

Melksham Substation

Ecological Impact Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain Report

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Melksham Substation

Ecological Impact Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain Report

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01	18/11/2024	ET	RD	SW	SW	First issue
02	29/01/2026	MH	RD	SW	SW	Updated report due to red line boundary changes

This report dated 29 January 2026 has been prepared for National Grid (the “Client”) in accordance with the terms and conditions of appointment dated 08 January 2026 (the “Appointment”) between the Client and **Arcadis (UK) Limited** (“Arcadis”) for the purposes specified in the Appointment. For avoidance of doubt, no other person(s) may use or rely upon this report or its contents, and Arcadis accepts no responsibility for any such use or reliance thereon by any other third party.

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Executive Summary

National Grid is proposing to build a new access from Westlands Lane to the existing substation at Melksham located at Ordnance Survey grid reference ST896660. Arcadis Consulting (UK) Limited were appointed to produce an Ecological Impact Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain Report to inform the proposed development.

The primary objective of this report is to identify any potential impacts that the proposals may present to biodiversity, and how these may be removed or mitigated through design and delivery. The scope of this assessment included a desk study to gather information on wildlife sites and protected species in the local area; a Phase 1 habitat survey, biodiversity net gain habitat survey, and protected species walkover survey to identify important ecological features.

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites of national or county value to nature conservation within 2km of the proposed development site. The Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC) lies within 10km of the site. This SAC is designated as a site of International importance for greater horseshoe, Bechstein's and lesser horseshoe bats. No habitats of value to these bat species were identified on the proposed development site. It is considered unlikely that the proposed development would have any effect on the bat populations associated with this SAC.

Habitat onsite comprise poor semi-improved grassland and other habitat – hardstanding. In the biodiversity net gain metric, hardstanding is identified as to urban artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface and poor semi-improved grassland is identified as modified grassland.

A small area of grassland (a total of 11m²) is proposed for removal adjacent to the existing hardstanding. This grassland is of poor quality and doesn't have the potential to support protected or notable species. Protective fencing should be used during site clearance and construction to prevent damage to the grassland and woodland habitats adjacent to the works area.

The site is exempt from mandatory biodiversity net gain because: the area of habitat that would be affected is less than the 5m by 5m i.e., 25m² (that is the minimum area of impacted habitat required for biodiversity net gain to be applicable); and the development would not affect priority habitats.

Recommended measures for general ecological enhancements include installing bat and bird boxes in nearby woodland.

- A walkover survey of the site and immediately adjoining areas to identify key habitats, assess their potential to support protected and/or notable species, and record any presence of non-native invasive species.
- An outline of measures and location for mitigation and possible ecological enhancement, as appropriate.
- Associated habitat mapping

1.4 Proposals

The proposed development involves removing 11m² of grassland to widen the access road to the site. This grassland will be removed and replaced with hardstanding.

2 Methodology

2.1 Desk Study

A desk study was undertaken in April 2024 to identify any existing ecological information relating to the site and its surroundings. The following resources were consulted:

- The Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) (Natural England, 2024) website was used to search for statutory designated sites of nature conservation value within 2km of the site. The search buffer was extended to 10km for SACs designated for bats. Granted European Protected Species Mitigation Licences were also searched for within 2km of the site. Protected and Notable habitat (including ancient woodland) were also searched for within 2km of the site.
- Habitats and Species listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (HMG, 2006). These are Habitats of Principle Importance in England (HPIEs) and Species of Principle Importance in England (SPIEs). HPIEs and were searched for using MAGIC (Natural England, 2024) and SPIEs were searched for using Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) within 2km of the site.
- WSBRC was consulted for records of protected and notable species or species of conservation concern (from data collected in the last 10 years only) and Local Nature Conservation Sites within 2km of the site. A summary of the results of this search is provided in Appendix C.
- Ordnance Survey and aerial imagery was utilised to identify ponds within 250m of the site.

The desk study for the site comprised various areas listed in Table 1. These are the zones of influence over which effects may arise. These distances are precautionary and were identified ahead of the field survey before the ecological features were known. Where hydrological links to the site or mobile species have been identified an extended search area was used. Any variation is explained in the results section.

Table 1 - Desk study search buffers

Policy/Guidance	Details
International or European statutory designated sites for bats	10km
National statutory designated sites	2km
Non-statutory designated sites Protected and notable species (SPIE) Invasive, non-native species Granted European Protected Species Mitigation licences. Protected and notable habitat (including HPIE and ancient woodland)	2km

2.2 Field Survey

2.2.1 Phase 1 habitat survey

On 3 July 2024, an extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the site was undertaken by Rachel Denness (MSc, qualifying member of CIEEM) and Arcadis Intern Ellie Thorpe to survey the original red line boundary. A second site survey was completed to cover habitats which were scoped in by the new red line boundary on 15 January 2026, an extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the site was undertaken by Arcadis Consultant Ecologist Rachel Denness and Arcadis Graduate Consultant Mimi Habib, MSc (qualifying member of CIEEM). The habitats within the survey area, including built structures, were assessed for their ecological value and their potential to support non-native invasive and/or protected species. Photographs were taken during the field survey and Target Notes (TN) were made, where necessary, to inform the identification of ecological constraints and/or capture of small habitat parcels which were too small to map.

This survey was undertaken following the standard Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2010) survey methodology and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (CIEEM, 2017) guidelines with data recorded on handheld GPS/GIS equipped tablet.

Dominant plant species were noted in addition to any uncommon species or species indicative of particular habitat types.

Invasive non-native species, particularly those on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (HMG, 1981) or notable plant species were also recorded if found.

Ponds with the potential to support great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) were recorded if present, in addition to any terrestrial habitat suitable for supporting this species.

Suitable reptile habitat including the following features were recorded if present:

- Hibernation places such as disused mammal burrows, rock fissures, piles of logs/rubble and subterranean structures;
- Places of shelter such as dense scrub, rocks, logs and tree roots;
- Sheltered south-facing secluded areas, immediately adjacent to cover, for basking; and
- Potential refugia such as log or rubble piles were lifted to look for reptiles.

Any potential nesting bird habitat was recorded, which can include trees, woodland, hedgerows or dense scrub habitat. The suitability of the site for ground nesting birds was also assessed.

Suitable hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) habitat was noted if present which comprise areas of coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), woodland with Oak (*Quercus* spp.), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and Birch (*Betula* spp.), hedgerows with a variety of native species, and woodland with scrub.

Suitable habitat for badger (*Meles meles*) and/or signs of badger were recorded if present. Signs of badger include prints, latrines, paths, hair and setts. Suitable habitat includes a mosaic of difficult habitats including woodland, arable and pastoral land. Hedgerows and woodland with scrub are ideal places for sett creation.

Signs of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) and otter (*Lutra lutra*) were also recorded if present. Signs of otter include tracks, spraints and holts. Signs of water vole include droppings, feeding remains and burrows. Habitat for these species primarily comprises rivers and streams.

Presence of any other more common species within the site such as fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), or notable species (or their habitats) such as hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) were also recorded where found.

2.2.2 Biodiversity net gain habitat survey

On 3 July 2024, an extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the site was undertaken by Rachel Denness and Arcadis Intern Ellie Thorpe to survey the original red line boundary. A second site survey was completed to cover habitats which were scoped in by the new red line boundary on 15 January 2026, an extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the site was undertaken by Arcadis Consultant Ecologist Rachel Denness, MSc and Arcadis Graduate Consultant Mimi Habib, MSc. A biodiversity net gain habitat type for each habitat was noted, along with the condition of all habitats present within the red line boundary itself, following guidance provided with the statutory biodiversity metric (HMG, 2024).

2.2.3 Habitat Suitability Index (HSI)

On 3 July 2024, Arcadis Consultant Ecologist Rachel Denness BSc and Arcadis Intern Ecologist Ellie Thorpe undertook a site visit to assess the suitability of waterbodies off site to support great crested newt (waterbody location is shown on Figure 3, Appendix A. Detailed descriptions of the waterbodies, and where appropriate a great crested newt Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment was undertaken and the HSI calculated (Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom, 2010). The HSI scores a waterbody against ten habitat suitability criteria, which include water quality, the likely presence/absence of fish, and aquatic plant cover. From these two suitability indices, a geometric mean is calculated, which gives an overall numerical index ranging between 0 and 1. A score of near 0 indicates highly sub-optimal habitat, whilst a score of near 1 represents optimal habitat. HSI scores are then used to define waterbody suitability for great crested newt on a categorical scale from “Poor” to “Below Average”, “Average”, “Good”, and “Excellent”.

The HSI score for these waterbodies was used to compare the general suitability of each waterbody for great crested newt. However, the HSI is not a substitute for undertaking great crested newt surveys, if a waterbody is awarded a high HSI score, this does not guarantee that great crested newt will be present, only that there is a higher likelihood of presence; and similarly, a low HSI score does not guarantee absence of great crested newt. A HSI score was taken for all ponds within 250m radius of the site.

2.3 Survey limitations

This report has been compiled from a number of sources, which Arcadis believes to be trustworthy. However, Arcadis is unable to guarantee the accuracy of information by others. This report is based in information available at the time of the survey. Consequently, there is the potential for further information to become available, which may change this report's conclusions and for which Arcadis cannot be responsible.

The protected species assessment provides a preliminary assessment of the likelihood of protected species occurring within the site. This is based on the suitability of the habitat, known distribution of species within the local area (provided by data searches and historic survey information) and any direct evidence within the survey area. It is only representative of the time the survey was carried out.

The details of this report will remain valid for a period of 12 to 18 months, in accordance with CIEEM guidance (CIEEM, 2019). Beyond this period, if works have not yet been undertaken, it is recommended that a further review of the ecological constraints is undertaken to provide an update on the current status of the site.

The second extended phase 1 habitat survey and the biodiversity net gain survey were undertaken during winter months, which may lead to omission of some plant species that were unidentifiable during this time.

3 Results

3.1 Reporting Outline

The results of the desk study and walkover survey are described below, with sites or features of particular nature conservation importance detailed as appropriate.

Supporting documents to be read in conjunction with the results and subsequent discussion are as follows:

- Appendix A contains maps/plans illustrating the following:
 - Figure 1 – Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Special Area of Conservation in relation to the site.
 - Figure 2 – Non-statutory designated sites, HPIE and ancient woodland within 2km of the site.
 - Figure 3 – Waterbodies within 250m of the site
 - Figure 4 – Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan.
 - Figure 5 – Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Plan.
- Appendix B provides details of the local record search.
- Appendix C provides a summary of legislation and policy.

3.2 Desk study

3.2.1 Designated Conservation Sites

There are no Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Protected Road Verges or Local Geological Sites within 2km of the site boundary.

There is one Special Area of Conservation designated as a site of international importance for bats within 10km of the site boundary (Figure 1, Appendix A), the details of which are provided in Table 2.

Table 2 - Statutory Designated Site information

Special Area of Conservation	Justification for Designation	Distance from Site
Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC	The site is designated for Annex II species Bechstein's (<i>Moytis bechsteinii</i>) and greater horseshoe (<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>) bats. Lesser Horseshoe bats have also been recorded onsite (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>).	Approximately 6.5km west

3.2.2 Important Habitats

There are Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), HPIE and ancient woodland within 2km, of the site (see Table 3 below). None of these sites or habitats were within the proposed development site.

Table 3 - Local Wildlife Sites and HPIE within 2km of the site boundary

Site Name	Habitat Types	Distance from Site
HPIE	Deciduous woodland	0.01km west 0.02km east

Site Name	Habitat Types	Distance from Site
Daniels Wood (LWS, ancient woodland)	Ancient and semi-natural broadleaved woodland	0.28km northwest
Inwood	Ancient and semi-natural broadleaved woodland	1.4km northeast
Inwood	Ancient and semi-natural broadleaved woodland	1.4km northeast
HPIE	Deciduous woodland	0.01km east and west, 1.5km north, 1.2km north 1.4km northeast, 1.5km northeast 0.7km northwest, 1.5km northwest, 1.4km southwest, 0.7km southwest, 0.6km south, 0.8km south 0.9km southeast, 0.5km southeast
HPIE	Traditional Orchard	1.2km northeast, 1.1km north, 0.9km west, 1.1km west, 1.7km southwest 1.1km southwest, 0.6km south, 0.6km southeast

3.3 Habitats

3.3.1 Other - Hardstanding

The site comprised hardstanding (Figure 4) which corresponds to urban artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface in the biodiversity net gain metric (Figure 5).

Hardstanding has no ecological value.

3.3.2 Poor semi-improved grassland

The site comprised road verges supporting poor semi-improved grassland (total area on site 0.20ha). This corresponds to modified grassland within the statutory biodiversity metric.

Species recorded within the grassland include cleavers (*Galium aparine*), thistle (*Cirsium spp.*), buttercup (*Ranunculus spp.*), ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), dead nettle (*Lamium spp.*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), clover (*Trifolium spp.*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), grass (*Poaceae spp.*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and dock (*Rumex spp.*).

The survey completed in 2024 noted that the grassland also supported false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), greater burdock (*Arctium lappa*), and willowherb (*Epilobium* spp.).

3.3.3 Habitats adjacent to the site

Deciduous woodland was present behind the road verge. Plant species recorded in the woodland included ash (*Fraxinus*), poplar (*Populus* spp.), willow (*Salix* spp.), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), maple (*Acer* spp.), ivy, hawthorn (*Crataegus*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), nettle, cleavers, cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), false oat-grass and cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*).

3.4 Potential for Protected Species

3.4.1 Protected and Notable Plants

No protected plants, or those listed as SPIEs, were recorded within the site during the habitat survey. The desk study identified bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) within 2km of the site. Notable and/or protected plants may be present in the HPIE deciduous woodland 0.01km from the site. Further details of notable/protected plant species within 2km of the site can be found in Appendix B.

3.4.2 Invasive Non-native Species

Schedule 9 species (HMG, 1981) identified to be in the locality by the desk study include water fern (*Azolla filiculoides*), three-cornered garlic (*Allium triquetrum*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). Additional Schedule 9 (HMG, 1981) species identified by the desk study can be found in Appendix B.

No invasive non-native plant species were recorded within the site during the habitat survey and no habitat suitable to support these species was recorded onsite.

3.4.3 Invertebrates

Invertebrate species identified to be within 2km of the site include white-letter hairstreak (*Satyrrium w-album*), scarce chaser (*Libellula fulva*), cinnabar (*Tyria jacobaeae*), jersey tiger (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*). The full list of recorded invertebrates can be found in Appendix B.

No invertebrate species were recorded within the site during the habitat survey. Habitat was deemed not suitable to support a notable invertebrate species assemblage.

3.4.4 Amphibians

Records of amphibians within 2km of the site boundary include one count of common toad (*Bufo bufo*), common frog (*Rana temporaria*), great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*). Melksham Substation which is approximately 0.26km to southeast of the site previously held a great crested newt licence in 2018 for damage and destruction of a resting place.

There were no ponds/waterbodies within the site, but there was one dry pond within 250m of the site as shown in Figure 3, Appendix A. This pond (Pond 1) was located in woodland, it was assessed for its suitability to support great crested newt using the HSI assessment (Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom, 2010). Table 4 identifies the pond, distance in relation to site, and its HSI Score. As the pond did not hold water or wetland plant species in July it would not have been used by breeding amphibians in the 2024 breeding season.

Table 4 - Pond suitability for great crested newt.

Pond number	Distance from site	HSI score
Pond 1	0.1km southeast	0.52 (below average)

3.4.5 Reptiles

The local record search identified slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) and common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) to be present within 2km of the site.

No reptile species were recorded within the site during the habitat survey and habitat was deemed not suitable to support a notable reptile assemblage.

3.4.6 Birds

A full list of bird species present within 2km of the site can be found in Appendix B. No bird species were recorded within the site during the habitat survey and habitat were deemed not suitable for nesting or foraging birds.

3.4.7 Bats

A full list of bat species present within 2km of the site can be found in Appendix B. Melksham substation (approximately 0.26km southeast of the site) previously held a licence for destruction of a soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) resting place in 2015. An additional bat licence was identified approximately 1.6km south of the site for damage and destruction of a common (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) and soprano pipistrelle resting place in 2015.

Habitat within the site was unsuitable for supporting bats.

3.4.8 Hazel Dormouse

There are no records of hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) within 2km of the site. No dormouse or habitat suitable for dormouse was recorded within the site during the habitat survey.

3.4.9 Otter

There are no records of otter (*Lutra lutra*) within 2km of the site. The site was unsuitable for supporting otter.

3.4.10 Water Vole

There are records of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) within 2km of the site. The site was unsuitable for supporting water vole.

3.4.11 Badger

There are records of badger (*Meles meles*) within 2km of the site. The site was unsuitable for supporting badger. No signs of badger activity were identified within a 30m of the red line boundary.

3.4.12 Other Mammals

Habitats were not suitable to support other mammal species, but hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) and brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) may be present in surrounding farmland and woodland habitat.

4 Discussion

4.1 Potential Ecological Constraints

4.1.1 Potential Ecological Features Scoped Out

The following ecological features have been scoped out as not requiring further consideration with regard to the proposed development within the site (no significant effects are anticipated).

- Hardstanding – this habitat type has no ecological value.
- Statutory and non-statutory designated sites: There were no statutory designated sites within 2km of the site, and the site would not support the bat species that the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC is designated for. Given the nature and scale of the development no potential impact pathways have been identified such as hydrological connections or impacts to the species supported by Daniel's Wood LWS that it would have an effect on non-statutory designated sites within 2km.
- Important habitats: There are no important habitats within the site. Given the nature and scale of the development other important habitats are deemed to be too far away from the site for development to impact them.
- Protected and notable plants: There were no protected/notable plants within the site.
- Invasive non-native species: There were no invasive non-native species onsite.
- Invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, bats, hazel dormouse, otter, water vole, badger and other mammals: There was no habitat suitable these species and/or species groups onsite and no hydrological connection to habitats off-site has been identified.

4.1.2 Potential Ecological Features Scoped In

The following ecological features have been scoped in as requiring further consideration with regard to the proposed development within the site (effects are anticipated).

- Poor semi-improved grassland: A small area of grassland (11m²) will be removed to facilitate the widening of the junction onto the road. Furthermore, grassland adjacent to the road may be accidentally damaged by construction works.
- Adjacent habitats: Tree roots may be damaged by vehicles parking on the verges.

5 Mitigation

5.1.1 Adjacent habitats

Protective fencing should be placed alongside the road verges to ensure vegetation is protected during construction works and that materials and vehicles are not stored or stockpiled on the verges during development. This will also protect the roots of the trees within the nearby deciduous woodland.

6 Enhancements

The below measures could be implemented in the adjacent woodland as a habitat enhancement that would benefit wildlife in surrounding area.

Birds:

For a species such as robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), open facing bird boxes are recommended, placed somewhere between northeast to southeast, ensuring it is not in the sun all day. The ideal placement height is between 1.5m and 3m above ground. An example nest box which is shown in Image 2 would be appropriate.

Image 2 - Bird box examples.



Bats:

There are many different types of bat boxes to support bats, the box presented below in Image 3 is suitable for tree dwelling bats such as noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) although other options are available that have similar thermal properties and are of a similar style. Boxes shown below are the Chavenge Cavity Bat Box

(<https://www.wildcare.co.uk/chavenage-bat-box-10556.html>) and Miramere Woodstone Bat Box (<https://www.wildcare.co.uk/miramere-woodstone-bat-box-11268.html>).

Image 3 - Bat box examples.



7 Biodiversity net gain

Due to the nature of the works and the site (the area of grassland being removed totals 11m² which is less than the minimum habitat requirement for BNG) the 'de minimis' exception to biodiversity net gain applies (HMG, 2024) for the following reasons:

- The development does not impact any onsite priority habitat.
- The impact of the development is less than 25 m² of non-priority onsite habitat.
- No other onsite habitats will be impacted.

8 Conclusions

The proposed development involves removing a small area of grassland to widen the access road to the site. Protective fencing should be installed in advance of the works to ensure that adjacent habitats are protected from construction activity. With this measure in place there should be no impacts to designated sites, habitats or species because of the development.

The site is exempt from the requirement to deliver biodiversity net gain due to the area of habitat impacted being below the minimum area required for biodiversity net gain and the fact that no priority habitats will be impacted by the development.

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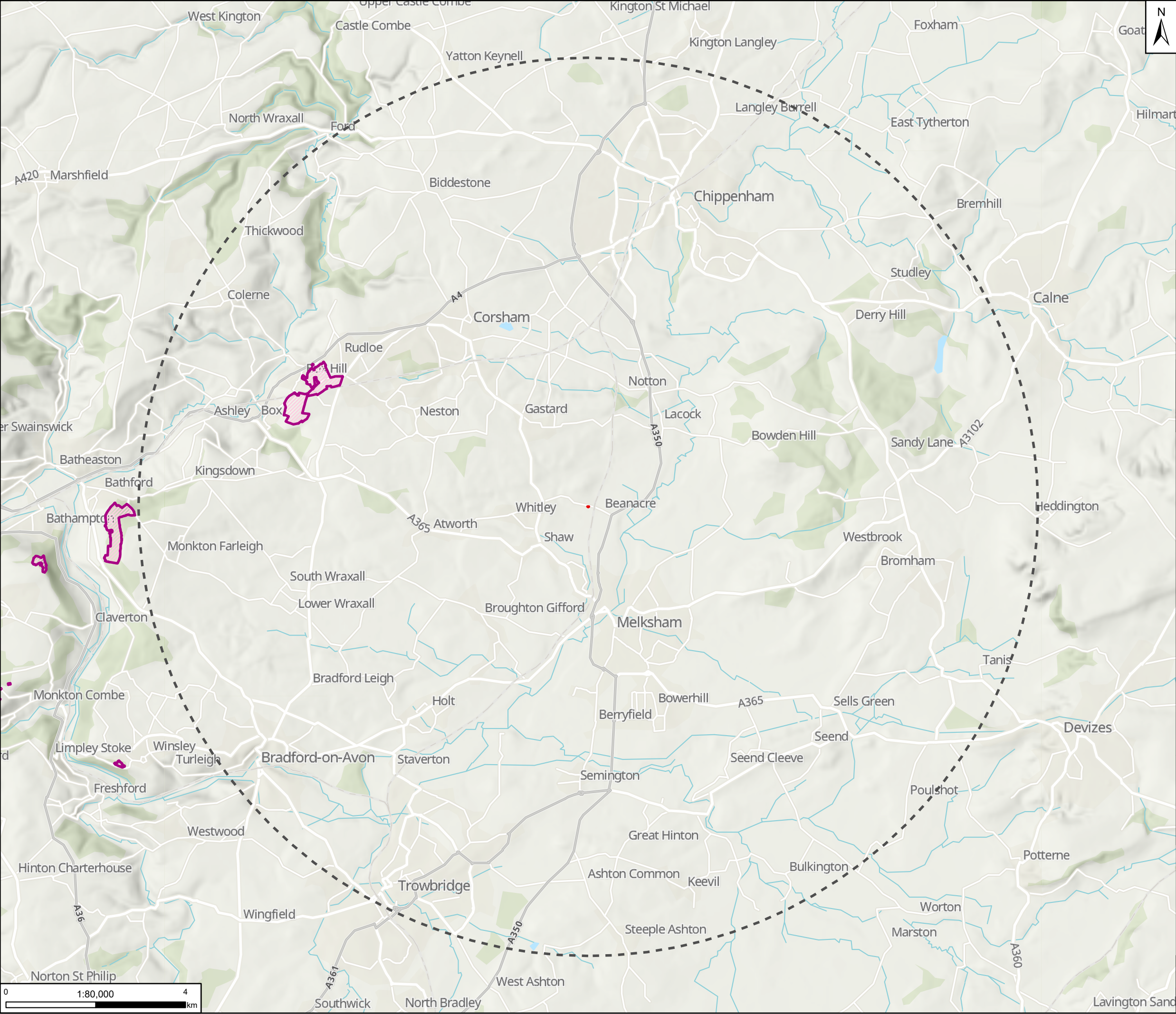
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Appendix A

Site Maps

Figure 1 - Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Special Area of Conservation in relation to the site.



N

Site Boundary

10km Study Area

Special Areas of Conservation

Bath & Bradford on Avon

Notes:

World Topographic Map: Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS

GB Topographic: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023

Contains data from OS Zoomstack

GB_Hillshade: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023

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Newport

Cardiff

Bristol

Weston-super-mare

Bath

Trowbridge

Salisbury

Swindon

297 m

01	14/08/24	INITIAL ISSUE	SB	RD	SW
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Check	Approv

Client:

nationalgrid

PROJECT:

MELKSHAM SUBSTATION
EXTENSION

Site

Melksham Substation

Client

1-3 Strand
London
WC2N 5EH

ARCADIS

Registered office:

80Fen
80 Fenchurch Street
London
EC3M 4BY

Coordinating Office:

1st Floor
2 Glass Wharf
Bristol
BS2 0FR

www.arcadis.com

Title:

Figure 1:

Bath and Bradford-on-Avon
Special Area of Conservation
in relation to the site

Designed	E. Thorpe	Date 14 Aug 24	Signed
Drawn	S. Bhandarkar	Date 14 Aug 24	Signed
Checked	R. Denness	Date 14 Aug 24	Signed
Approved	S. Walters	Date 14 Aug 24	Signed
Scale:	1:80,000	Datum:	AOD
Original Size:	A3	Grid:	OS
Suitability Code:	S2	Project Number:	30231252

Suitability Description:

For Information

Drawing Number:

Revision:
P01

Print Date:

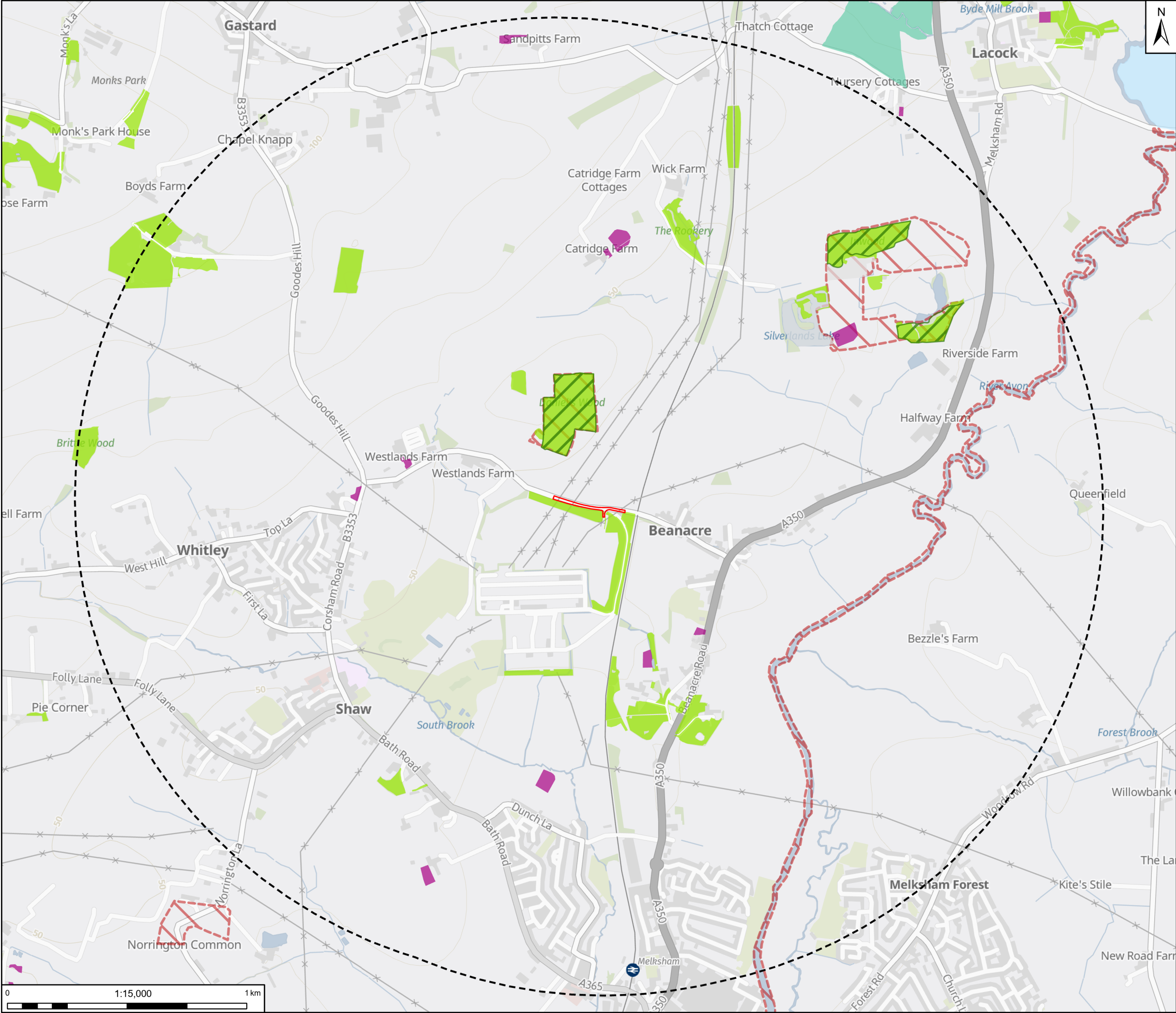
08-14-24 18:56:06

C:\Users\ibhandars3145\ARCADIS\London Ecology - GDV Team\01 Apr\Melksham 30231252 Ecology Survey Figures\Figure 1 -- Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Special Area of Conservation in relation to the site.aprx

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Site Maps

Figure 2 - Non-statutory designated sites, HPIE and ancient woodland within 2km of the site.



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km Buffer
- Ancient Woodland
- Local Wildlife Site

Priority Habitat

- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland meadows
- No Main Habitat But Additional Habitats Present
- Traditional Orchard

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Contains data from OS Zoomstack



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PROJECT: MELKSHAM SUBSTATION EXTENSION

nationalgrid

Site Melksham Substation

Client 1-3 Strand London WC2N 5EH

ARCADIS

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Title: **Figure 2: Non-statutory designated sites, HPIE and ancient woodland within 2km of the site.**

Designed	E. Thorpe	Date: 14 AUG 24	Signed
Drawn	S. Bhandarkar	Date: 14 AUG 24	Signed
Checked	R. Denness	Date: 14 AUG 24	Signed
Approved	S. Walters	Date: 14 AUG 24	Signed
Scale:	1:15,000	Datum:	AOD
Original Size:	A3	Grid:	OS
Suitability Code:	S2	Project Number:	30221409

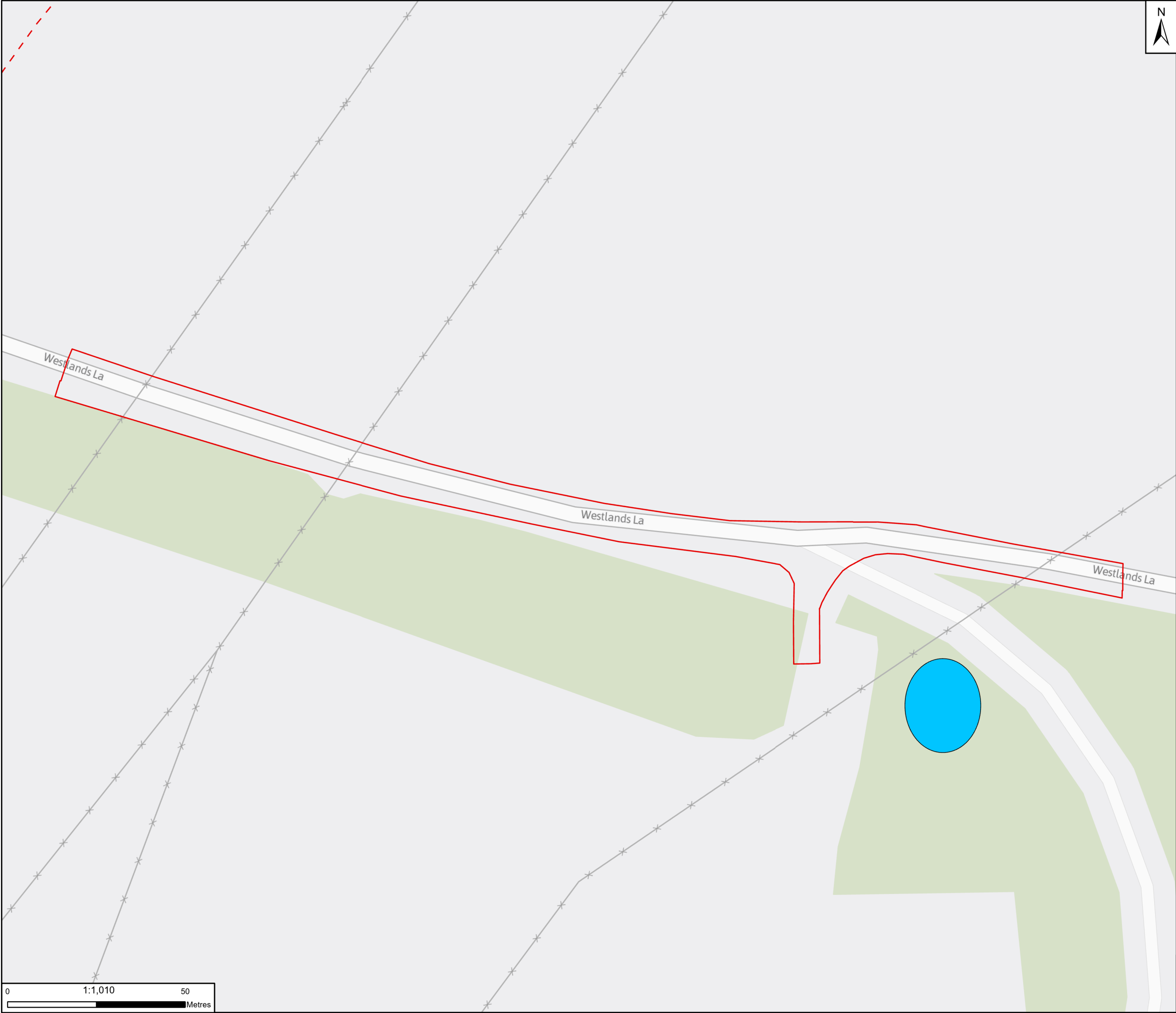
Suitability Description: For Information

Drawing Number: 30221409-ARC-EGN-ZZ-DR-ZZ-00002

Revision: P01

Site Maps

Figure 3 - Waterbodies within 250m of the site



N

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site Boundary (250m buffer)
- Waterbody

Notes:

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World Topographic Map: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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PROJECT:

**MELKSHAM SUBSTATION
EXTENSION**

Site

Melksham Substation

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Title:

**Figure 3:
Waterbodies within 250m of the site**

Designed	H.Mimi	Date 28 Jan 26	Signed
Drawn	O.Thomas	Date 28 Jan 26	Signed
Checked	R. Denness	Date 28 Jan 26	Signed
Approved	S. Walters	Date 28 Jan 26	Signed
Scale:	1:1,010	Datum:	AOD
Original Size:	A3	Grid:	OS
Suitability Code:	S2	Project Number:	30221409

Suitability Description:

For Information

Drawing Number:

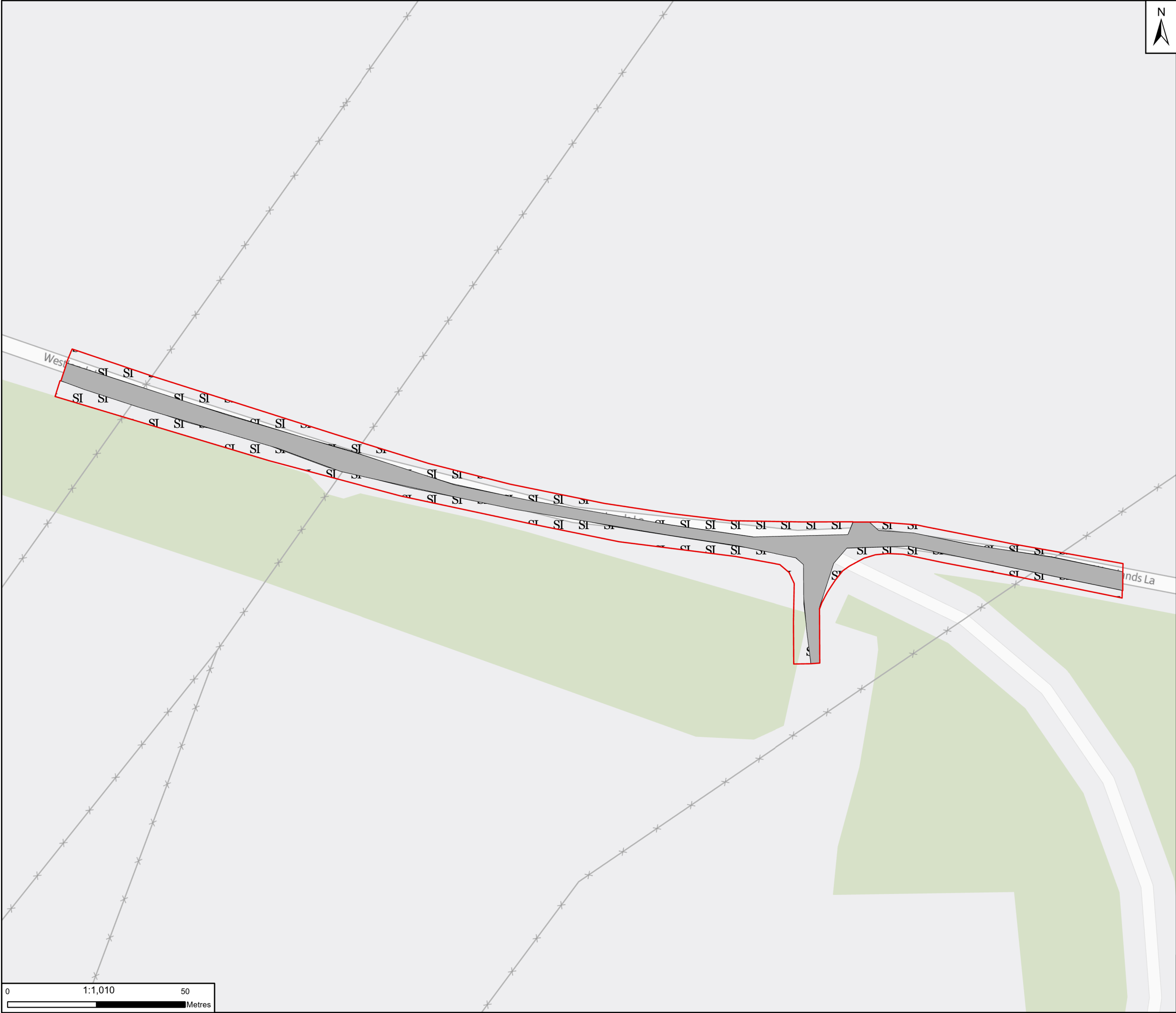
30221409-ARC-EGN-ZZ-DR-ZZ-00003

Revision:

P01

Site Maps

Figure 4 - Phase 1 habitat survey plan



N

Legend

Site Boundary

Poor semi-improved

Other habitat - hardstanding

Notes:

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World Topographic Map: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Melksham

A3

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EXTENSION

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Site

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London
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Coordinating Office:

1st Floor
2 Glass Wharf
Bristol
BS2 0FR

www.arcadis.com

Title:

Figure 4:

Phase 1 habitat survey plan

Designed	H.Mimi	Date 28 Jan 26	Signed
Drawn	O.Thomas	Date 28 Jan 26	Signed
Checked	R. Denness	Date 28 Jan 26	Signed
Approved	S. Walters	Date 28 Jan 26	Signed
Scale:	1:1,010	Datum:	AOD
Original Size:	A3	Grid:	OS
Suitability Code:	S2	Project Number:	30221409

Suitability Description:

For Information

Drawing Number:

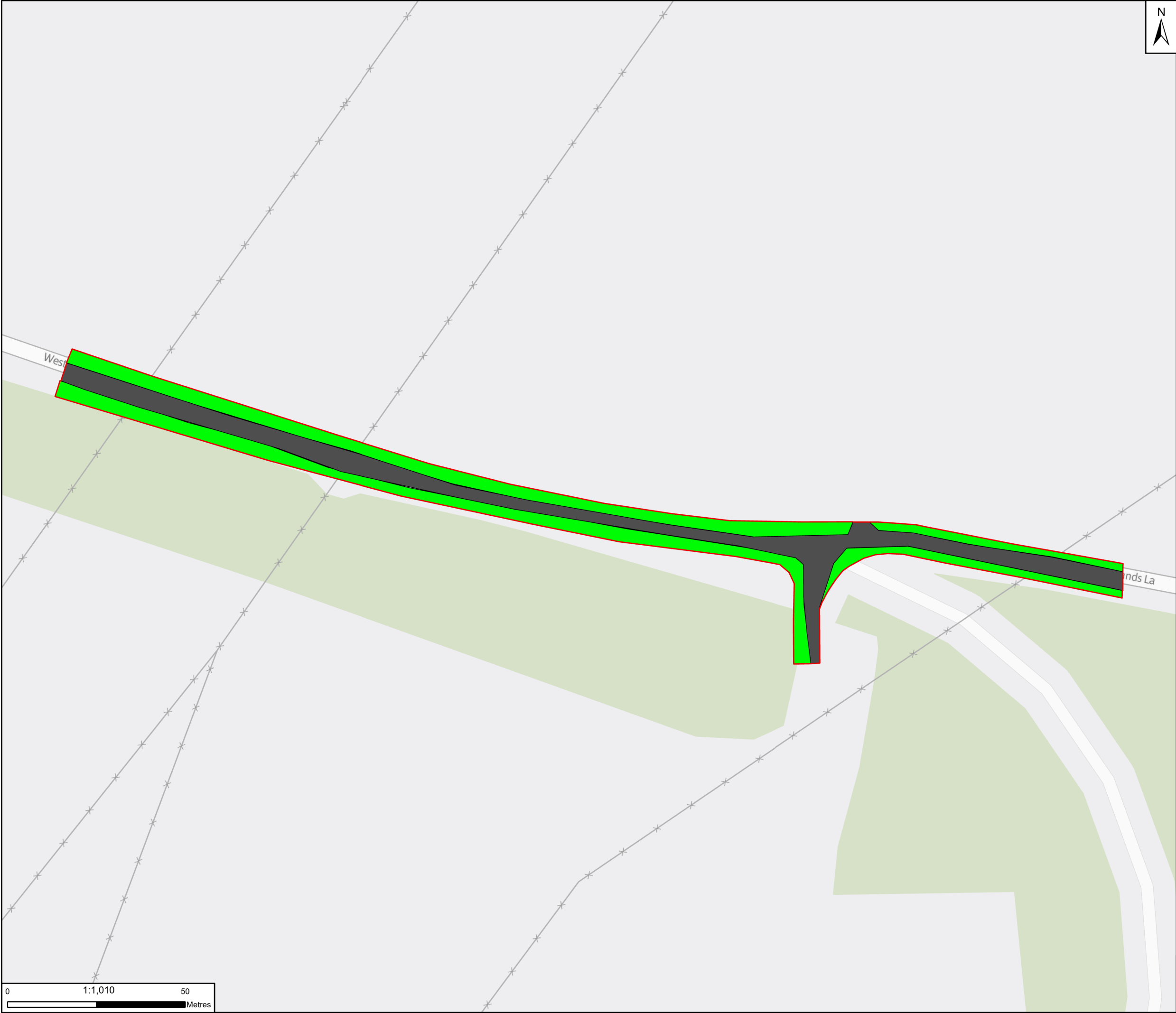
30221409-ARC-EGN-ZZ-DR-ZZ-00008

Revision:

P01

Site Maps

Figure 5 - BNG habitat plan



N

Legend

Site Boundary

Modified grassland

Developed land; sealed surface

Notes:

GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026
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World Topographic Map: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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Client:

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PROJECT:
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BS2 0FR

Title:

Figure 5:
BNG habitat plan

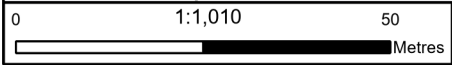
Designed	H.Mimi	Date: 28 Jan 26	Signed
Drawn	O.Thomas	Date: 28 Jan 26	Signed
Checked	R. Denness	Date: 28 Jan 26	Signed
Approved	S. Walters	Date: 28 Jan 26	Signed
Scale:	1:1,010	Datum:	AOD
Original Size:	A3	Grid:	OS
Suitability Code:	S2	Project Number:	30221409

Suitability Description:

For Information

Drawing Number:
30221409-ARC-EGN-ZZ-DR-ZZ-00009

Revision:
P01



Appendix B

Local Record Search

Table 5 - Invasive non-native species within 2km of the site.

Taxonomic Species Group	Species Name	Common Name	Status
Bird	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	BD1, WCA1i
Bird	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Egyptian Goose	
Bird	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	WCA1i
Bird	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Water Fern	
Flowering plant	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Garlic	
Flowering plant	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum</i>	flowering plant	
Flowering plant	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Wall Cotoneaster	
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Neovison vison</i>	American Mink	
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Eastern Grey Squirrel	

Table 6 - Protected and notable species within 2km of the site

Taxonomic Species Group	Species Name	Common Name	Status
Amphibian	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	Sect.41, UKBAP
Amphibian	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common Frog	HSD5
Amphibian	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Great Crested Newt	HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c
Bird	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	BD1, WCA1i
Bird	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	BD1, WCA1i
Bird	<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	WCA1ii
Bird	<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	BRed
Bird	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin	BRed
Bird	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	BRed
Bird	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Golden Plover	BD1
Bird	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Woodcock	BRed
Bird	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	BD1
Bird	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green Sandpiper	WCA1i
Bird	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP
Bird	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Bittern	BD1, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA1i
Bird	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	BD1
Bird	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher	BD1, WCA1i
Bird	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuckoo	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP
Bird	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine	BD1, WCA1i
Bird	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Hobby	WCA1i

Taxonomic Species Group	Species Name	Common Name	Status
Bird	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	BRed, Sect.41
Bird	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Greenfinch	BRed
Bird	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House Martin	BRed
Bird	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP
Bird	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting	Sect.41, UKBAP
Bird	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Linnet	BRed
Bird	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP
Bird	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	BRed
Bird	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	WCA1i
Bird	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare	BRed, WCA1i
Bird	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	BRed
Bird	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	WCA1i
Conifer	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	NS-excludes
Flowering plant	<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	Perfoliate Pondweed	County
Flowering plant	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	County
Flowering plant	<i>Petroselinum segetum</i>	Corn Parsley	County
Flowering plant	<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	Knotted Hedge-parsley	County
Flowering plant	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	WCA8
Flowering plant	<i>Ornithogalum pyrenaicum</i>	Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem	NS-excludes
Flowering plant	<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking Chamomile	RLGB.VU
Flowering plant	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	Sect.41, UKBAP
Flowering plant	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Chamomile	RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP
Flowering plant	<i>Inula helenium</i>	Elecampane	County
Flowering plant	<i>Lactuca virosa</i>	Great Lettuce	County
Flowering plant	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Cotton Thistle	County
Flowering plant	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	County
Flowering plant	<i>Erysimum cheiranthoides</i>	Treacle-mustard	County
Flowering plant	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Dittander	NS-excludes
Flowering plant	<i>Lepidium ruderale</i>	Narrow-leaved Pepperwort	County
Flowering plant	<i>Lepidium ruderale</i>	Narrow-leaved Pepperwort	County
Flowering plant	<i>Rorippa amphibia</i>	Great Yellow-cress	County
Flowering plant	<i>Rorippa islandica</i>	Northern Yellow-cress	NS-excludes
Flowering plant	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	NR-excludes, RLGB.DD
Flowering plant	<i>Cerastium pumilum</i>	Dwarf Mouse-ear	NS-excludes, RLGB.Lr(NT)
Flowering plant	<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	Good-King-Henry	RLGB.VU
Flowering plant	<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>	Fine-leaved Sandwort	NS-excludes, RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP

Taxonomic Species Group	Species Name	Common Name	Status
Flowering plant	<i>Rumex pulcher</i>	Fiddle Dock	County
Flowering plant	<i>Stellaria neglecta</i>	Greater Chickweed	County
Flowering plant	<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	County
Flowering plant	<i>Medicago sativa subsp. falcata</i>	Sickle Medick	NS-excludes
Flowering plant	<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	RLGB.VU
Flowering plant	<i>Limosella aquatica</i>	Mudwort	NS-excludes
Flowering plant	<i>Linaria repens</i>	Pale Toadflax	County
Flowering plant	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal	NS-excludes, RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA8
Flowering plant	<i>Mentha suaveolens</i>	Round-leaved Mint	NS-excludes, RLGB.DD
Flowering plant	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Lousewort	County
Flowering plant	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain	County
Flowering plant	<i>Veronica agrestis</i>	Green Field-speedwell	County
Flowering plant	<i>Veronica catenata</i>	Pink Water-speedwell	County
Flowering plant	<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	Dwarf Spurge	RLGB.VU
Flowering plant	<i>Euphorbia platyphyllos</i>	Broad-leaved Spurge	County
Flowering plant	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan	County
Flowering plant	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved Lime	NS-excludes
Flowering plant	<i>Apera spica-venti</i>	Loose Silky-bent	RLGB.Lr(NT)
Flowering plant	<i>Bromus commutatus</i>	Meadow Brome	County
Flowering plant	<i>Bromus racemosus</i>	Smooth Brome	County
Flowering plant	<i>Gaudinia fragilis</i>	French Oat-grass	NS-excludes
Flowering plant	<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Rat's-tail Fescue	County
Flowering plant	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Barberry	County
Flowering plant	<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	NS-excludes
Flowering plant	<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	Welsh Poppy	NS-excludes
Flowering plant	<i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i>	Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot	County
Flowering plant	<i>Rosa tomentosa</i>	Harsh Downy-rose	County
Flowering plant	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Great Burnet	County
Flowering plant	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Henbane	RLGB.VU
Insect	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP
Insect	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP
Insect	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	Large Tortoiseshell	RLGB.RE
Insect	<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>	White-letter Hairstreak	RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP
Insect	<i>Libellula fulva</i>	Scarce Chaser	RLGB.Lr(NT)
Insect	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Common Darter	RLGB.DD

Taxonomic Species Group	Species Name	Common Name	Status
Insect	<i>Dolichovespula media</i>	insect - hymenopteran	Na
Insect	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	Grey Dagger	Sect.41, UKBAP
Insect	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass	Sect.41, UKBAP
Insect	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>	Jersey Tiger	HSD2p
Insect	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	Small Emerald	Sect.41, UKBAP
Insect	<i>Timandra comae</i>	Blood-vein	Sect.41, UKBAP
Insect	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	Sect.41, UKBAP
Leichen	<i>Lecanora horiza</i>	lichen	RLGB.Lr(NT)
Mollusc	<i>Arion (Arion) ater</i>	Large Black Slug	RLGB.DD
Reptile	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow-worm	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/l
Reptile	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	Grass Snake	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/l
Reptile	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Common Lizard	Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/l
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Eurasian Otter	HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Meles meles</i>	Eurasian Badger	PBA
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Chiroptera</i>	Bat	County, HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, RLGB.CR, RLGB.DD, RLGB.EN, RLGB.Lr(NT), RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Serotine	County, HabRegs2, HSD4, RLGB.VU, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Myotis</i>	Myotis Bat species	County, HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, RLGB.CR, RLGB.DD, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Daubenton's Bat	County, HabRegs2, HSD4, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Natterer's Bat	County, HabRegs2, HSD4, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Nyctalus</i>	Nyctalus Bat species	County, HabRegs2, HSD4, RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule Bat	County, HabRegs2, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle Bat species	County, HabRegs2, HSD4, RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle	County, HabRegs2, HSD4, WCA5/9.4c

Taxonomic Species Group	Species Name	Common Name	Status
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Soprano Pipistrelle	County, HabRegs2, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Brown Long-eared Bat	County, HabRegs2, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	County, HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	West European Hedgehog	RLGB.VU, Sect.41, UKBAP
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Neomys fodiens</i>	Eurasian Water Shrew	County
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Brown Hare	Sect.41, UKBAP
Terrestrial mammal	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	European Water Vole	RLGB.EN, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4c

Table 7 - Status key

Status	Description
BD1	Birds which are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. As appropriate, Special Protection Areas to be established to assist conservation measures. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession.
BRed	Red list species are those that are Globally Threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.
County	Taxa considered notable in Wiltshire.
HSD2p	Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession.
HSD4	Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) in need of strict protection. They are protected from killing, disturbance or the destruction of them or their habitat. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession.
HSD5	Animal and plant species of Community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures.
Na	Taxa which do not fall within RDB categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in 30 or fewer 10km squares of the National Grid or, for less well-recorded groups, within seven or fewer vice-counties. Superseded by Nationally Scarce, and therefore no longer in use.

Status	Description
NR-excludes	Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.
PBA	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 protects badgers from taking, injuring, killing, cruel treatment, selling, possessing, marking and having their setts interfered with, subject to exceptions.
RLGB.CR	A taxon is Critically Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Critically Endangered (see Section V), and it is therefore considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
RLGB.DD	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known, but appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution are lacking. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat or Lower Risk. Listing of taxa in this category indicates that more information is required and acknowledges the possibility that future research will show that a threatened category is appropriate.
RLGB.EN	A taxon is Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Endangered (see Section V), and it is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
RLGB.Lr(NT)	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable.
RLGB.VU	A taxon is Vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Vulnerable (see Section V), and it is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
Sect.41	Species of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.
UKBAP	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).
WCA1ii	Birds which are protected by special penalties during the close season.
WCA1i	Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.
WCA5/9.1K/I	Section 9.1. Animals which are protected from intentional killing or injuring.
WCA5/9.4C	Animals which are protected from their access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection being obstructed.

Status	Description
WCA8	Plants which are protected from: intentional picking, uprooting or destruction (Section 13 1a); selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead, part or derivative) (Section 13 2a); advertising (any of these) for buying or selling (Section 13 2b).
HabsRegs2	Schedule 2: European protected species of animals.

Appendix C

Legislation and Policy

Table 8 - Relevant legislation

Legislation	Details
Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 ('Habitats Regulations') (HMG, 2019)	The Regulations require authorities on behalf of the Secretary of State to maintain a list of sites which are important for either habitats or species (Natura 2000 sites – Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) and to provide protection for these sites through designation, planning and other controls. The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities (Natural England in England). Licenses may be granted for a number of purposes (such as science and education, conservation, preserving public health and safety), but only after the appropriate authority is satisfied that there are no satisfactory alternatives and that such actions will have no detrimental effect on the favourable conservation status of the species concerned.
The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA) (HMG, 1981)	The Act is the main mechanism for legislative protection of wildlife in England. It gives protection to native species (particularly threatened species), their resting places and places of shelter by making it an offence to kill, injure, take, damage, destroy, sell or possess them (with exceptions).
Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (HMG, 1992)	The Act makes it an offence to kill or take a badger, to cruelly ill-treat a badger, or to interfere with a badger sett, including disturbing a badger while it is occupying a sett.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (HMG, 2000)	The Act places a duty on government departments to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity and maintain lists of species and habitats for which conservation steps should be taken or promoted, in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity. It also strengthens legal protection for species considered to be threatened under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and increases powers for the protection and management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (HMG, 2006)	The NERC Act 2006 places a duty upon public bodies to maintain Section 41 (S41) lists of flora, fauna and habitats (previously UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species) and to consider these ecological features as a material consideration in planning. It also requires decision-makers to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

Legislation	Details
The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 (the Invasive Species Order') (HMG, 2019)	This order strengthens the legislation in relation to widely spread species of European Union concern; requiring effective management measures to be put in place to minimise their impacts. It is an offence to import, keep, breed / grow, transport, sell, use, allow to reproduce, or release into the environment the species listed in Schedule 2 of this Order.
The Environment Act 2021 (HMG, 2021)	In line with the 25 Year Plan for the Environment (HM Government, 2018), new development should identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity and for the wider environment. The Environment Act 2021 introduces a mandatory requirement for 10% biodiversity net gain for new developments to ensure that they enhance biodiversity and create new green spaces for local communities to enjoy.

Table 9 - Relevant policy and guidance

Policy / Guidance	Details
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 (HMG, 2024)	The NPPF sets out how the planning system should protect and enhance nature conservation interests. Section 15 is concerned with conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paragraphs 187 to 195). Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: <i>Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);</i> <i>Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; and</i> <i>Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs.</i> To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should: <i>Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and</i> <i>Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.</i> When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principle: <i>Development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.</i>
CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine (CIEEM, 2024)	The aim of the guidelines is to: promote good practice and a scientifically transparent approach to Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA); provide a common framework to EclA to promote better communication and closer cooperation between ecologists involved with EclA; and provide decision-makers with relevant information about the likely ecological effects of a project.

Policy / Guidance	Details
Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: a technique for environmental audit (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2010)	The Phase 1 Handbook (Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC, 2010) provides a standardised system for classifying and mapping wildlife habitat throughout the United Kingdom. The aim of the Phase 1 habitat survey is to provide a rapid record of vegetation and wildlife habitat within the Site.
BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development (BSI 42020, 2013)	The British Standards Institute guidance provides coherent methodology for biodiversity management to help protect and enhance UK biodiversity.

Legislation and Policy

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