



**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Sea Link

# Sea Link

**Volume 9: Examination Submissions**

**Document 9.76.5.6: Change Request Appendix F Change 3 Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results**

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# 1. Change 3 Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results

## 1.1 Site Works Undertaken

- 1.1.1 An updated Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out on three arable fields, centred around OS grid reference TM 42345 60070, as shown in Figure 1. This survey was undertaken to inform the review of ecological effects potentially associated with Change 3: Change to the Order Limits at Friston to provide flexibility in relation to heritage feature, Suffolk, which is being submitted with the Change Request.
- 1.1.2 The survey was undertaken on 21 October 2025. Additionally, a daytime bat walkover (DBW) survey was carried out to identify any trees present within the survey area that require further survey for potential bat roost features (PRFs) and a check was carried out to assess the status of a badger sett, previously identified in July 2024, and to search for any badger setts not previously identified.
- 1.1.3 The weather conditions were 15°C, with 40% cloud cover and a gentle south-westerly breeze.

## 1.2 Phase 1 habitat survey results

- 1.2.1 The results of the Phase 1 habitat survey are presented in Figure 1 at the end of this report.
- 1.2.2 The survey area comprised three arable fields of winter fodder radish (*Raphanus sativus* var. *oleiformis*) and partially ploughed winter stubble left from a maize (*Zea mays*) crop (Plate 2). The central and western fields were bound by narrow arable grassland margins dominated by grasses including cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), tall fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*), and meadow grasses (*Poa* spp.), with ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) also present. These two fields were separated from each other by a species-poor intact hedgerow dominated by common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and an improved grassland vehicle access track.
- 1.2.3 These fields were bound by hedgerows of varying composition and condition but were largely species-poor intact hedgerows dominated by common hawthorn. The northern boundary hedge was a more diverse hedge (Plate 1) with the western section of this hedge also supporting trees. The suitability for these hedgerow trees, among others to support roosting bats was assessed and those trees with potential to support roosting bats identified below. None of the trees with suitability for roosting bats are identified for removal as part of the Proposed Project.
- 1.2.4 The eastern field, which did not support a field margin, was bound by a species-rich hedgerow with trees to the north and a species-poor intact hedge to the south and west. The eastern boundary supported a native species-rich hedgerow with a dry ditch that connected to a pond (TN3) and plantation woodland, both situated outside of the survey



area and not accessed. A line of trees and scattered scrub extended from the plantation woodland into the survey area.

1.2.5 A single hole, active, outlier badger sett [REDACTED] this was previously identified in July 2024 and had not materially changed. No other badger setts were seen at the time of the survey; however, several latrines and mammal runs were present around the survey area. A Veteran/ancient Oak (*Quercus robur*) (TN2) was present on the eastern survey boundary. A main badger sett [REDACTED]

**Table 1 Trees with potential for roosting bats, identified during Daytime Bat Walkover**

OS Grid reference	Description
TM 42389 60268	Oak with approximately 70 cm DBH. A tear out on the north side approximately 5 m high with additional deadwood high up in the canopy. Assessed as Further Assessment Required (“FAR”). Shown in Plate 3. <b>Tree will be retained with a root protection zone.</b>
TM 42367 60368	Oak with approximately 70 cm DBH. Dense ivy ( <i>Hedera helix</i> ) cover across the trunk and branches obscuring sufficient assessment. Assessed as “FAR”. <b>Tree is outside Order Limits and will be retained.</b>
TM 42405 60386	Oak with approximately 50 cm DBH. Dense ivy cover across the trunk and branches obscuring sufficient assessment. Assessed as “FAR”. <b>Tree is outside Order Limits and will be retained.</b>
TM 42419 60393	Oak with approximately 50 cm DBH. Dense ivy cover across the trunk and branches obscuring sufficient assessment. Assessed as “FAR”. <b>Tree is outside Order Limits and will be retained.</b>
TM 42566 60252	Ancient/veteran oak with approximately 120 cm DBH. Deadwood high in the canopy that could not be viewed in sufficient detail to confirm absence of PRFs. Assessed as “FAR”. <b>Tree is outside Order Limits and will be retained.</b>
TM 42571 60222	Ash with approximately 40 cm DBH. Compression fork approximately 2 m high up on main trunk. Assessed as “FAR”. <b>Tree is outside Order Limits and will be retained.</b>
TM 42525 60168	Ash with approximately 80 cm DBH, part of a line of trees. Dead trunk with numerous cavities. Assessed as “FAR”. <b>Tree is outside but close to the Order Limits and will be retained with a root protection zone.</b>
TM 42338 59843	Oak with approximately 30 cm DBH. Moderate ivy cover across the trunk and branches obscuring sufficient assessment, some dead limbs could be seen higher up in the canopy. Assessed as “FAR”. <b>Tree is outside Order Limits and will be retained.</b>

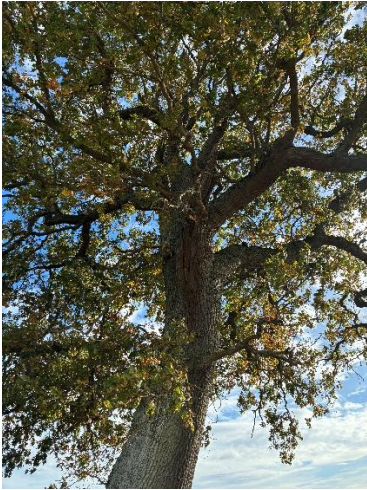
# Plates



**Plate 1 Example native hedgerow with trees, grassland margin and arable cropland**



**Plate 2 Example arable cropland within the Survey boundary**



**Plate 3 Example of PRFs present in an Oak. TM 42389 60268, assessed as 'FAR'**

# Figures



*Figure 1 Habitat Map For Change 3*  
*[Removed for reasons of confidentiality]*

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