order Limits
-  h2a - Native hedgerow
-  h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
-  h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
-  r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
-  u1e - Built linear features
-  w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
-  c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
-  c1b - Temporary grass and clover leys
-  c1c7 - Other cereal crops
-  c1c8 - Arable fields - pollen and nectar
-  g3c - Other neutral grassland
-  g3c5 - Mountain hay meadows
-  g4 - Modified grassland
-  r1g 42 - Ponds
-  u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
-  u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results

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Revision A



Legend

-  Order Limits
-  h2a - Native hedgerow
-  h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
-  h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
-  r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
-  c1 - Arable and horticulture
-  c1b - Temporary grass and clover leys
-  c1b5 - Rye-grass and clover leys
-  c1c - Cereal crops
-  c1c5 - Winter stubble
-  c1c7 - Other cereal crops
-  g3c - Other neutral grassland
-  g3c5 - Mountain hay meadows
-  g4 - Modified grassland
-  h3a - Blackthorn scrub
-  r1g 42 - Ponds
-  u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
-  w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
-  w1h5 - Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results
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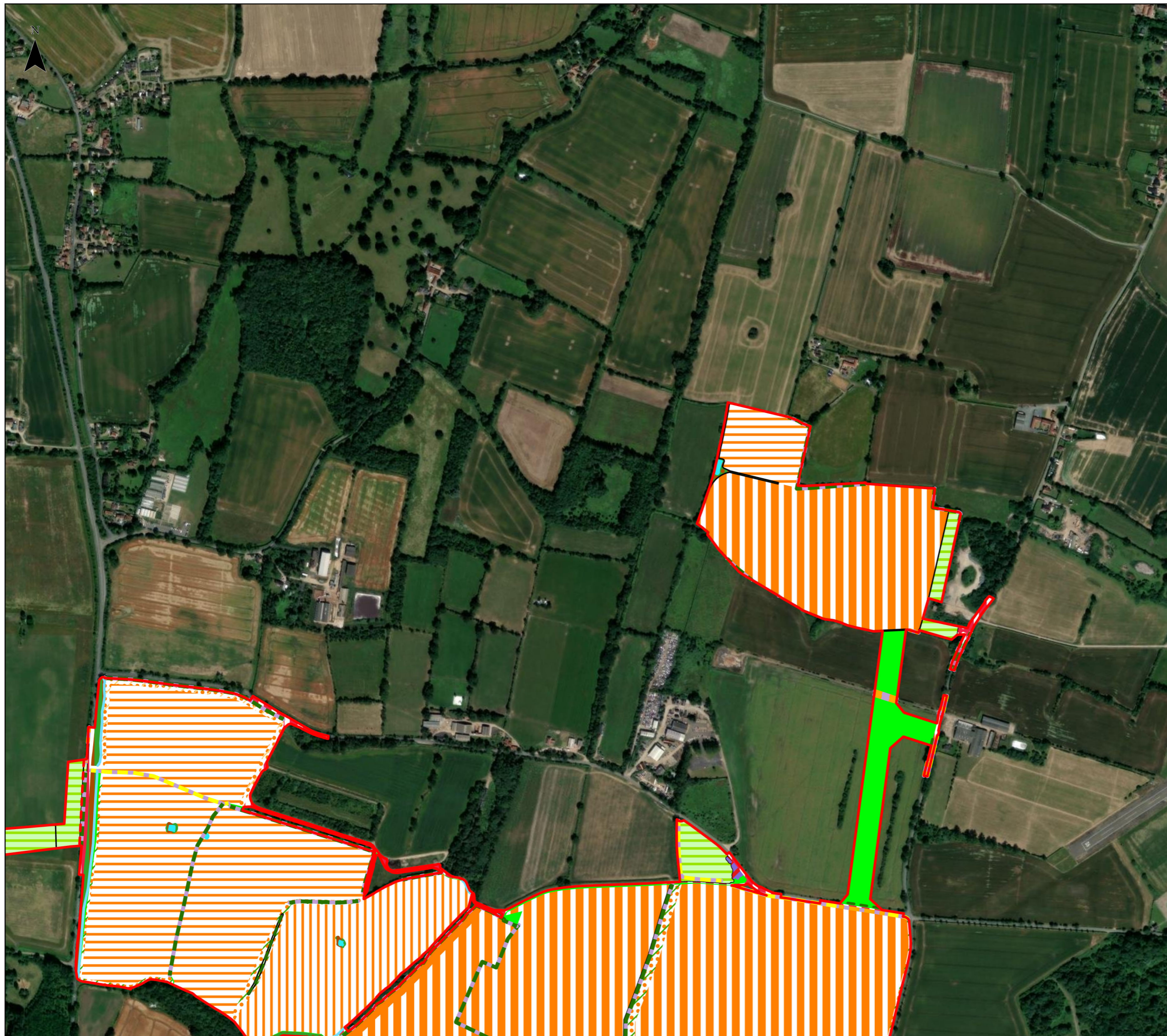
- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- u1e - Built linear features
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1a8 - Arable field margins with wild bird mix
- c1c - Cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- w1h - Other woodland; mixed

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results

Sheet 3 of 19
 Revision A



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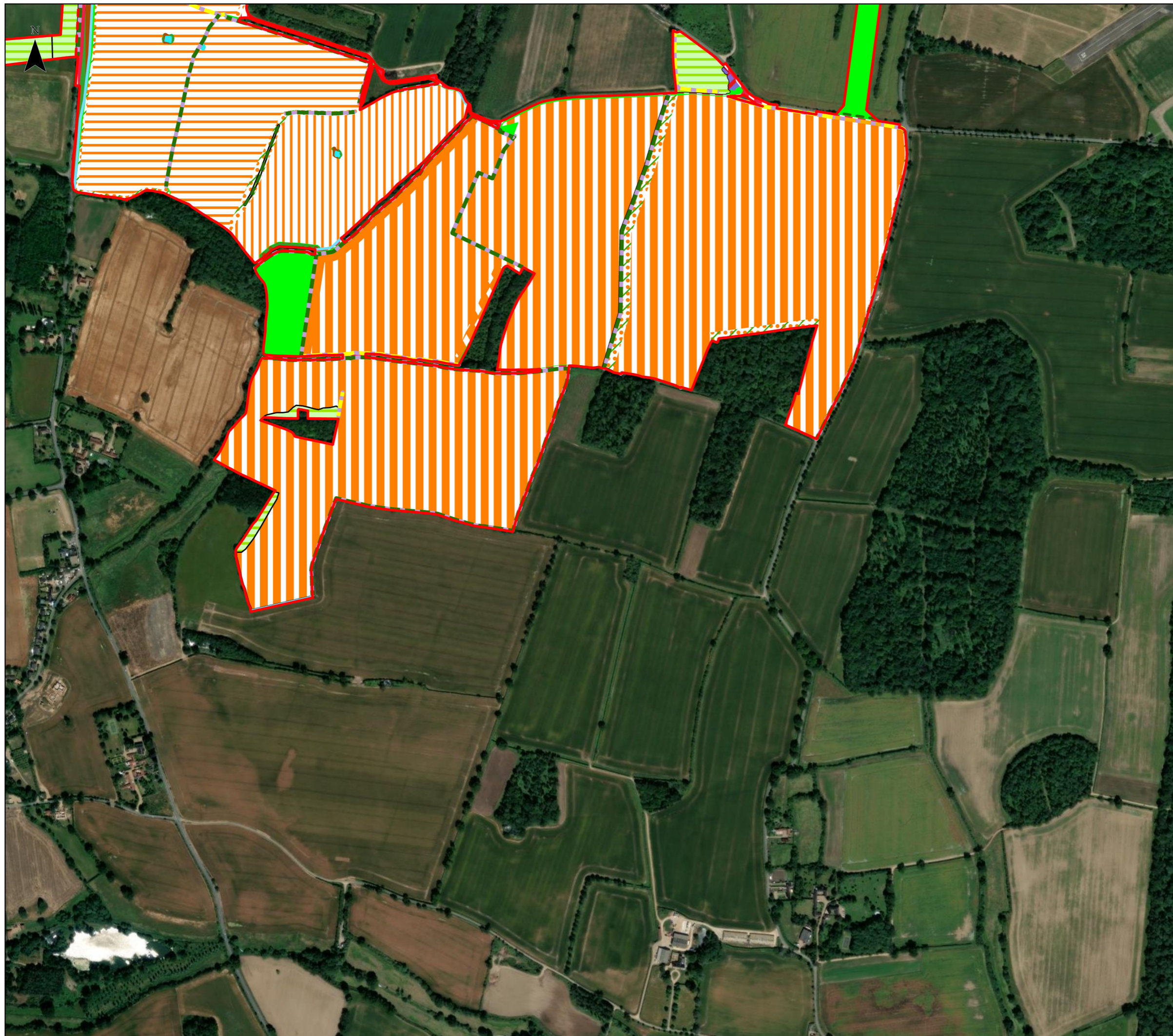
- Order Limits
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- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- u1e - Built linear features
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1a8 - Arable field margins with wild bird mix
- c1b - Temporary grass and clover leys
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c5 - Winter stubble
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- h3j - Willow scrub
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- w1h5 - Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results

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 Revision A



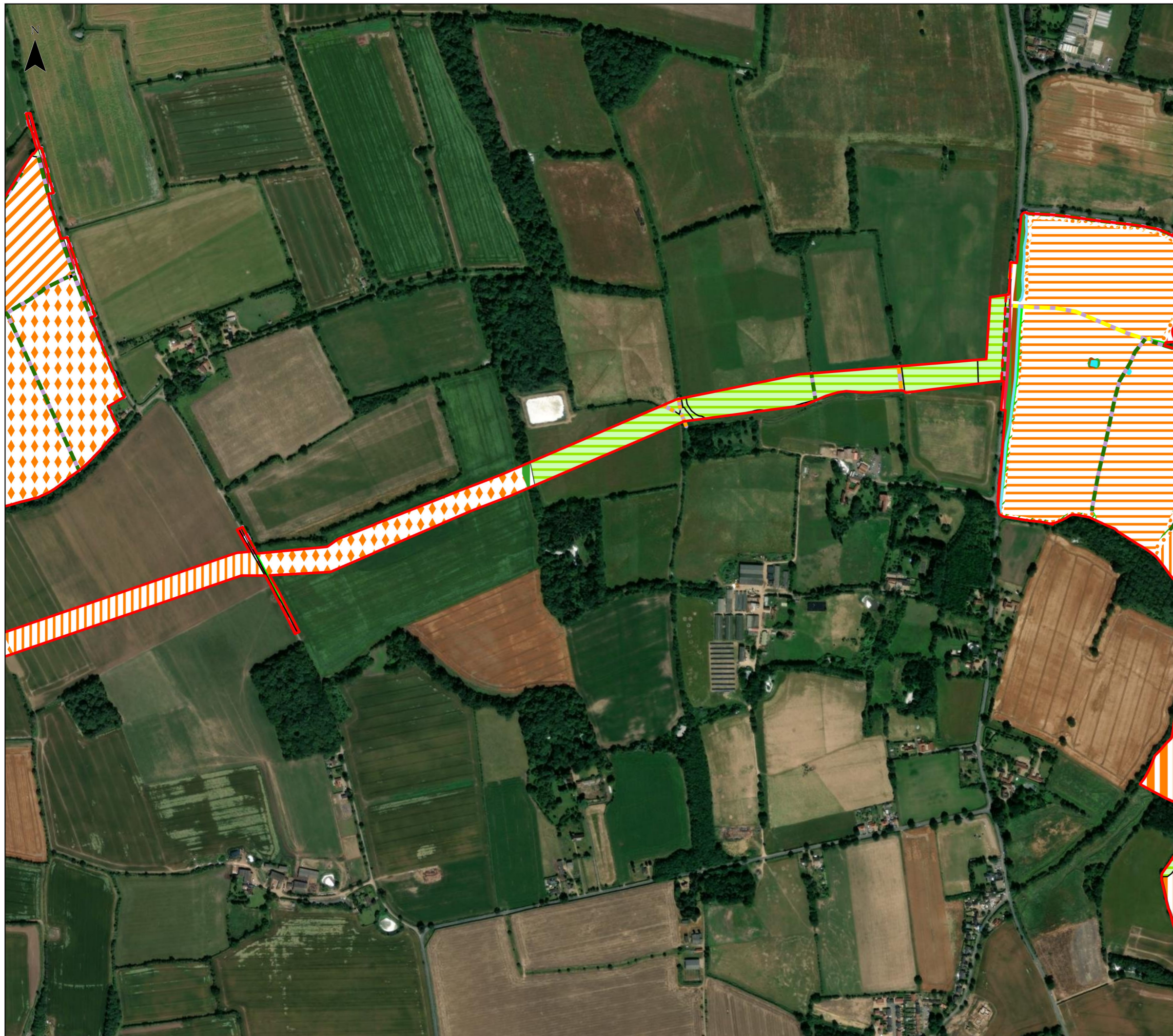
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- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- u1e - Built linear features
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1a8 - Arable field margins with wild bird mix
- c1b - Temporary grass and clover leys
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c5 - Winter stubble
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- w1h5 - Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results
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 Revision A



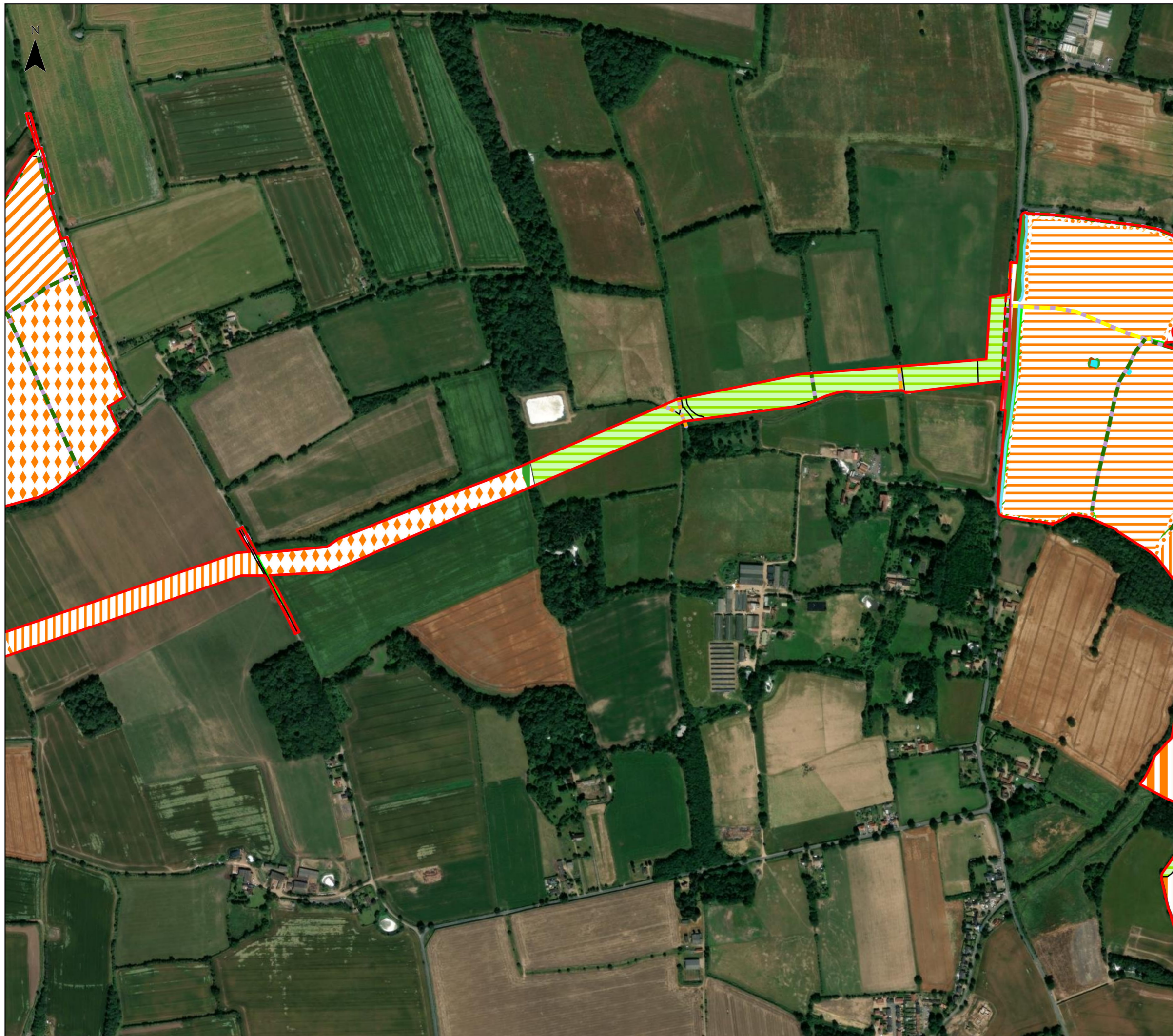
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- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- u1e - Built linear features
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- r1 - Standing open water and canals
- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1b - Temporary grass and clover leys
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c5 - Winter stubble
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- w1f7 - Yew-dominated woodland
- w1h5 - Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results
 Sheet 6 of 19
 Revision A



Legend

- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- u1e - Built linear features
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- r1 - Standing open water and canals
- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1b - Temporary grass and clover leys
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c5 - Winter stubble
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- w1f7 - Yew-dominated woodland
- w1h5 - Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results
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 Revision A



Legend

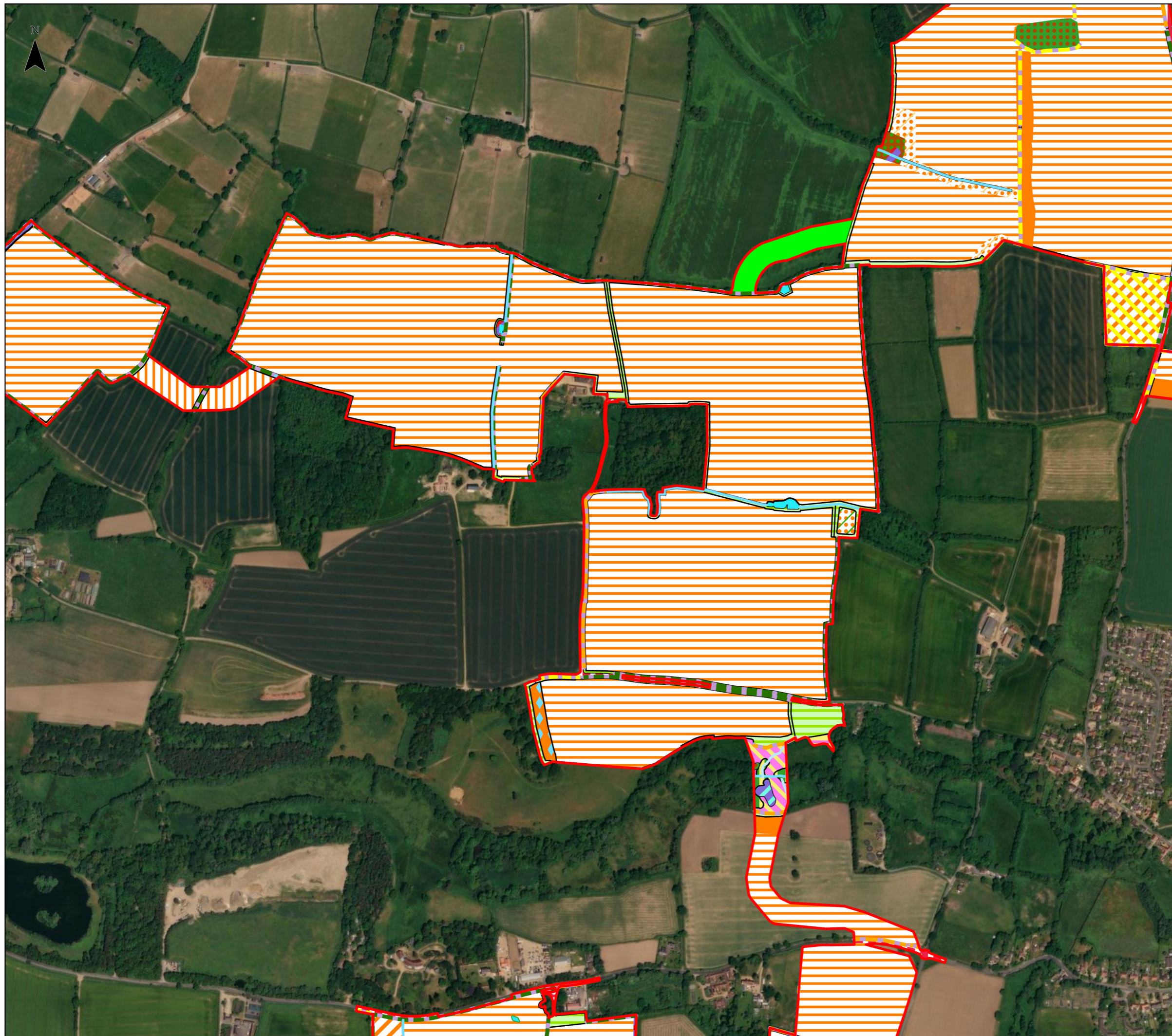
- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- u1e - Built linear features
- r1 - Standing open water and canals
- c1a - Arable Field Margins
- c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1a8 - Arable field margins with wild bird mix
- c1b5 - Rye-grass and clover leys
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c5 - Winter stubble
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1c8 - Arable fields - pollen and nectar
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3a - Blackthorn scrub
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- w1f7 - Yew-dominated woodland
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results

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Revision A



Legend

- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- r1 - Standing open water and canals
- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1a8 - Arable field margins with wild bird mix
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c5 - Winter stubble
- c1c6 - Game bird mix fields
- c1c8 - Arable fields - pollen and nectar
- f2a - Lowland fen
- f2e - Reedbeds
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- h3j - Willow scrub
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- w1d5 - Alder woodland on floodplains
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- w1h - Other woodland; mixed

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results
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Legend

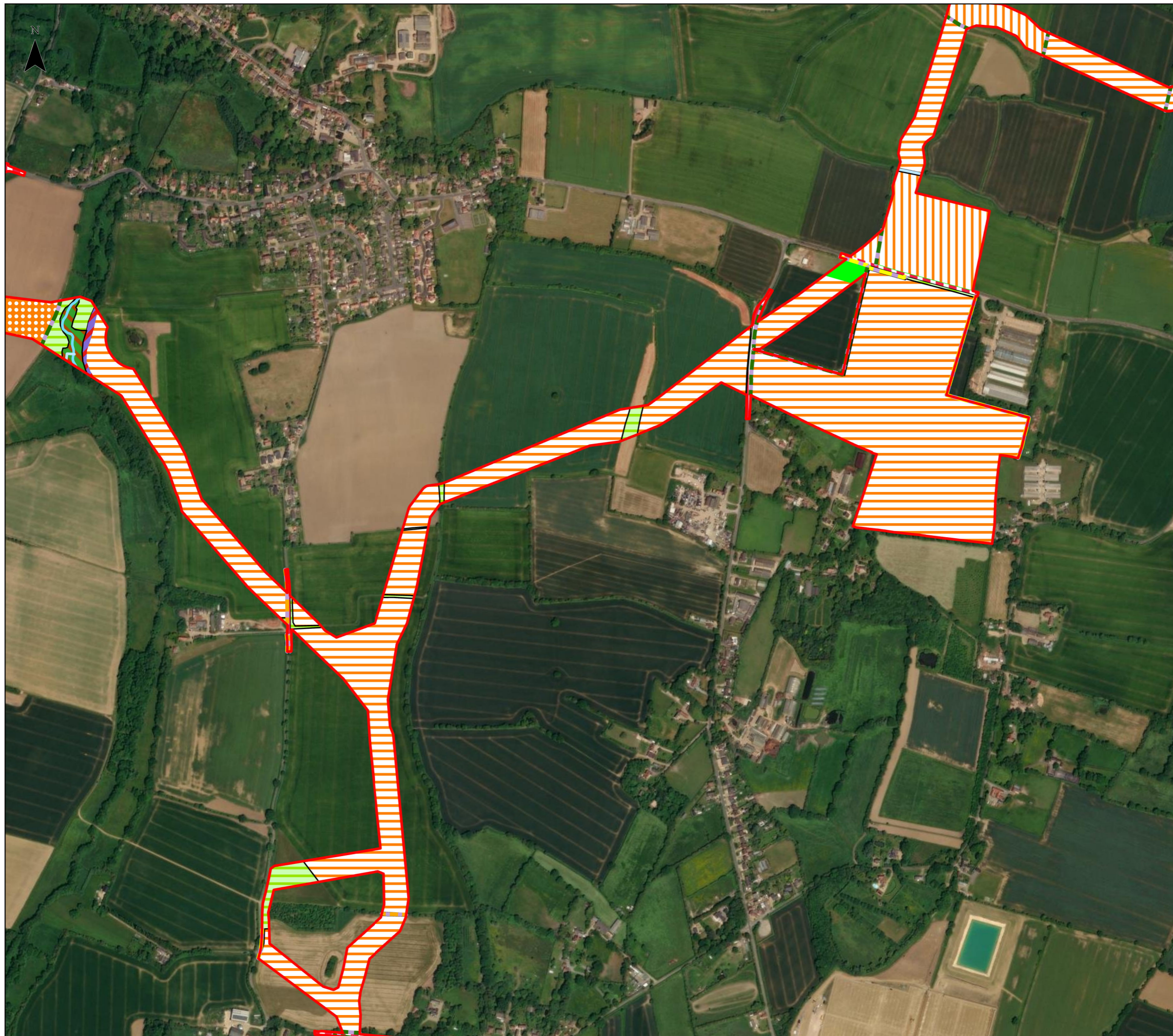
-  Order Limits
-  h2a - Native hedgerow
-  h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
-  h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
-  r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
-  w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
-  w1h6 - Other woodland; mixed; mainly conifer
-  c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
-  c1c - Cereal crops
-  c1c5 - Winter stubble
-  g3c - Other neutral grassland
-  g4 - Modified grassland
-  h3d - Bramble scrub
-  h3h - Mixed scrub
-  r1g 42 - Ponds
-  u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
-  u1b5 - Buildings
-  w1f - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
-  w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved

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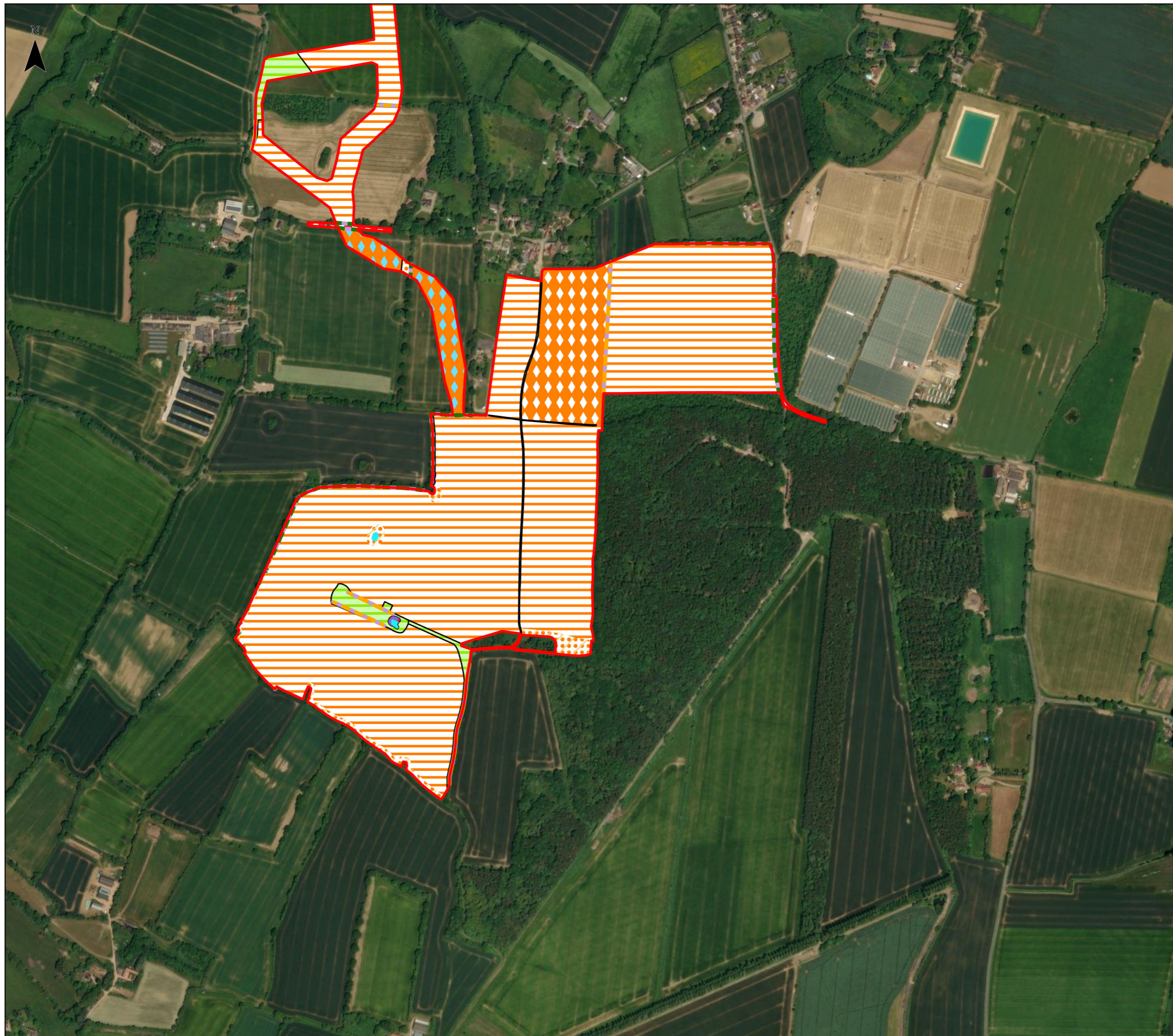
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- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- r1 - Standing open water and canals
- c1a - Arable Field Margins
- c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c5 - Winter stubble
- c1c6 - Game bird mix fields
- c1d - Non-cereal Crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- w1d - Wet woodland

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results
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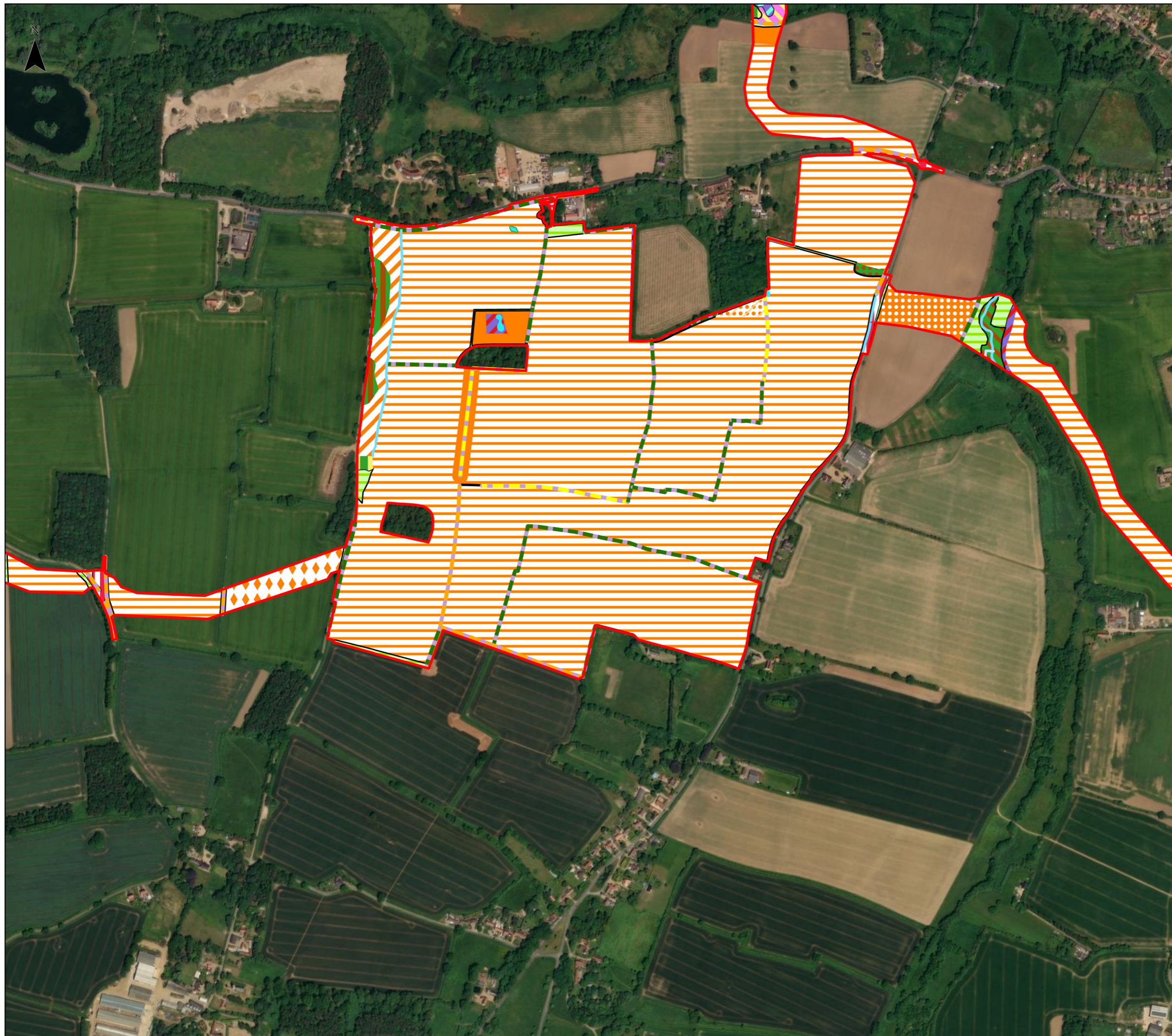
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- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- u1e - Built linear features
- c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c6 - Game bird mix fields
- c1c8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3f - Hawthorn scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- w1h - Other woodland; mixed

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results
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Legend

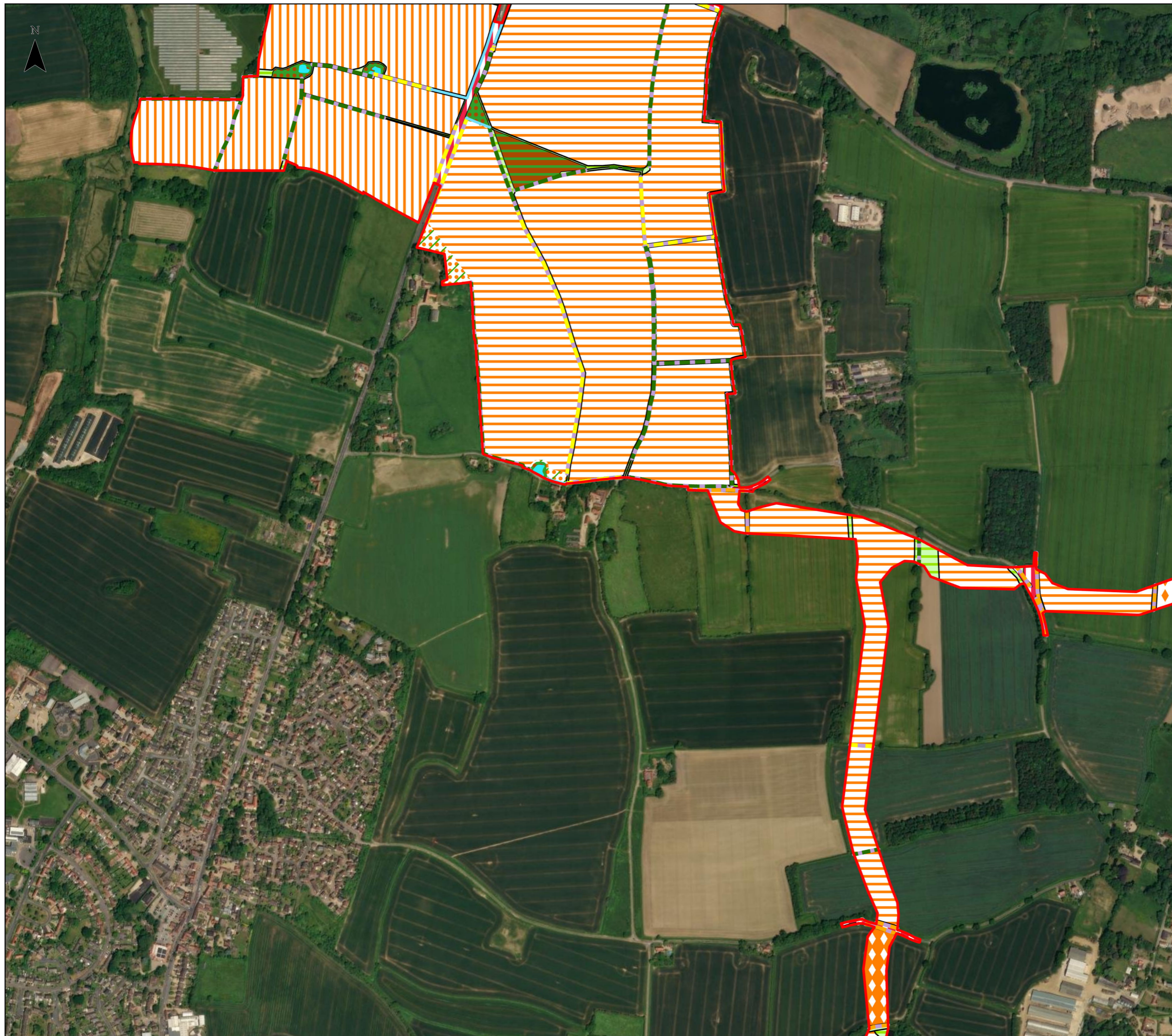
- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- r1 - Standing open water and canals
- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1a8 - Arable field margins with wild bird mix
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d - Non-cereal Crops
- f2a - Lowland fen
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- h3j - Willow scrub
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- w1d - Wet woodland
- w1d5 - Alder woodland on floodplains
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- w1h5 - Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved
- w2b - Other Scot's Pine woodland

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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results

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Legend

- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c5 - Winter stubble
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3j - Willow scrub
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- w1f - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved

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






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Figure 7: Extended Habitat Survey Results

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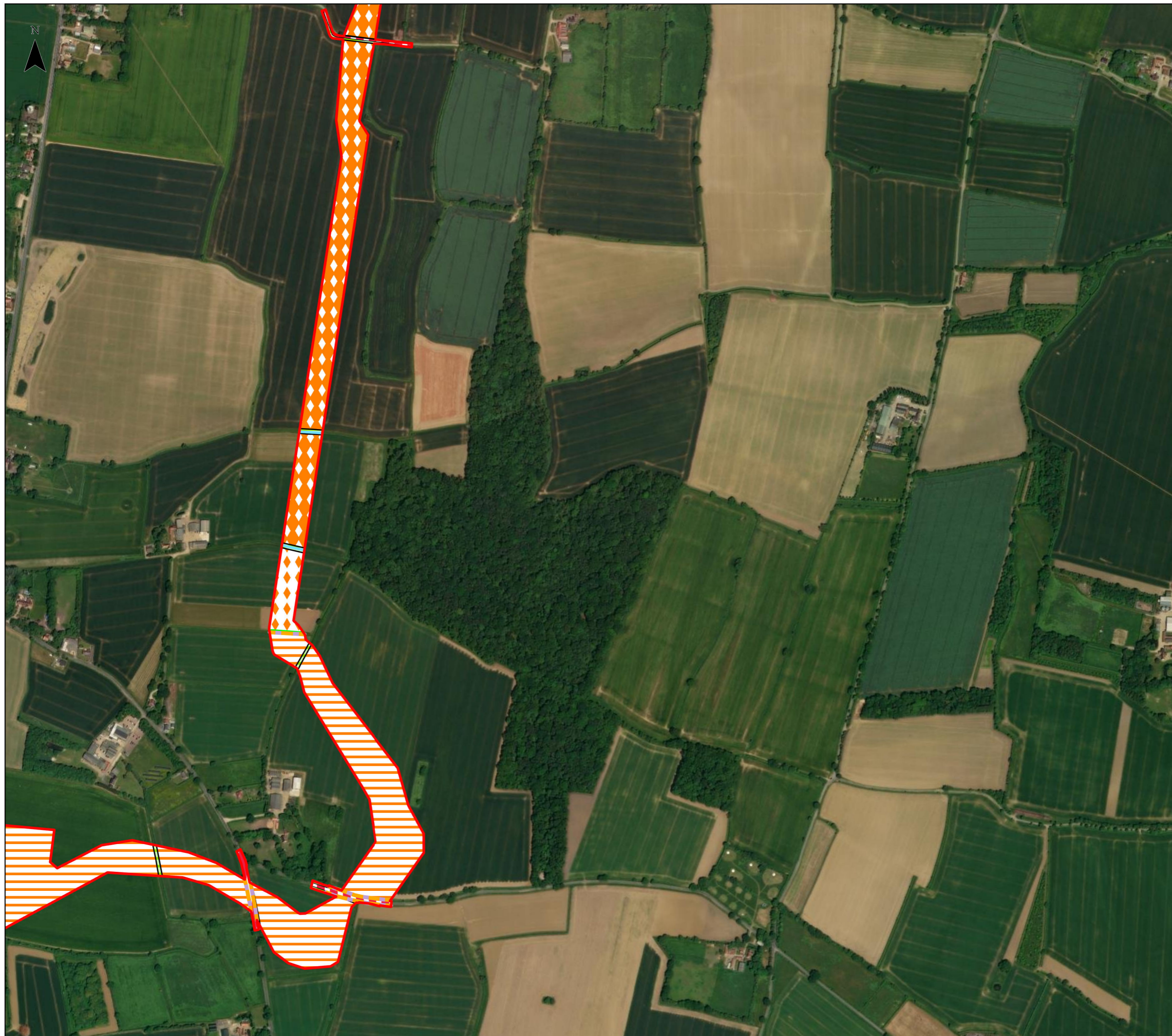
Legend

-  Order Limits
-  h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
-  h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
-  r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
-  w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
-  c1c - Cereal crops
-  c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
-  g3c - Other neutral grassland
-  h3j - Willow scrub
-  u1b - Developed land; sealed surface

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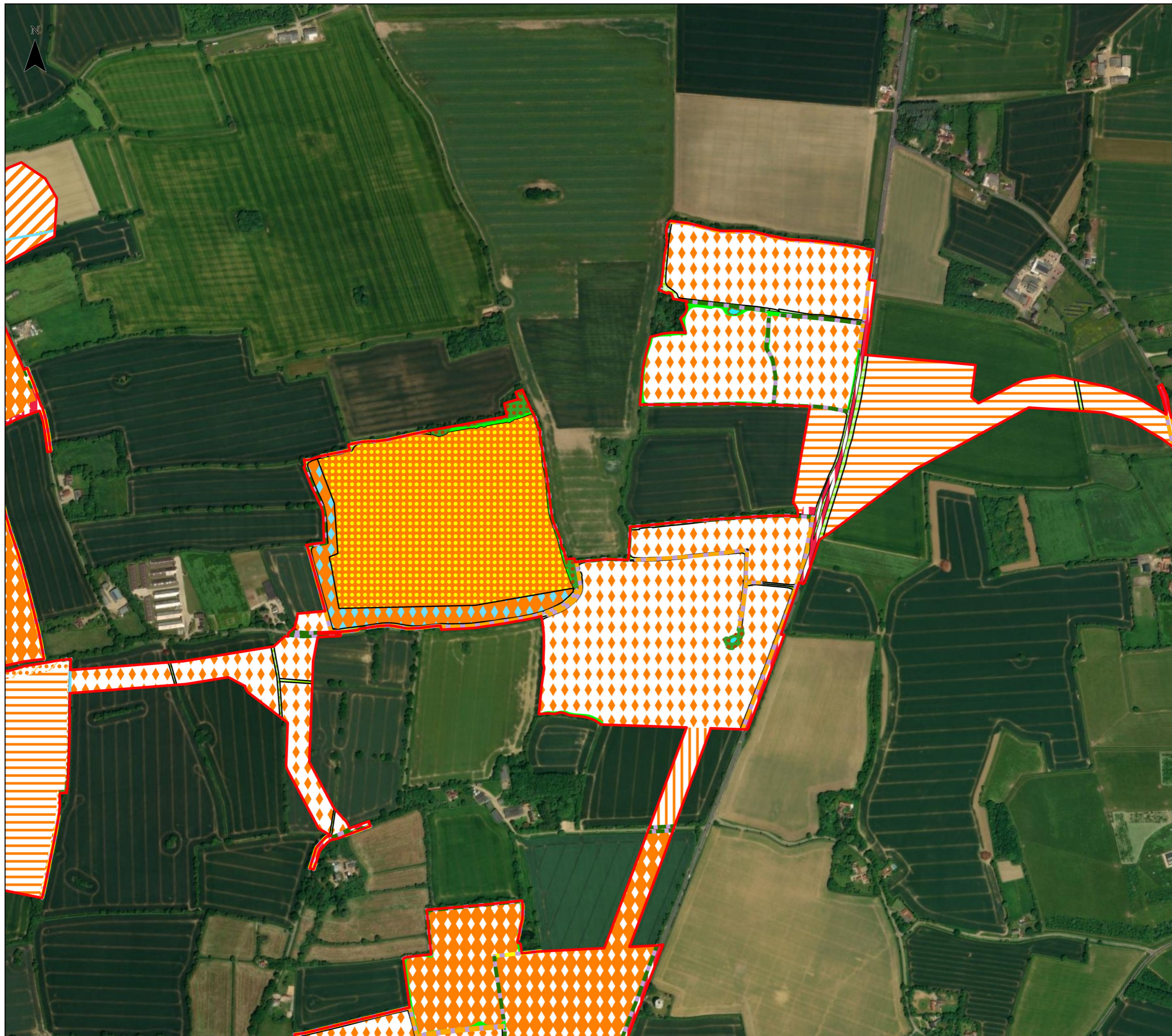
Legend

- Order Limits
- h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface





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Legend

-  Order Limits
-  h2a - Native hedgerow
-  h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
-  h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
-  r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
-  w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
-  c1 - Arable and horticulture
-  c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
-  c1c - Cereal crops
-  c1c5 - Winter stubble
-  c1c6 - Game bird mix fields
-  c1c7 - Other cereal crops
-  c1d5 - Miscanthus
-  c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
-  g3c - Other neutral grassland
-  g4 - Modified grassland
-  h3d - Bramble scrub
-  r1g 42 - Ponds
-  u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
-  u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved


















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Legend

-  Order Limits
-  h2a - Native hedgerow
-  h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
-  h2a6 - Other native hedgerow
-  w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
-  c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
-  c1c - Cereal crops
-  c1c5 - Winter stubble
-  c1c7 - Other cereal crops
-  c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
-  g3c - Other neutral grassland
-  g4 - Modified grassland
-  h3h - Mixed scrub
-  u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
-  u1b6 - Other developed land
-  u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved

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Legend

- Order Limits
- h2a - Native hedgerow
- h2a5 - Species-rich native hedgerow
- r1g 50 - Standing water - ditch
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
- r1 - Standing open water and canals
- c1 - Arable and horticulture
- c1a5 - Arable field margins tussocky
- c1a6 - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
- c1b - Temporary grass and clover leys
- c1c - Cereal crops
- c1c5 - Winter stubble
- c1c7 - Other cereal crops
- c1d8 - Other non-cereal crops
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- r1g 42 - Ponds
- u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved

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Annex A. Target Notes

Target Note	Description	Locations
TN1	Tree with veteran features	1A
TN1	Tree with veteran features	4A (x4 locations)
TN1	Tree with veteran features (bees nest)	4A
TN1	Tree with veteran features (oak)	7F (x2 locations)
TN2	Dead tree	1A (x2 locations)
TN2	Dead tree (with PRFS)	7D
TN2	Dead tree (ash with woodpecker holes)	7F
TN2	Dead tree (oak with PRFS)	8B
TN2	Dead tree (ash)	10E
TN3	Brash pile	1A
TN3	Brash pile	1B
TN4	Tree with PRFS	1A
TN4	Tree with PRFS	5A (x4 locations)
TN4	Tree with PRFS (large oak with cavities - bat and owl potential)	5A
TN4	Tree with PRFS (mature oak)	7C
TN4	Tree with PRFS (oak)	7C (x2 locations)
TN4	Tree with PRFS (flaky bark)	7C
TN4	Tree with PRFS (oak)	7D (x6 locations)
TN4	Tree with PRFS (Woodpecker hole)	7F
TN4	Tree with PRFS (oak)	7G
TN4	Tree with PRFS	7K (x6 locations)
TN4	Tree with PRFS (oak)	8A (x3 locations)
TN4	Tree with PRFS (ash)	8A (x3 locations)
TN4	Tree with PRFS (oak)	8B (x2 locations)
TN4	Tree with PRFS (ash)	8B
TN4	Tree with PRFS (oak with woodpecker holes)	9
TN4	Tree with PRFS (mature oak with woodpecker holes)	9
TN4	Tree with PRFS (with woodpecker holes)	10C
TN4	Tree with PRFS (mature ash)	10E
TN5	Hibernaculum	1B
TN6	Japanese knotweed (invasive non-native species)	Within 250m of Site 3 (x3 locations)
TN7	Barn owl box	6 (x2 locations)
TN8	Giant Hogweed (invasive non-native species)	5A (x5 locations)
TN9	Mature tree (Very large oak)	7A
TN9	Mature tree (oak)	10E
T10	Tree with owl potential (Barn owl potential mature oak)	7C
T11	Woodpile	7L
T12	Bird feather (Tawny owl)	8A
T13	Debris Pile (brick)	9
T13	Debris Pile	9
T14	Hedgehog droppings	10E

Target Note	Description	Locations
T15	Himalayan Balsam	CRC7

Annex B. Photographs

Photograph 1

Example of a wide tussocky grassland field with lightly managed species-rich native hedgerow with trees in the background, and a cereal crop in Sub-Site 7A.



Photograph 2

Heavily managed hedgerow associated with ditch and non-cereal crop in Sub-Site 4B.



Photograph 3

Agricultural field margin managed for pollinators in Sub-Site 7E.



Photograph 4

Mixed woodland at Sub-Site 5A.



Photograph 5

Ditch without hedgerow at Sub-Site 5A.



Photograph 6

Other woodland; broadleaved and cereal crop at Sub-Site 7A.



Photograph 7

Woodland at the north of Sub-Site 7D.



Photograph 8

Pond at Sub-Site 4B.



Photograph 9

Grassland margin displaying typical composition including false oat-grass with dead stands of hogweed. Sub-Site 7E.



Photograph 10

Heavily vegetated, dry shallow ditch at Sub-Site 7K. Facing south.



Photograph 11

Grass ley and bramble scrub at Sub-Site 7E. Facing east.



Photograph 12

Potential roost features for bats in main stem of mature ash tree at the BESS Site. Facing south.



Photograph 13

Japanese knotweed infestation less than 250m of the boundary of Site 3, but not within the Order Limits. Facing west.



Photograph 14

Giant hogweed along the length of a ditch in Sub-Site 5A.



Photograph 15

Stream flowing through CRC6 within area of wet woodland.



Photograph 16

Stream flowing through CRC7 within area of wet woodland



