East Pye Solar

Permitted Preliminary Works Environmental Management Plan

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview and Purpose of the Document

1.1.1 East Pye Solar Limited (the 'Applicant') has prepared this Permitted Preliminary Works Environmental Management Plan (PPWEMP) in relation to an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for East Pye Solar (the 'Scheme').

1.1.2 The Scheme is being led by the Applicant, which is a subsidiary of Island Green Power UK Limited ('IGP'). IGP is a leading international developer of renewable energy projects, established in 2013.

1.1.3 The aim of this PPWEMP is to set out the controls that will apply to the construction-related activities that may be undertaken prior to 'commencement' of the main construction works for the Scheme, as defined in the **Draft DCO [REP1-014]**. These advance activities are defined in the **Draft DCO [REP1-014]** as the 'permitted preliminary works' (PPW).

1.1.4 This PPWEMP considers guidance in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 of the Planning Act 2008: Guidance on preparing an application: Part 3 – Contents of a draft Development Consent Order (July 2026) and as set out below.

1.1.5 *'4.3 The definition of commencement should not provide for preliminary works which are so extensive that they would potentially give rise to significant environmental effects themselves and would therefore normally need consideration and approval by the discharging authority prior to such works starting. Typical examples of matters which are not acceptable preliminary works include major earthworks, and activities potentially affecting protected species or archaeological remains, unless appropriate controls are secured in another manner.*

1.1.6 *4.4 The proposed definition of commencement and any permitted pre-commencement works or permitted preliminary works, and the extent of controls over matters such as hours of working and construction noise levels, are likely to be carefully considered by the Examining Authority throughout the course of an examination of the application, with reference to the specific circumstances of the proposed works.'*

1.1.7 This PPWEMP sets out specific, required mitigation measures and environmental commitments, for these works, to avoid likely significant effects.

1.1.8 This PPWEMP is a detailed plan and a certified document under Schedule 12 of Article 42 of the **Draft DCO [REP1-014]**. As this is a detailed plan, no approval mechanism is necessary under the Requirements.

1.1.9 This document does not address the construction, operational (and maintenance), or decommissioning activities, which are subject to separate environmental management plans and procedures. An **Outline Construction**

Environmental Management Plan [REP1-058], **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP1-068]**, **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [REP1-060]** and **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [REP1-062]** have been prepared to accompany the DCO Application and will be secured through Requirements of the DCO.

2 Permitted Preliminary Works

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The **Draft DCO [REP1-014]** defines PPW as all or any of the following:

- Environmental surveys, geotechnical surveys, intrusive archaeological surveys and other investigations for the purpose of assessing ground conditions;
- Removal of plant and machinery;
- Above-ground site preparation for temporary facilities for the use of contractors;
- Remedial work in respect of any contamination or other adverse ground conditions;
- Protection, diversion and laying of apparatus;
- The provision of temporary means of enclosure and site security for construction;
- The temporary display of site notices or advertisements; or
- Site clearance, including vegetation removal and demolition of existing buildings and structures.

2.1.2 Works captured as PPW can be undertaken prior to commencement and therefore the discharge of certain requirements contained in Schedule 2 of the **Draft DCO [REP1-014]**. PPW do not include implementation of the Highway Works, installation of haul roads that cross watercourses or the establishment of new access points off the public highway. Access will be taken from existing access locations only. Topsoil stripping would be limited to those areas where temporary removal of soil is required for example for archaeological trenching or geotechnical investigation. There would be no long-term storage and management of topsoil or subsoil. Vegetation clearance will be selective and limited to the areas reasonably required for relevant discrete activities as listed above.

2.2 Programming

2.2.1 Any above ground infrastructure or equipment installed in connection with the PPW will be required to be removed if construction of the Scheme has not commenced (as defined in the **Draft DCO [REP1-014]**) within eighteen months of that above ground infrastructure or equipment having been installed, unless agreed otherwise with the relevant planning authority.

2.2.2 Prior to any PPWs beginning, the relevant planning authority must be notified of the proposed timetable for the PPW. The relevant planning authority must also be notified when the PPW have been completed.

2.2.3 The PPW must be undertaken in accordance with this PPWEMP.

2.3 Roles and Responsibilities

2.3.1 The key roles and responsibilities during the PPW in managing environmental impacts will likely include, but are not limited to:

- Site Manager, responsibility for construction activity and will be based on site full time;
- Construction Project Manager, responsible for ensuring compliance with the applicable environmental controls;
- Environmental Manager, will oversee environmental monitoring and inspections and liaise with environmental bodies and other third parties where appropriate;
- Archaeological Project Manager, responsible for overseeing and monitoring the undertaking and satisfactory completion of all archaeological works carried out by archaeological contractors;
- Community Liaison Manager, responsible to lead discussions with local communities, act as the primary point of contact for queries and complaints, and support the Community Liaison Group and Stakeholder Communications Plan;
- Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW), responsible for monitoring the completion of archaeological works in accordance with the programme reporting and responding to any incidents or non-compliance;
- Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoCOW), responsible for overseeing environmental monitoring and inspections and liaise with environmental bodies and other third parties where appropriate; and
- Arboricultural Clerk of Works (ACoW) , manages the risks to trees on construction sites, advising on protecting sensitive trees (e.g. veteran trees), and providing on-going practical advice throughout the PPW.

2.4 Working Hours

2.4.1 The core construction working hours (excluding start-up and shut down works) are defined as:

- Monday to Friday from 07:00 to 18:00 (daylight hours permitting);
- Saturday from 08:00 to 13:30 (daylight hours permitting); and

- No Sunday or Bank Holiday working unless crucial to construction (for example, for trenchless crossings which must be continuous activity and the arrival and departures of workers and the delivery of AIL) or in an emergency.

2.4.2 Where practicable, construction deliveries will be co-ordinated to avoid Heavy Good Vehicle (HGV) movements during the traditional network peak morning (08:00 to 09:00) and peak afternoon (17:00 to 18:00) hours. Some activities may be required outside of these times such as the delivery of AIL, concrete pours for foundations, night working for cable construction works in public highways and/or trenchless crossing activities.

2.5 Ecology

2.5.1 Method statements relevant to the Permitted Preliminary Works are provided at Appendix A. These cover all pre-commencement surveys and seasonal constraints relating to habitat removal which may be undertaken in small quantities during PPW.

2.6 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage

2.6.1 As the PPW are limited in scale and extent, the relevant controls would principally relate to safe access, protection of watercourse banks and buffers, avoidance of unnecessary disturbance, and pollution prevention and incident response. Ditch surveys may be required to confirm drainage outfalls and extents of tops of bank. Detailed surface water drainage design will be required to be submitted to the Lead Local Flood Authority for approval, including details of construction compound drainage. No separate hydrology management plan, monitoring or wider pre-construction drainage is required.

2.7 Control of Noise

2.7.1 PPW will be undertaken in accordance with the best practicable means (as defined in Section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (Ref 3)), to minimise noise and vibration effects. Noise control measures will be consistent with the recommendations of the current version of BS 5228 'Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites' – 'Part 1: Noise' and 'Part 2: Vibration' (BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 and BS 5228-2:2009+A1:2014) (Ref 5).

2.8 Control of Light

2.8.1 Lighting may be required during PPW for safety reasons but will be temporary in nature and predominantly limited to the core PPW working hours. A period of up to one hour before and after the core working hours may be used for mobilisation and close down activities which do not require substantial artificial lighting.

2.8.2 Between the months of November and February inclusive, where lighting is considered essential, PPW temporary site lighting in the form of mobile lighting towers will be positioned to ensure that light is directed onto the area of works only with as minimal light spillage onto the hedgerows/woodland as possible. These towers will be kept as low as practical to provide the illumination necessary for safe working, while limiting light spill towards surrounding sensitive receptors and the night sky. The use of LED lighting and cowls, hoods and other similar screens will be adopted. Any working-area lighting requirements will be discussed and reviewed with the EcoCoW.

2.8.3 Lighting required during the PPW will follow the principles outlined in **ES Volume 3: Appendix 7.11 - Lighting Strategy [APP-151]** for construction lighting, which will include but not be limited to the following:

- Use of focused directional fittings to minimise outward light spill and glare (e.g. hoods/cowls which direct light below downwards) outside of the Site;
- Lighting to be directed towards the middle of the Site rather than towards the boundaries; and
- Visual barriers, such as hoardings, to be implemented to prevent light from spilling out of the Site boundary onto nearby receptors.

2.8.4 Any unavoidable artificial lighting during the hours of darkness required within the period March to October inclusive will only be permitted following consultation with the EcoCoW in order to determine the severity of potential impacts and appropriate mitigation steps, including agreed hours of operation and numbers/specification of luminaires.

2.8.5 Security lighting may be installed on temporary site compounds and permanent structures following consultation with the EcoCoW to establish appropriate locations. Security lighting will be limited to the minimum number of luminaires required, which will be defined through consultation with the EcoCoW and based on the sensitivity of the habitats potentially affected and baseline lux levels. Security luminaires will be motion-sensitive and set on a short (less than 2 minute) timer and oriented to reduce upward light spill as far as possible (i.e. horizontally oriented) in order to reduce the potential impact on light sensitive species such as bats.

2.9 Traffic Management

2.9.1 During PPW, the appointed contractor(s) will ensure that the impacts from works-related traffic on the local community (including local residents, businesses and users of the surrounding transport network) are minimised, where reasonably practicable, by implementing the measures set out in **Table 3-5** below.

2.10 Parking Provisions

2.10.1 The temporary compounds for the PPW will include parking areas. For the purposes of PPW, temporary compounds will be limited in scale. To minimise HGV deliveries, parking areas will use track matting to protect the ground surface and not aggregate. Vegetation will be cleared and security fencing will be established for these compounds.

2.10.2 Wheel cleaning facilities will be used by vehicles prior to exiting onto the public highway if there is mud or debris from the construction site on the vehicles.

2.11 Recovery, Recycling and Disposing of Waste

2.11.1 In order to control the waste generated during PPW, the contractor(s) will separate the main waste streams on-site, prior to transport to an approved, licensed third party waste facility for recycling or disposal.

2.12 Security

2.12.1 Site security during PPW will be provided on a risk assessed basis and managed by the contractor(s). Active PPW areas, compounds, plant and stored materials will be secured using measures proportionate to the location, activity, duration and assessed security risk. Measures may include temporary fencing, gates, locks, surveillance or security attendance where reasonably necessary. Any storage of materials will be kept secure to prevent theft or vandalism. A safe system for accessing the materials storage areas would be implemented by the contractor(s).

2.13 Responding to Environmental Incidents and Emergencies

2.13.1 An emergency response plan will be shared with the relevant local authority emergency planning officer, emergency services including the local fire service, as well as the Environment Agency in relation to responding to flood warnings and events. The plan will detail the procedures for responding to incidents and emergencies on site, and any reporting.

2.14 Complaints Procedure

2.14.1 The Applicant will take all reasonable steps to avoid any breach of the PPWEMP through the implementation of the management and control measures. Should any breaches occur, then enforcement procedures will be followed:

- The Site Manager will notify the Applicant of any breaches of the PPWMP arrangements as and when they occur;

- The Applicant will issue a warning letter to the relevant contractor outlining what action would be taken in the event of any further noncompliance (in general terms); and
- The Applicant will report the details of the response to the Site Manager as part of the monitoring report. The monitoring report will be made available to the relevant local planning authorities at their request to ensure compliance and to demonstrate that action is being taken where necessary.

2.14.2 If complaints are received, the Site Manager will record the incident using a database logging system. A receipt of the complaint will be emailed to the person making the complaint. The receipt will include details of the formal response and how the complaint can be escalated, if required.

2.14.3 The Site Manager will then investigate the incident and will discuss what actions need to occur with the Applicant.

2.14.4 To ensure public faith in the reporting system, the target response times will be:

- Receipt of original complaint: within 2 working days of the complaint being received;
- Investigation time: within 4 working days of receipt of the complaint (assuming no requirement to involve / consult with third parties);
- Corrective Action Decision: within 3 working days of the completion of the investigation (assuming no requirement to involve third parties); and
- Response: to be issued to the complainant within 3 working days of the Corrective Action Decision.

2.14.5 It is of the utmost importance that the public know that their complaint will be investigated, actioned and that they are informed of what actions are being taken.

2.15 Good Practice

2.15.1 The Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) will be adopted to assist in reducing pollution and nuisance from the PPW, by employing good practice measures, which go beyond statutory compliance.

2.15.2 The CCS is a national scheme that promotes good practice on construction sites through its codes of considerate practice; these commit registered sites to be considerate and good neighbours, as well as being respectful, environmentally conscious, responsible and accountable.

2.16 Public Consultation and Liaison

2.16.1 A Community Liaison Manager would be in place from the commencement of the PPW to lead discussions with local communities during those works.

2.16.2 Where access is required to land for temporary work, landowners will be notified a minimum of 14 days in advance unless otherwise agreed. Communication with landowners will be ongoing and maintained by the Community Liaison Manager.

3 Mitigation and Monitoring

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section of the PPWEMP sets out the mitigation and management measures to be implemented as part of the PPW, as relevant to the nature of the PPW. It also sets out monitoring requirements for each mitigation measure or monitoring requirement where relevant.

3.2 Climate Change

Table 3-1: Climate Change

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) impact on waste	Reducing waste: • Segregation of waste at source, where practicable, to facilitate a high proportion and high-quality recycling. • Maximise on-site reuse of excavated soils, demolition arisings and cleared materials where suitable and environmentally acceptable. • Off-site reuse, recycling and recovery of materials and waste where reuse on-site is not practical, e.g. through use of an off-site waste segregation or treatment facility or for direct reuse or reprocessing off-site. • Ensure demolition and site clearance materials are diverted from landfill wherever practicable through appropriately licensed recycling and recovery facilities. • Retain existing vegetation, trees and hedgerows where practicable to minimise carbon losses associated with vegetation clearance. • Minimise water consumption through efficient use of water resources and prompt repair of leaks associated with temporary facilities and construction activities.	Record quantities of materials reused, recycled, recovered and disposed. Maintain waste transfer note documentation. Review waste performance periodically and implement corrective actions where waste minimisation targets are not being achieved. Regular visual checks and site inspections, with auditing during PPW.
GHG emissions from PPW traffic	Appropriate standard and good practice control measures, including:	Regular (weekly) visual checks and site inspections, with

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
and equipment.	• Designing and implementing the PPW in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon, such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible. • Where reasonably practicable, using lower carbon modes of transport, including Low Emissions Vehicles, by identifying and communicating local bus connections and pedestrian and cycle access routes to/ from the Scheme to all PPW staff, and providing appropriate facilities for the safe storage of cycles. • Switching vehicles and plant off when not in use to avoid unnecessary idling and ensuring construction vehicles conform to current UK emissions standards. • Conducting regular planned maintenance of the construction plant and machinery to optimise efficiency. • Protecting workers and resources from extreme weather conditions through appropriate PPE and working practices. • Monitoring weather forecasts and the news for Environment Agency flood warnings, relevant weather warnings, and water levels of the local waterways. • Effective planning of works, deliveries and waste movements to minimise vehicle trips. • Implement site speed limits and efficient site logistics to reduce fuel consumption.	monthly auditing by the Environment during PPW. Maintenance records for plant and machinery.
Stronger winds, heatwaves, heavy precipitation	Contractor will monitor weather forecasts and plan works accordingly, protecting workers and resources from any extreme weather conditions.	Daily review of weather forecasts during active works periods.

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
and increased risk of fires/wildfires.	The contractors will monitor weather forecasts and receive Environment Agency's flood alerts and plan works accordingly, protecting workers and resources from any extreme weather conditions such as storms, flooding. Contractor will suspend or adapt activities during severe weather events where there is an increased risk to personnel, equipment, environmental receptors or programme delivery. Fire suppression system on site to rapidly action in case of fire.	Record of weather-related disruptions, incidents. Monitoring of Environment Agency flood warnings where relevant.

3.3 Landscape and Visual

3.3.1 No planting or habitat creation will be undertaken as part of PPW. PPW are limited in scale and therefore no mitigation is proposed, e.g. screening, planting or bunds. Any vegetation removal undertaken as part of the PPW should be appropriately identified and agreed with the EcoCOW prior to removal. In the event that any potential need for replacement planting that is identified will be included under the subsequent discharge of Requirement 7 of the DCO.

3.4 Ecology and Biodiversity

3.4.1 Impact avoidance measures and specific mitigation approaches are provided within Method Statements 1 to 8 in **Appendix A** of the PPWEMP. These include commitment to pre-commencement checks/surveys, and EcoCOW supervision and monitoring.

3.4.2 The Environmental Manager and Site Manager(s) will ensure that all Contractors are fully aware of the procedures to be followed as detailed within the Method Statements provided in **Appendix A**. Toolbox Talks are important for communicating the location and nature of the legally protected and sensitive ecological features that are present within and surrounding the Order Limits. The Toolbox Talk will also set out the responsibilities of all site staff in avoiding and minimising harm to protected species and habitats and will outline the relevant ecological legislation.

3.4.3 Prior to the commencement of the PPW at any of the Scheme elements, a toolbox talk will be provided by the EcoCOW to the Site Environmental Manager, Site Manager(s) and contractors (either in-person or online). The toolbox talk will include details of the method statements detailed within this document and will highlight the location and sensitivity of the various

ecological features present within each area. The talk will establish the role of the EcoCOW and site personnel during works, and what to do if protected species/ecological constraints are found during PPW.

3.4.4 In the event a change in Site Management personnel occurs during PPW or a pause in works of a period of more than 30 consecutive days occurs, a toolbox talk will need to be provided again by the appointed EcoCOW. The Site Manager(s) will inform the EcoCOW of any forthcoming management changes or breaks in the PPW programme. The Site Manager(s) will be responsible for relaying information within the toolbox talks to all subsequent site staff during their initial site inductions; this can be in the form of a recorded presentation delivered from the EcoCOW.

3.4.5 The EcoCOW will provide the Site Manager(s) with visual materials and mapping which can be used to illustrate the whereabouts and nature of ecological features within site inductions. The various Method Statements in this document contain further information to be included within toolbox talks specific to certain species or operations.

3.5 Arboriculture

Table 3-2: Arboriculture

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Tree Removal	Works expected are limited in nature and only as necessary for the list of works set out as PPW. In addition, facilitation pruning will be permitted following consultation with the ACoW and no excavations will be allowed within the root protection areas (RPA). Ancient or veteran trees will not be removed under any circumstances. If required, tree removals will be marked on-site by the ACoW, with final decisions made during detailed design. Only qualified arboricultural contractors, in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010, will perform tree work. PPW workers will not perform tree removals unless qualified and specifically instructed. Prior to removal, legal restrictions, such as those protecting nesting birds and roosting bats, will be observed. Where trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), removal will	Ongoing Arboricultural Clerk of Works. They will ensure that the tree removal and vegetation clearance is not located in sensitive areas.

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	only occur if deemed necessary to prevent obstruction or interference with the PPW. The ACoW will be consulted to ensure compliance and explore alternatives before proceeding with works on TPO trees. All work in proximity to trees, tree groups and woodlands will be undertaken in accordance with the PPW Arboricultural Method Statement (PPW-AMS) contained at Appendix B of this PPWEMP. The PPWAMS provides practical guidance, that if followed correctly will ensure existing arboricultural features for retention are suitably safeguarded during PPW.	
Tree Pruning	Prior to any necessary tree pruning, the ACoW will liaise with the construction contractor on the requirements for pruning and the ACoW will provide a specification for the pruning works required which will then be implemented by a suitably qualified, insured and experienced arboricultural contractor working in accordance with *British Standard 3998: 2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations'*. Pruning works to veteran trees will be avoided and pruning will aim to prioritise trees of low quality (BS5837:2012 Category U and C trees) over trees of moderate or high quality (BS5837:2012 Category A and B trees). No tree works will be undertaken by construction workers unless qualified and instructed to do so. All tree pruning works will have due consideration for ecological mitigation. Temporary compounds will be sited outside of the canopy spreads of adjacent trees and woodlands. The above measures are included within Appendix B PPW Arboricultural Method Statement (PPW-AMS).	Ongoing Arboricultural Clerk of Works

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Root loss/damage from excavation or soil compaction within RPAs	Temporary tree protection fencing and/or Perimeter Fencing will be installed prior to PPW to establish a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) around RPAs. The fencing will consist of wire mesh and wooden posts or other protective fencing as specified by the Outline Arboricultural Method Statement (PPW-AMS) at Appendix B, and will prevent entry and storage of machinery, materials, or spoil into the protected areas and be checked by the ACoW prior to the commencement of construction works near trees. Retained trees along the Cable Route Corridor (CRC) will also be protected with tree protection fencing for the duration of works as appropriate in sections of the CRC. Temporary compounds will be sited outside of the RPAs of adjacent trees and woodlands. No digging or soil stripping will be allowed in the ancient and veteran trees and ancient woodland buffer zones. In cases where construction activities must occur within RPAs, suitable ground protection will be installed to prevent soil compaction. The type of ground protection will vary based on the weight of traffic and will comply with BS5837:2012 recommendations, ranging from scaffold boards for pedestrian use to reinforced systems for heavy machinery. Micro-siting techniques will be used to minimise root disturbance, with cable routing designed to avoid RPAs of retained trees. If work within RPAs is unavoidable, the ACoW will supervise and guide precautionary measures such as hand digging and root pruning. Throughout PPW, movement of machinery and storage of materials will be managed to prevent encroachment	Ongoing Arboricultural Clerk of Works

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	into RPAs. In the event that access is required, temporary ground protection will be employed to safeguard the tree roots. The above measures are included within Appendix B PPW Arboricultural Method Statement (PPW-AMS).	
Damage to canopies/stems from machinery movements	To mitigate damage to tree canopies and stems from machinery, tree pruning will be carefully managed and conducted by qualified arboricultural contractors under the guidance of the ACoW Pruning will prioritise low-quality trees (Category U and C) over higher-quality trees (Category A and B), with veteran trees being preserved wherever practicable. All pruning will comply with British Standard 3998:2010 and take ecological protection into account. Micro-siting will be employed to avoid the removal or occurrence of root or canopy impacts to ancient or veteran trees within the CRC. Tree protection fencing will be installed around RPAs before PPW activities begin, creating an exclusion zone to prevent machinery from entering protected areas. The fencing will remain in place throughout construction and only be altered under ACoW supervision. If PPW activities must take place within RPAs, ground protection will be used to minimise soil compaction, and precautionary working methods such as hand digging will be employed. When tall machinery is working near tree canopies the machine operator will be accompanied by a banksman who will work from ground level and ensure that moving machinery parts avoid the stems and branches of retained trees.	Ongoing Arboricultural Clerk of Works

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	The above measures are included within Appendix B PPW Arboricultural Method Statement (PPW-AMS).	

3.6 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage

Table 3-3: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Management	The Contractor will ensure that construction workers are fully aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of an accidental pollution event occurring. This will be included in the induction and training, with an emphasis on procedures and guidance to reduce the risk of water pollution.	Temporary drainage will be monitored throughout any PPW. Materials would be stored outside of Flood Zone 2 and the construction laydown area site office and supervisor would be notified of any potential flood occurring by use of the Floodline service.
Flood Risk	The locations of temporary construction compounds and stockpiles will be located outside of Flood Zones 2 and 3, and outside of areas of higher surface water flood risk as defined by the Environment Agency. Works located close to watercourses will have a minimum offset of 10 metres from the top of banks of all watercourses. Existing access points into fields will be used as far as possible. Where PPWs affect an ordinary watercourse, drainage outfall or other regulated water feature, any separate relevant consent, approval, permit or protective provision will be complied with before works commence.	
Site and Pollution Management	Equipment and spill kits will be available to contain and clean up any chemical and oil spills. Oil drip trays will be utilised and be inspected. Any polluting materials suctioned out and stored in a bunded tank will be removed for disposal.	

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	Equipment and machinery is to be washed and cleaned in construction compounds, where runoff can be isolated for treatment before disposal. Any plant, machinery or vehicles will be regularly inspected and maintained to ensure they are in good working order and clean for use. Mud deposits will be controlled at entry and exit points to the fields using wheel washing facilities and/or road sweepers. Where wheel washing is required, it will be undertaken in a designated impermeable or lined area, with wash water contained and either recycled or removed off-site by a licensed contractor, with no uncontrolled discharge to ground or surface water bodies.	
Chemical/Fuel Handling/Storage	Fuel delivery vehicles will only be allowed as far as the temporary construction compounds. Fuel will be stored and used in accordance with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 and the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001. Equipment and spill kits will be available to contain and clean up any chemical and oil spills. Surface water runoff from temporary construction compounds will have separate drainage and be managed using bunding, silt traps, oil drip trays, silt lagoons and/or filter drains. Oil drip trays will be utilised and be inspected. Any polluting materials suctioned out and stored in a bunded tank will be removed for disposal. All chemicals will be stored in a secure impermeable and bunded area and in accordance with the Control of Substances Hazard to Health (COSHH) guidelines. Spillage kits will	

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	be held, and personnel will be trained in their use. Access and working arrangements will retain the clearances necessary for the operation, maintenance and replacement of existing drainage infrastructure, watercourses and flood risk management features. Runoff control, sediment control and pollution prevention measures will be implemented to safeguard retained ditch networks, watercourses and surrounding habitats. Any temporary dewatering activities will be undertaken in accordance with the applicable assessment assumptions and, where necessary, the relevant abstraction licence or environmental permit will be obtained prior to commencement. Foul water from welfare facilities will be contained within sealed systems and tankered away. Water neutrality options have been given priority to reduce the supply requirements. These options include rainwater harvesting, water storage and water tankering.	

3.7 Cultural Heritage

Table 3-4: Cultural Heritage

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Built Heritage Assets	Where (non-cultural heritage based) Permitted Preliminary Works (PPW) will be undertaken in proximity of designated heritage assets which have the potential to result in a temporary change to their setting(s), such works will be carried out as far away from said designated heritage assets as reasonably practicable, as to avoid or minimise the indirect setting impacts. Such PPW will only be undertaken for the minimum amount of time necessary to achieve their objectives and, upon completion, the said designated heritage assets will revert to their previous setting(s) unchanged.	Provision for archaeological mitigation and monitoring is detailed within the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.6 – Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [APP-173]**. The AMS must be adhered to during the PPW.
Historic Hedgerows	The management of historic hedgerows will be undertaken in accordance with the Hedgerow Removal Plan as set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Outline LEMP **[REP1-064]**). Where removal is required, as part of the PPW, no more than 10m of hedgerow will be removed in accordance with the **Outline LEMP [REP1-064]**.	Provision for the management and mitigation of historic hedgerows is detailed within the **Outline LEMP [REP1-064]**. The **Outline LEMP [REP1-064]** must be adhered to during the PPW.
Buried Archaeological Assets	The AMS provides an overarching methodology for undertaking archaeological mitigation within the Order Limits. As part of the PPW, Site Specific Project Designs will be supplied to Norfolk County Council's Historic Environment Services (NCCHES) for those areas identified within the AMS, once the full development plans are known. The AMS details a proposed mitigation strategy, including geophysical survey, informative trenching, archaeological excavation, and archaeological monitoring, for those areas of the	Provision for archaeological mitigation and monitoring is detailed within the AMS (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.6 – Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [APP-173]**. The AMS must be adhered to during the PPW. All archaeological works will be undertaken in line with all nationally

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	Scheme where it is considered development would have the potential to impact upon below-ground archaeological remains. The AMS also includes the provision for 'preservation in-situ', for areas of the Scheme where archaeological features would need to be avoided or fully excavated. Such techniques include the adjustment of the Solar PV Panel piling layout, and the targeted use of both pre-cast concrete ground anchors and above-ground cabling.	recognised guidance for such works, including standards laid down by Historic England and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The Archaeological Clerk of Works and/or NCCHES as advisors to the LPA, will monitor the archaeological mitigation and monitoring works in accordance with the methodology and programme set out within the AMS, as well as within the Site-Specific Project Designs.

3.8 Transport and Access

Table 3-5: Transport and Access

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
PRoWs	Where a vehicle track crosses or runs alongside a Public Right of Way, the following measures will be implemented: • Signage will be installed along the PRoW to inform users about construction activity. The signs will provide information on construction times and contact details for a Public Liaison Officer; • Drivers must yield to all PRoW users, including equestrians; • Where applicable, access tracks will be widened to allow vehicles to pass PRoW users safely;	Any unforeseen issues that arise in relation to construction vehicle movement will be logged by the Site Manager. If necessary, the issues will be discussed with the local highway authority so that they can be resolved as appropriate.

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	• Traffic Marshals or Banksmen will be positioned where relevant along a PRoW impacted by construction traffic, to hold vehicles if a PRoW user is present and advise PRoW users of the potential for construction vehicles; • Speeds to be limited to 5-10mph near PRoW; • The PRoW will be kept clear of construction vehicles and apparatus outside of permitted construction hours so far as is practicable to do so; and • Any damage to the surface of the PRoW directly attributable to the Scheme will be repaired as soon as practicable. The surface will be made good and returned to its original condition following construction.	
Traffic Management	Temporary Traffic Management ('TM') will be needed during the PPW of the Scheme to protect the integrity of the public highway and the safety of road users. TM measures could include: • Temporary speed management measures under a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) or advisory speed limits as part of temporary TM signage scheme; • The use of temporary traffic controls or traffic lights including manually controlled systems to facilitate safe vehicle manoeuvring; • Temporary lane closures or full road closures with the provision of suitable diversionary routes; • The use of Traffic Marshals or Banksmen at Sites, Sub-Sites and CRC access points to aid with vehicle manoeuvring including the use of Stop Works boards;	No monitoring required.

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	• Introduction of new passing places or improvement of existing passing places on the LRN to facilitate safe vehicle manoeuvring; and • Other such measures to protect the integrity of the public highway and the safety of road users.	
Signage	Temporary road signage will be installed along the construction traffic routes for PPW to inform all road users of the construction works and to direct construction traffic to and from the various construction accesses. Signage will comply with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual (Ref 1). The following will be considered when locating signage: • The position of the sign in relation to the highway to ensure visibility splays are maintained; • Possible distraction to drivers; and • The proximity to junctions and roundabouts.	
Vehicle Movements	Construction deliveries and collections by HGV will be scheduled to arrive and depart between 09.30 and 16.30 to avoid peak traffic periods of 08.00 09.00 and 17.00–18.00. Construction workers will arrive between 06.30-08.00 and depart between 16.30-19.00 therefore avoiding the morning peak period and with a staggered departure in the afternoon peak period.	No monitoring required.
Wheel Cleaning Facility	Wheel cleaning facilities will be provided at each PPW access point, positioned near the end of the access track before vehicles join the public highway. These facilities will be designed to remove mud and debris from vehicle wheels and undercarriages to prevent material being deposited on the highway. Vehicles will be visually inspected prior to departure to ensure cleanliness. If required, a road sweeper	No monitoring required.

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	will be deployed in the vicinity of the access point to maintain highway safety and cleanliness. The wheel cleaning system will be maintained regularly to ensure it remains effective throughout the construction phase.	
Noise Reduction and Air Quality	To reduce noise and dust during the PPW phase, engines will be switched off when vehicles are not in use to limit unnecessary idling and emissions. Vehicles transporting material will be securely sheeted to prevent dust dispersal. In dry conditions, areas near access points will be dampened with water to suppress dust and maintain air quality. These measures aim to minimise environmental impacts and protect nearby receptors.	No monitoring required.
Security	The Sites will remain fully secured throughout the PPW phase to ensure safety and prevent unauthorised access. A robust perimeter fence or temporary fencing will enclose the construction areas, and CCTV surveillance will operate continuously within the temporary construction compounds to monitor activity. All newly constructed access tracks will be fitted with lockable gates positioned a safe distance from the public highway to avoid obstruction and maintain visibility. Where existing access tracks are shared with residential properties, appropriate security measures such as additional barriers or controlled access protocols will be implemented in consultation with the affected property owners to safeguard their access and privacy.	No monitoring required.
Road Condition Survey	A pre-construction road condition survey will be undertaken on the LRN using video recording or photography prior to the commencement of construction activities. The	No monitoring required.

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	geographical scope, extent and timing of the survey will be agreed with the LHA. The Applicant and LHA will seek to coordinate and utilise the LHA routine highway condition survey schedule where practicable as part of this process. A post-construction survey will also be carried out to identify any additional defects that can reasonably be attributed to construction traffic associated with the Sites. Any highway defects identified as resulting from construction activities will be rectified to the satisfaction of the LHA without any betterment to the pre-construction condition.	
Community Engagement	Contact details for the Site Manager will be provided to the LHA prior to the commencement of works. These details will also be displayed on an information board at all access points. Members of the local community who have questions or concerns during the construction phase will be able to contact the Site Manager, who will be available to discuss and address any issues in a timely and appropriate manner. Where practicable, the appointed contractors will provide advance notice of key activities that may affect local residents, such as changes to traffic management or periods of increased construction activity.	No monitoring required

3.9 Noise and Vibration

Table 3-6: Noise and Vibration

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Noise and Vibration	The following Best Practicable Means (BPM) will be applied, as far as reasonably practicable, during PPW to minimise noise and vibration at NSRs, including, neighbouring residential properties and other sensitive receptors arising from activities: • Ensuring that all appropriate processes, procedures and measures are in place to minimise noise before works begin and throughout the PPW programme; • All contractors to be made familiar with current legislation and the guidance in BS 5228:2014 (Parts 1 and 2) which should form a prerequisite of their appointment; • When works are taking place within close proximity to sensitive receptors, the screening of noise sources via the erection of temporary screens will be employed where practicable; • All machinery will be regularly maintained to control noise emissions, with particular emphasis on lubrication of bearings and the integrity of silencers; • All plant and equipment to be properly maintained, silenced where appropriate, operated to prevent excessive noise and switched off when not in use; • As far as practicable, works will be programmed to avoid noisy operations occurring simultaneously in close proximity to the same sensitive receptor; • Adhere to the core working hours of the Scheme which are Monday to	Monthly reporting of information to and from local residents to advise of potential noisy works that are due to take place and for monitoring of noise complaints and reporting to the Applicant for immediate investigation and action. Any complaints received will be investigated and responded to following the procedure and timelines set out within Section 2.14 of this PPWEMP

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	Friday 07:00 – 18:00 and between 08:00 and 13:30 on Saturdays; and • Provision of information to the relevant local authority and local residents to advise of the proposed dates, times and duration of potential noisy works that are due to take place.	

3.10 Air Quality

Table 3-7: Air Quality

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Fugitive dust emissions during the construction works Communications	• Display the name and contact details of person(s) accountable for air quality and dust issues on the Sites. This may be the Environmental Manager or the Site Manager; • Display the Contractor's head or regional office contact information.	Undertake regular inspection, where receptors (including roads) are nearby, to monitor dust, record inspection results, and make the log available to the local authorities when asked; Increase the frequency of inspections by the person accountable for air quality and dust issues when activities with a high potential to produce dust are being carried out and during prolonged dry or windy conditions.
Site Management	• Record all dust and air quality complaints, identify cause(s), take appropriate measures to reduce emissions in a timely manner, and record the measures taken; • Make the complaints log available to the local authority when asked; • Record any exceptional incidents that cause dust and/or air emissions, either on- or off-site, and the action taken to resolve the situation in the logbook.	
Preparing and Maintaining the Site	• Plan site layout so that machinery and dust causing activities are located away from receptors, as far as is practicable; • Erect solid screens or barriers around dusty activities that are at least as a high as any stockpiles;	

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	• Avoid runoff of water or mud; • Remove materials that have a potential to produce dust as soon as practicable, unless being re-used on the Sites. If they are being reused on the Sites, cover as described below; • Cover, seed or fence stockpiles to prevent wind whipping.	
Operating Vehicle/Machinery and Sustainable Travel	• Ensure all vehicles/machinery are switched off when stationary/not in use - no idling vehicles; • Avoid the use of diesel- or petrol-powered generators and use mains electricity or battery powered equipment, where practicable; • Impose and signpost a maximum-speed-limit of 15mph on surfaced and 10mph on unsurfaced haul roads and work areas (if long haul routes are required, these speeds may be increased with suitable additional control measures provided, subject to the approval of the nominated undertaker and with the agreement of relevant planning authority, where appropriate)	
Operations	• Only use cutting, grinding or sawing equipment fitted or in conjunction with suitable dust suppression techniques such as water sprays or local extraction, e.g. suitable local exhaust ventilation systems; • Ensure an adequate water supply for effective dust/particulate matter suppression/mitigation, using non-potable water where practicable and appropriate; • Use enclosed chutes and conveyors and covered skips; • Ensure equipment is readily available to clean any dry spillages and clean up spillages as soon as	

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	reasonably practicable after the event using wet cleaning methods.	
Waste Management	• No bonfires or burning of waste materials.	
Earthworks	• Re-vegetate earthworks and exposed areas/soil stockpiles to stabilise surfaces as soon as practicable; • Use Hessian, mulches or tackifiers where it is not practicable to re-vegetate or cover with topsoil, as soon as practicable • Only remove the cover in small areas during work and not all at once.	
Trackout	• Use water-assisted dust sweeper(s) on the access and local roads to remove as necessary any material tracked out; • Avoid dry sweeping of large areas; • Ensure vehicles entering and leaving are covered to prevent escape of materials during transport; • Record all inspections of haul routes and any subsequent action in a logbook.	

3.11 Socio Economic Tourism Recreation

Table 3-8: Socio Economic Tourism Recreation

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Disruption to users of Public Rights of Way	Recreational routes crossing or within the Order Limits will be kept open during PPW where practicable, with any crossing or conflict points overseen by Traffic Marshals or Banksmen for HGVs. Where closures are deemed to be necessary, these will be temporary in nature and supported by appropriate notice periods and suitable diversions	A Community Liaison Manager (CLM), will be available for members of the public to report any concerns or issues with PRoWs during PPW. The CLM will report any concerns to the site

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	where available. Any diversions to routes will be appropriately signed, and the duration and length of diversions will be optimised to minimise impacts.	manager to oversee any investigative, and where necessary, remediation work.

3.12 Soils and Agriculture

Table 3-9: Soils and Agriculture

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Temporary loss of agricultural land. Impacts on soil.	Topsoil stripping would be limited to those areas where temporary removal of soil is required for example for archaeological trenching or geotechnical investigation. There would be no long-term storage and management of topsoil or subsoil. Soil management Method Statements will be produced by the Contractor(s) and will include but not be limited to consideration of the following: • Details of the soil resources present; • How the topsoil and subsoil will be stripped and stockpiled; • Suitable conditions for when soil handling will be undertaken, for example avoiding handling of waterlogged soil; • Indicative soil storage locations; • How soil stockpiles will be designed taking into consideration site conditions and the nature/composition of the soil; • Specific measures for managing sensitive soils; • Suitable protective surfacing where soil stripping can be avoided, based on sensitivity of the environment and proposed works; • Approach to reinstating soil, including measures to remove compaction where required.	Site inspections by a suitably experienced soil scientist to identify any emerging issues Monitoring to ensure that disturbed land and soil resources continue to fulfil all their ecological functions

3.13 Ground Conditions

Table 3-10: Ground Conditions

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Ground Investigation	The ground investigation will utilise existing access routes, tracks, field entrances, gaps in hedgerows/other linear habitats etc., wherever practicable. Temporary ground protection / track-matting may be used where necessary to facilitate access and prevent excess rutting of the surface. Vegetation removal will be avoided as far as reasonably practicable, other than that which is essential to undertake investigations. No excavation will be undertaken within the root protection areas (RPA) of retained trees and hedges. All work will comply with tree protection requirements as shown on the **Hedgerow and Tree Protection Order Plan [AS-004]** Topsoil removal will be limited to localised areas only, e.g. for the excavation of trial pits. Trial pits will be immediately backfilled after completion of logging and sampling, with soils placed back into the pit in the order in which they were excavated, compacted with the excavator bucket and left proud to accommodate future settlement. There will be no long-term storage and management of topsoil or subsoil. Any arisings that cannot be returned to the exploratory hole, e.g., because a monitoring installation has been constructed in a borehole, will be stored in a covered skip pending waste testing and off-site disposal to a suitably licenced facility.	No monitoring required

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	Any water utilised during the investigation (e.g., as a drilling flush, to facilitate drilling through granular strata or in infiltration testing) will be clean, mains water, only. Dewatering of groundwater inflows into trial pits will not be undertaken. Where monitoring installations are installed within boreholes, a limited quantity of water will be removed from the hole as part of the borehole development and purging processes, in accordance with the requirements of BS 5667-11. Any development or purge water will be stored in suitable containers such as intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) or will be removed from site by the contractor at the end of their shift, pending testing and disposal. Exploratory holes targeting the underlying Chalk / Crag Principal aquifers or the Secondary A aquifers within the superficial deposits will not be undertaken within 50m of any known permitted groundwater abstractions or within 50m of any occupied property. Temporary compounds and laydown areas will be appropriately located, designed and managed to minimise the risk of fugitive emissions from stored materials and liquids. All fuels, oils, chemicals and other potentially polluting substances stored within temporary compounds or laydown areas will be stored on impermeable surfacing and within suitable secondary containment (bunding) in accordance with relevant pollution prevention guidance. Bunded storage areas will be sized and maintained to contain at least 110% of the largest container or 25% of the total storage volume, whichever is greater, with	

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	rainwater and oil separation included where required. Activities carried out will be designed to minimise use of fuels, materials and arisings generation, as far as reasonably practicable. The ground investigation contractor will prepare risk assessments and method statements (RAMS) having regard to the available pre-construction information. Occupational health and safety measures, including personal protective equipment and controls for potentially contaminated soil, water and ground gases, will be applied as appropriate. Where Made Ground is encountered, plastic sheeting will be placed on the ground to prevent arisings coming into contact with the ground surrounding the exploratory hole. Equipment and spill kits will be available to contain and clean-up any chemical and oil spills. For works close to watercourses, a minimum 10 m offset from bank top of all watercourses (50 m for Canal and River Trust watercourses) will be applied.	
Remedial Work in Respect of Any Other Contamination or Other Adverse Ground Conditions	In accordance with the Environment Agency's Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) guidance, the interpretative reporting will include a Tier 2 Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment (GQRA) and, if necessary, a Tier 3 Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment. If the outcome of the risk assessment/s is such that remedial action is required, then a Remedial Options Appraisal will be undertaken, and a Remediation Strategy and Verification Plan will be prepared and agreed with South Norfolk District Council.	No monitoring required

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	Sustainability will be considered as part of the remedial options appraisal process. This may result in re-use of contaminated soils within the Scheme, where this can be undertaken safely, and appropriately. Any remedial works will utilise existing access routes, tracks, field entrances, gaps in hedgerows/other linear habitats etc., wherever practicable. Temporary ground protection / track-matting may be used where necessary to facilitate access and prevent excess rutting of the surface. Vegetation removal will be avoided as far as reasonably practicable, other than that which is essential to undertake investigations. Unless explicitly required and agreed with the appropriate authority, no excavation will be undertaken within the root protection areas (RPA) of retained trees and hedges. All work will comply with tree protection requirements as shown on the Hedgerow and Tree Protection Order Plan [AS-004] Temporary compounds and laydown areas will be appropriately located, designed and managed to minimise the risk of fugitive emissions from stored materials and liquids. All fuels, oils, chemicals and other potentially polluting substances stored within temporary compounds or laydown areas will be stored on impermeable surfacing and within suitable secondary containment (bunding) in accordance with relevant pollution prevention guidance. Bunded storage areas will be sized and maintained to contain at least 110% of the largest container or 25% of the total storage volume, whichever is greater, with rainwater and oil separation included where required.	

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
	Activities carried out will be designed to minimise use of fuels, materials and arisings generation, as far as reasonably practicable. The remedial works contractor will prepare risk assessments and method statements (RAMS) having regard to the available pre-construction information. Occupational health and safety measures, including personal protective equipment and controls for potentially contaminated soil, water and ground gases, will be applied as appropriate. Equipment and spill kits will be available to contain and clean-up any chemical and oil spills. For works close to watercourses, a minimum 10 m offset from bank top of all watercourses (50 m for Canal and River Trust watercourses) will be applied.	

3.14 Materials and Waste

Table 3-11: Material and Waste

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Potential to impact on sensitive receptors (humans, wildlife, and controlled waters) if not stored and managed appropriately. Impacts on waste recycling and	The contractor will consider the objectives of sustainable resource and waste management and seek to use material resources efficiently, reduce waste at source, reduce waste that requires final disposal to landfill and apply the principles of the waste hierarchy. This would include, where reasonably practical, segregation of construction materials on-site for appropriate re-use, recycling and recovery with landfill as a last resort. All waste management will be undertaken in accordance with the	The types, quantities and final destination of waste generated during by PPW would be identified, measured and recorded. A register of all waste loads leaving the Order limits would be maintained to provide a suitable audit trail for compliance purposes and to facilitate

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
handling facility capacity.	relevant regulations and waste would be transported by licensed waste hauliers to waste management sites which hold the necessary regulatory authorisation and/or permits for those wastes consigned to them.	monitoring and reporting of waste types, quantities and management methods.
Impacts of waste to the surrounding environment.	To minimise impacts of waste on the surrounding environment, the following measures would be implemented: • Damping down of surfaces during spells of dry weather and brushing/water spraying of heavily used hard surfaces/access points across the site as required; • Burning of waste or unwanted materials will not be permitted on-site; • All hazardous materials including fuels, chemicals, cleaning agents, solvents and solvent containing products to be properly sealed in containers at the end of each day prior to storage in appropriately protected and bunded storage areas; • All construction workers will be required to use appropriate personal protective equipment whilst performing activities on-site; • Any waste effluent will be tested and, where necessary, disposed of at a correctly licensed facility by a licensed specialist contractor/s; • Materials requiring removal from the site will be transported using licensed carriers and records will be kept detailing the types and quantities of waste moved, and the destinations of this waste, in accordance with the relevant regulations; and • To reduce trips associated with waste removed from the Site, waste compactors will be located within each Solar PV Site.	The types, quantities and final destination of waste generated during the PPW would be identified, measured and recorded. A register of all waste loads leaving the Order Limits would be maintained to provide a suitable audit trail for compliance purposes and to facilitate monitoring and reporting of waste types, quantities and management methods.

4 Checking and Corrective Action

4.1 Monitoring

4.1.1 Monitoring and reporting will be undertaken by the Contractor for the duration of the PPW phase in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the measures set out in the PPW EMP and related construction controls and allow for corrective action to be taken where necessary.

4.1.2 As part of the monitoring process, the designated Environmental Manager will be present on-site throughout the PPW and when new activities are commencing. The Environmental Manager will observe site activities and report any deviations from the PPW EMP in a logbook, along with the action taken and general conditions at the time. The Applicant will be informed of any deviations from the PPW EMP as soon as possible following identification of such issues. The Environmental Manager would also act as day-to-day contact with relevant local authorities and other regulatory agencies such as the Environment Agency.

4.1.3 During PPW, the Environmental Manager will conduct walkover surveys to ensure all requirements of the PPW EMP are being met. Action from these surveys will be documented on an Environmental Action Schedule, discussed with the Site Manager for programming requirements and issued weekly for actioning.

4.1.4 The Environmental Manager will also arrange regular formal inspections and audits to ensure the requirements of the PPW EMP are being met. After completion of the works, the Environmental Manager will conduct a final review.

4.2 Records

4.2.1 The Environmental Manager/ Construction Project Manager will retain records of all monitoring, inspections and audits. These records will include:

- Results of routine site inspections by Environmental Manager / Construction Project Manager;
- Environmental surveys and investigations;
- Environmental Action Schedule;
- Environmental equipment test records, Licences and approvals; and
- Corrective actions taken in response to incidents, breaches of the PPW EMP or complaints received from a third party.

4.2.2 Local authorities will be notified of routine improvements, substitutions and method changes to the PPW EMP. Any meaningful reduction in protections

afforded by the PPW EMP would require prior consultation or agreement with local authorities.

Appendix A Ecological Method Statements

A.1 Method Statement 1: Installation of Biodiversity Protection (Buffer) Fencing

Objectives

A.1.1 The majority of the Scheme's valuable ecological and arboricultural features are contained within field boundaries. As such, temporary Biodiversity Protection Fencing (BPF) will be installed in locally impacted areas at the onset of the PPW program to prevent damage and degradation to these features. The exact location of and need for fencing will be influenced by specific ecological sensitivities and proposed activities within that location and determined on site by the EcoCOW.

A.1.2 Installation of BPF contributes to the protection of all designated sites, important habitats and protected species listed in Method Statements 4 to 6 of this PPW EMP.

A.2 Toolbox Talk

A.2.1 Prior to the commencement of works within the Order Limits, a toolbox talk will be provided by the EcoCOW to the Site Manager(s) and contractors. The toolbox talk will include details of the PPW EMP and the requirements for BPF contained below, highlighting ecological features within each area. The talk will establish the role of the EcoCOW and site personnel during works, and what to do if protected species/ecological constraints are found during PPW.

A.2.2 In the event a change in Site Management personnel occurs during PPW or a pause in works of a period of more than 30 consecutive days occurs, the toolbox talk will need to be provided again by the appointed EcoCOW. The Site Manager(s) will be responsible for relaying information within the toolbox talk to all subsequent site staff during their initial site inductions.

A.3 Approach to Biodiversity Protection (Buffer) Fencing for PPW

A.3.1 The design of the Scheme is such that buffer widths correspond to the ecological value of each boundary and/or its sensitivity to potential impacts. Therefore, PPW BPF should be installed in line with these buffer extents where required.

A.3.2 For reference, the BPF will be installed according to the following criteria set out in the **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [REP1-078]** report which accompanies the DCO submission which were used to determine buffer zone widths:

- 10m from unimpacted hedgerows/ditches

- 10m from watercourses
- 15m from individual trees, groups of trees and non-ancient woodland;
- 30m minimum from ancient woodland, from ponds with a negative great crested newt (GCN) survey result, SSSI boundaries, CWS, and badger setts; and
- 50m from ponds with confirmed evidence of GCN, or where the presence of GCN has been assumed due to inconclusive results/no survey access.

A.3.3 Other, bespoke buffers around RNR's/botanically diverse verges, bat roosts, and the nesting sites of Schedule 1 birds will be implemented on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the specific species' requirements as detailed within the Method Statements within this PPW EMP.

A.3.4 BPF will be installed as a priority during the PPW phase, where works are located in close proximity to the above-mentioned sensitive ecological features. This may comprise of 'Heras'-style fencing (or other similarly temporary fencing) or simple 'metal pin and tape' style barriers. The location of all BPF will be agreed and confirmed between the EcoCOW and Site Manager(s) prior to commencement of installation to ensure clarity on all buffer zone widths, access and fencing specification requirements. This will minimise the chance of any unnecessary and avoidable call-outs of the EcoCOW being required during the installation.

A.4 PPW Hedgerow Access Impacts

A.4.1 Where PPW require access creation through hedgerows (where existing access points are not present) to nearby roadways (for example), it will be necessary to minimise these preliminary habitat impacts as far as possible, so that only the minimum length of habitat is removed at the access points. Therefore, sections of hedgerow to be removed for access tracks where no existing gap is present will typically be between 3.5 m to 6 m wide, with a maximum of 10 m of hedgerow to be removed in any one location for this element of the Scheme, thereby, minimising unnecessary preliminary impacts.

A.4.2 At boundary crossings fencing will be installed comprising two short lengths of Heras-style fencing (each approximately 2-4 panels, depending on the presence/width of boundary habitats as directed by the EcoCOW) installed at right angles on either side of the boundary feature to stop any encroachment beyond the 10m gap width.

A.4.3 The location of all BPF on the cable route will be agreed and confirmed between the EcoCOW and Site Manager(s) prior to commencement of installation at each impacted hedgerow to ensure clarity on all fencing specification requirements.

A.5 Biodiversity Protection (Buffer) Fencing Inspection

A.5.1 All installed BPF will be inspected by an EcoCOW during and/or on completion of installation to ensure it complies with the correct specification and is

installed in the correct locations. The fencing will be subject to regular checks by the EcoCOW as per Method Statement 8; however, it will be the responsibility of the Site Manager(s) to ensure the fence is appropriately maintained throughout the PPW phase.

A.5.2 During the PPW, no Site personnel or machinery shall enter the Buffer Zones by crossing the BPF and no equipment will be stored therein. The only exceptions will be where access for essential/unavoidable operations have been agreed in advance with the EcoCOW and/or project arboriculturist (in regard to tree protection[1]), and appropriate protection measures are in place.

A.6 Method Statement 2: Pollution Prevention Measures

Objectives

A.6.1 The majority of the valuable ecological features within the Order Limits are contained within field boundaries, particularly hedgerows, trees, ditches and watercourses. Other habitats are also located within the Order Limits, including ponds, woodland, grassland field margins, road verges, and scrub. Notably, lowland fen habitat (classified as irreplaceable habitat) is located within CRC7.

A.6.2 Additionally, two CWS, and four RNR's are partially located within the Order Limits, also three RNR, 4 CWS and Shotesham-Woodton Hornbeam Woods SSSI, and areas of ancient woodland are located adjacent to the Order Limits.

A.6.3 Species groups at particular risk from pollution events are freshwater fish, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, small mammals, and riparian mammals.

A.6.4 Potential pollution events include the release of chemicals (including oils, fuels and cleaning agents), sediments (including mud, soil and silt) and dust (especially during dry weather). These pollutants can be released either in their own right or though excessive surface water runoff (e.g. during periods of prolonged rain, flooding or disruption of water courses/pipework).

A.6.5 The installation of BPF as set out in Method Statement 1 is considered to significantly reduce the likelihood of pollution events occurring through implementing a suitably wide offset between PPW and sensitive habitats. However, the following additional pollution prevention measures will be adopted to aid further risk reduction.

A.6.6 This Method Statement should be read in conjunction with the **PPWEMP** produced for the Scheme which provides further details (i.e. not ecology-specific) regarding pollution protection measures.

[1] Where BPF is required to protect mature trees. Tree protection fencing will be installed in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction and under the guidance/supervision of the Project Arboricultural consultant.

A.7 Toolbox Talk

A.7.1 Prior to the commencement of PPW, a toolbox talk will be provided by the EcoCOW to the Site Manager(s) and contractors. The toolbox talk will include details of this Method Statement, the sensitivity of ecological features to impacts from pollution, and the requirements for prevention measures contained below. Highly sensitive ecological habitats will be discussed and the need for any proportionate risk reduction measures. The talk will establish the role of the EcoCOW and site personnel during works, and what to do if protected species/ecological constraints are found during works.

A.7.2 In the event a change in Site Management personnel occurs during construction or a pause in works of a period of more than 30 consecutive days occurs, the toolbox talk will need to be provided again by the appointed EcoCOW. The Site Manager(s) will be responsible for relaying information within the toolbox talk to all subsequent site staff during their initial site inductions.

A.8 Working During Prolonged Periods of Wet Weather

A.8.1 PPW during periods of prolonged wet weather shall be avoided wherever possible to avoid churning of soils and the release of mud and sediments and/or excessive surface water runoff. The EcoCOW should be consulted should heavy rain on at least three consecutive days be forecast or occur in order to determine whether works should pause or be relocated to less sensitive areas, depending on PPW progress and the location/ proximity of particular sensitive ecological features.

A.8.2 The **Outline CEMP [REP1-058]]** contains several measures which specifically deal with the mitigation of potential contamination of watercourses by surface runoff.

A.9 Working During Prolonged Periods of Dry Weather

A.9.1 PPW during extended dry periods risks dust deposition onto retained sensitive ecological features, including those beyond the Order Limits, such as SSSI's, CWS's, RNR's and ancient woodland parcels. As such, the Site Manager(s) should consider methods such as the use of sprayed water to dampen earthworks and/or access routes as required in order to control this risk in line with the control measures provided within Section 3.10 (Air Quality) of this PPWEMP.

A.9.2 The EcoCOW should also be consulted in order to advise on any particular ecological features which should be avoided entirely during such times, for example ponds, CWS's, SSSI's and watercourses in proximity to the PPW areas.

A.10 Minimisation of Water and Sediment Runoff

A.10.1 The **Outline CEMP [REP1-058]** contains several measures which specifically deal with the mitigation of potential water runoff and the prevention of potential

discharge of contaminants into local watercourses. These include measures are developed in line with good practice guidance and should be adhered to at all times during the construction phase.

A.11 Use and Storage of Chemicals, Fuels and Oils

A.11.1 The **Outline CEMP [REP1-058]** contains several measures which specifically deal with the avoidance of potential water runoff. These measures specifically deal with the minimisation of risk of chemical and contaminant release through their safe usage and storage, and use of spill kits etc. Additionally, as a rule, all refuelling and washing of plant/vehicles, and storage of all potential contaminants will occur at least 20m from all BPF.

A.12 Compliance with Guidance for Pollution Prevention

A.12.1 The Site Manager(s) will ensure PPW comply with Pollution Prevention for Businesses[2] as prepared by Defra and the Environment Agency. Method Statement 3: PPW Lighting

Objectives

A.12.2 This Method Statement sets out measures to avoid/minimise impacts to light sensitive species including freshwater fish, aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, small mammals and bats, and is not restricted to nocturnal species.

A.13 Ecologically Sensitive Lighting Strategy

A.13.1 Potential lighting impacts from associated PPW will be avoided through the avoidance of extensive nocturnal working adopting an 07:00 to 18:00 working hours pattern, thereby avoiding nocturnal periods between mid-March and late-September, and similarly during the winter months, only marginally including nocturnal periods. However, some illumination may be required to support specific localised and short-term activities, such as deliveries/ movements of Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs). Sensitive design of construction phase lighting is detailed within the **Outline CEMP [REP1-058]** and secured through a requirement attached to the DCO.

A.13.2 Most notably, artificial working-area lighting should be minimised as far as possible between sunset and sunrise from the months of March and October inclusive during the PPW. This aims to limit the potential for adverse impacts on the above species groups (especially bats) during the times of the year when they are most active and therefore sensitive.

A.13.3 During the winter period, where artificial lighting may be required, impact will be minimised through the use of portable light sources (rather than area/flood lighting). Construction temporary site lighting will be positioned to ensure that light is directed onto the area of works only with as minimal light spillage upon the areas protected by BPF as possible. The use of LED lighting and cowls,

[2] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses

hoods and other similar screens, as well as visual barriers such as hoardings around the Site boundaries / working areas, will also be adopted.

A.13.4 Any unavoidable artificial lighting during the hours of darkness required within the period March to October inclusive will only be permitted following consultation with the EcoCOW in order to determine the severity of potential impacts and appropriate mitigation steps, including agreed hours of operation and numbers/specification of luminaires.

A.13.5 Prior to the commencement of PPW, the Site Manager(s) will liaise closely with the appointed EcoCOW. The EcoCOW will oversee activities within the Order Limits to ensure that all ecological mitigation measures are implemented correctly and that works remain compliant with this Method Statement.

A.13.6 Security lighting may be installed on temporary site compounds following consultation with the EcoCOW to establish appropriate locations. Security lighting will be limited to the minimum number of luminaires required which will be defined by the EcoCOW and based on the sensitivity of the habitats potentially affected and baseline lux levels. Security luminaires will be kept as low as practical, and be motion-sensitive and set on a short (<2 minute) timer and oriented to reduce upward light spill as far as possible (i.e. horizontally oriented) in order to reduce the potential impact on light sensitive species such as bats.

A.13.7 For further information on PPW lighting methodologies see Section 2.8 of this document. Method Statement 4: PPW Habitat Impacts - including Avoidance of Impacts on Protected Species

Objectives

A.13.8 PPW are limited in scale therefore vegetation removal will be restricted and localised in nature. Any vegetation loss undertaken as part of the PPW should previously be appropriately identified and discussed with the EcoCOW, before seeking agreement with the LPA prior to removal. Any replacement planting required will be secured by discharge of Requirement 7 of the DCO.

A.13.9 Many habitats within the Order Limits support protected species or are important in their own right. Consequently, PPW (if required) within these habitats will require precautionary measures to mitigate the potential impacts and/or the potential for unlawful or detrimental impacts on the species they support.

A.13.10 Habitats which are of particular value include: hedgerows, ditches (dry or wet), woodland, individual trees, scrub, grassland (including arable field margins and roadside verges), watercourses, lowland fen, and ponds.

A.13.11 This Method Statement sets out measures to avoid/minimise impacts to these habitats and associated protected species.

A.14 General Precautionary Approach to Habitat Removal Works

A.14.1 The Site Manager(s) shall be responsible for liaising with the EcoCOW in order to agree locations and timings of advance inspections and clearance attendance, including all species-specific measures set out below, as necessary.

A.14.2 Habitat clearance, for example (but not limited to) the small sections of hedgerow required for new construction accesses and internal maintenance tracks, will be undertaken during the months of March to October (Ideally September – October to avoid the need to mitigate for nesting birds) inclusive. This will avoid the principal hibernation season for species groups such as reptiles and amphibians and so avoid unlawful harm to these species. Should this not be possible, preliminary habitat reduction works (removing the 10m hedge section to base level and removal of any ruderal/grassland vegetation) will be implemented during the months of March to October inclusive (Ideally September – October to avoid impacts to nesting birds) in order to remove any hibernation potential, and thereby allowing works to commence during the winter months.

A.14.3 In the event that PPW are scheduled to impact the above habitats, an EcoCOW should be present and have undertaken an inspection in advance to ensure legal compliance and avoid undue harm to species potentially present.

A.14.4 Habitat clearance will be conducted under an EcoCOW -led ecological watching brief in order to ensure species such as nesting birds, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals are not harmed. Depending upon the nature and density of the vegetation, this inspection may include a combination of a fingertip inspection of vegetation and early morning surveillance of habitat for evidence of bird nesting behaviour. Further species-specific information is given in the sections below. The vegetation may also need to be cleared a small amount at a time to allow the EcoCOW to search the area thoroughly.

A.14.5 Habitat removal at wet ditches should observe good practice guidance on the use of temporary dams and sediment traps available at that time. The input of a hydrological engineer is advisable in order to minimise drainage disruption and localised flooding. Any permanently breached ditches should remain interconnected via the use of open-bottomed culverts or clear-span crossings.

Roadside Verges

A.14.6 Some areas of semi-natural grassland present in local roadside verges, are known to be botanically rich, and of importance locally (for example some areas are designated as Roadside Nature Reserves). Therefore, if PPW require access to specific areas, in the first instance, existing access features should always be utilised if present.

A.14.7 If small areas of verge are to be impacted to facilitate the PPW, prior to the works commencing, during the nearest growing season the EcoCOW or appointed botanist of FISK 4 rating or above (if the EcoCOW does not have this level of experience) should assess the botanical diversity of areas of

grassland identified for potential impact by PPW. In the unlikely event that the EcoCOW (or appointed botanist) records any sufficiently rare and scarce plants species[3] these would be marked by the EcoCOW and avoided by the PPW. If this is not possible, species-specific measures will be adopted, which may include turfs containing these species being marked and reinstated within suitable impact-free habitat adjacent (as advised by the EcoCOW), or seed collection and storage methods can also be adopted (especially for annual and bi-annual species); with seed distributed within the impacted habitats following from the PPW ending in that location.

A.14.8 If temporary access is required across a roadside verge grassland to facilitate the PPW, without the requirement for excavation, the use of grassmats (or other similar ground protection apparatus) will be considered if the location is appropriate to avoid localised grassland compaction / damage.

A.14.9 If excavation is required to facilitate the PPW, wherever possible (where excavation is required), turf should be stripped and set aside during initial trench cutting (the EcoCOW ensuring the adequate storage and watering of these) for eventual replacement, where PPW are anticipated to be of a short enough duration for the turf to be successfully replaced.

A.14.10 Where this is not a viable option (i.e. the PPW are not of a sufficiently short duration to store and manage turfs) topsoil should be stripped and stored in an appropriate location (to be agreed with the EcoCOW). Following the completion of works, backfilled trenches and disturbed ground will be levelled, rolled and harrowed as necessary, and stored topsoil spread across the impacted area. Following from topsoiling, grassland can be re-seeded.

A.14.11 An appropriate seed mix will be used which will be in keeping with, or of greater diversity than, the habitat type and species assemblage as recorded during baseline habitat surveys (see **ES Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 Ecological Desk Study & Extended Habitat Survey [AS-017]** the potential availability of locally sourced species-rich green hay will be explored prior to PPW commencement and considered by the EcoCOW (including sourcing a hay cut directly from the affected area if considered suitably species-diverse), which would also be an alternative to seeding.

[3] Sufficiently rare and scarce plant species consist of:

- Legally protected species listed under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and/or Annex IV (b) of the EU Habitats Directive
- Priority species listed within Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- Species listed as 'Critically Endangered', 'Endangered', 'Vulnerable' and 'Near Threatened' *within A New Vascular Plant Red List for Great Britain* (Stro, P et.al. 2025). Available at: https://britishandirishbotany.org/index.php/bib/article/view/195/248
- Species listed as 'Nationally Rare' or 'Scarce' taxa (revised 2024). available at: [redacted]
- Species listed as 'Rare' or 'Scarce' within the provisional list of Norfolk Species of Conservation Concern (Norfolk Flora Group. 2017) (unless the a 'Norfolk Rare Plant Register if published in the meantime). Available at: Microsoft Word - A provisional list of Norfolk species of conservation concern Dec 2017.doc

A.15 Reptiles and (widespread) Amphibians

A.15.1 See Method Statement 5 for specific measures relating to GCN.

A.15.2 Habitat clearance areas will be thoroughly inspected by hand before and during works for widespread reptile and amphibian species such as common toad *Bufo bufo*, slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and grass snake *Natrix helvetica* in order to remove any animals as the clearance works progress. Any amphibians, reptiles or other animals will be hand released in suitable nearby retained (non-isolated) habitat as determined by the EcoCOW.

A.15.3 The locations to be used for the creation of habitat piles will be chosen for their proximity to the PPW and in relation to the connectivity with nearby habitat suitable for reptiles and amphibians (and other wildlife), including tussocky grassland, scrub and hedgerows.

A.15.4 Habitat clearance works will follow the seasonal guidance provided above, in order to avoid inadvertent mortality of reptiles/amphibians during this process, the clearance works of suitable habitats should not take place within the winter months (November to February inclusive) or during temperatures below 8°C. Habitat clearance works, may commence during the winter period if preliminary habitat reduction works are implemented during the months of March to October inclusive (Ideally September – October to avoid impacts to nesting birds) in order to remove any hibernation potential, and thereby allowing works to commence during the winter months.

A.15.5 All areas of the habitat mentioned above subject to clearance will be hand searched and removed with hand tools, or mechanically under the supervision of the EcoCOW, only once reasonable likelihood or absence of reptiles/amphibians has been established. All such habitat creation work should be carried out by individuals with experience of identifying reptiles/amphibians and their habitat.

A.16 Pre-commencement Nesting Bird Checks

A.16.1 Preliminary clearance/impacts to hedgerow, ditch, scrub, trees, woodland, grassland and cropland should be avoided between the months of March and August inclusive due to the risk of unlawful impacts upon nesting birds. However, where work to suitable habitat within this period is unavoidable, a nesting bird check will be required. This will consist of one or more visual inspections of the habitat to be affected by an appropriate number of suitably experienced ecologists to look for signs of nesting behaviour or nests themselves. Such inspections will likely need to be carried out in the early morning (from dawn) prior to construction activities commencing on site for the day, in order to limit the risk of short-notice unscheduled delays, additional early inspections can also be undertaken approximately 1 week prior to the PPW commencing in a given area.

A.16.2 Where any active bird nests are found, the location shall be mapped and shared with the Site Manager(s) and the location will be avoided, a species-specific buffer zone (actual distance dependent upon species and nest

location, as advised by the EcoCOW) will be created around the nest, the buffer maintained and not disturbed until the nest is no longer in use. Depending upon the location, protective fencing may be appropriate, however, if this is considered likely to aid predators (for use as watching perches etc) and alternative solution will be considered. The EcoCOW will be able to advise on the anticipated date of fledging based upon the status of the nest and the species involved. Regular inspections of the nest site by an EcoCOW around the anticipated date of fledging will be necessary to ensure works can continue once the birds have fledged.

A.16.3 If species designated under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are recorded in pre-commencement checks (in such arable habitats these may include barn owl *Tyto alba* and hobby *Falco Subbuteo*), the EcoCOW will advise the Site Manager(s) to cease all works in the vicinity, and a species-specific strategy developed.

A.17 Tree Inspections for Roosting Bats

A.17.1 Following from the Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) surveys for bats (See **ES Volume 3, Appendix 8.5 Ground Level Tree Assessment Report [APP-156]**) a total of 621 trees, across (or immediately surrounding) the Order Limits, were identified as having Potential Roost Features (PRF) (PRF-M 213 & PRF-I 217) or 191 could not be fully inspected and were categorised as Further Assessment Required (FAR).

A.17.2 In the unlikely event that PPW are potentially impacting (removal/reduction) trees assessed as FAR, a more accurate assessment of roosting resource will be required to fully establish the potential presence of PRFs, which could include licenced aerial inspection surveys were considered necessary by the appointed EcoCOW.

A.17.3 If no PRFs are found, then the tree in question can be downgraded to NONE (either no PRF in the tree, or highly unlikely to be any), with no further formal mitigation measures required regarding bats. If PRFs are confirmed the recommendations in the following paragraphs should be followed.

A.17.4 PPW on and surrounding trees should also be undertaken in adherence with **Appendix B: Outline Arboricultural Method Statement [AM1.1]**.

Trees Currently Assessed as PRF

A.17.5 Where impacts to PRF-M trees are unavoidable, further survey will be required to confirm the presence or likely absence of bat roosts and characterise any roosts present. These surveys may include licenced aerial inspection surveys (which are only possible upon trees considered to be suitable for climbing and endoscope inspections). If close inspection is not possible then night-time emergence surveys may be required with the use of Night Vision Aids (NVA).

A.17.6 If bats are confirmed roosting within the tree(s), no tree works will commence until a EPSML (issued by NE) has been issued and necessary mitigation measures set in place under the supervision of a licensed ecologist. This will ensure there are no adverse impacts on roosting bats and will maintain the

favourable conservation status of the roosting bat species in the wider environment.

A.17.7 For trees with suitability but no confirmed roosts or trees with features that are assessed as having PRF-I suitability, it is possible that trees could be felled/subject to surgery under a Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS). This will likely include a pre-works inspection by the EcoCOW, appropriate timing of works and potentially soft felling measures. It will be important to ensure there is no net loss of roost resource (opportunities) within the Order Limits, and this may require provision of replacement roost features such as bat boxes and other features appropriate to the bat assemblage present.

A.17.8 The EcoCOW liaise with the Site Manager(s) to ensure that replacement roost features are provided prior to works commencing.

Updated Roost Categorisation

A.17.9 Prior to any PPW commencing, any trees which are due to be impacted will require an updated GLTA by the EcoCOW, including those previously considered to have no suitability (NONE) for roosting bats. This is due to a variety of factors (such as storm damage and disease) which can lead to the creation and loss of PRF's from trees relatively speedily. This will ensure that any change in the suitability of trees for bats will be identified, and risks suitably mitigated, where necessary. Following from this, the actions detailed above should be followed.

A.18 Badgers

A.18.1 See Method Statement 6 for specific measures relating to badgers.

A.19 Riparian Mammals

A.19.1 No otter *Lutra lutra* and water vole *Arvicola amphibius* field signs have not been recorded within the Order Limits during the 2025 field surveys, and therefore, both species are currently considered to be not present within the Scheme (see **ES Volume 3, Appendix 8.8 Water Vole and Otter Survey Report [APP-159]**). Therefore, impacts/disturbance associated with PPW are considered to be unlikely.

A.19.2 Adopting a precautionary principle, particular attention will be paid to any PPW affecting or within 30m of a watercourse for the potential presence of otters and water voles.

A.19.3 All applicable habitat removal works will be preceded by an inspection of habitat at least 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the clearance extent to look for signs of these species and their sheltering sites. The inspection will be carried out one month in advance of works commencing by a suitably qualified ecologist.

A.19.4 In the event that water vole burrows/latrines, or otter holts/resting places are found, the EcoCOW will discuss this with the Site Manager(s) and efforts to

alter the location of the clearance to avoid direct impacts will be made in the first instance.

A.19.5 In the unlikely event that PPW impacts upon water voles/otters or their resting places be unavoidable, it will be necessary to delay commencement until guidance is sought from Natural England, and potentially until a derogation licence has been secured. Licences may be contingent on seasonal timing restrictions, sensitive working methods and habitat compensation. In respect of water voles in Norfolk, Strategic Licences, CL31 class licences, and standard water vole mitigation licences are all options that can be considered, depending on impacts and timescales involved. In terms of otter; a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence (EPSML) would be required to impact/disturb an otter holt/resting place.

A.19.6 Culverted or overbridged ditches and watercourses should be designed to permit the continued passage of water voles and otters. The advice of the EcoCOW should be sought in this instance.

A.20 Method Statement 5: Specific Measures for Avoidance of Impacts on Great Crested Newts

Objectives

A.20.1 The presence of great crested newts (GCN) has been established (or in some cases assumed) in ponds within the Order Limits (five ponds confirmed and six assumed presence within the Order Limits) and in the surrounding landscape within 250m of the Order Limits (see **ES Volume 3, Appendix 8.3 Great Crested Newt Survey Report [APP-154],** which has been updated at Deadline 1). Given the potential for GCN to be encountered within parts of the Order Limits during their active period, this precautionary non-licensed Method Statement has been prepared to ensure that offences are not committed under wildlife legislation in relation to GCN during the PPW.

A.21 Mitigation Approach

A.21.1 Taking into account the habitats present within the Order Limits which largely consist of arable farmland of negligible value to GCN, the large majority of the PPW will be impacting these negligible value habitats and will be avoiding more valuable retained semi-natural terrestrial habitats, including ponds and their surrounding environment. Therefore, considering the small scale of the PPW within suitable GCN habitats it is considered reasonably unlikely that the works will result in deliberate capture, injury or killing of GCN.

A.21.2 Similarly, it is considered reasonably unlikely that the PPW will result in deliberate disturbance to GCN in such a way as to be likely to impair their ability to survive, breed, reproduce, rear or nurture their young, hibernate; or to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of GCN.

A.21.3 Due to the limited potential for GCN to be using the predominantly negligible value habitats within the area of works it is considered reasonably unlikely that the PPW will result in damage or destruction of their resting places. As the

PPW will not affect breeding ponds, they will not involve deliberate taking or destroying the eggs of GCN.

A.21.4 Therefore, on the basis of specialist knowledge and experience working with on similar solar development sites, it is considered on balance that the Scheme is unlikely to result in an offence under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) and no EPSML is required.

A.21.5 Similarly, it is considered reasonably unlikely that works will result in disturbing a GCN in its place of shelter or obstructing access to such a place and therefore the Scheme is reasonably unlikely to result in an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

A.21.6 However, to further ensure that such an offence is not committed, it is proposed to adopt the methodology detailed within this Method Statement.

A.22 Biodiversity Protection Fencing (BPF)

A.22.1 Only where PPW are located in such proximity to ponds, the BPF (as detailed in Method Statement 1) will include protective buffers of 30m around all ponds, extending to 50m for ponds with confirmed evidence of GCN or where the presence of GCN is assumed (for example where survey results are inconclusive or access permission could not be obtained to complete a survey). A 50m buffer has been applied as impacts upon suitable GCN terrestrial habitats within 50m of a breeding pond are potentially more impactful than those within 50-250m of a breeding pond (English Nature, 2001[4]),

A.22.2 As with all other areas within the BPF, no site personnel or PPW machinery shall enter the Buffer Zones by crossing the BPF and no equipment will be stored therein.

A.22.3 BPF potentially required surrounding ponds is presented within **Appendix C – Figure Showing Great Crested Newt Method Statement**.

A.23 Great Crested Newt Working Areas

A.23.1 This Method Statement will apply to all PPW within a GCN Working Area, which extend 250m from ponds which are either known to support GCN or have not been subject to GCN surveys (and therefore presence of GCN is assumed on a precautionary basis). 50-250m is classified as the intermediate terrestrial GCN zone, with impacts upon suitable GCN habitats within this area being significantly less impactful (English Nature, 2001).

A.23.2 The edge of the GCN Working Areas will be defined with semi-permanent high visibility marker posts installed in the ground. These would be installed at regular (approx. 50m) intervals along the edge of a GCN Working Area so that operatives can see when they enter into a GCN Working Area and thus when

[4] English Nature. (2001). Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines. Available from:

additional consideration as to the presence of GCN and adherence to the requirements of this Method Statement is required.

A.23.3 There are ponds located within and surrounding the Order Limits that have either not had landowner permission to survey, or environmental DNA (eDNA) testing has resulted in inconclusive results. Therefore, a precautionary principle has been adopted for these ponds and GCN presence has been presumed (unless confirmed otherwise, for example landowners confirming that ponds are not present/dry) and 250m GCN working areas have been applied. It is possible, that further eDNA surveys could be undertaken prior to the PPW commencement to confirm presence/absence from these ponds. Subsequently, precautionary GCN working areas applied here could be subject to removal, and therefore, should be treated as outline and precautionary at this stage.

A.23.4 GCN Working Areas are provided within **Appendix C – Great Crested Newt Method Statement**.

A.24 Toolbox Talk

A.24.1 Site operatives will be provided with a toolbox talk prior to commencing any work within the GCN Working Area. This will inform all operatives of the importance to restrict all working activities within suitable habitats which may support GCN. Contractors will be provided with visual guides on the identification of GCN in the unlikely event that any are encountered during the works.

A.24.2 In the event a change in Site Management personnel occurs during the PPW or a pause in works of a period of more than 30 consecutive days occurs, the toolbox talk will need to be provided again by the appointed EcoCOW. The Site Manager(s) will be responsible for relaying information within the toolbox talk to all subsequent site staff during their initial site inductions.

A.25 Precautionary Approach to PPW within Great Crested Newt Working Area

A.25.1 Arable and grassland fields within the GCN Working Areas will be maintained as ploughed, grazed or mown short (sward height of less than 100mm) until PPW commences (and thereafter until construction phase works commence), to maintain the sub-optimal nature of these habitats for amphibians and prevent colonisation of working areas during the PPW.

A.25.2 The GCN Working Areas will be subject to a walkover inspection by the EcoCOW within the GCN active period (1st March to 31st October) prior to any construction work commencing within a given GCN Working Area. Any clearance, of potentially suitable hibernation habitats, for example (but not limited to) the small sections of hedgerow required for new accesses, will be undertaken during the months of March to October inclusive. This will avoid the principal hibernation season for the species. Should this not be possible, preliminary habitat reduction works (removing small hedge sections to base level and removal of any ruderal/grassland vegetation) will be implemented

during the months of March to October inclusive (Ideally September – October to avoid impacts to nesting birds) in order to remove any hibernation potential, and thereby allowing works to commence during the winter months.

A.25.3 During the above process, any discrete features (such as log piles, stone/rubble piles and cut brash) potentially suitable for use as shelter by GCN which are found to lie within a PPW area will be subject to a fingertip search by the EcoCOW and will then be removed from the working area under EcoCOW supervision and used to create habitat piles in close proximity to existing ponds (subject to EcoCOW advice).

A.25.4 Any removal of hedgerows or scrub habitat within the GCN 250m Working Area must be completed under EcoCOW supervision. Hedgerows may be cut at any time of year (to a minimum height of 300 mm), however, in order to minimise the risk of impacting GCN, the removal of hedgerow root balls and bases will be prohibited between November to February inclusive, as GCN will typically be hibernating and may be present within hedgerow root systems and other sheltering features at the bases of hedgerows during this period. The removal of hedgerow roots and stumps must therefore take place within the active season, comprising 1st March to 31st October inclusive (assuming daytime temperatures reach a minimum of 8°C), under EcoCOW supervision.

A.25.5 Due to the confirmed/assumed presence of GCN within associated ponds, there is a small risk that any materials stored within a GCN Working Area may be used by newts as shelter overnight (specifically between March and October). If newts are subsequently encountered beneath materials stored within the GCN Working Area, the removal of these materials would risk disturbance and potentially injury of newts and may therefore constitute an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Habitats Regulations. Therefore, in order to avoid the risk of offences occurring, the storage of materials and erection of temporary compounds within GCN Working Areas will be avoided wherever possible.

A.25.6 Should the storage of materials or erection of site compounds be unavoidable within a GCN Working Area, then suitable GCN habitats should be actively avoided (i.e. utilisation of unsuitable arable farmland). In the unlikely event that suitable habitats for GCN are present within an identified material storage/site compound area will first be subject to a destructive search under EcoCOW supervision, during the active season (March to October inclusive). Following the removal of any suitable habitats or sheltering features for GCN, habitat would be managed to deter GCN for the duration of the use of the site compound/material storage area.

A.26 Monitoring of GCN Working Areas

A.26.1 Given the ongoing risk (albeit low) to GCN during PPW within the GCN Working Areas, the EcoCOW will monitor the implementation of the GCN Working Areas, the associated exclusion fencing, and adherence to the precautionary working methods therein as part of the PPW phase monitoring visits detailed in Method Statement 8.

A.26.2 In the event that GCN are encountered, they will be left in-situ unless they are at risk of immediate harm. The Site Manager(s) will ensure that the EcoCOW is contacted immediately, and any works within the GCN Working Area and 50m from the area within which the newt was found must temporarily cease pending further advice from the EcoCOW. The recommencement of work may need to be delayed until advise is provided by Natural England, as advised by the EcoCOW.

A.27 Method Statement 6: Specific Measures for Avoidance of Impacts on Badgers

Objectives

A.27.1 Multiple badger setts have been identified within and adjacent to the Order Limits. Badgers are also likely to use the land within the Order Limits for foraging and dispersal in various locations. Badgers are legally protected from disturbance and harm, as well as interference with their setts. Measures given here will ensure that development works proceed lawfully.

A.27.2 For further information see **ES Volume 3 Appendix 8.7 Badger Survey Report (confidential) [APP-158].**

A.28 Pre-commencement Survey

A.28.1 As badgers can excavate new setts in a relatively short time, an updated badger sett survey of land within at least 30m of PPW areas will be undertaken prior to works commencing. This will specifically focus on all habitats potentially suitable for sett excavation by badgers, in particular hedgerows, field margins, scrub, tussocky grassland and woodland or groups of trees.

A.28.2 The survey will be carried out by appropriately experienced ecologists or EcoCOW who have prior experience of surveying for badgers. The survey will be carried out approximately three-months prior to the commencement of PPW activities within a area. The Site Manager(s) will liaise with the EcoCOW to ensure that this survey is completed ahead of works in a particular location.

A.28.3 The survey will look for evidence of badger activity, including setts, paths, hairs, footprints or faeces and record the location of and type of all setts at the Site, as well as their activity status. Where necessary, should any new setts be identified, the BPF as detailed in Method Statement 1 will be adapted to incorporate a revised buffer zone of 30m around the identified entrances. In order to confirm badger presence, the EcoCOW may need to deploy motion-censored cameras over a period of time considered appropriate by the EcoCOW (likely up to two weeks).

A.28.4 The results of the survey/s will be communicated to the Site Manager(s) with any necessary recommendations for revised buffers or precautionary working methods and supervision.

A.28.5 Conducting a check three months prior to commencement of PPW may allow sufficient time to obtain a mitigation licence (see below) should one (however

unlikely) be required. However, this would not guarantee that no further badger activity would take place on Site and therefore the EcoCOW would be required to undertake a final check immediately before PPW commence in a particular area.

A.29 Toolbox Talk

A.29.1 Prior to the commencement of PPW, a toolbox talk will be provided by the EcoCOW to the Site Manager(s) and contractors. The toolbox talk will include details on the potential for encountering badger setts and other mammal burrows during works to suitable habitats, along with information on their legal obligations and what to do if a sett or burrow is discovered.

A.29.2 The talk will establish the role of the EcoCOW and site personnel during works. In the event a change in Site Management personnel occurs during PPW or a pause in works of a period of more than 30 consecutive days occurs, the toolbox talk will need to be provided again by the appointed EcoCOW. The Site Manager(s) will be responsible for relaying information within the toolbox talk to all subsequent site staff during their initial site inductions.

A.30 Potential Licensed Sett Closures

A.30.1 In the unlikely events that baseline conditions have altered and significant disturbance to badgers or damage to their setts cannot be avoided, one or both of the following options will be incorporated (subject the legislation applicable at the time):

- Working methods will be amended to avoid works which may impacts on the sett; and/or,
- An appropriate licence is used to lawfully mitigate the potential damage/disturbance to a sett, via:
  - A mitigation licence obtained from Natural England before construction commences, or
  - Licensable actions are undertaken by a licenced consultant registered under Badger Class Licence WML-CL35.

A.30.2 Any newly-discovered sett should ideally be avoided by construction works if at all possible, under the advice of the EcoCOW. In the event that an active sett is to be unavoidably impacted or potential disturbance to the sett may occur as a result of PPW activities, a mitigation licence from Natural England would likely be necessary to temporarily close the sett.

A.30.3 Works to badger setts can only be undertaken between July and November inclusive due to the possibility of dependent young being underground at other times of year. Outside of this licence period no works affecting the sett would be permitted and a buffer zone free of potentially disturbing activities (i.e. noise, damage or vibration), as informed by the EcoCOW, would be required. PPW in other parts of the Site, however, can continue as advised by the EcoCOW. It commonly can take up to six weeks for a licence application to be

determined by Natural England, depending on the licence type being applied for.

A.31 Precautionary Approach to Excavations Left Overnight

A.31.1 It is likely that badgers (and other mammals) will move around within the Order Limits during the PPW phase considering the open habitats present. Therefore, any pits or trenches dug during the works must have a means of escape placed in them overnight for trapped badgers (and other animals) to use, or be covered overnight if possible. Examples include rough sawn planks or earth ramps, positioned at a maximum of 45^0 angle). Similarly, all open ducting and pipework left within any pits or trenches must be temporarily capped off overnight. The use of these measures will be periodically checked by the EcoCOW and will be the responsibility of the Site Manager(s) to implement otherwise unlawful harm to badgers and wild mammals may result.

A.32 Method Statement 7: Specific Measures for Invasive Non-Native Species

Objectives

A.32.1 The following invasive non-native species (INNS) listed within Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) have been recorded within the Order Limits:

- Giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*located in sub-Site 5a in five locations; and
- Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* located along the watercourses and lowland fen habitat in CRC7 and within a ditch in Site 9.

A.32.2 In addition, Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica* stands are located outside of the Order Limits to the east of Site 3 in three locations;

A.32.3 The above-named INNS locations are provided within **Appendix D – Figure Showing Invasive Species**.

A.32.4 It is considered that other invasive plant species could occur locally (and spread within the Order Limits), as well as other invasive animal species such as American signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus* (desk study suggests local presence in a tributary of the Hempnall Brook) which is potentially present within ditches and watercourses.

A.32.5 The objective of this Method Statement is to ensure that INNS are not released or allowed to escape into the wild, or inadvertently caused to spread (all of which may constitute an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement) Regulations 2014, and/or the Environmental Protection Act 1990) as a result of the PPW.

A.33 Pre-start INNS Search

A.33.1 Prior to any PPW starting, the EcoCOW (or appointed suitably qualified Ecologists) will undertake a search of areas (and immediately surrounding land) which will be impacted by PPW to establish the spread of INNS and search for any areas that have become infested by INNS.

A.33.2 It is advised that this search is undertaken in the season when species can be reliably identified (May – October) prior to PPW commencing. Which will allow for site specific treatment/eradication/avoidance measures to be designed and implemented/started under an INNS Management Plan as advised by a specialist invasive species treatment contractor.

A.33.3 The EcoCOW will actively look for INNS during all supervision, survey work and monitoring visits, and report their presence to the Site Manager(s) as appropriate. All actions under a INNS Management Plan will be agreed with the Site Manager(s) and EcoCOW before being implemented.

A.34 Toolbox Talks

A.34.1 The presence of INNS will form part of the Ecological Toolbox Talk and raise awareness with staff regarding the species present / most likely to be encountered so that early reporting and remediation work can take place.

A.34.2 In the event a change in Site Management personnel occurs during PPW or a pause in works of a period of more than 30 consecutive days occurs, the toolbox talk will need to be provided again by the appointed EcoCOW. The Site Manager(s) will be responsible for relaying information within the toolbox talk to all subsequent site staff during their initial site inductions.

A.35 Biosecurity Measures

A.35.1 In order to prevent the accidental spread of invasive non-native plant species (as well as pests, diseases and native but undesirable species) into the Order Limits, as well as between working areas; plant and wheel washing facilities will be provided and utilised when vehicles are moving into and between working areas. Plant and wheel washing will only be carried out in designated areas located at least 30m from any watercourse, surface drain or potential pollution pathway, and will be constructed on an impermeable base with a collecting sump to prevent the potential spreading of contaminated material.

A.35.2 Any personnel working alongside or within ditches (for example to enable access works) will follow the ‘check, clean, dry’ guidance from the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS)[5]; see below:

- **Check**: check all equipment, machinery and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the Site;

[5] https://www.nonnativespecies.org/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry

- **Clean**: clean everything thoroughly as soon as possible, paying attention to areas that are damp or hard to access. Use hot water if entirely possible; and

- **Dry**: dry everything for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for extensive periods in damp conditions.

A.35.3 Wet or dry mud will be removed from footwear, clothing and equipment before leaving site. Footwear/clothing and equipment that has come into contact with water will be disinfected with a broad-spectrum disinfectant. This treatment will be repeated whenever machinery, equipment, or PPE is transferred to another area of the Site.

A.36 Precautionary Approach to PPW and INNS Management

A.36.1 Prior to PPW commencing, existing INNS control/avoidance actions will be agreed with the Site Manager(s) and EcoCOW before being implemented. All areas of infestation will be subject to a species-specific buffer zone, surrounded by BPF and remediation / control measures as advised by a specialist Invasive Species Contractor. All actions under a INNS Management Plan (which will be tailored to the specific INNS and the relevant PPW operations) will be agreed with the Site Manager(s) and EcoCOW before being implemented.

A.36.2 In the event that new areas of INNS are encountered by staff during the PPW phase, contractors will be advised to leave them in-situ. The Site Manager(s) will ensure that the EcoCOW is contacted immediately, and any associated works in the area within which the invasive species was found must temporarily cease pending further advice from the EcoCOW and specialist invasive species contractors (if considered necessary by the EcoCOW). The new area of infestation will be included within the INNS Management Plan (see above) and remediation/control actions agreed with the Site Manager(s) and EcoCOW before being implemented.

A.36.3 As it is an offence to release into the wild or cause to grow any INNS, works will be altered to avoid them in the first instance. Following from this, appropriate treatment will ensue, under the INNS Management Plan, remediation and control work carried out by a specialist Invasive Species Contractor would be required as all parts of invasive plant species are considered contaminated waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Until this occurs, the area will be clearly marked out and delineated with BPF, so as to not contribute to its spread locally.

A.36.4 In the unlikely event that soil or other waste contaminated with INNS material (classified as controlled waste) must be removed from the Site, this will disposed of at a licensed landfill site or otherwise suitable disposal site, in consultation with the Environment Agency. The specialist Invasive Species Contractor will provide advice on the safe disposal of material as appropriate.

A.36.5 A detailed log of any INNS sightings within the Order Limits will be kept by the EcoCOW and Site Manager(s) and will be maintained for the duration of the

PPW. Details of any remedial actions undertaken will also be kept. This log will be made available to the Environment Agency and Local Planning Authority as required.

A.37 Method Statement 8: PPW Phase Ecological Monitoring

Objectives

A.37.1 To ensure satisfactory achievement of all Method Statements and compliance with all relevant DCO requirements, ecological legislation and policy, monitoring of PPW activities and protective measures will be undertaken.

A.38 Monitoring

A.38.1 Inspection of the PPW and immediate surroundings will be undertaken by the Site Environmental Manager to monitor the integrity of the BPF as well as to look for any signs of silt deposition, dust deposition, flooding, runoff and litter arising from within the Order Limits which could impact off-site habitats. These inspections will be recorded within a logbook to be made available to the Local Planning Authority (and other Statutory bodies) upon request.

A.38.2 Remedial action which may be required as soon as an issue is identified by the Site Environmental Manager may include temporarily ceasing work, arranging litter picking, additional site hoarding, increased water spraying, and increased waste collection.

A.38.3 Depending on the PPW in question, the EcoCOW will inspect all active working areas (where relevant) within the Order Limits to monitor compliance with the method statements provided within this document. This will include checking the following:

- Correct installation / maintenance of BPF;
- Safeguarding of retained habitats;
- Visual inspection of aquatic habitats (watercourse/ditch/pond) conditions;
- Implementation and adherence to precautionary working methods within GCN Working Areas;
- Implementation and adherence to the INNS Management Plan;
- Potential requirement for nesting bird monitoring for legal compliance;
- Adherence to lighting restrictions; and
- Status of badger activity (existing protection measures and any new activity).

A.38.4 Following these inspections, the EcoCOW will discuss monitoring outcomes with the Site Manager(s) and provide a written proforma of findings identifying any remedial actions and timescales for actions to be implemented.

A.38.5 The EcoCOW (and appropriately qualified named assistants) will also be available on an “on call” basis during the PPW period.

A.39 Reporting

A.39.1 A tabular report will be prepared by the EcoCOW, which will be made available to the Local Planning Authority (and other statutory bodies) upon request. The report will include a detailed log of monitoring activities undertaken by the Site Environmental Manager and EcoCOW during the PPW period. It will also detail any breaches of the PSMS and the associated remedial steps taken.

Appendix B Arboricultural Method Statement (PPW-AMS)

B.1 Objectives of this PPW-AMS

B.1.1 This PPW-AMS seeks to provide precautionary methods of working that must be followed during PPW, to mitigate the potential impacts to trees, tree groups and woodlands (hereafter referred to as 'arboricultural features') within the Order Limits.

B.1.2 This PPW-AMS provides practical guidance, that if followed correctly will ensure existing arboricultural features for retention are suitably safeguarded during construction, in particular those of high value such as ancient or veteran trees and Category A trees of high quality.

B.1.3 This PPW-AMS must be made available and followed by all relevant contractors, sub-contractors and project consultants completing works within the Order Limits.

B.2 Arboricultural Features within the Order Limits

B.2.1 High level tree surveys of the solar PV fields focused on the identification of notable, ancient and veteran trees were undertaken by Stantec UK Limited between October and December 2024. Full tree surveys of the Cable Route Corridors (CRCs) covered all tree features were undertaken by Oakfield Arboricultural Services between October 2025 and January 2026.

B.2.2 All tree surveys were carried out in accordance with *British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' (BS5837:2012)*. Tree stem positions were recorded using GPS and a topographical survey plan. The accuracy of GPS positions cannot be guaranteed, therefore it is strongly advised that where any potential conflict exists, the locations and root protection area (RPA) extents of trees are confirmed on site prior to commencement of works. The canopy spread, tree height, stem diameters, RPAs and veteran tree buffer zones (latter where appropriate) were recorded for all arboricultural features. Full tree results can be found in **Annex B Tree Survey Schedule** and are visually represented in **Annex C Tree Constraints Plans** within **ES Vol 3: Appendix 7.10 - Preliminary Arboriculture Impact Assessment [APP-150]**.

B.2.3 The tree survey recorded a total of 518 individual trees, 126 groups of trees, 74 hedgerows and 19 woodlands. Of these, 56 trees, one group and one hedgerow were recorded as exhibiting ancient and veteran characteristics. Six ancient woodlands are adjacent to the Order Limits. A search of the South Norfolk and Broadland District Council online search maps on 6th February 2026 confirmed that 95 individual trees and one group of trees located either adjacent to or in the Order Limits are protected by TPO. In addition, five individual trees and three groups of trees are located Conservation Areas.

B.3 How to Use this Document

B.3.1 This PPW-AMS details a suite of precautionary working methods to be followed when working near trees for Permitted Preliminary Works (PPW). These precautionary working methods will be followed by construction personnel in collaboration with a supervising Arboricultural Clerk of Works.

B.3.2 The measures outlined in this PPW-AMS will be presented to all personnel, visitors and sub-contractors involved with Scheme PPW within the Order Limits.

B.3.3 It is the responsibility of the site manager or nominated personnel with an appropriate arboriculture qualification to communicate the contents of this PPW-AMS to all personnel, visitors and sub-contractors undertaking relevant activities. A copy of this document must be kept on site during PPW for ease of reference.

B.4 Arboricultural Clerk of Works (ACoW).

B.4.1 An ACoW will be assigned to the Scheme prior to PPW. The responsibilities of the ACoW include ensuring that the precautionary working methods described in this PPW-AMS are adhered to during preliminary works. The ACoW will be responsible for undertaking site visits and providing advice throughout construction on how tree impacts will be avoided and minimised. The ACoW will also be responsible for keeping a record of site visits and advice provided during PPW. These activities are often termed collectively as arboricultural monitoring and supervision.

B.4.2 It is the responsibility of the main construction contractor to instruct an ACoW prior to the commencement of construction and any enabling works. A key responsibility of the construction contractor is to ensure this PPW-AMS is followed, ensuring all relevant personnel working on the Scheme have been briefed on this PPW-AMS and the precautionary working methods to follow when working near trees. It is also the responsibility of the construction contractor to inform the ACoW of any breach of this PPW-AMS and the guidance prescribed within and to seek advice on any remedial action required.

B.4.3 As a minimum, a pre-enabling works meeting at the Solar PV and CRC Sites between the ACoW and the construction contractor must take place. During theis meeting the ACoW will brief contractors on the precautionary working methods within this PPW-AMS and provide ACoW contact details. The contractor will brief the ACoW on the programme of works and provide contact details of key personnel (e.g. Site Manager).

B.5 Tree Removal

B.5.1 In line with the Scheme embedded mitigation commitments, tree removal will be avoided wherever feasible throughout the Order Limits. Should tree removal be required for the PPW and be unavoidable, trees of lower quality

and life expectancy will be preferably removed over those of higher quality and life expectancy as per **Figure 5.1** below. In **Annex B Tree Survey Schedule [APP-150]**, trees with a BS5837:2012 Quality Category of U shall be preferentially removed followed by Category C, B and A trees in that order of priority. Ancient or veteran trees will not be removed under any circumstances.

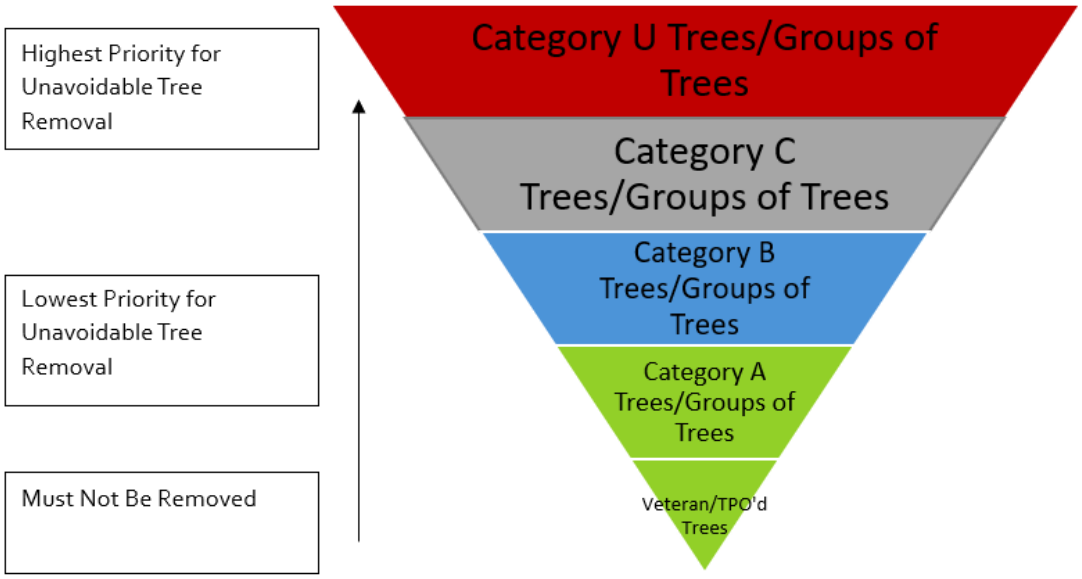


Figure 5.1 Tree Removal Hierarchy

B.5.2 Trees to be removed for construction will be marked up on site by the ACoW. All tree work will be undertaken by a suitably qualified, insured and experienced arboricultural contractor working in accordance with *British Standard 3998: 2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations'*. No tree works will be undertaken by construction workers unless qualified and instructed to do so.

B.5.3 Prior to any necessary tree removal being carried out, due regard must be given to any legal restrictions on tree pruning including nesting birds which are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and roosting bats which are protected by Regulation 43 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

B.5.4 The Scheme has been designed so as to avoid impacts to any trees currently protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or within Conservation Areas. With regard to trees within the Order Limits that may be protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) made after development consent for the Scheme is granted, the relevant article number of the Draft Development Consent Order provides 'deemed consent' to the Applicant to undertake works to such trees.

B.5.5 The article states that *"The undertaker may, if it reasonably believes it to be necessary to do so in order to prevent the tree from obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance, operation or decommissioning of the*

authorised development or any apparatus used in connection with the authorised development, fell or lop or cut back the roots of any tree that is subject to a tree preservation order that is within or overhanging land within the Order limits provided the relevant tree preservation order was made after the date of this Order."

B.5.6 It is therefore important that works to (future) TPO trees only take place if the Applicant *"reasonably believes it to be necessary to do so"* for reasons of obstructing or interfering with construction, maintenance or operation of the Project's apparatus. Advice from the ACoW will be sought to confirm whether the works are necessary and whether any alternative measures can be employed to avoid undertaking works to protected trees.

B.6 Tree Pruning

B.6.1 Facilitation pruning may be required to facilitate PPW to tree groups G29, G42 and G115 as identified in the **Preliminary Arboricultural Impact Assessment [APP-150]**, to allow access for machinery and pedestrians without causing damage to the branches of retained trees. The exact pruning works requirement will be confirmed by the ACoW and construction contractor.

B.6.2 Prior to any necessary tree pruning, the ACoW will liaise with the construction contractor on the requirements for pruning and the ACoW will provide a specification for the pruning works required which will then be implemented by a suitably qualified, insured and experienced arboricultural contractor working in accordance with *British Standard 3998: 2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations'*.

B.6.3 Pruning works to veteran trees will be avoided and pruning will aim to prioritise trees of low quality (BS5837:2012 Category U and C trees) over trees of moderate or high quality (BS5837:2012 Category A and B trees). No tree works will be undertaken by construction workers unless qualified and instructed to do so.

B.7 Tree Protection Fencing

B.7.1 Prior to PPW commencing, tree protection fencing will be installed at the locations shown in **Annex D Tree Impact Plans [APP-150]** and/or at the outer perimeters of RPAs. This fencing will consist of wire mesh and wooden post fencing with a minimum height of 2m and should be fit for excluding construction activity and provide adequate protection to the trees for the duration of the works. The area between the fencing and the trees will be a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) whereby no machinery, materials or spoil may enter.

B.7.2 The aim of the tree protection fencing is to fence off the RPA or veteran tree buffer zone of the tree to ensure it is protected from PPW. Tree protection fencing as shown on the Tree Impact Plans has already been designed to protect the RPAs of retained trees. For reference, the distance to offset

fencing from a tree is provided by the column '(Radius in m) under RPA' or 'Root Protection Radius (RPR) (cm)' in **Annex B Tree Survey Schedule [APP-150]** where trees have been recorded by the tree surveys. To calculate the fencing offset distance from a tree not recorded in the survey, the stem diameter in metres of the tree will be measured at 1.5m height in accordance with BS5837:2012 and multiplied by 12 to provide the required offset distance.

B.7.3 Prior to PPW commencing in each area of the CRC, the ACoW will mark up the line at which temporary tree protection fencing must be installed prior to works commencing. This fencing will consist of post and rope or Heras fencing as appropriate to prevailing Site conditions and the scope of works planned in the vicinity of retained trees. Once installed, clear signage will be attached at regular intervals to the fencing informing staff members that the roped off area is a 'Construction Exclusion Zone' (CEZ) whereby no machinery, vehicles or materials/spoil may enter.

B.7.4 Once fencing has been installed and before construction activities begin, a site check by the ACoW will take place to check the locations and suitability of the tree protection fencing.

B.7.5 Once installed, tree protection fencing will not be moved or altered in any way without prior consultation and sign off from the ACoW. If fencing does need to be moved back to create construction space, appropriate ground protection as per Section 5.8 below must be used to cover the exposed RPAs during works until such time as the tree protection fencing can be reinstated in its original position.

B.7.6 It is the responsibility of all construction personnel to ensure that the tree protection fencing remains intact and in the correct locations throughout construction. It is also the responsibility of all persons working on the Site to respect the CEZ created by the tree protection fencing. In the event that any fence panels are damaged, this must be rectified immediately to restore the CEZ.

B.8 Works within Root Protection Areas and Ground Protection

B.8.1 Prior to any works occurring within the RPAs of retained trees or veteran tree buffer zone, the ACoW will be contacted, briefed on the scope of the works and advice sought on the precautionary working methods to employ to minimise damage to roots.

B.8.2 If PPW must occur within the RPA or veteran tree buffer zone of a retained tree, ground protection will be installed by the construction contractor prior to works occurring within the RPA in order to protect the tree from soil compaction.

B.8.3 Ground protection must be suitable for the weight of the traffic using the area to ensure that underlying soils are not compacted. Ground protection specifications will meet the recommendations set out in paragraph 6.2.3 of British Standard 5837:2012:

- *'For pedestrian movements only, a single thickness of scaffold boards placed either on top of a driven scaffold frame, so as to form a suspended walkway, or on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 100 mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane;*

- *For pedestrian-operated plant up to a gross weight of 2 t, proprietary, inter-linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150 mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane;*

- *For wheeled or tracked construction traffic exceeding 2 t gross weight, an alternative system (e.g. proprietary systems or pre-cast reinforced concrete slabs) to an engineering specification designed in conjunction with arboricultural advice, to accommodate the likely loading to which it will be subjected.'*

B.8.4 For heavy duty plant vehicles and machinery over 2 tonnes gross weight, an alternative system of ground protection in accordance with an engineered specification e.g., a load bearing 3D cellular confinement system, designed in conjunction with arboricultural advice.

B.8.5 In all cases the objective must be to avoid soil compaction within RPAs and any other unnecessary negative effects. A single pass of a heavy vehicle, especially in wet ground conditions, can cause compaction to soil structures.

B.8.6 Once ground protection is installed, the ACoW must check the suitability of the ground protection and sign it off prior to works within the RPA commencing. Once all works within the RPA have concluded, the ground protection may be removed.

B.9 Works within Root Protection Areas

B.9.1 Precautionary working methods may include ground protection (as per Section B.8 of this PPW-AMS) or hand digging with pre-emptive root pruning. Ground protection will be employed where no excavation is required within RPAs and only access to the RPA for working space is required. Where excavation within RPAs is required, the following precautionary working methods (hand digging and pre-emptive root pruning) will be followed in accordance with Volume 4: Street Works UK Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees.

B.9.2 Prior to excavation occurring within an RPA, the ACoW will mark up on Site a line whereby root pruning is required, this will likely represent the edge of a proposed excavation closest to the tree's stem. Along this line, hand tools, compressed air and soil vacuum excavation techniques will be used to dig a trench to the depth of the proposed excavation. Any hand digging within the RPA of any trees must be undertaken with great care requiring closer supervision than normal operations to protect the epidermis of structural roots (roots of 25mm diameter and greater). These roots must not be severed at any time without first consulting the ACoW. Any roots encountered that less

than 25mm diameter, can potentially be pruned back, if required, by the ACoW using a pruning saw or secateurs, leaving a clean-cut surface and to a lateral root where possible. Any roots left exposed for a period of time would be wrapped in dry hessian sacking. No roots would be left exposed for a period of over 24 hours. If any roots measuring 25mm diameter and greater are encountered, works would stop and the suitability for root pruning will be determined by the ACoW.

B.9.3 Once root pruning has been carried out, the proposed works within the RPA will commence. In instances where a significant amount of roots have been pruned, the ACoW will advise on any remedial tree works required for health and safety. Builders' sand will not be used to backfill the trenches due to its high salt content which is toxic to tree roots. If sand is required, sharp sand or other granular fill will be used.

B.10 Working near Tree Canopies

B.10.1 When tall machinery is working near the tree canopies, the machine operator will be accompanied by a banksman who will work from ground level and ensure that moving machinery parts avoid the stems and branches of retained trees.

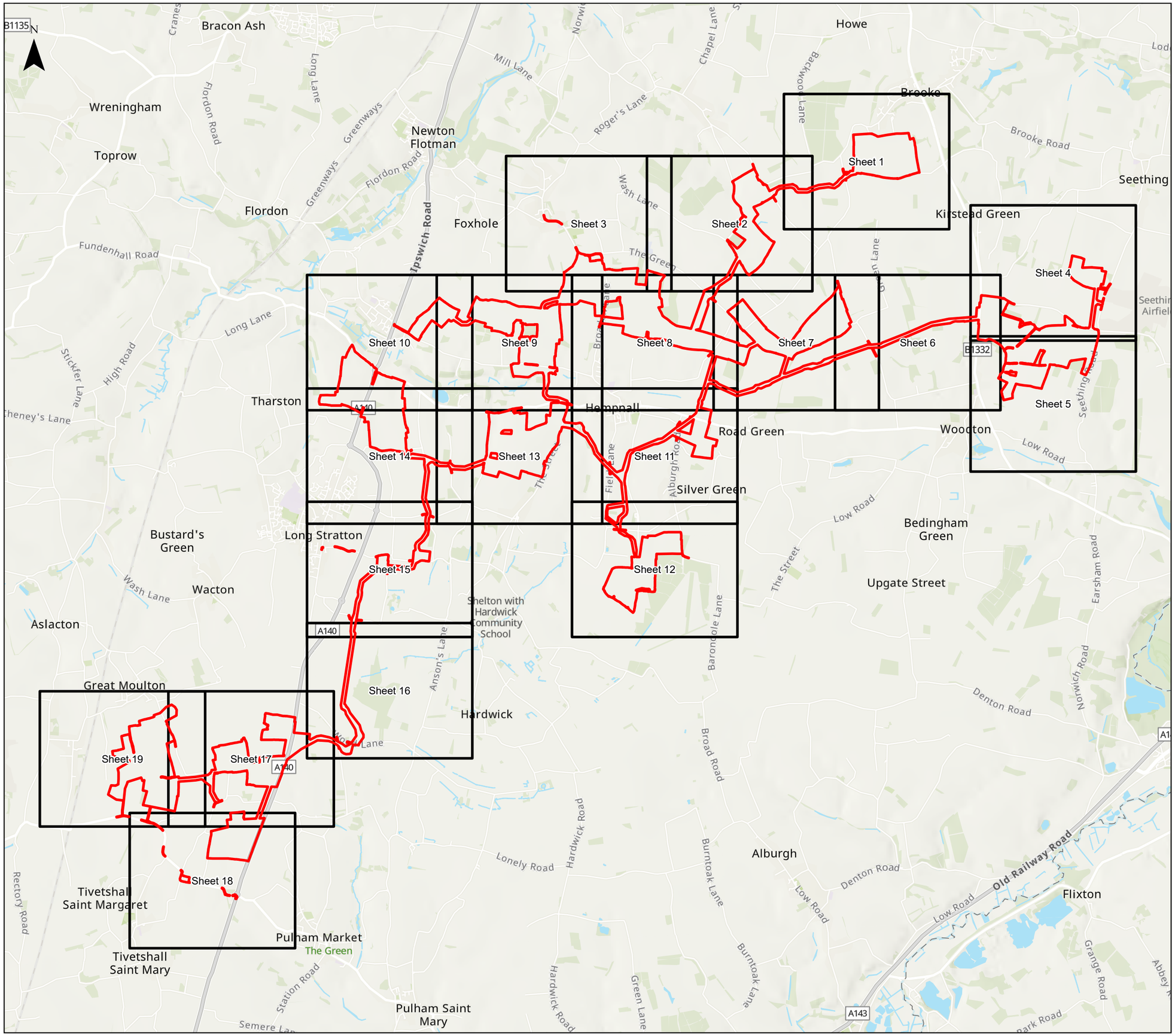
B.11 Movement of Construction Machinery and Material/Spoil Storage

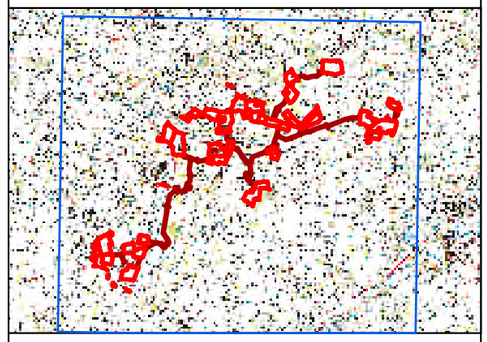
B.11.1 No vehicles, construction machinery, materials or spoil will enter the RPAs of retained trees during works at the Solar PV Sites and CRCs. RPAs will be fenced off at the commencement of PPW as per Section 5.7 above and the area between the fencing and the trees considered a CEZ. This will ensure that RPAs are not subject to soil compaction which can have significant negative impacts to tree health in the long term. If spoil or machinery does require access to RPAs, ground protection will be employed as per Section 5.8 of this PPW-AMS.

B.12 Temporary Construction Compounds (TCCs)

B.12.1 TCCs will be located away from trees and outside of the canopy spreads and RPAs of adjacent trees. Adjacent trees will be protected for the duration the TCC is in use by tree protection fencing and ground protection as necessary as per section 5.7 and 5.8 respectively of this PPW-AMS.

Appendix C Figure Showing Great Crested Newt Method Statement





Legend

- Order Limits
- Sheet Index

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS
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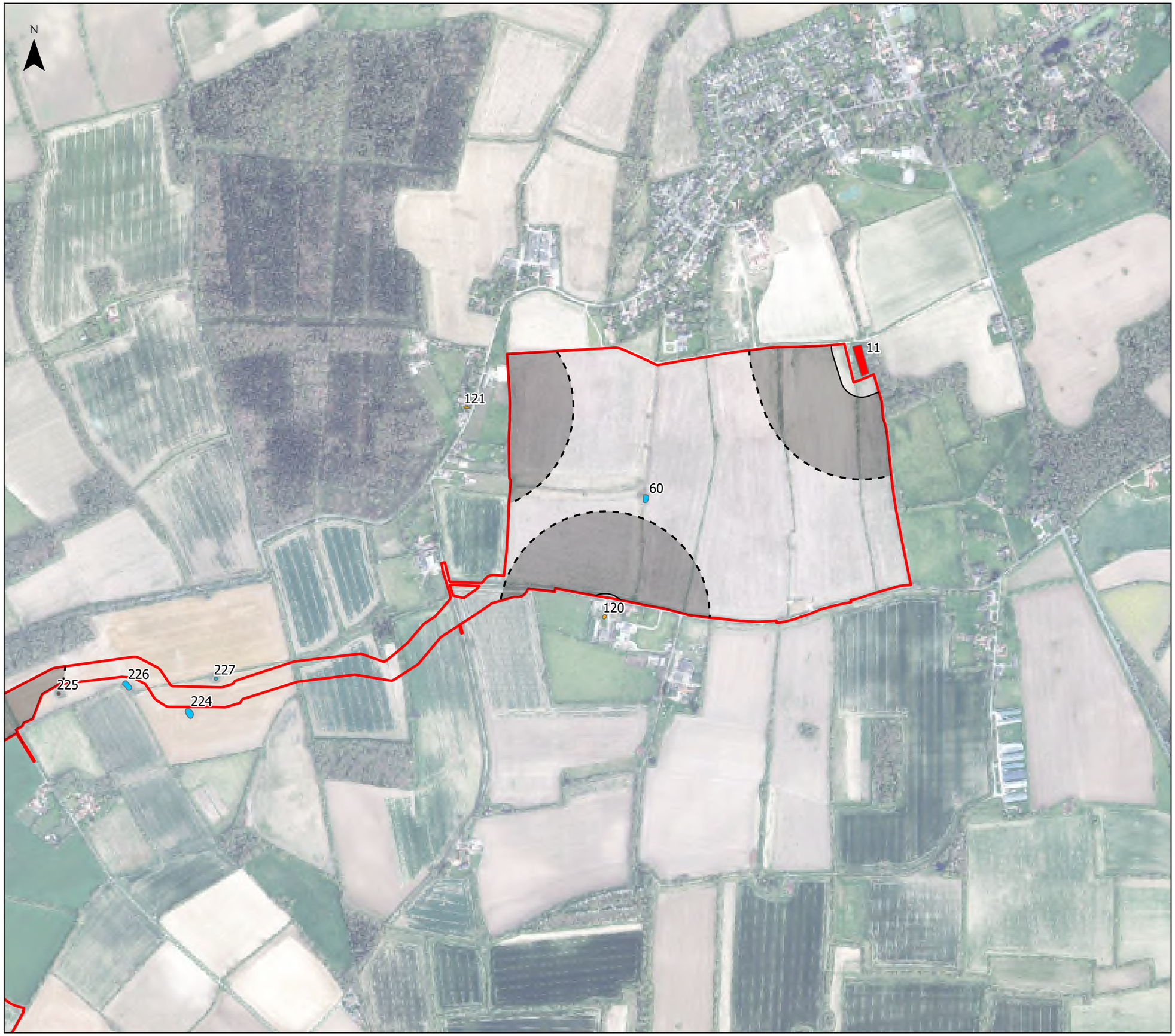
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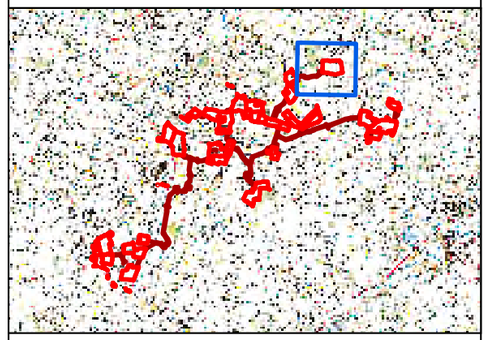
Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Overview

Revision 1

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Island GREEN POWER



Legend

- Order Limits
- Dry Ponds
- Inconclusive GCN results pond (precautionary positive approach)
- Negative GCN results pond
- Un-surveyed ponds (precautionary positive approach)
- Positive GCN results pond
- GCN Protection Zone
- GCN Working Areas

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Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

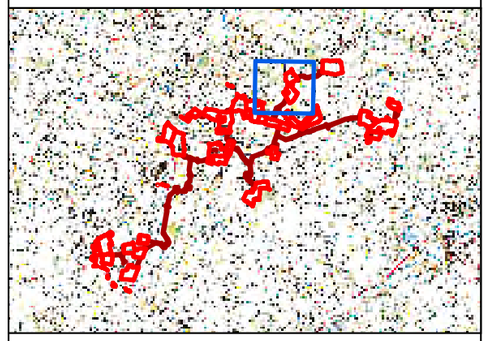
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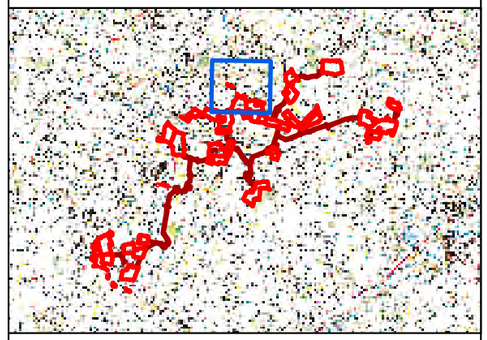
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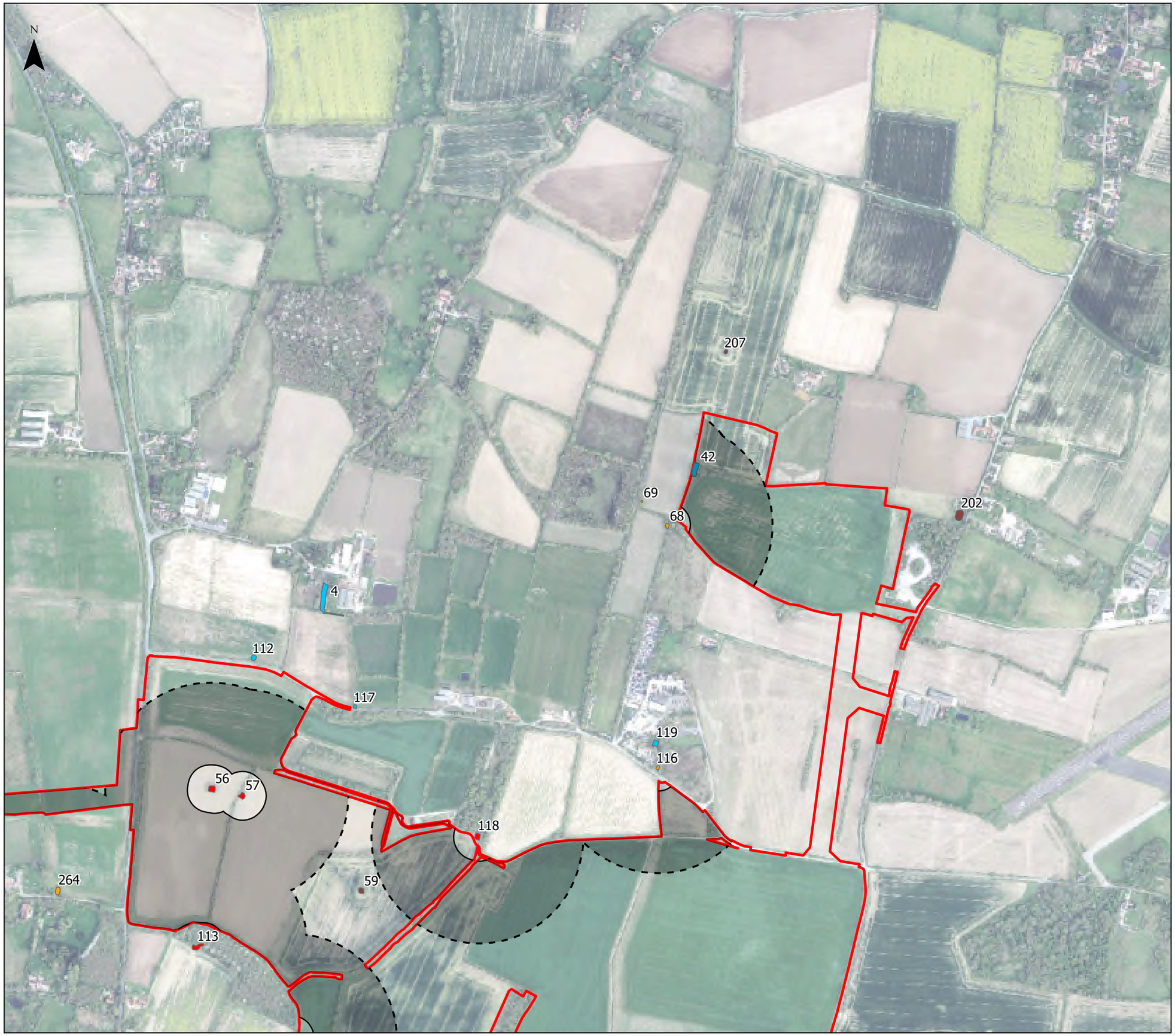
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Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

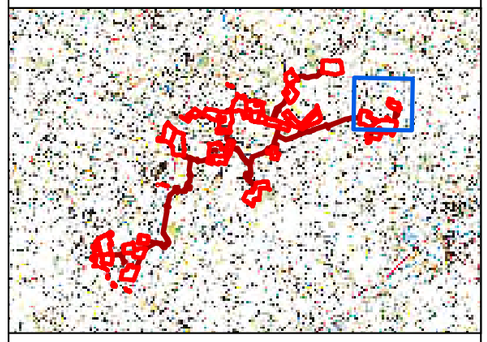
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Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

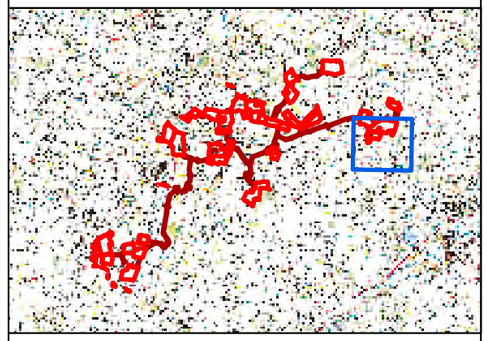
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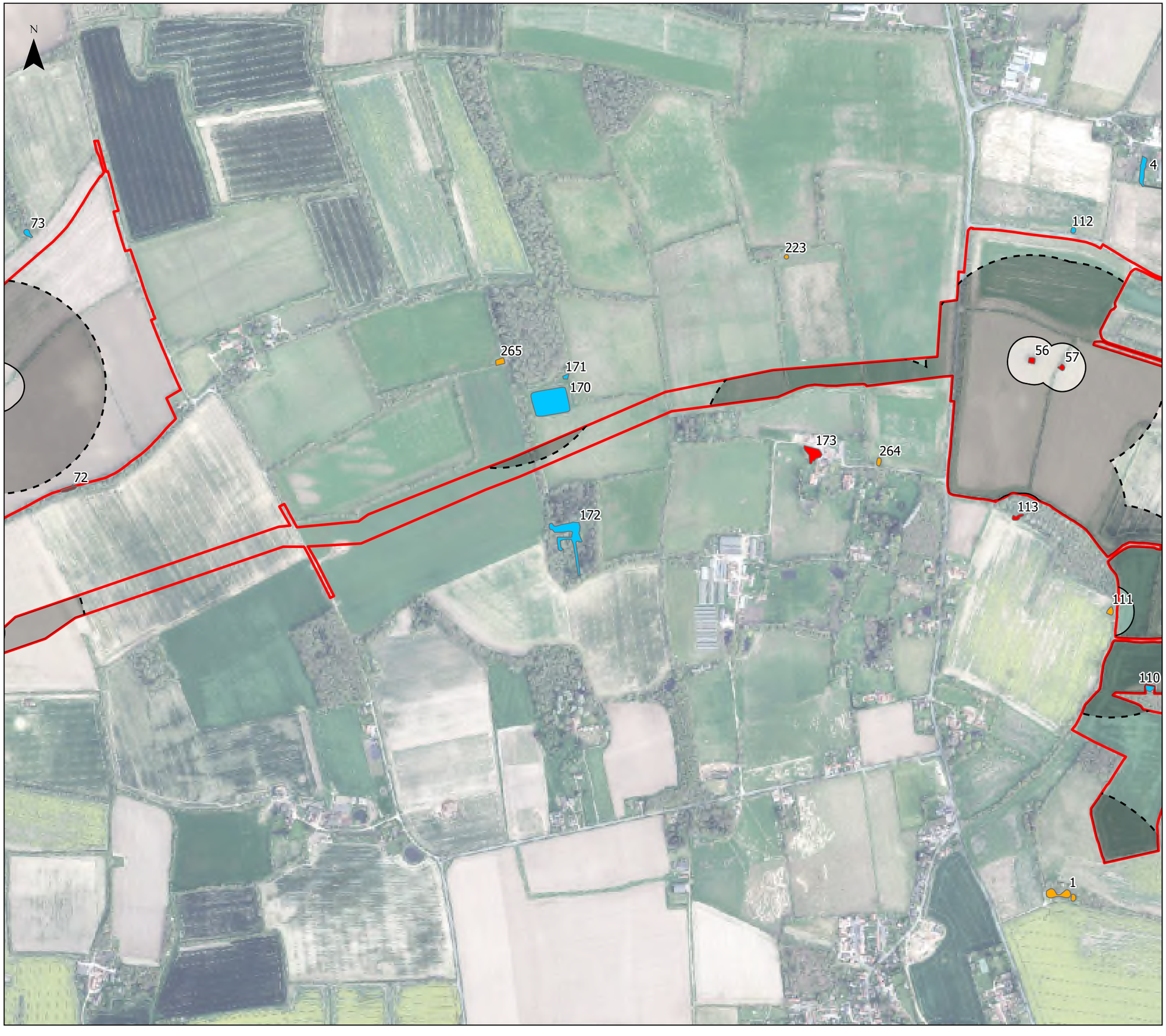
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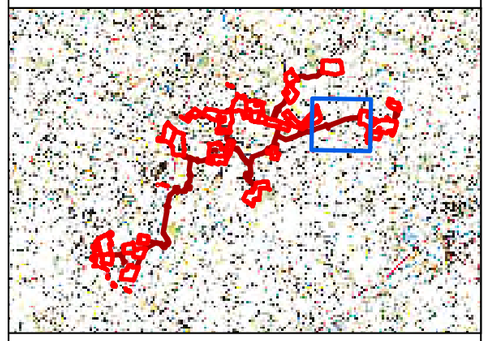
Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

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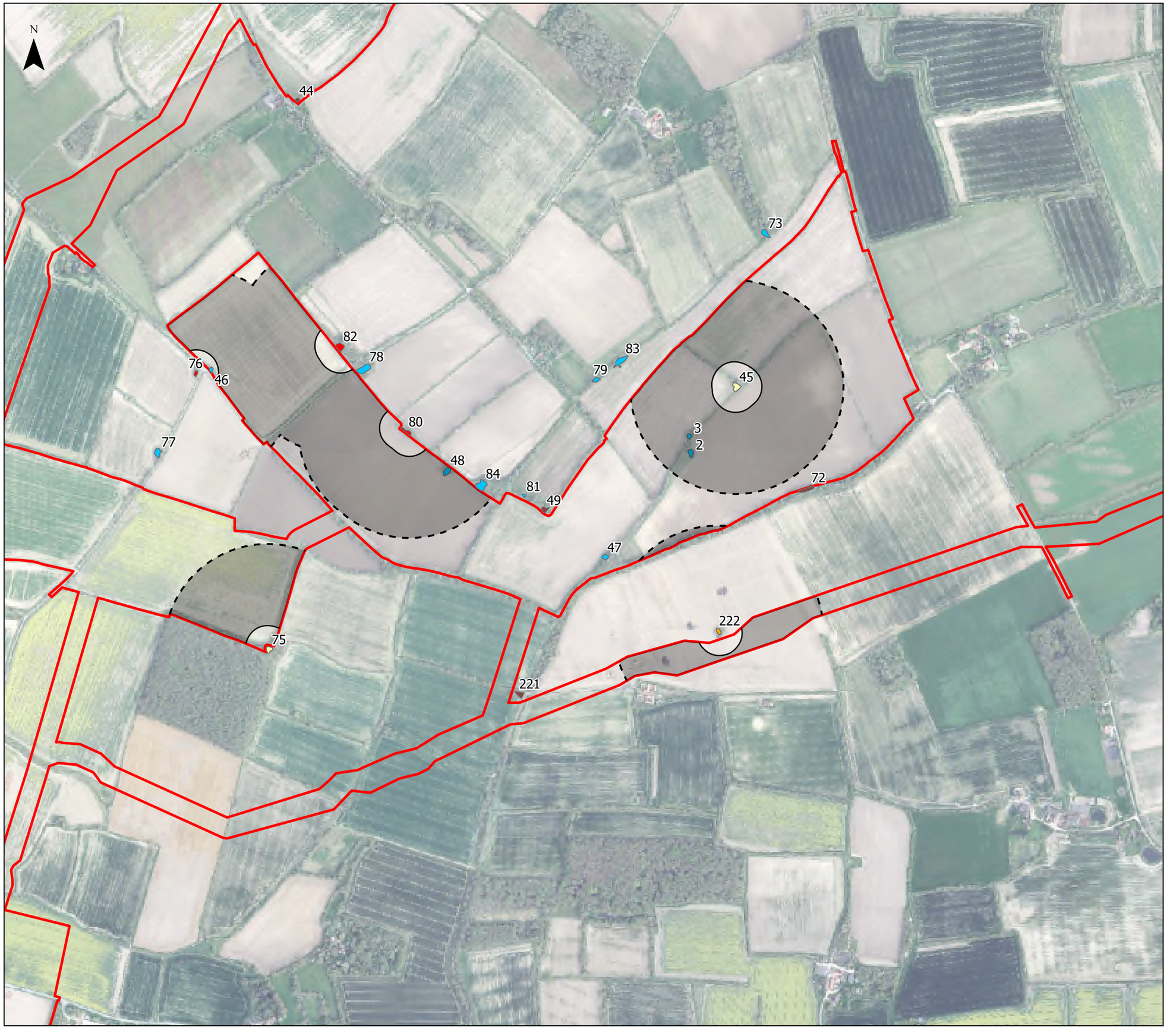
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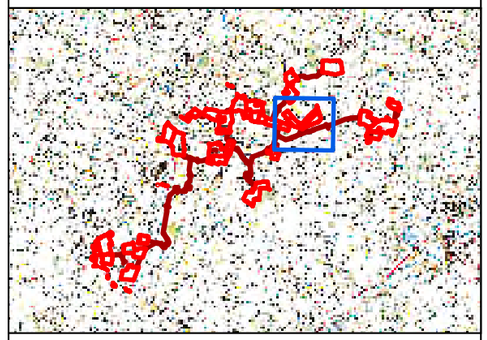
Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

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Island GREEN POWER



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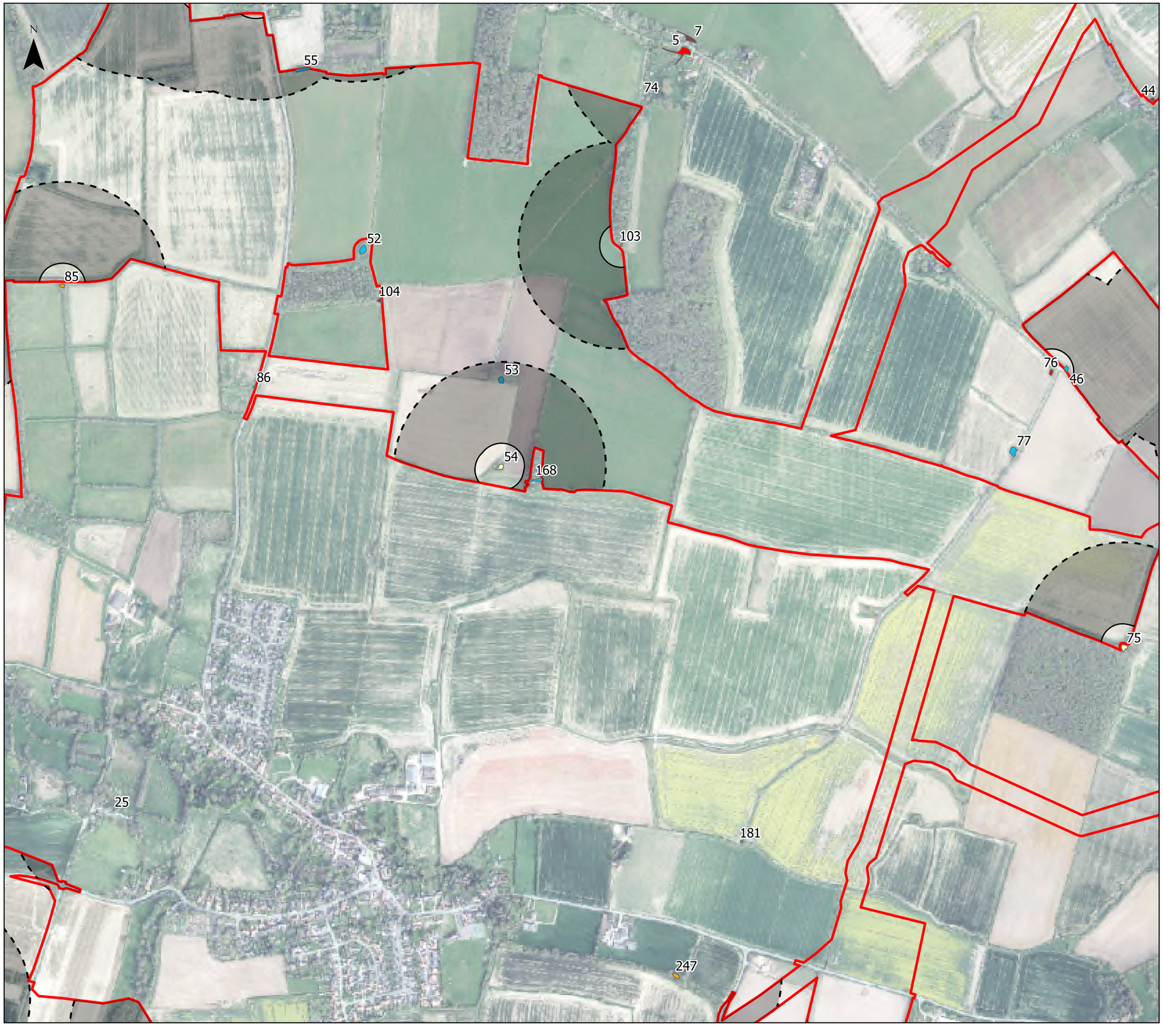
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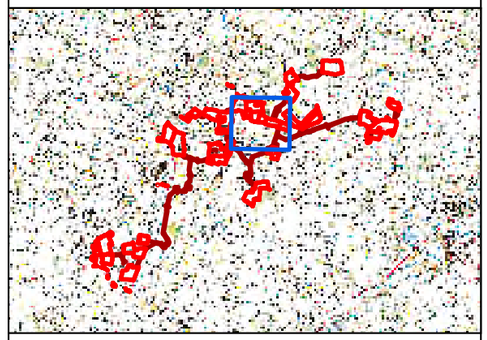
Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

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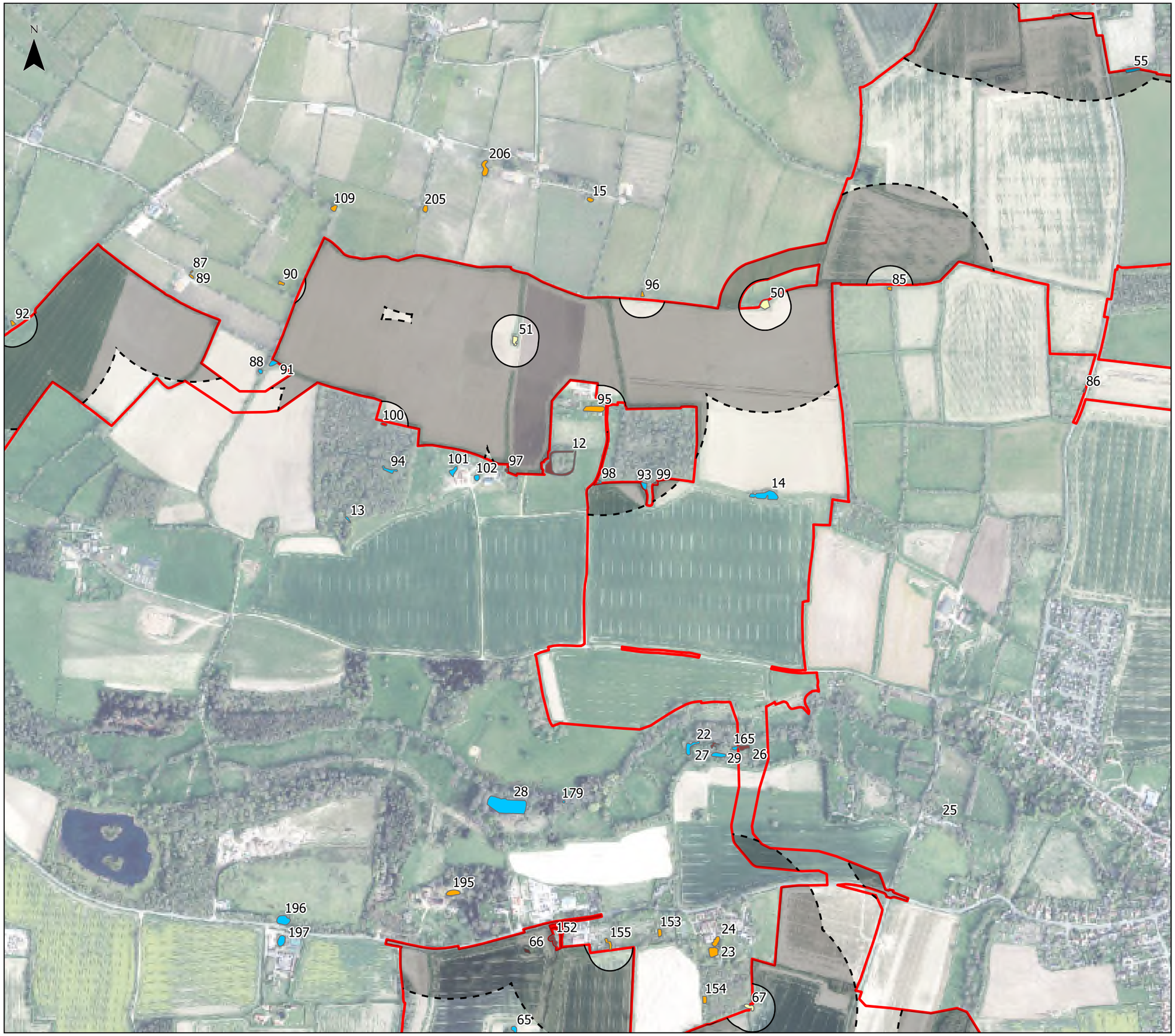
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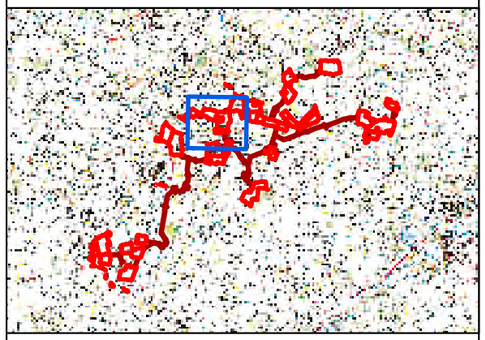
Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

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Island GREEN POWER



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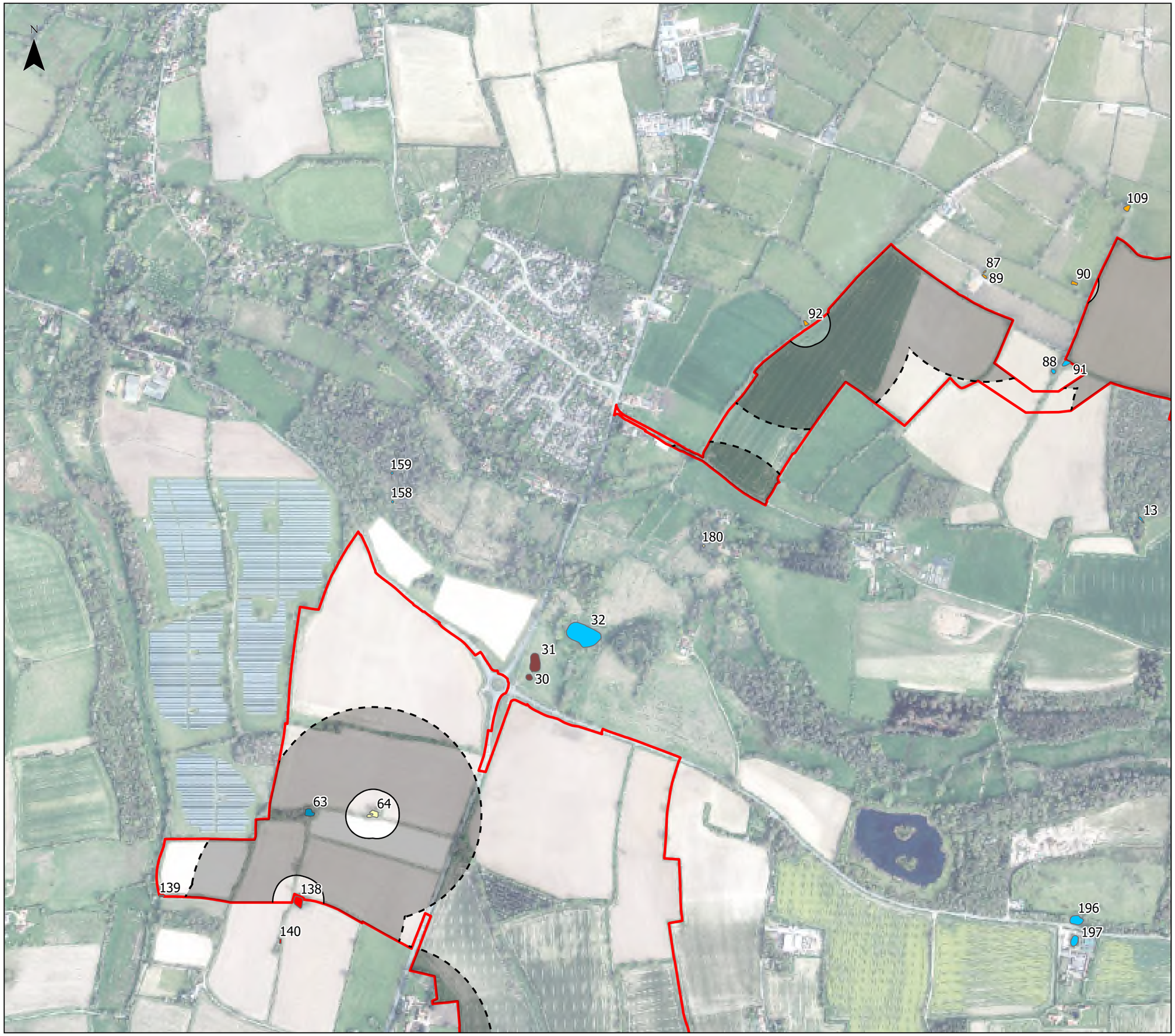
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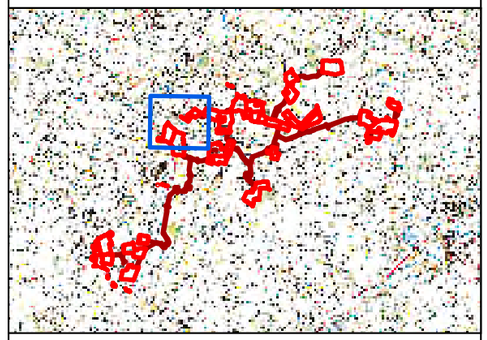
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Island GREEN POWER



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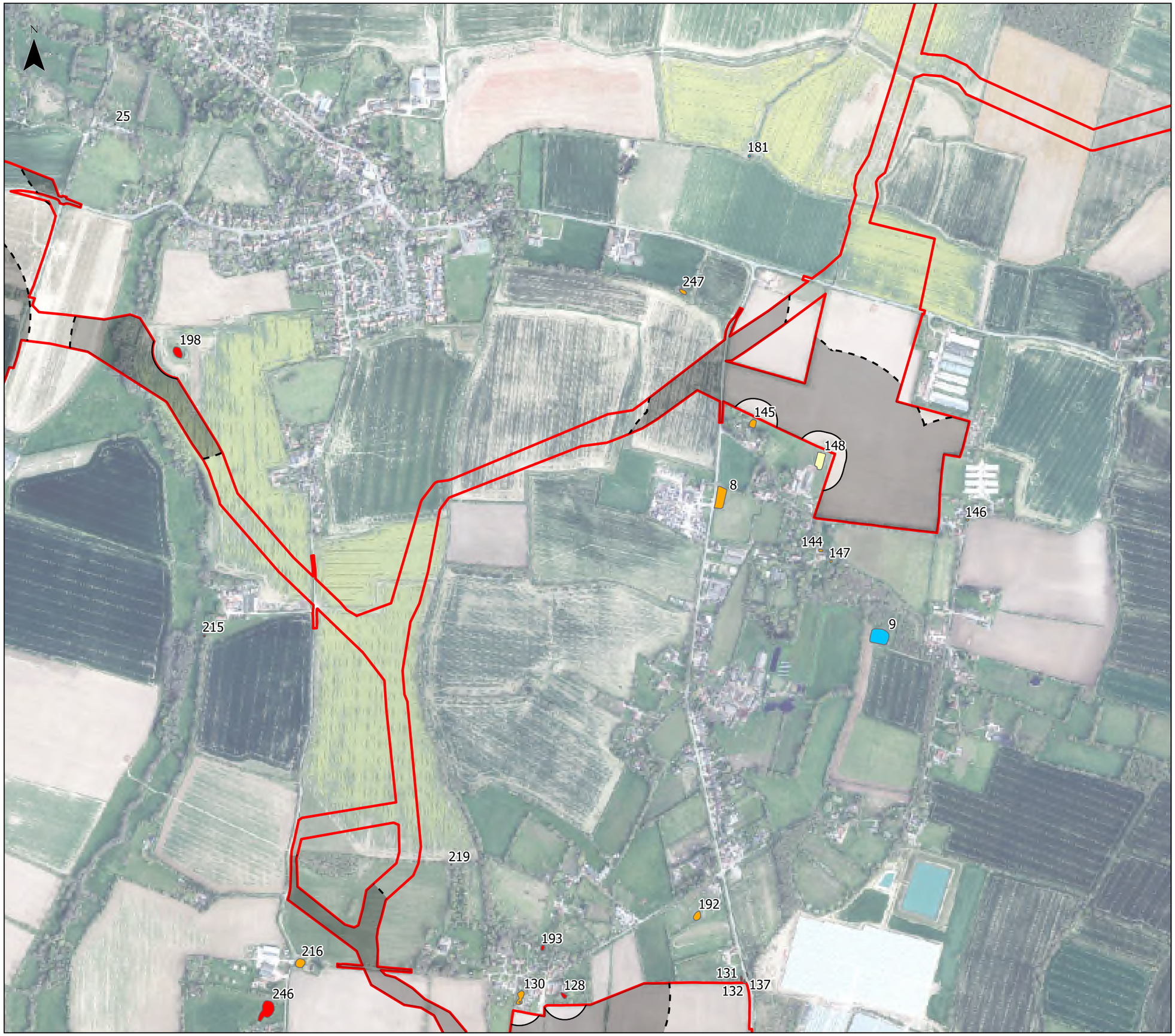
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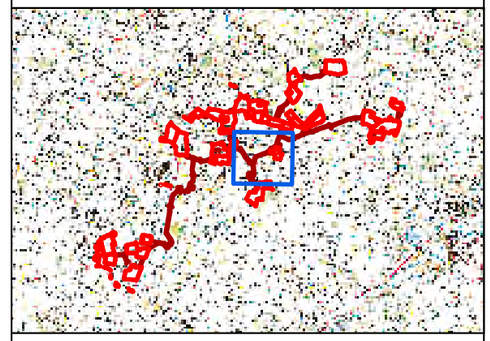
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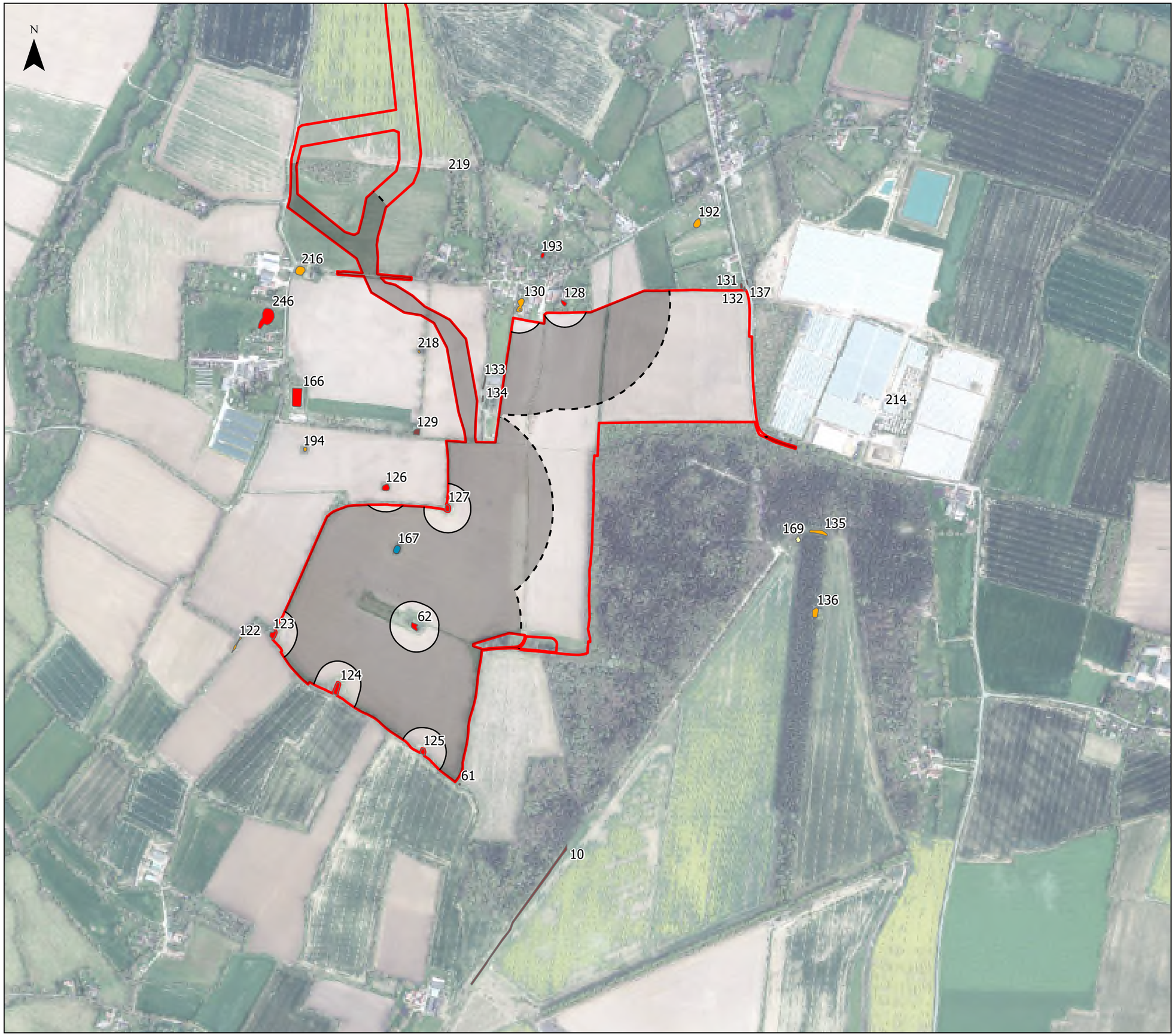
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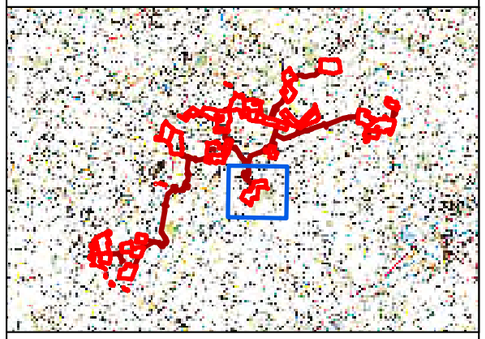
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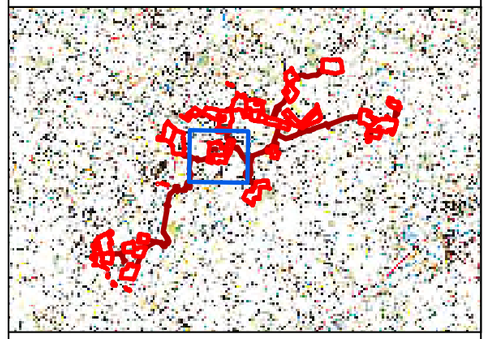
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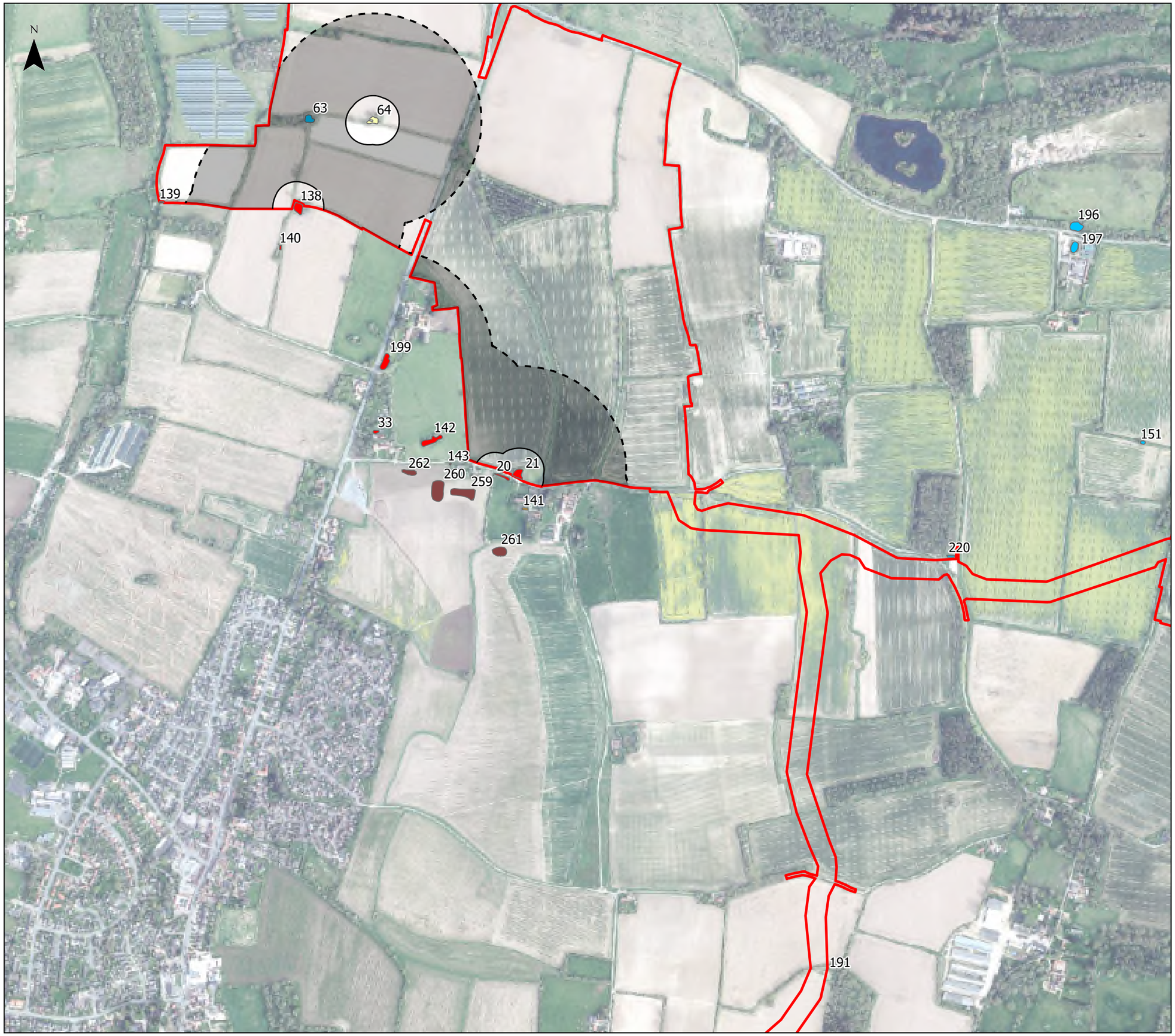
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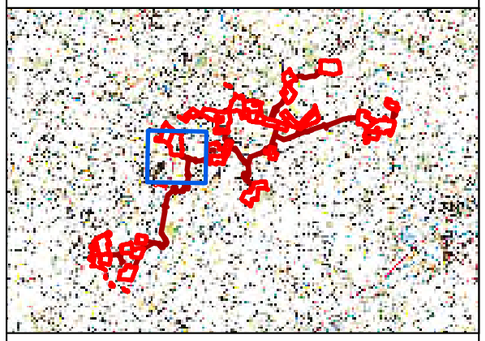
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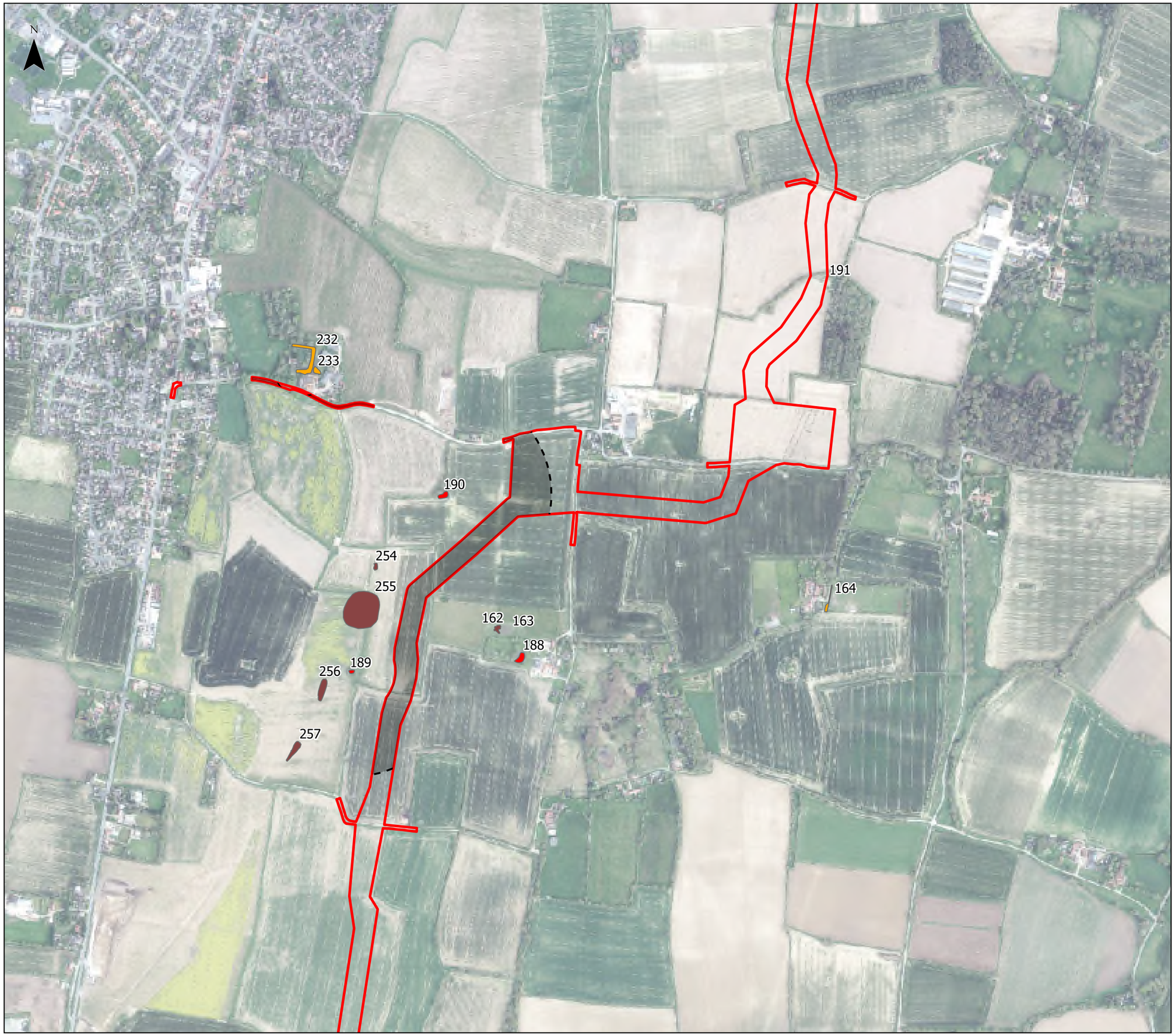
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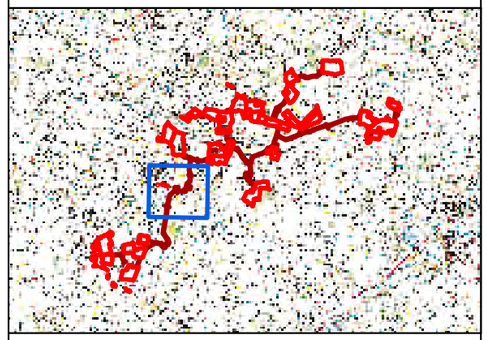
Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

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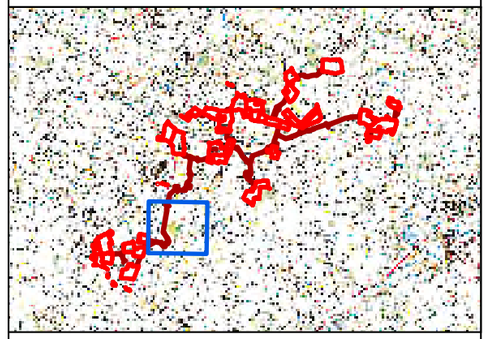
Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

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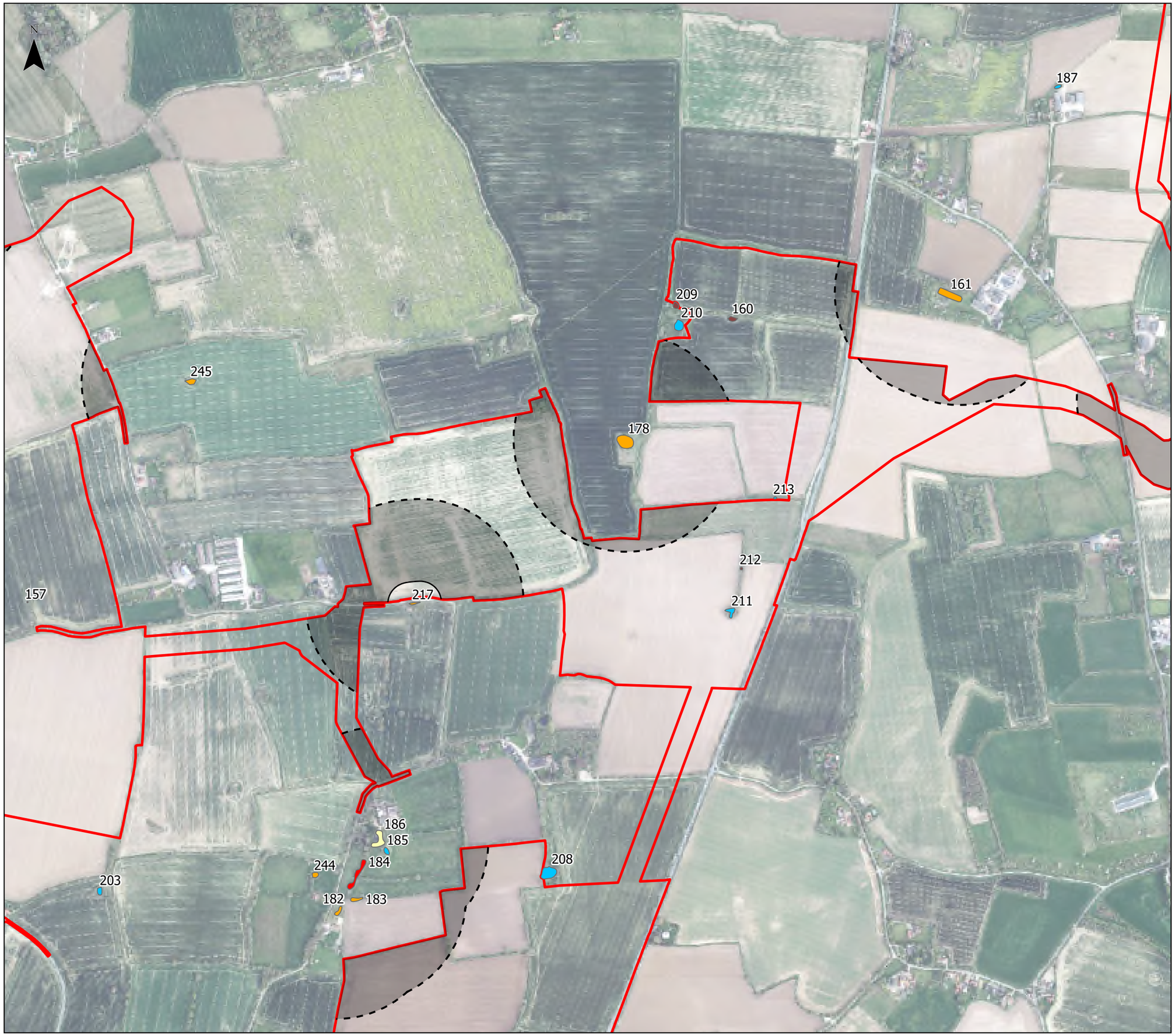
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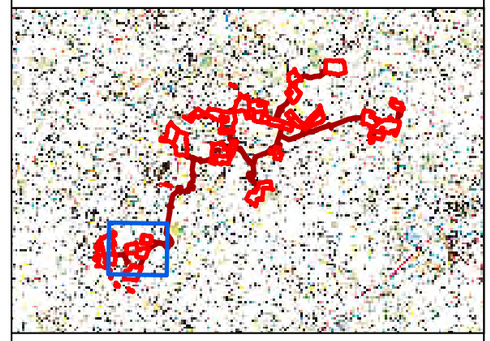
Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

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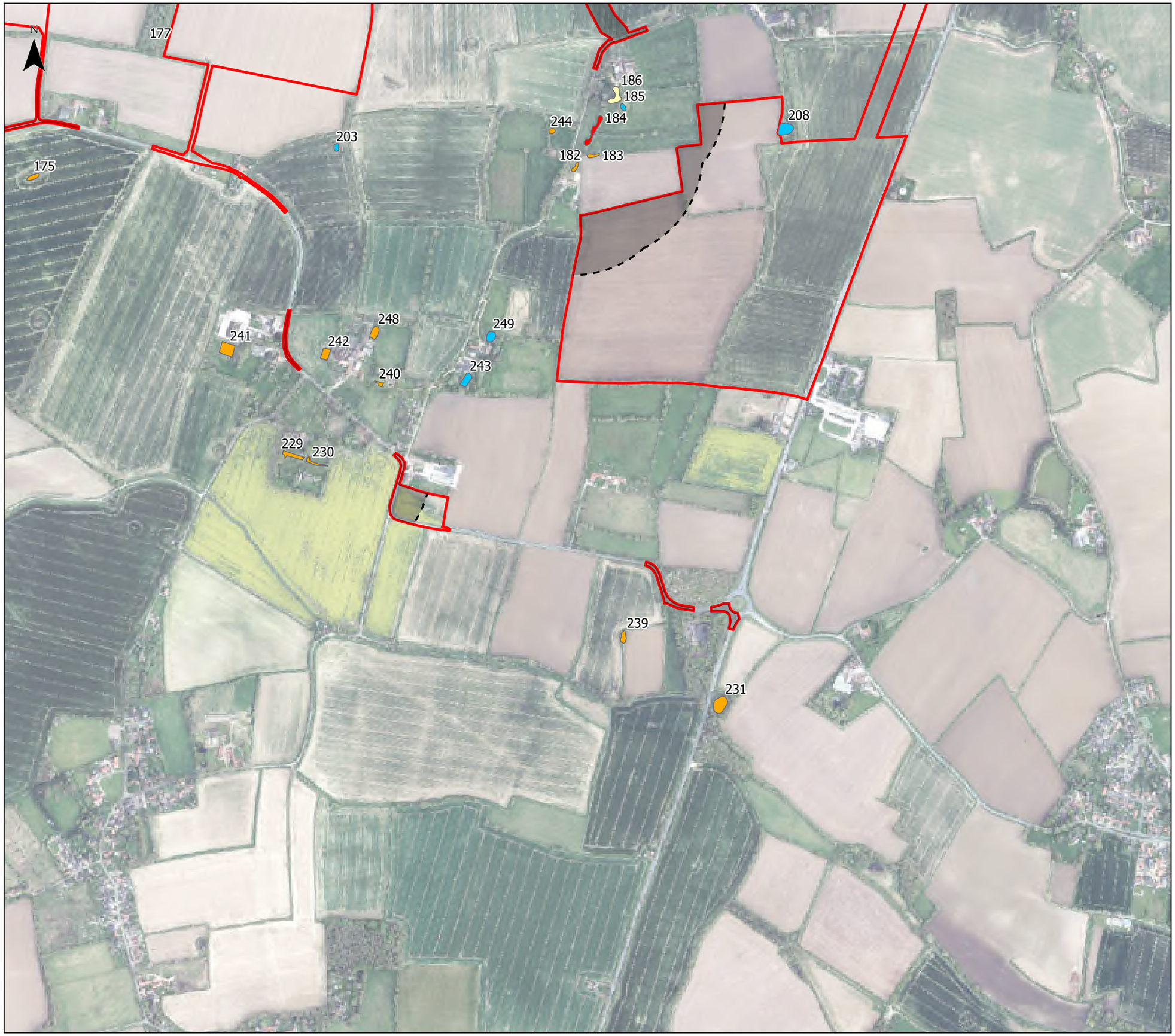
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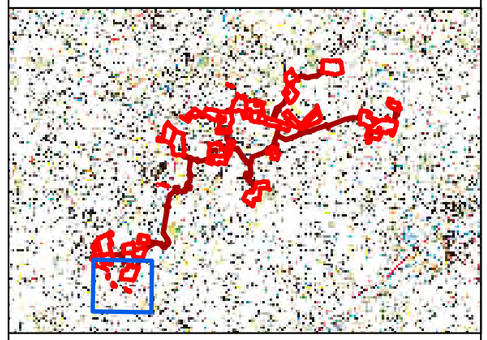
Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

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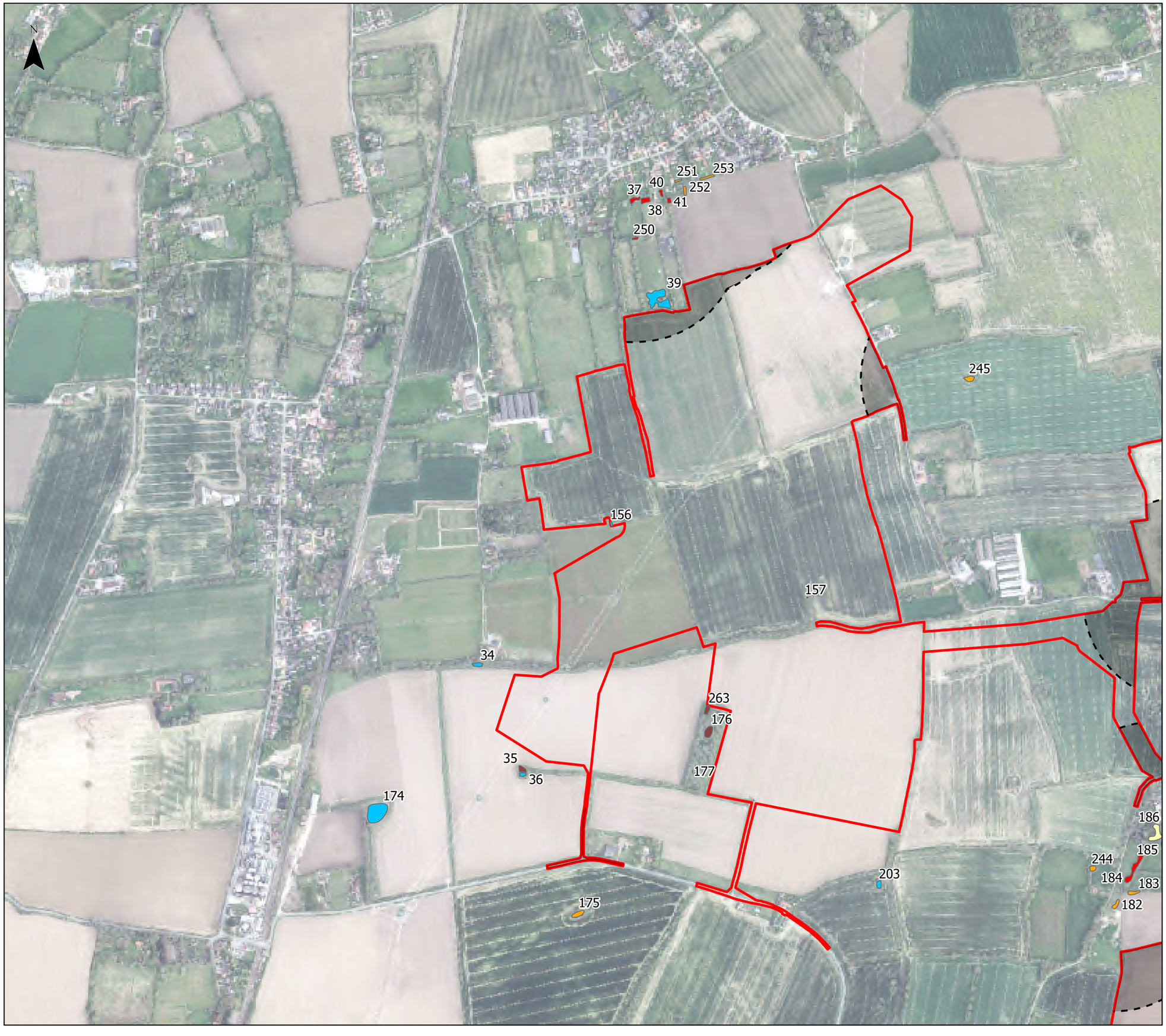
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Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

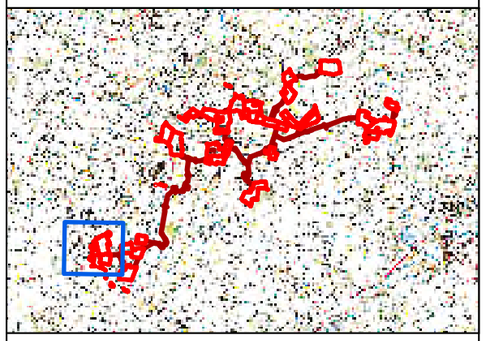
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Island GREEN POWER



Legend

- Order Limits
- Dry Ponds
- Inconclusive GCN results pond (precautionary positive approach)
- Negative GCN results pond
- Un-surveyed ponds (precautionary positive approach)
- Positive GCN results pond
- GCN Protection Zone
- GCN Working Areas

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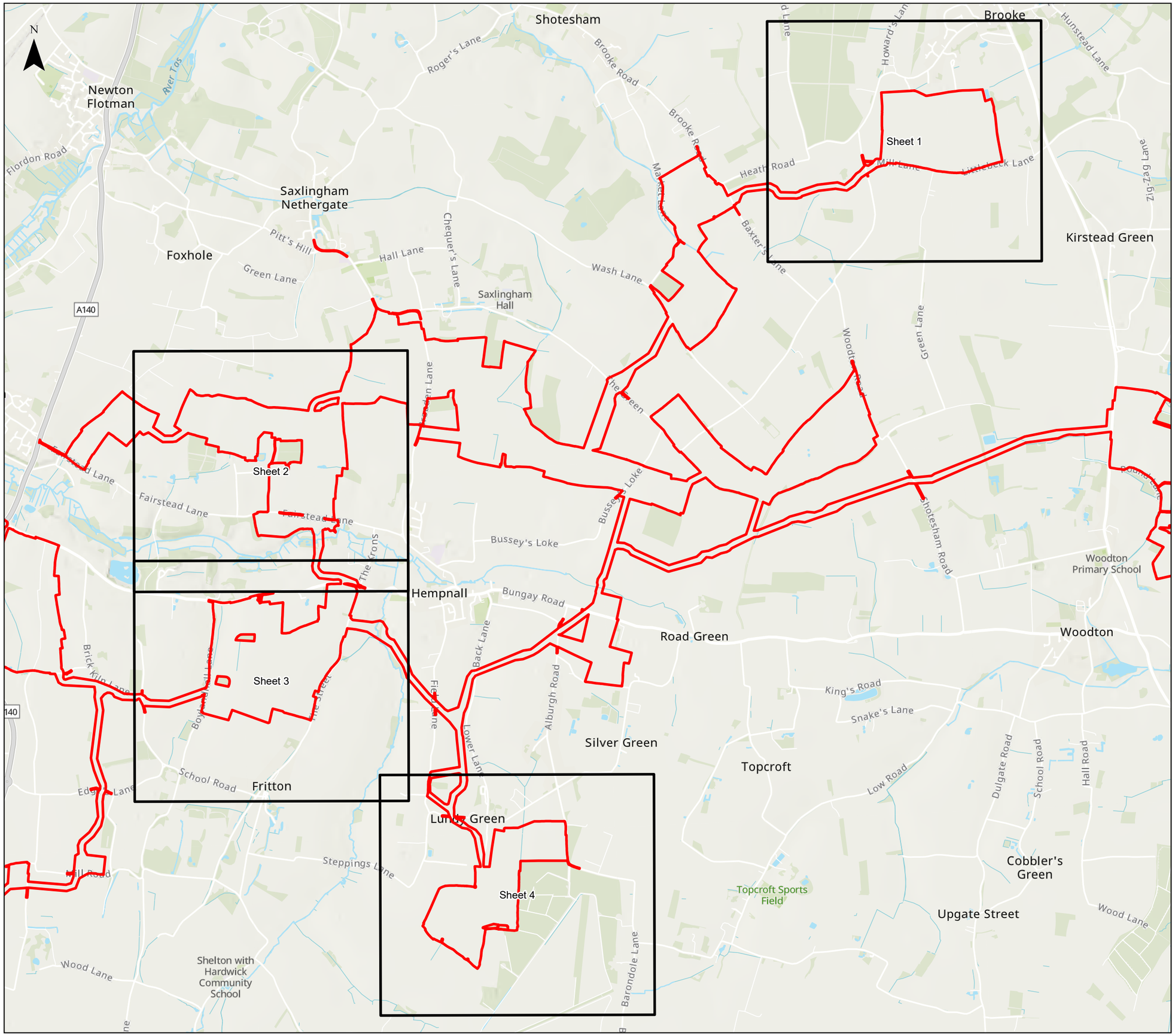
Figure 1: Great Crested Newt Method Statement Figure

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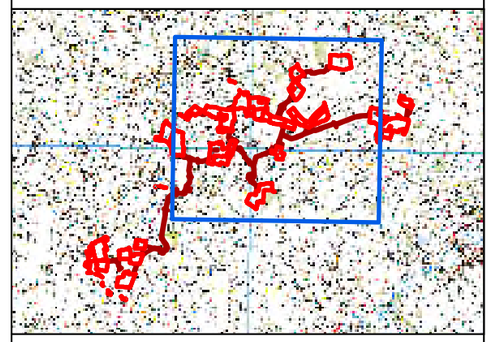
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Appendix D Figure Showing Invasive Species



Island GREEN POWER



Legend

- Order Limits
- Sheet Index

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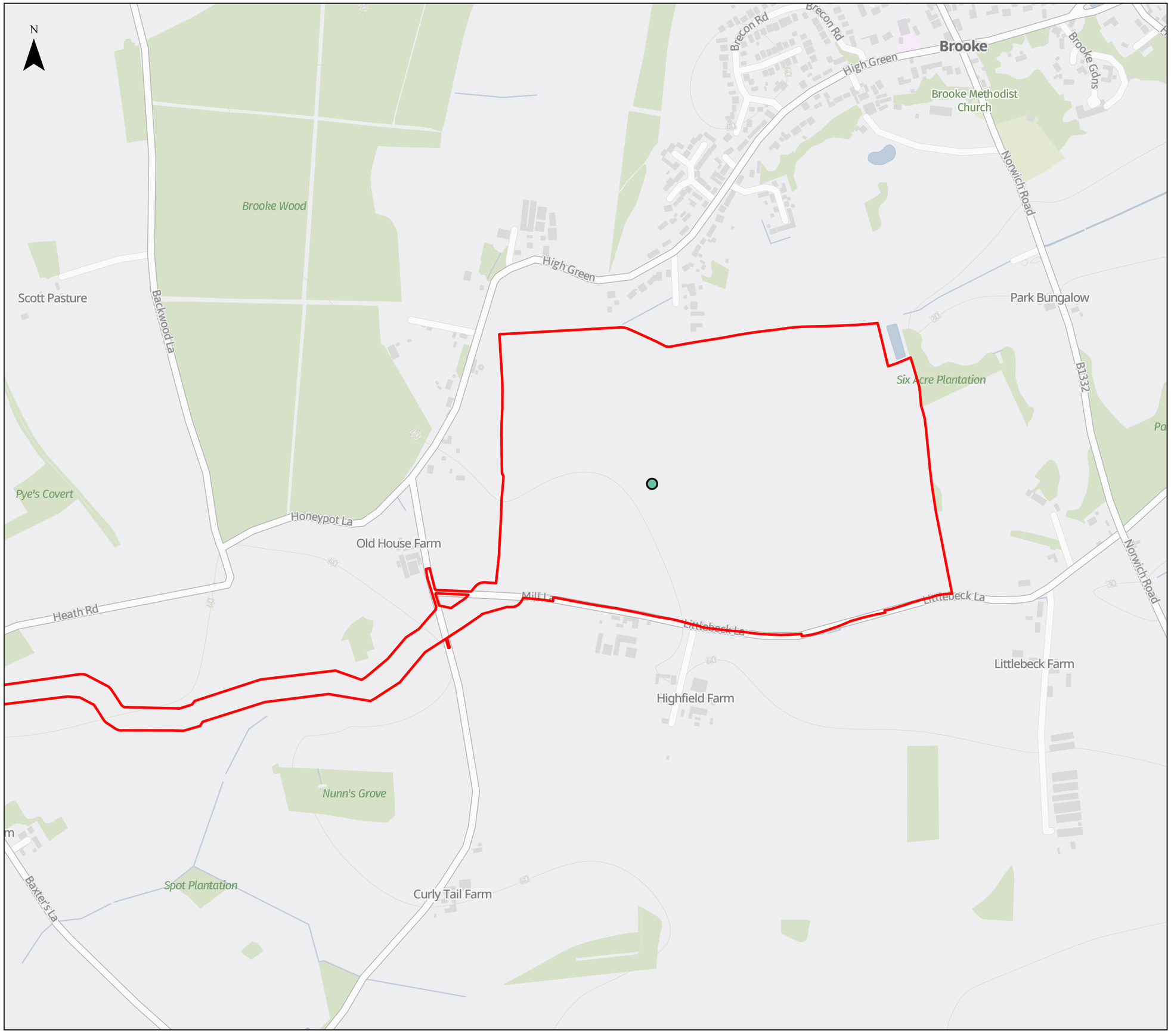
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Figure 2: Invasive Species Location Overview

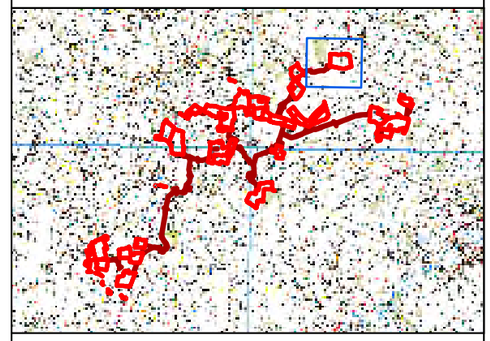
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Island GREEN POWER



Legend

- Order Limits
- Himalayan Balsam
- Japanese Knotweed
- Giant Hogweed

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Figure 2: Invasive Species Location

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Grove Farm
D' Oyly's Grove
Pope's Wood
Wood Farm
Fairstead La
Fairstead Lane Farm
Broaden La
Pymar's La
Play Space
Keeper's Cottage
Stonyhill Plantation
Longacre Plantation
Gravelpit Plantation
The Clock Wood
The Krons
Boyland House
B1527
Mill Road

Island GREEN POWER

Legend

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Figure 2: Invasive Species Location

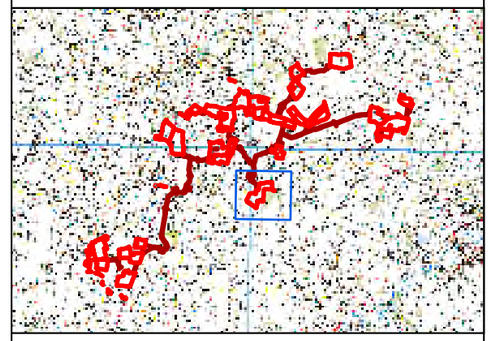
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Island GREEN POWER



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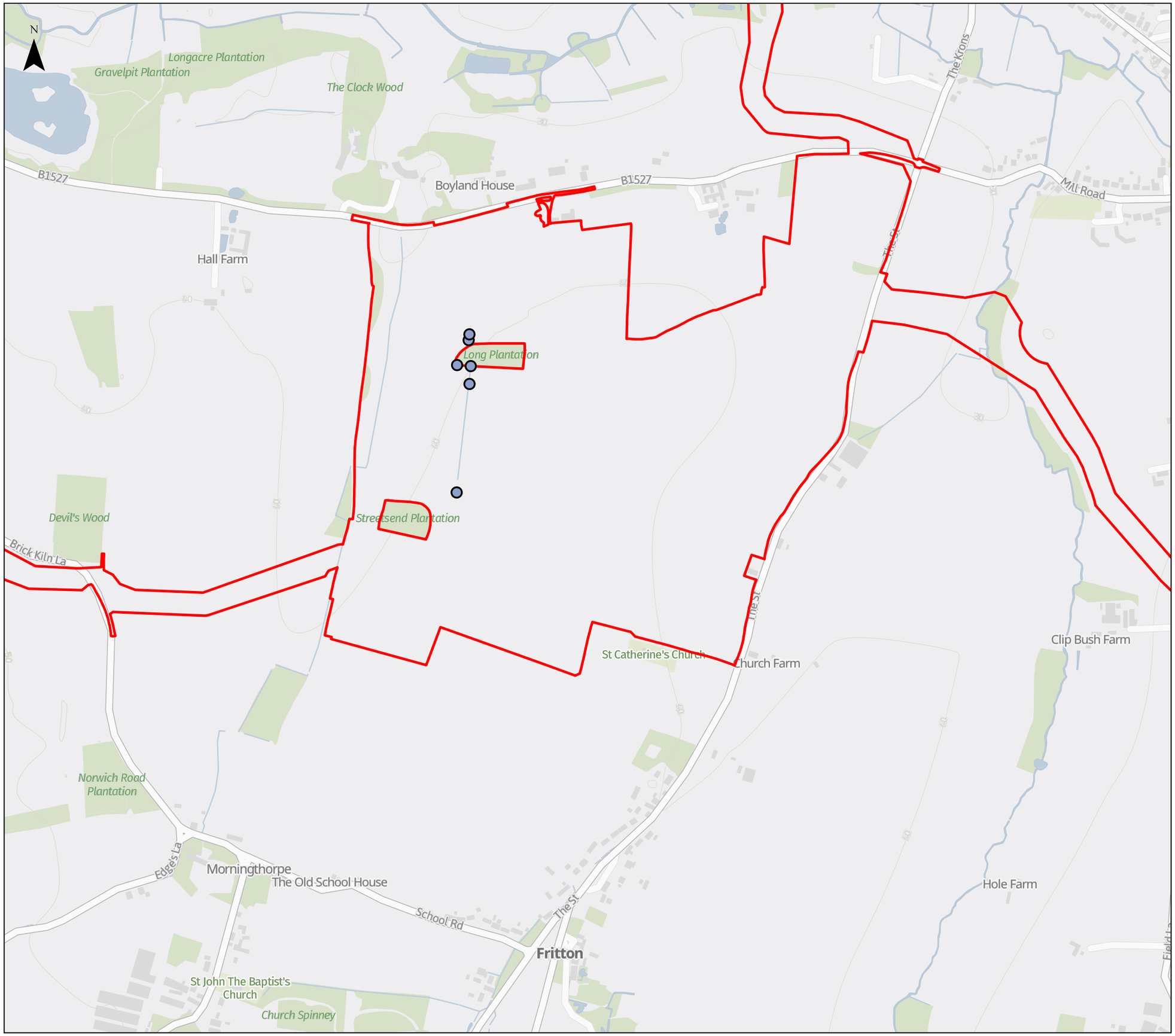
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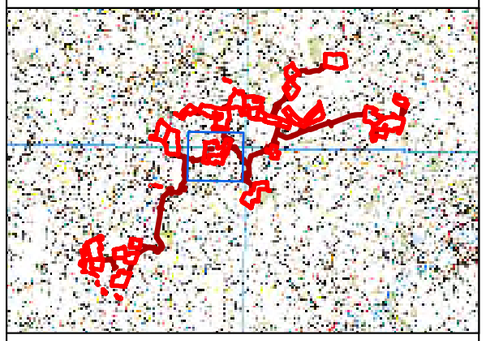
Figure 2: Invasive Species Location

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Figure 2: Invasive Species Location

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