



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP



DEWHIRST ROAD

ROCHDALE

HABITAT BANK BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT - UPDATE

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Executive Summary

1. The Environment Partnership (TEP) were commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Strategic Land to update a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment of land at Dewhirst Road, Rochdale which is proposed to be used as a habitat bank to the Statutory Metric; hereafter referred to as the "site". The original TEP report reference is 9995.003.
2. Following client team discussions in May 2025 it was agreed that enhancing two grassland parcels (F6 and F9) from poor to good condition was achievable and this has been incorporated into the metric, drawings and this report.
3. Habitat surveys and condition assessments were undertaken in late October 2022, with an update in July 2023 to inform this assessment. There are not considered to be any significant constraints to the surveys or condition assessments.
4. The site comprises predominantly heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, with mature plantation broad-leaved woodland and scrub. Enhancements of one level in condition are proposed where these are feasible, mainly through the reduction or removal of grazing and control of sub-optimal and invasive non-native species.
5. Minor changes to the site boundary and habitats have been made following a site visit in April 2024
6. The Statutory Metric has been used as the tool to calculate the biodiversity units available. The results indicate that 57.02 habitat units can be provided through enhancement of the habitats at this site by one level (where feasible) or two levels (F6 and F9), yielding a 45.40% gain in area-based habitat units.
7. A total of 52.04 habitat units comprising grassland and scrub habitats will be used to deliver the off-setting requirement to achieve 10% net gain and satisfy the trading rules for the Smithy Bridge Road, Rochdale development proposals. This leaves 4.98 habitat units available for use in offsetting other schemes in the locality, 4.86 of which are for woodland.
8. Detailed management prescriptions for the site are provided in the accompanying Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (TEP Ref: 9995.01.002) which has also been produced for the site.

1.0 Introduction

Background

- 1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) were commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Strategic Land to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment of land at Dewhirst Road, Rochdale which is proposed to be used as a habitat bank; hereafter referred to as the "site".
- 1.2 A preliminary BNG assessment of the site was undertaken in October 2022 (TEP Report Ref: 9698.01.001) in order to identify whether the site could feasibly be used as a habitat bank, with an updated report produced in August 2023 (TEP Report Ref: 9995.003), based on habitat condition assessment surveys undertaken within the appropriate seasonal window and detailed desk study information. A site visit was undertaken in April 2024 and during this visit it was agreed to remove three parcels and a hedgerow present to the south of the buildings from the site.
- 1.3 This 2025 report provides updated details on the reduced site areas and is based on transferring the BNG data from Metric 4.0 to the Statutory Metric. It also includes the outcome of a client team meeting where it was agreed that grassland condition for two parcels of upland acid grassland (F6 and F9) could be enhanced from poor to good condition.
- 1.4 It does not provide detailed management prescriptions for the site and should be read in conjunction with the updated Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (TEP Ref: 9995.01.002) which has also been produced for the site.

Site description

- 1.5 The site is approximately 18.8ha, and its estimated grid reference is SD 89519 15897 and is 2.5km north from Rochdale town centre.
- 1.6 The site is bounded by Hamer Pasture Reservoir and Fanny Brook to the north, Dewhirst Road is situated adjacent to the eastern boundary, Syke Brook and residential dwellings are situated to the south and extensive farmland is situated to the west of the site.
- 1.7 The site comprises predominantly semi-improved acid grassland in an upland fringe location with semi-improved neutral grassland in lower areas. A woodland block is present in the centre of the site.

Offsetting proposals

- 1.8 Proposals for the site are to enhance the existing habitats by one or two levels of condition where applicable and justifiable, through a range of measures and to implement a 30-year management and monitoring plan.

Policy and Legislation Context

- 1.9 The need for creation of a habitat bank to offset biodiversity losses on development sites has arisen because of the following legislation and local policy.

National Policies

- 1.10 Paragraph 187(d) of the revised NPPF (2025) states that *"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by [...] minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity [...]"* The Government 25-year Environment Plan states that government will *"[...] embed environmental net gain principle for development"*.
- 1.11 In July 2019, the government issued revised planning practice guidance (NPPG) with details on how planners can implement "net environmental gain" requirements when assessing development proposals, including new advice on protecting wildlife.
- 1.12 Revised guidance recently published by the government says that net gain in planning describes an approach to development that leaves the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. Net gain is an umbrella term for both biodiversity net gain and wider environmental net gain. It states: *"Planning conditions or obligations can, in appropriate circumstances, be used to require that a planning permission provides for works that will measurably increase biodiversity"*.
- 1.13 In terms of measuring net gain, the guidance states that using a metric is a pragmatic way to calculate the impact of a development and the net gain that can be achieved. It goes on to state that *"[...] tools such as the Defra biodiversity metric can be used to assess whether a biodiversity net gain outcome is expected to be achieved"*.
- 1.14 This report details the ecological surveys undertaken to establish a baseline position, and what the anticipated impacts are. To inform the biodiversity net gain assessment, the Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been used.
- 1.15 The Environment Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 9th November 2021 and includes a mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain on all Town and Country Planning Act 1990 developments. The mandatory requirement became law on 12th February 2024 and mandatory BNG is included under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).

Local Policies

- 1.16 Policy G7 - Increasing the value of biodiversity and geodiversity of the Rochdale Core Strategy (adopted 19th October 2016) states development in the borough should result in net gain. However, there is no current local policy relating specifically to BNG in the context of a required percentage net gain.
- 1.17 Places for Everyone, the Joint Development Plan for nine Greater Manchester councils including Rochdale Council includes Policy JP-G 9: A Net Enhancement for Biodiversity and Geodiversity includes the following commitment to a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain in section 8.52:

"If our overall aims of a major net enhancement of biodiversity value and improved access to nature are to be achieved then all new development will have to play its part, each delivering a net gain in biodiversity. This could involve the protection and improvement of existing habitats, the creation of new ones, and/or the strengthening of connections between them. Recognised metrics will be applied to new development proposals to calculate and demonstrate a measurable net gain in biodiversity of no less than 10%."

Aims of this report

1.18 The aims of this report are to:

- Set out the methods used to assess the habitat baseline of the site;
- Provide a baseline score for the site;
- Set out the methods and assumptions used to assess the habitat enhancement proposals at the site;
- Assess the BNG that is delivered because of the enhancement proposals.

2.0 Methods

2.1 The existing habitat information was gathered for the site by TEP in 2022 and 2023. Full details are provided within the following technical reports:

- Dewhirst Road - Preliminary Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (TEP Report Ref: 9698.01.001) – November 2022
- Ecological Desk Study (TEP Report Ref: 9995.002) (Appendix A)– July 2023
- Updated walkover survey and condition assessment (Appendices B and C) - July 2023
- Site visit in April 2024

Survey Methods

Desk Based Assessment

2.2 A search of existing information relating to protected species, habitats of conservation priority and designated sites was undertaken in July 2023. Sources included Merseyside Biobank, Natural England and MAGIC Map websites. The search extended 2km from the site boundary for non-statutory designated sites, protected species and priority species and habitats. Information regarding statutory protected sites within the wider area (up to 10km) was also collected. Relevant local planning policies were also identified to inform the assessment.

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

2.3 A Phase 1 habitat survey was initially undertaken by a TEP ecologist (FISC 5) in late October 2022. The survey was conducted in accordance with the Phase 1 habitat assessment methods (JNCC, 2010¹) and Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017²). Habitat types were mapped, and dominant vegetation species noted. Any invasive species were also recorded.

2.4 An updated site walkover was undertaken by a TEP ecologist (FISC Level 4) in early July 2023 to identify any significant changes in vegetation cover within the optimum survey season.

UK Habitat Classification Conversion

2.5 Phase 1 habitats were converted to UK Habitat classification codes with reference to the UK Hab conversions provided in the 'Technical Data' button in the calculation tool of the Statutory Metric, the UK Habitat Classification³.

¹ Joint Nature Conservation Committee, (2010), Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A technique for environmental audit.

² Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) 2017. Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

³ UKHab Ltd. (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)

Condition Assessment

- 2.6 A condition assessment following guidance based on Biodiversity Metric 3.1 was undertaken at the same time as the Phase 1 habitat survey in late October 2022, which was then updated in July 2023, following guidance based on the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 technical annex 1⁴. For this update condition data have been converted, based on the condition assessment guidance associated with the Statutory Metric⁵.

BNG Assessment

- 2.7 The offsetting site has been assessed within this report using the Statutory Metric. This was undertaken by TEP in October 2024.
- 2.8 The Statutory Metric is a tool designed to enable developers to measure the change in biodiversity across their site. It determines if there will be net gain, net loss or no net loss of biodiversity following completion of their development and any subsequent management regime.
- 2.9 In order to calculate the change in biodiversity across the site, the information gained from the site survey is digitised and processed and the resulting information fed into the metric.

Determining Strategic Significance

- 2.10 Strategic significance was determined through a thorough desktop review of local planning policy and other relevant documentation. The desk-based assessment provides full details of local policy and legislation covering the site. This includes Rochdale Core Strategy (adopted 19th October 2016), Rochdale Unitary Development Plan (adopted June 2006), Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Biodiversity and Development and the Environment and Ecology layer of MappingGM, Greater Manchester's online mapping tool.

(https://mappinggm.org.uk/gmodin/?lyrs=v_gmeu_lnrns_opportunities#os_maps_light/17/53.42239/-2.27028).

- 2.11 Part of Hey Wood, in the centre of the site, is identified as existing woodland on the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Existing Habitats layer. The majority of the remainder of the site is identified as providing tree planting opportunities on the Greater Manchester LNRS Opportunities layer.
- 2.12 As a result, where woodland or tree-based habitats on-site coincide with these LNRS layers, they are allocated high strategic significance. All other habitats are allocated low strategic significance.
- 2.13 The Habitat Network map produced by Natural England indicates that the site lies within a Network Expansion Zone – which infers the land has the potential for expanding, linking and joining habitat networks across the landscape.

⁴ Biodiversity Metric 4.0 - Technical Annex 1- Condition Assessment Sheets.

⁵ DEFRA 2024. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide.

Limitations

- 2.14 The updated Phase 1 habitat and condition assessment were undertaken in July 2023, within the optimum period for habitat survey and Biodiversity Metric 4.0. There have been no limitations with converting this information to the Statutory Metric.
- 2.15 Where access to dense vegetation was limited, review of aerial imagery was also undertaken to provide sufficient information to determine more accurate habitat extents and boundaries. Access to the amenity grassland and orchard was limited to viewing from the boundary only, but this did not affect the outcome of the assessments and is now not relevant as these areas are excluded from the Habitat Bank area.
- 2.16 No detailed survey of scattered trees has been undertaken; they will be retained on site and managed going forward but no enhancements are proposed and therefore no survey was deemed necessary.

3.0 Baseline Conditions

Important Ecological Features

- 3.1 Full details of the collated desk study information are provided within Appendix A of this report.
- 3.2 No statutory or non-statutory designated sites are located within the site boundary.
- 3.3 The closest international and national statutory designated sites are the Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) respectively, 2.7km southeast, noted for their aquatic plant communities, particularly floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*.
- 3.4 The site lies within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone but as the site is proposed for use as a habitat bank no risks to designated sites will occur.
- 3.5 The closest local statutory site is Healy Dell Local Nature Reserve (LNR) 1.2km west, comprising a mix of woodland and riverine habitats combined with rich cultural heritage features.
- 3.6 The closest non-statutory sites are Brownhouse Wham and Hamer Pasture Reservoirs Site of Biological Interest (SBI) and Hamer Pasture Important Wildlife Site (IWS) both of which are adjacent to the northern boundary of the site and Rushy Hill Biological Heritage Site which is approximately 120m northwest of the site.
- 3.7 Deciduous woodland priority habitat is located within the centre of the site associated with Hey Wood.
- 3.8 No irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodland, limestone pavement or bog habitats are present within the site.

On-Site Baseline

- 3.9 The site is situated in an upland fringe location with residential areas to the south and the upland area of Rushy Hill BHS and IWS to the north. Target notes collated during the July 2023 visit are presented in Appendix B. Target notes associated with the October 2022 visit (with updated corresponding land parcel numbers following the 2023 survey) are found in Appendix D.
- 3.10 The updated condition assessment based on the Statutory Metric is presented in Appendix C.
- 3.11 Full details of the conversion from Phase 1 habitat to the UK Habitat Classification along with a summary of the condition assessment are provided in the Assessor Comments column within the completed Statutory Metric (Appendix E). The following drawings are provided in Appendix F:
 - Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results (G9995.007);
 - UK Habitat Classification Baseline (G9995.01.001); and
 - Baseline Condition and Strategic Significance (G9995.01.002).

- 3.12 Following the updated survey in 2023 a more detailed description of the habitats on the site is provided below. The land parcel numbers are indicated on Drawings G9995.01.001 and G9995.01.002.
- 3.13 The site predominantly comprises heavily grazed, semi-improved acid grassland (F1 to F12, F16 and F18) with rocky outcrops which support varying densities of acid grassland species including sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, mat-grass *Nardus stricta*, wavy hair-grass *Avenula flexuosa*, sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, harebell *Campanula rotundifolia* and eyebright species *Euphrasia* sp., combined with species indicative of enrichment such as white clover *Trifolium repens*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolia*. Parcel F21 in the southwest of the site is less grazed but supports a similar species assemblage.
- 3.14 Several parcels of semi-improved neutral grassland are present on the lower slopes in the southwest of the site (F13, F14); some being heavily grazed, while others are ungrazed as evidenced by the encroachment of scattered hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub (F14). Typical species include red fescue *F. rubra*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, white clover, red clover *T. arvense* along with more specialised neutral grassland species such as common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*.
- 3.15 One parcel of heavily grazed poor semi-improved grassland is present in the southeast of the site (F17) which is dominated by perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* with broad-leaved dock, white clover and ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*.
- 3.16 A soft rush *Juncus effusus* dominated area of marshy grassland (F20) is present within field parcel F16. Other species include hard rush *J. inflexus*, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, watercress *Nasturtium officinale* and lesser spearwort *R. flammula*. Two other areas of marshy grassland (in F3 and F9) were identified during the October 2022 survey but were considered to be rush-dominated areas of semi-improved acid grassland following the July 2023 survey.
- 3.17 In the centre of the site is Hey Wood, a mature broad-leaved plantation woodland (W1) dominated by sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and beech *Fagus sylvatica*. Oak species *Quercus* sp. was also occasionally present, but the woodland is open to grazing animals and has a very open and impoverished structure. Field layer species included creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and nettle *Urtica dioica*. A small area of plantation broad-leaved woodland (W2) is also present in the northeastern corner of the site which supports a similar assemblage of species.
- 3.18 Two areas of dense/continuous scrub are present in the site; a larger area in the northeast of the site (S1) which contains hawthorn, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and goat willow *Salix caprea* in an open arrangement with frequent nettle and a small area to the south of Hey Wood (S2).

4.0 Habitat Enhancements

- 4.1 The site's use as a habitat bank can be realised by several enhancements and changes in management practices to the existing habitats.
- 4.2 Key to enhancing the habitats will be the removal or reduction of grazing pressure. The majority of the site, including the woodland, is heavily grazed which prevents the creation of a diverse sward height in grassland, often leads to dominance of competitive, vigorous species at the expense of more specialised species and can cause damage by excessive poaching of soils. In woodland, heavy grazing pressure prevents a diverse ground and field layer developing and limits woody species regeneration.
- 4.3 There are several species indicative of sub-optimal conditions that are present in many of the field parcels; these will require control or eradication to ensure they do not increase in distribution or abundance. These include:
- Creeping thistle;
 - Creeping buttercup;
 - White clover;
 - Broad-leaved dock;
 - Curled dock *R. crispus*; and
 - Nettle.
- 4.4 In addition, several invasive non-native species as defined by Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981⁶ or Schedule 2 of the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 have been recorded within the site and will require eradication. These include:
- Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*;
 - Japanese rose *Rosa rugosa*;
 - Cotoneaster sp. *Cotoneaster* sp.; and
 - Variegated archangel *Lamium galeobdolon argentatum*
- 4.5 Grasslands and native woodlands both have habitat action plans in the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP). Typical species assemblages to which the enhancement of these habitats will aspire will be a combination of species already recorded on the site and those which would be expected within acid and neutral grassland and upland oak woodland habitats in this region. These are discussed in more detail below.
- 4.6 Typical upland acid grassland species would include:
- sheep's fescue;
 - mat-grass;
 - wavy hair-grass;
 - common bent *Agrostis capillaris*;
 - sheep's sorrel;
 - tormentil;

⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/9/part/II>

- harebell;
- eyebright sp.;
- heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*;
- heath woodrush *Luzula multiflora*; and
- heath rush *Juncus squarrosus*.

4.7 Typical neutral grassland species would include:

- Red fescue *Festuca rubra*;
- Crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*;
- Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*;
- Smooth meadow-grass *Poa pratensis*;
- Sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*;
- Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*;
- Meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*;
- Bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*;
- Field woodrush *Luzula campestris*;
- Glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*;
- Common sedge *C. nigra*;
- Hairy sedge *C. hirta*;
- Common sorrel *R. acetosa*;
- Yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus major*;
- Devil's bit *Succisa pratensis*;
- Betony *Stachys officinalis*;
- Great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*;
- Cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*; and many more.

4.8 The woodland parcels on the site, whilst comprising planted sycamore and beech, in a more natural setting would likely comprise an upland oak woodland given the local soil conditions. The GM BAP states that only National Vegetation Classification (NVC) woodland type W11 sessile oak *Quercus petraea* – downy birch *Betula pubescens* – wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* is found within the Greater Manchester area and the species and structure of this type should be targeted at the site. Species include, some of which have been recorded on the site within grassland parcels and around the rocky outcrops:

- Sessile oak;
- Downy birch;
- Holly *Ilex aquifolium*;
- Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*;
- Hazel *Corylus avellana*;
- Wavy hair-grass;
- Wood sorrel;
- Heather *Calluna vulgaris*;
- Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*;
- Broad buckler-fern *Dryopteris dilatata*;
- Great woodrush *Luzula sylvatica*; and

- Hard fern *Blechnum spicant*.

4.9 Proposed enhancements are based on an increase of one level in condition, where this is feasible, although client team discussions have agreed that parcels F6 and F9 can be enhanced by two levels as this is felt to be achievable. The suggested enhancement options and target conditions for each land parcel are included within the condition assessment in Appendix C. The results are provided in the completed Statutory Metric (Appendix E). The following drawings are provided in Appendix F:

- UK Habitat Classification Proposed Enhancement (G9995.01.003A);
- Proposed Enhancement Condition and Strategic Significance (G9995.01.004A); and
- Habitat Change Plan (G9995.01.005);

5.0 BNG Metric

- 5.1 A biodiversity assessment has been undertaken, using the Statutory Metric calculator to quantify the change in biodiversity units for the site between the pre-enhancement baseline and post-enhancement habitats.

Summary of Biodiversity Impact

- 5.2 Detailed results of the assessment are provided in the Statutory Metric in Appendix A. The summary results, taken from the metric, are provided in Fig. 1.

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Habitat units</i>	57.02
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Habitat units</i>	45.40%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

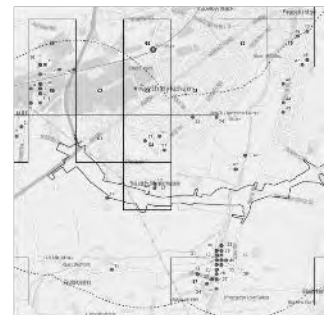
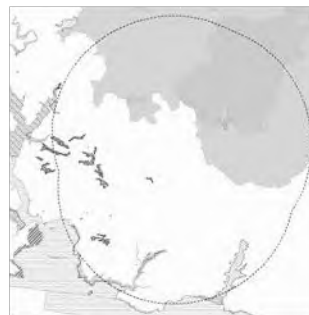
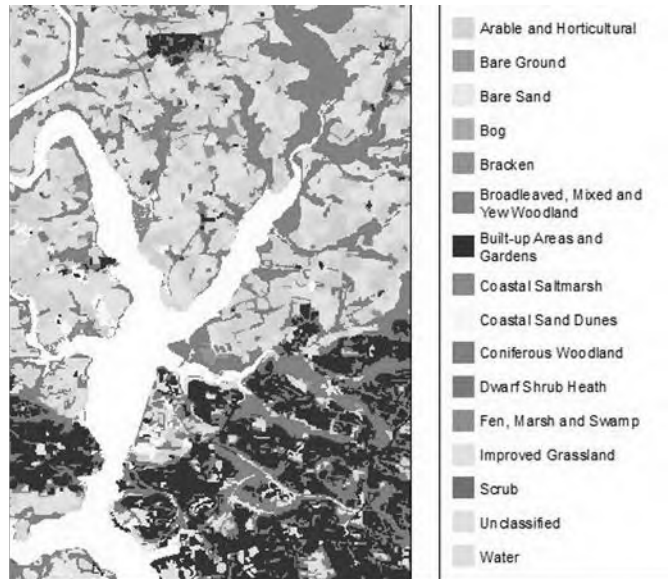
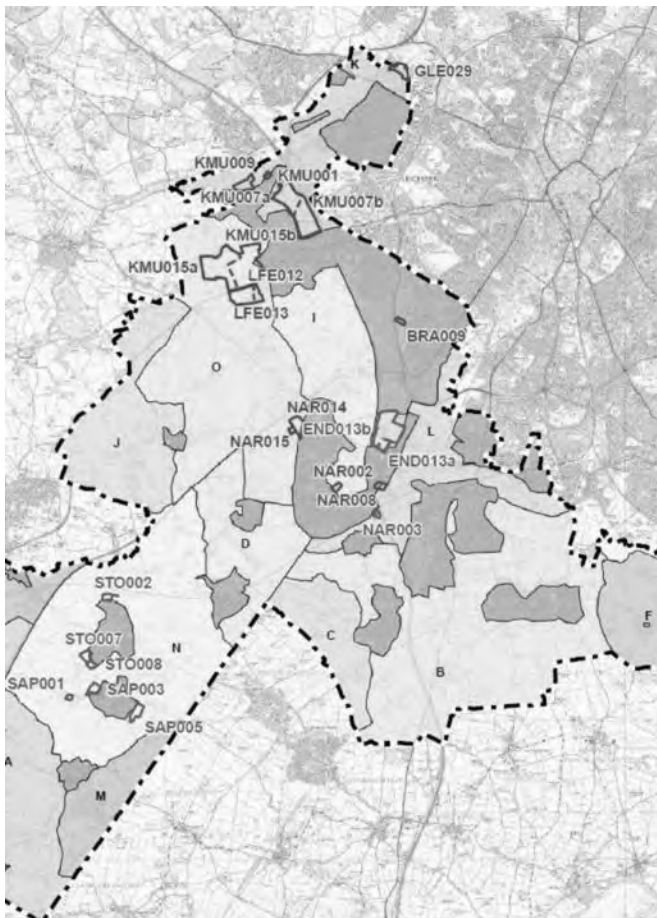
Figure 1 Results of Biodiversity Net Gain assessment

- 5.3 The results indicate that 57.02 habitat units can be provided through enhancement of the habitats at this site by one or two levels (where feasible), yielding a 45.40% gain in area-based habitat units.

6.0 Implementation, Management and Monitoring

- 6.1 This BNG assessment has been undertaken to demonstrate the enhancements which are possible for the site, for use as a habitat bank.
- 6.2 A total of 52.04 habitat units comprising grassland and scrub habitats will be used to deliver the off-setting requirement to achieve 10% net gain and satisfy the trading rules for the Smithy Bridge Road, Rochdale development proposals. This leaves 4.98 habitat units available for use in offsetting other schemes in the locality, 4.86 of which are for woodland .
- 6.3 Details of implementation, management and monitoring are provided in the associated Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (TEP Report: 9995.01.002) which includes detailed management prescriptions for a 30-year time period. The plan also includes the methods and reporting processes to be used for monitoring the success of habitat enhancement along with options for remedial intervention where needed if a habitat is not achieving its targeted condition. Roles and responsibilities, along with financial and legal requirements are also be included.

APPENDIX A: Ecological Desk Study



Dewthirst Road

Rochdale

Ecological Desk Study

Prepared For: Taylor Wimpey Strategic Land

Document Reference: 9995.001

August 2023

Version 2.0

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) was commissioned in June 2023 by Taylor Wimpey Strategic Land to update the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Metric 4.0, produce a BNG Design Stage Report and a Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance Plan (HMMP) for the land at Dewhirst Road. The BNG Metric 4.0 and HMMP will enable the use of the land at Dewhirst Road as a Habitat Bank. The biodiversity units gained through enhancement at Dewhirst Road will be used to off-set losses on other Sites, especially the development at Smithy Bridge Road. To inform the BNG Metric 4.0, Design Stage Report and the HMMP, this ecological desk study has also been completed.

Location of Scheme

- 1.2 The Site is located within the administrative area of Rochdale Borough Council (RBC). The land overlapping the Site is allocated by the following policies; Policy G/D/2 & Policy D/4 – Green Belt and Policy NE/2 – The Natural Environment within Rochdale Borough Council's Draft Allocations Policy, adopted in June 2006¹.
- 1.3 The Site is approximately 14.78 ha, and its approximate grid reference is SD 89519 15897 and is approximately 2.5km north of Rochdale town centre (see Figure 1). The Site is bounded by Hamer Pasture Reservoir and Fanny Brook to the north, Dewhirst Road is located adjacent to the east Boundary, Skye Brook and residential dwellings are located to the south and extensive farmland is located to the west of the Site.

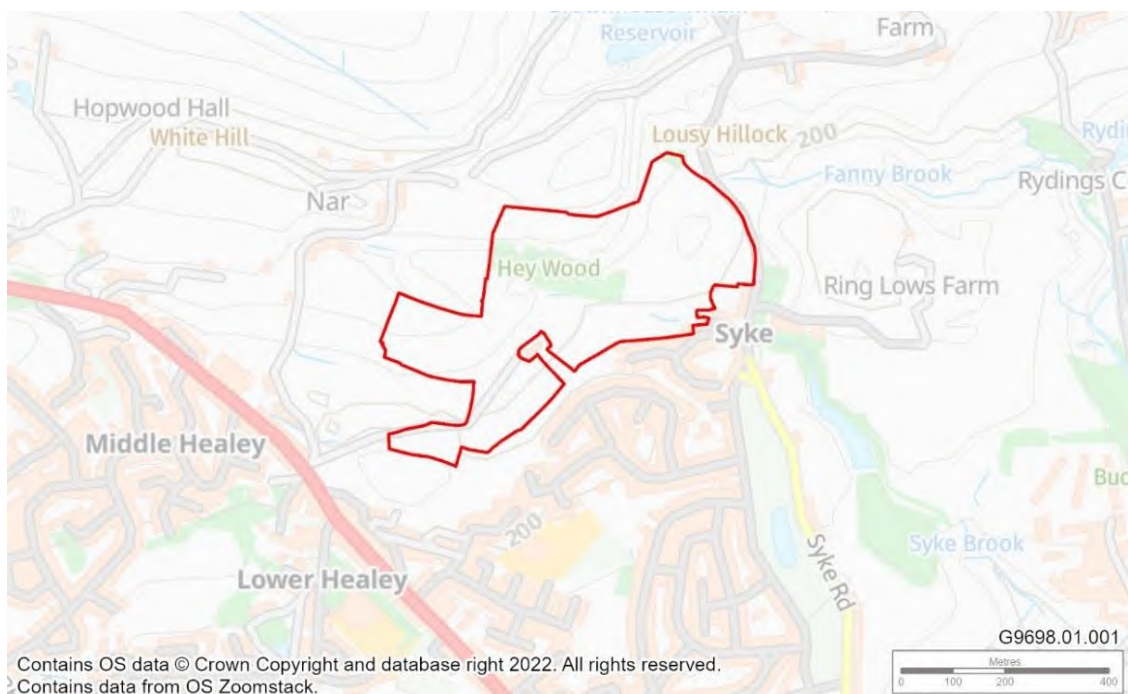


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

¹[https://www.cartogold.co.uk/rochdale/images/Rochdale%20borough%20Unitary%20Development%20Plan%20\(Adopted%20June%202006\)%20Map.pdf](https://www.cartogold.co.uk/rochdale/images/Rochdale%20borough%20Unitary%20Development%20Plan%20(Adopted%20June%202006)%20Map.pdf) [Accessed on: 29/06/2023]

Context

- 1.4 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development and landscape management which aims to leave the natural environment and biodiversity in a measurably better state than before the development. The Environment Act 2021² has mandated achieving a minimum of 10% BNG on all developments as of November 2023 – but some Local Planning Authorities are already implementing this.
- 1.5 The land at Dewhirst Road will be used as a habitat bank to offset biodiversity units for Taylor Wimpey which are unable to be achieved at the development at Smithy Bridge Road. The Smithy Bridge Road development covers an approximate area of 14ha and is located east of the town of Small Bridge, Rochdale – approximate grid reference SD 920 153.
- 1.6 As of June 2023, RBC have recently declared a climate emergency but are yet to declare an ecological emergency. Following the declaration of a climate emergency, RBC have produced a Climate Change Strategy, adopted March 2023 (CCS)³ and Climate Change Action Plan, adopted March 2023 (CCAP)⁴. The CCAP documents the need for net gains in biodiversity through all new developments (CC49).

Purpose

- 1.7 This Ecological Desk Study report details the method of data gathering and interpretation which presents the findings of the desk based report. This report is not sufficient in isolation to support the creation of a habitat bank. Therefore, this report should be read in conjunction with the BNG Metric 4.0 (TEP ref: X9995.002), the BNG Design Stage Report (TEP ref: 9995.003), the HMMP (TEP ref: 9995.001) and the Maintenance Schedule (TEP ref: X9995.001).

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted> [Accessed on: 29/06/2023]

³ <https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/downloads/download/371/climate-change-strategies> [Accessed on: 29/06/2023]

⁴ <https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/downloads/file/1119/climate-change-action-plan> [Accessed on: 29/06/2023]

2.0 Methods

Scope and Data Sources

- 2.1 The Ecological Zone of Influence (ZOI) is an area defined by the ecological assessment within which valued ecological features may be subject to significant biophysical changes as a consequence of the proposed development under assessment.
- 2.2 For the purposes of this assessment, the preliminary ZOIs within which ecological features were searched for as part of this desk study were varied according to the geo-spatial and/or legal significance of the feature.
- 2.3 Table 1 summarises the scope and the preliminary ZOIs applied for this desk study. The preliminary ZOIs were applied by extending search radii of the respective distances from the Scheme boundary.

Table 1: Scope and preliminary ecological Zones of Influence (ZOI)

Feature	Scope	Key Source(s)	ZOI
Statutory wildlife sites:	Ramsar sites Proposed Ramsar sites Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) Possible SAC SAC with marine components Special Protection Areas (SPA) Potential SPA Marine Conservation Zones	Natural England (public sector information) Rochdale Core Strategy (Adopted 2016) ⁵ Places for Everyone ⁶ Magic Maps ⁷	10km
	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) National Parks National Nature Reserves (NNR) Marine Nature Reserves (MNR)	Natural England (public sector information) Rochdale Core Strategy (Adopted 2016)	5km
	Local Nature Reserves (LNR) Country Parks Strategic Nature Areas	Natural England (public sector information) Places for Everyone	2km
Non-statutory wildlife sites:	Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	Lancashire Environment Records Network (LERN) Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) Rochdale Core Strategy (Adopted 2016) Places for Everyone	1km
Notable habitats:	Ancient Woodland Habitats of principal importance	Natural England (public sector information)	1km

⁵ <https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/downloads/file/405/core-strategy> [Accessed 29/06/2023]

⁶ https://mappinggm.org.uk/pfe-consultation-2021/#os_maps_light/11/53.5099/-2.3253 [Accessed 29/06/2023]

⁷ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx> [Accessed 29/06/2023]

Feature	Scope	Key Source(s)	ZOI
	Biodiversity Action Plan (DBAP) habitats Main rivers Habitat Network / Nature Recovery Network	Environment Agency (public sector information) Lancashire Environment Records Network (LERN) Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP) ⁸ Google Earth	
Protected or notable species:	Pre-existing records for protected or notable species ⁹ , non-native invasive species	Lancashire Environment Records Network (LERN) Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) Magic Maps	1km
	Protected species licences granted by Natural England Great crested newt survey pond records (2017 – 2019) held by Natural England	Natural England (public sector information) Magic Maps	1km
Policy and Related Guidance	Land allocations and relevant environment / biodiversity policy Local biodiversity priority habitats and species	Rochdale Core Strategy (Adopted 2016) Rochdale Borough Council's Draft Allocations Policy (Adopted 2006)	As applicable to Scheme

2.4 An absence of records does not indicate the absence of protected species from the search area.

2.5 Geological sites are not designated for ecology reasons and are therefore excluded from further consideration in this ecological assessment.

⁸ https://gmlrc.org/projects/gm_bap/ [Accessed 29/06/2023]

⁹ Notable and protected species records may include those listed under any of the following:

- Protected species listed under Schedule 2 (animals) or Schedule 5 (plants) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (EPS);
- Protected bird species under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA1);
- Protected animal species under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA5);
- Protected plant species under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA8);
- Invasive non-native plant species under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA9);
- Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 (IAS);
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (PBA);
- Species of principal importance (SPI) listed by requirements under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
- Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BRd/BAm); and
- Greater Manchester Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Habitats (GM LBAP).

3.0 Legislation and Policy

3.1 The following summarises the legislation and planning policy which may have relevance to the scheme. Only legislation and policy of key relevance to biodiversity are listed. Further information is provided in Annex A.

■ International Conventions:

- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat ('Ramsar Convention'¹⁰ or 'Wetlands Convention');
- The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention¹¹);
- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention¹² or CMS)
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (Biodiversity Convention¹³ or CBD)

- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017¹⁴ (the 2017 Regulations);
- Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019¹⁵ (the 2019 Regulations);
- Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981¹⁶;
- Environment Act 2021¹⁷;
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000¹⁸;
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006¹⁹;
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997²⁰;
- Protection of Badgers Act (PBA) 1992²¹;
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act (WMPA) 1996²²;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021²³;
- Government Circular 06/2005²⁴.

¹⁰ Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ramsar, 2.2.1971 <https://www.ramsar.org/>

¹¹ Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Bern, 1979 <https://www.coe.int/>

¹² Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn, June 1979 <https://www.cms.int/>

¹³ Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro, June 1992 <https://www.cbd.int/>

¹⁴ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/1012) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/>

¹⁵ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/579) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/579/>

¹⁶ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 c. 69 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/>

¹⁷ Environment Act 2021 c.30 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/>

¹⁸ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 c. 37 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/>

¹⁹ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 c. 16 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/>

²⁰ The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (SI 1997/1167) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/>

²¹ Protection of Badgers Act 1992 c. 51 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/>

²² Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 c.3 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/3/>

²³ National Planning Policy Framework (2021) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government www.gov.uk/government/publications

²⁴ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) 'Government Circular: Geological and Biological Conservation – Statutory obligations and their implications within the planning system' ODPM circular 06/2005, DEFRA circular 01/2005 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7692/147570.pdf

Local Planning Policy

Rochdale Core Strategy (adopted October 2016)²⁵

- 3.2 The current Local Plan is the Rochdale Core Strategy adopted in October 2016. The Local Plan is currently under review.
- 3.3 The Core Strategy sets out how we will plan the future development in Rochdale Borough. It guides new developments to appropriate locations while protecting our natural environment and built heritage.
- Policy G7 – relates to increasing the value of biodiversity and geodiversity:
- 3.4 We will ensure that sites and features of biodiversity and geodiversity importance are given full and appropriate recognition and protection. Opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity, creating new sites and features of interest and improving opportunities for public enjoyment will be supported. No development should result in a net loss of biodiversity or geodiversity interest in the borough and overall development in the borough should result in a net gain.
- 3.5 Particular priorities for biodiversity and geodiversity are:
- The South Pennine Moors - our focus is to maintain and enhance the peatland habitats of the moorland and to support development, land and water management activities which provide an opportunity to conserve and enhance the value of moorland for upland breeding birds of conservation significance and the habitats on which they depend, and which do not harm biodiversity value. Our focus is the designated Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation but also the wider moorland where such interest is present or could be supported through appropriate development or land management. We will also protect and support enhancement measures for areas of geodiversity value.
 - The Rochdale Canal - our focus is to ensure that the Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation and the wider biodiversity interest of the canal is given full and appropriate protection and ensure that development which delivers the economic and recreational value of the Rochdale Canal, and its wider corridor supports and does not harm its biodiversity value.
 - Upland farmland - our focus is to ensure that the biodiversity interest of upland farmland including its value for birds, woodland and grassland is protected and opportunities for enhancement and the creation of new interest maximised through land management improvements and appropriate development activities.
 - Countryside around towns - our focus is to protect and enhance the biodiversity interest of river valleys, woodland, water and farmland including the reclamation of derelict and neglected land and flood risk

²⁵ <https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/downloads/file/405/core-strategy> [Accessed 29/06/2023]

management measures. We will also support actions which enhance public access and enjoyment of countryside close to urban areas including Local Nature Reserves and the wider countryside.

- Urban Areas - our priority is to protect and enhance existing urban biodiversity and to support opportunities for new urban biodiversity corridors, sites and features including sustainable urban drainage schemes, new public realm provision, street trees and urban woodlands, ponds and lodges, green roofs and natural play areas.
- Designated sites of ecological importance - will be given appropriate protection according to their European, national or local status and in accordance with policies in other development plan documents, supporting Supplementary Planning Documents and Biodiversity Action Plans.
- Protected Species: Development proposals which would affect a species protected by law or its habitat will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there has been no adverse impact on the species concerned or damage to habitats is minimal and alternative habitat provision is effective in maintaining those species.

3.6 Opportunities to protect, enhance and create features of biodiversity or geodiversity interest should be informed by the detail of any formal designation of a site or area and supporting plans and guidance such as Local Biodiversity Action Plans, Green Infrastructure Strategies and Action Plans and the Council's Biodiversity and Development SPD.

3.7 We will expect development proposals and improvements to:

- Protect and include existing biodiversity (including established biodiversity interest on brownfield land) within new developments, public realm and open spaces and meet the requirements of the Biodiversity and Development SPD, Greater Manchester and Local Biodiversity Action Plans;
- Protect and enhance existing features such as peatland, ponds, wetlands, reservoirs, mill lodges, trees, hedges, wooded areas, meadows, flora and fauna;
- Take opportunities to promote biodiversity and create new habitats through new development using landscaping and building and construction features wherever possible (e.g., ponds, species of vegetation, green roofs and walls, bat boxes, roof space, appropriate nest boxes and landscaping);
- Enhance strategic wildlife corridors and the most natural areas and ensure that habitats and corridors are not fragmented by development;
- Improve access where appropriate to new or existing biodiversity interest for public enjoyment; and
- Protect important geology and take opportunities to increase interest and accessibility.

■ Policy G6 - relates to Enhancing Green Infrastructure:

3.8 We will sustain and enhance a green network to support growth and regeneration in the borough and provide a high quality environment that meets the needs of our

community and visitors to the borough. We will protect and improve green spaces and water bodies and ensure that their value to sustainable development and regeneration is maximised. Our priorities are to improve opportunities for recreation in urban areas and the countryside, improve opportunities for healthy lifestyles, and to help manage and respond to environmental risks such as flooding and the impacts of climate change. We will also ensure that the network supports the sustainable growth of the Greater Manchester city region and links with a wider Greater Manchester strategic green infrastructure network.

3.9 We will protect, improve and create green infrastructure to help deliver strategic sustainable development priorities and meet local needs in the following locations:

- The South Pennine uplands where the focus will be on the protection and enhancement of its natural beauty, cultural and ecological value, encouraging sustainable tourism and wider access from urban areas, key countryside gateways and improvements along key rural routes (e.g., the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway) and protecting and enhancing land management to support water management and carbon storage.
- The Roch Valley corridor where the focus will be on establishing a Roch Valley Trail between Heywood and Littleborough, opening up visibility, creating and enhancing recreation destinations and improving access to and from urban communities. The valley will be enhanced as a key landscape feature forming a part of Greater Manchester's strategic green infrastructure network providing high quality recreational and tourism opportunities, an ecological corridor, stimulus and support for regeneration and growth along the river valley corridor in Heywood, Rochdale and Littleborough and key flood risk management assets e.g., for flood storage and sustainable drainage. Opportunities to create a recreational link between the Roch Valley, Rochdale town centre and Healey Dell Local Nature Reserve along the Spodden Valley will also be supported.
- The Irk and Beal Valleys where the focus will be on taking opportunities to use the Irk corridor as a key feature to support regeneration in East Middleton and in developing its recreational and biodiversity potential in south west Middleton. Opportunities will be taken to enhance the Beal Valley to support growth and regeneration opportunities in Minnow and Newhey and to enhance the Beal Valley Way as a recreational route.
- Other river valleys and green corridors where the focus will be on enhancing recreational links between urban areas and open countryside to allow passage of wildlife, provide local opportunities for recreation, improving visual amenity, and contribution to local and wider environmental management e.g., reducing air pollution and managing flood risk.
- Other water bodies (lakes, streams, reservoirs, ponds etc) where the focus will be on celebrating water and promoting water features as a key characteristic of the local landscape, to improve their recreational and biodiversity value, maximise their potential for flood risk management and to incorporate water features (existing and new) as part of new developments, public realm initiatives, town centre design and neighbourhood regeneration initiatives where practicable.

- Rochdale Canal corridor where the focus will be on promoting the use of the canal for navigation, protecting and conserving its nature conservation value, improving linkages to the National Cycle Route 66 (Connect 2) cycle route with visitor, employment and neighbourhood destinations and securing environmental improvements as part of canal side development.
- Countryside around towns where the focus will be on reclaiming derelict land, woodland planting and improvement, creating and improving paths and cycle networks to link town and country, promoting access to nature, improving flood risk management and maintaining a strong green belt.
- Local urban open spaces where the focus will be on improvements to the quality of accessible greenspace close to where people live and work (prioritising those areas with the greatest deficiency or need e.g. poor health or lack of private gardens), securing tree planting and other urban greening in new areas of public open space in town centres and housing growth areas, protecting allotments and supporting local food growing, enhancing flood risk management and protecting and improving urban wildlife value and natural areas.)
- Urban areas and new development where the focus will be on incorporating green infrastructure into new development, sustainable urban drainage, increasing the number of street trees, greening housing areas and main roads, developing new green spaces, and incorporating green roofs and walls in new development.

3.10 We shall consider local and national planning policy requirements when considering the appropriateness of development proposals that may affect sports, recreation and open space provision.

3.11 A Green Infrastructure Strategy for the borough and Green Infrastructure Action Plans for each Township will inform and support area based masterplans and initiatives, development proposals and associated developer contributions, regeneration programmes and environmental management schemes.

Greater Manchester - Places for Everyone (published in 2019)²⁶ (Joint Development Plan):

3.12 This Places for Everyone Plan is the result of a process that began with the publication of the first Greater Manchester Spatial Framework in 2016 and has been informed by the feedback received from residents, businesses and community organisations. The strong desire for the plan to make the most of the existing land supply in the urban area is reflected in the Places for Everyone plan with 90% of the land identified for housing in the plan is in the urban area. We have reduced the proposed release of Green Belt – the result being a 60 per cent reduction in the impact on Green Belt land compared to the 2016 Spatial Framework.

3.13 Places for Everyone will ensure all new developments are sustainably integrated into Greater Manchester's transport network or joined by new infrastructure. It has been developed alongside Transport for Greater Manchester's (TfGM) Five-Year Transport

²⁶ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/4838/places-for-everyone.pdf> [Accessed 29/06/2023]

Delivery Plan, ensuring that new residential and commercial sites are supported by good transport infrastructure, including Metrolink stops and active travel routes.

■ Policy JP-G 1 relates to Valuing Important Landscapes:

3.14 Development should reflect and respond to the special qualities and sensitivities of the key landscape characteristics of its location, including having regard to:

- Topography, geology and drainage;
- Land use and field patterns;
- Semi-natural habitats and woodland cover; Archaeology and cultural heritage;
- Settlement, road pattern and rights of way; and
- Views and perceptual qualities.

3.15 Transitional areas around new development and the interface of new development with the surrounding countryside/landscape are also of particular importance, requiring well-considered and sensitive treatment. In particular, opportunities to improve the intactness and condition of the landscape should be taken, especially in conjunction with seeking a net enhancement of biodiversity/geodiversity resources under Policy JP-G 9 'A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity'.

3.16 In implementing this strategic policy regard will be had to the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (GMLCSA), in particular its guidance on future development and landscape management/enhancement within areas covered by each landscape character type.

■ Policy JP-G 2 relates to Green Infrastructure Networks:

3.17 A strategic approach will be taken to the protection, management and enhancement of our Green Infrastructure in order to protect and enhance the ecosystem services which the Figure 8.2 'Green Infrastructure Network' provides, including flood management, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Alongside this primary function an enhanced Green Infrastructure network will support wider public health benefits, including promotion of active travel, food growing and recreational opportunities.

3.18 The protection, management and enhancement of Green Infrastructure will contribute to the development of a Nature Recovery Network for Greater Manchester.

3.19 The following opportunity areas (as broadly illustrated on Figure 8.3 'Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas') are identified as having particular potential for delivering improvements to our Green Infrastructure Network:

- Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area (Salford and Wigan with connections to Warrington);
- Croal-Irwell Valley (Bolton, Bury, Manchester and Salford with connections to Blackburn-with-Darwen and Rossendale);
- South Pennine Moors (Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside with connections to Calderdale, Kirklees and High Peak);

- West Pennine Moors (Bolton and Bury with connections to Blackburn-with-Darwen and Chorley);
- Mersey Valley (Manchester and Trafford with connections to Stockport, High Peak and Cheshire East);
- Red Moss and Middle Brook Valley (Bolton);
- Hulton Park (Bolton);
- Cutacre Country Park (Bolton, Salford and Wigan);
- Lower Medlock Valley (Manchester);
- Moston Brook Corridor (Manchester and Oldham);
- Roch Valley (Rochdale);
- Hollingworth Lake and Surrounds (Rochdale); and
- Carrington (Trafford)

3.20 Development within and around the Green Infrastructure Network should be consistent with delivering major green infrastructure improvements within them and should contribute to improvements. Where Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas overlap or are in close proximity to development allocations proposed in this plan appropriate measures to achieve this have been included. Further opportunities for delivering strategic green infrastructure enhancements and additional opportunities will be identified in the appropriate source(s) over time as the overall green infrastructure network evolves.

3.21 Wherever practicable, opportunities to integrate new and existing green infrastructure into new development will be taken to protect, enhance and expand the green infrastructure network in accordance with the above priorities. Where new or improved green infrastructure is delivered as part of a development, the developer should make appropriate provision for its long term management and maintenance.

■ Policy JP-G 8 relates to Standard for Greener Spaces

3.22 We will develop standards in relation to:

- Access to natural green space, which seek to maximise the overall proportion of people in our boroughs who have access to natural green space. The Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) published by Natural England will provide the principal starting point as their focus on ensuring good accessibility to different sizes of green space for all residents make them an appropriate approach at a sub-regional level. More detailed standards regarding specific habitats, designations, quality or functions of green space may be set out in district local plans, taking account of local circumstances and opportunities.
- A "Green Factor", which sets out the level of on-site green infrastructure that new developments are expected to provide so as to meet their occupants' needs and contribute to the extent and interconnectedness of the wider network. The Green Factor will provide a baseline expectation based on the proportion of the site that is covered by different types of green infrastructure features.

- 3.23 Development has a major role in helping to achieve such standards, both through on-site provision of green infrastructure and the creation or improvement of off-site green infrastructure. The site allocations in this Plan provide opportunities to incorporate major areas of new accessible green infrastructure, delivering overall net gains in green infrastructure value to the benefit of local communities even if the quantity in that particular location may reduce. The way in which existing built areas have developed over time means that it will not be realistically possible to meet all of the standards in all parts of the plan area, but they are an important aspiration to work towards wherever possible.

■ Policy JP-G 9 relates to A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity:

- 3.24 Across the plan as a whole, a net enhancement of biodiversity resources will be sought, including by:

- Increasing the quality, quantity, extent and diversity of habitats, particularly priority habitats identified in national or local biodiversity action plans and those that support priority species;
- Improving connections between habitats, to protect and enhance the provision of corridors, ecological networks (including Nature Recovery Networks) and stepping stones that enable the movement of species, especially as the climate changes;
- Enhancing the management of existing habitats, including through habitat restoration, avoiding habitat fragmentation and combating invasive species;
- Protecting sites designated for their nature conservation and/or geological importance, with the highest level of protection given to international and then national designations in accordance with legislation and national policy;
- Facilitating greater access to nature, particularly within urban areas;
- Supporting the development and implementation of the Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Recovery Network; and

Safeguarding, restoring and sustainably managing our most valuable soil resources, tackling soil degradation/erosion and recovering soil fertility, particularly to ensure protection of peat-based soils and safeguard 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.

- 3.25 Development will be expected to follow the mitigation hierarchy of:

- Avoiding harm to biodiversity, particularly where it is irreplaceable, and including consideration of alternative sites where appropriate, then
- Mitigating (within the local area) any harm to biodiversity, then
- Compensating (within the local area) for any remaining harm to biodiversity;
- Avoid fragmenting or severing connectivity between habitats;
- Achieve a net gain in biodiversity
- Make appropriate provision for long-term management of habitats and geological features connected to the development; and

- Provide robust evidence in accordance with relevant government and other guidance, including field surveys wherever development of 'best and most versatile' agricultural land is proposed or to establish the status of the land within the Agricultural Land Classification system.

3.26 Whilst off-site habitat enhancement and creation required as part of the mitigation hierarchy (or to achieve a measurable net gain in biodiversity of no less than 10%) should be local to the site regard should be had to supporting strategic biodiversity priorities and initiatives.

*Biodiversity and Development – Supplementary Planning Document
(adopted January 2008)*²⁷

3.27 This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared by Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council to highlight biodiversity and development issues in Rochdale Borough and to ensure that all stakeholders understand the potential impacts of development on biodiversity, both positive and negative. It provides guidance to supplement Rochdale's Core Strategy adopted in 2016 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The SPD also indicates other relevant plans, policies and strategies which provide advice, guidance or specific and relevant requirements for biodiversity. The SPD forms a part of the Local Development Framework (LDF).

3.28 The objectives of the SPD can be summarised as:

- To enhance the biodiversity interest of Rochdale district and ensure no net loss of ecological interest or assets;
- To ensure that development proposals support a sustainable ecological framework for Rochdale as a component of its essential green infrastructure;
- To support the maintenance, restoration, expansion and good management of designated sites and priority habitats;
- To safeguard protected and priority species and habitats;
- To support the delivery of relevant BAP targets through development proposals;
- To protect and improve wildlife corridors and stepping stones and the distribution and habitat resource for key species; and
- To promote public enjoyment of the natural environment close to where they live for recreation and education.

²⁷ *Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Document (rochdale.gov.uk)* [Accessed 29/06/2023]

4.0 Biodiversity Initiatives and Strategies

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plans (GM BAP)

- 4.1 The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP) ⁸ covers a number of districts including Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Trafford and Wigan. Consequently, as a joint BAP, not all local priority habitats or species may be of direct relevance to each district area.
- 4.2 The overall aim of the GM BAP is:
“To promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of biological diversity in Greater Manchester for current and future generations”.
- 4.3 The following list of species and habitats are that of local conservation importance and require action in order to conserve and protect them. Those species and habitats were selected for the GM BAP due to the fact they are priority species or habitats within the UK BAP and occur in the GM region. Or they are considered to be of conservation concern locally within GM.
- 4.4 The GM BAP includes local habitat action plans for the following priority habitats:
- Grasslands
 - Ponds and Lodges
 - Canals
 - Uplands
 - Hedgerows
 - Reedbeds and Bittern
 - Native Woodlands
 - Urban managed greenspaces
- 4.5 The GM BAP priority species for which local species action plans have been produced include:
- Bats
 - Farmland Birds
 - Hares
 - Water Vole
 - Black Redstart
 - Great Crested Newts
 - Native Black Poplar
 - Willow Tit

Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP)

- 4.6 The LBAP includes local habitat action plans for the following priority habitats:
- Arable Farmland
 - Calcareous Grassland
 - Moorland and Fell
 - Reedbed
 - Saltmarsh Estuarine Rivers
 - Species Rich Neutral Grassland
 - Broadleaved and Mixed Woodland
 - Limestone Pavements
 - Mossland
 - Rivers and Streams
 - Sand Dunes

4.7 The LBAP priority species for which local species action plans have been produced include:

- Bats
- Birds-eye Primrose
- Black Tailed Godwit
- *Doros Profuges*
- Farmland Birds
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel
- Great Crested Newt
- Hen Harrier
- Lady's Slipper Orchid
- Lapwing
- Narrow Small Reed
- Northern Brown Argus
- Pearl-bordered Fritillary
- Purple Ramping Fumitory
- Reed Bunting
- Sea Bindweed
- Skylark
- Southern Wood Ant
- Wall Mason Eee
- Whorl Snails
- Belted Beauty Moth
- Black Poplar
- Brown Hare
- Dwarf Cornel
- Flat Sedge
- Freshwater White Clawed Crayfish
- Greater Butterfly Orchid
- High Brown Fritillary
- Lancaster White Beam
- Large Heath Butterfly
- Natterjack Toad
- Otter
- Prostoma Jennings
- Red Squirrel
- Rock Sea Lavender
- Shining Guest
- Song Thrush
- Twite Final
- Water Vole

Nature Recovery Network

4.8 Habitat Network maps are produced by Natural England in response to the Lawton report (Making Space for Nature, A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network²⁸).

4.9 These maps provide a useful baseline for the development of a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) as required within the 25 Year Environment Plan and for LRNS proposed within the Environment Act.

4.10 The Habitat Network maps in conjunction with other datasets and local knowledge can identify opportunities for biodiversity action. The Habitat Network comprises (a) Existing Habitats (HPI and associated habitats) and (b) Network Enhancement and Expansion Zones. These latter zones include:

- Network Enhancement Zone 1: Land connecting existing habitats which is likely to be suitable for habitat creation. Action in this zone to expand and join up existing habitat patches and improve the connections between them can be targeted here.
- Network Enhancement Zone 2: Land connecting existing habitats which is less likely to be suitable for habitat creation. Action in this zone that improves the biodiversity value through land management changes and/or green infrastructure provision can be targeted here.

²⁸ Lawton, J.H., Brotherton, P.N.M., Brown, V.K., Elphick, C., Fitter, A.H., Forshaw, J., Haddow, R.W., Hilborne, S., Leafe, R.N., Mace, G.M., Southgate, M.P., Sutherland, W.A., Tew, T.E., Varley, J., & Wynne, G.R. (2010) *Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network*. Report to Defra

- Fragmentation Action Zone: Land within Enhancement Zone 1 that connects existing habitats patches which are currently highly fragmented and where fragmentation could be reduced by habitat creation.
- Network Expansion Zone: Land beyond the Network Enhancement Zones with potential for expanding, linking/joining networks across the landscape.

4.11 The Site as seen below in Figure 2, falls within the Network Expansion Zone – which infers the land has the potential for expanding, linking and joining networks across the landscape. In addition, there is a large parcel of Network Enhancement Zone 1 adjacent to the Site, east of Dewhirst Road.

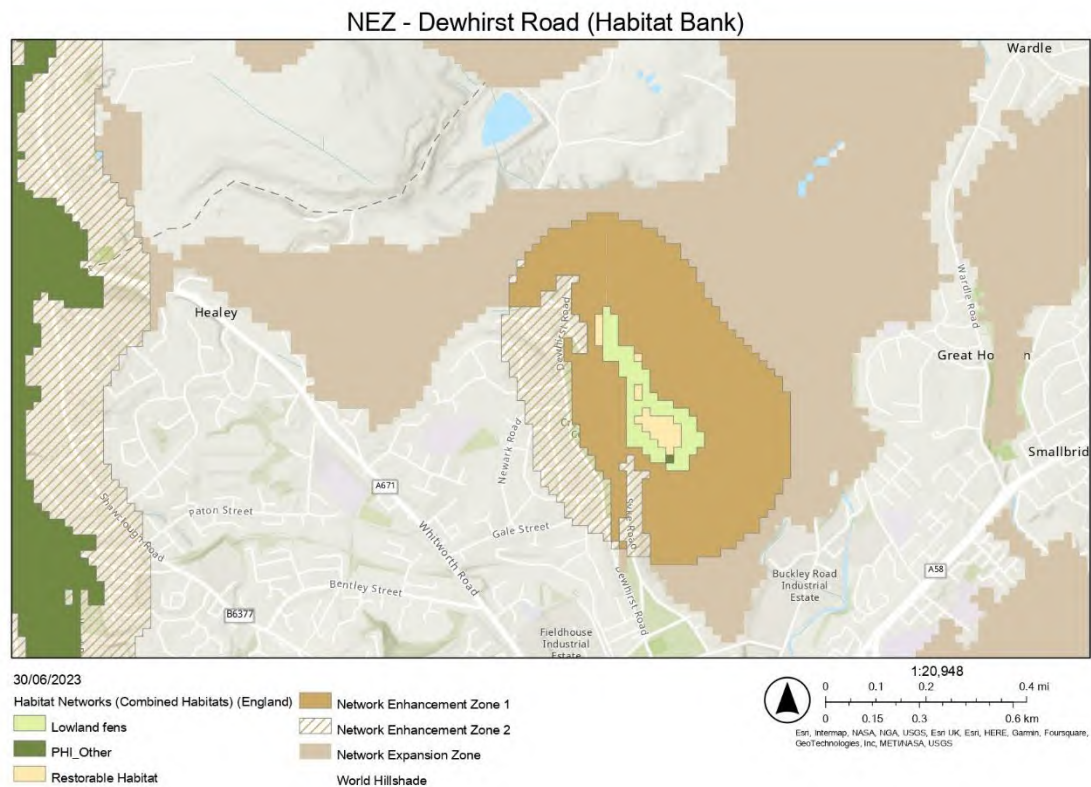


Figure 2: The local Habitat Network (provided by ArcGIS mapping online – Habitat Network Maps)

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5.0 Wildlife Sites

Statutory Sites

5.1 Internationally significant statutory wildlife designations within 10km are illustrated on Drawing G9995.002. Nationally significant statutory wildlife sites within a 5km buffer are illustrated by Drawing G9995.003. Regionally or locally significant wildlife sites within 2km are illustrated by Drawing G9995.004. These statutory wildlife sites are summarised in Table 2 below. Distances are calculated between the closest points. Links to data forms and citations are also provided, where applicable.

Table 2: Statutory wildlife sites

Site Name	Designation & Citation Link	Distance and Direction from Scheme	Reason(s) for Designation
Statutory wildlife sites of international significance within 10km of Site (Drawing G9995.002 or Figure 3)			
Rochdale Canal	SAC (ref: UK0030266) ²⁹	2.7km south east	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection: ■ Floating water plantain.
South Pennine Moors	SAC (ref: UK0030280) ³⁰	6km north east	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection: ■ European Dry Heaths; ■ Blanket Bogs (if active bogs); and ■ Oak sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles. Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: ■ Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> .
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA (ref: UK9007022) ³¹	6km north east	Article 4.1 qualifying species: ■ Merlin – <i>Falco columbarius</i> (28 pairs); and ■ Golden Plover – <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (292 pairs); Article 4.2 qualifying species: ■ Golden Plover ■ Lapwing – <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ; ■ Dunlin – <i>Calidris alpina</i> ; ■ Snipe – <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> ; ■ Curlew - <i>Numenius Arquata</i> ■ Redshank – <i>Tringa tetanus</i> ; ■ Common sandpiper – <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> ; ■ Short-eared owl – <i>Aso flammeus</i> ; ■ Whinchat – <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> ; ■ Wheatear – <i>Oenanthe Oenanthe</i> ; ■ Ring Ouzel – <i>Turdus torquatus</i> ; and ■ Twite – <i>Carduelis flavirostris</i> ;

²⁹ <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030266> [Accessed 29/06/2023]

³⁰ <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030280>

³¹ <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4885083764817920f> [Accessed 29/06/2023]

Site Name	Designation & Citation Link	Distance and Direction from Scheme	Reason(s) for Designation
			Article 4.2 qualifying assemblage: ■ Merlin ■ Red grouse – <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> ■ Golden plover ■ Dunlin ■ Short-eared owl ■ Twite
Statutory wildlife sites of national significance within 5km of Site (Drawing G9995.003 or Figure 4)			
Rochdale Canal	SSSI (ref: 1007365) ³²	2.7km south east	The Rochdale Canal contains important habitats for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation, including extensive colonies of the nationally scarce SAC species floating water plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> . The site also supports a diverse assemblage of aquatic flora, notably its assemblage of pondweeds, <i>Potamogeton</i> spp; the nine species of which found in the canal represent a balanced community which reflects the quality of water.
Statutory wildlife sites of regional/local significance within 2km of Site (Drawing G9995.004 or Figure 5)			
Healy Dell	LNR (ref: 1008946) ³³	1.2km west	Beauty spot and wildlife sanctuary rich in industrial archaeology, two miles from Rochdale town centre on the way to Whitworth and Bacup. The River Spodden has carved its way through the woodlands through thousands of years, creating delightful scenery and spectacular waterfalls which once powered ancient corn, wool and cotton mills. A disused 1800s railway line is now a nature trail with magnificent views from a 100-foot high viaduct.

³² <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s2000430> [Accessed 29/06/2023]

³³ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteLNRDetail.aspx?SiteCode=L1008946> [Accessed 29/06/2023]

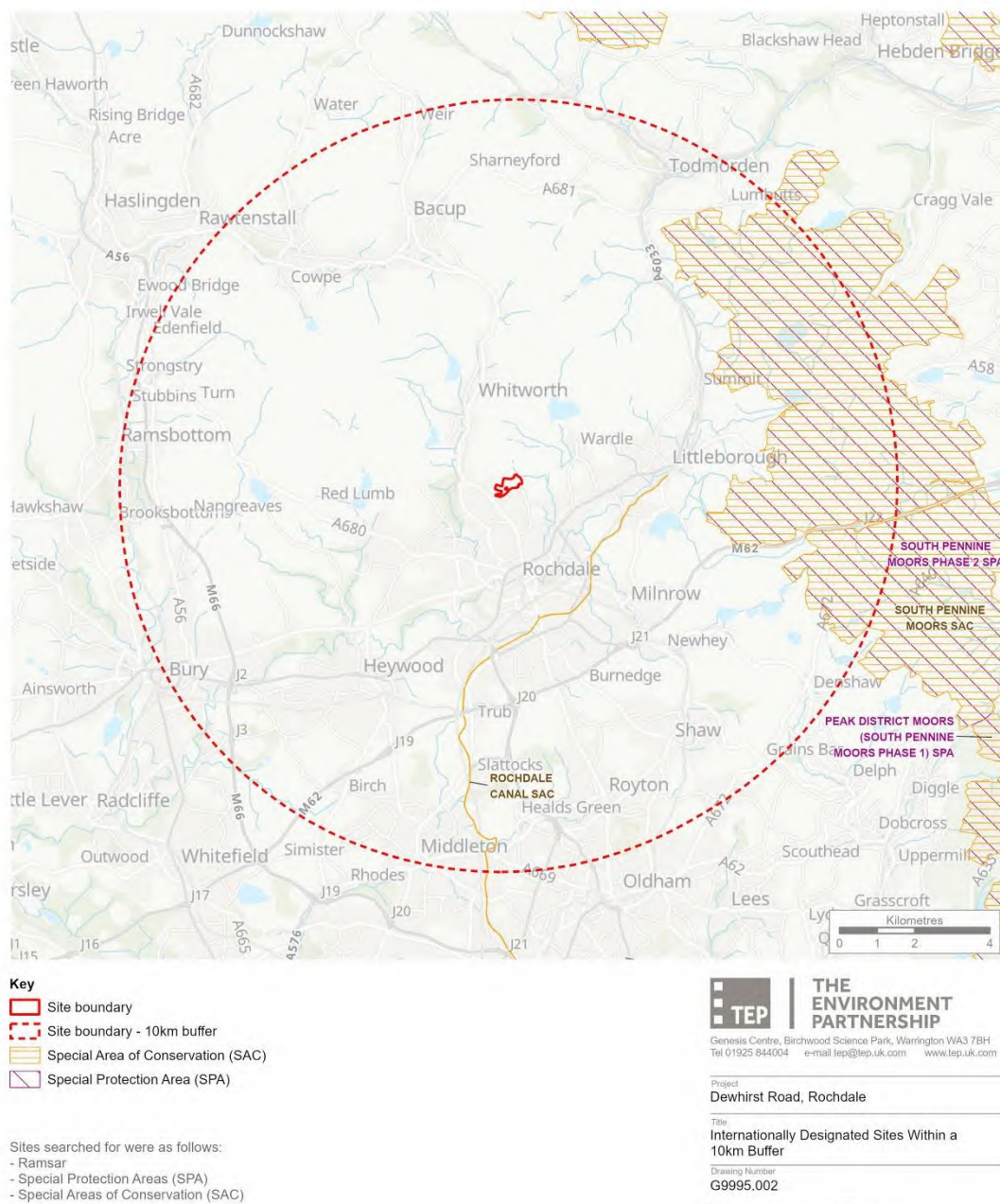
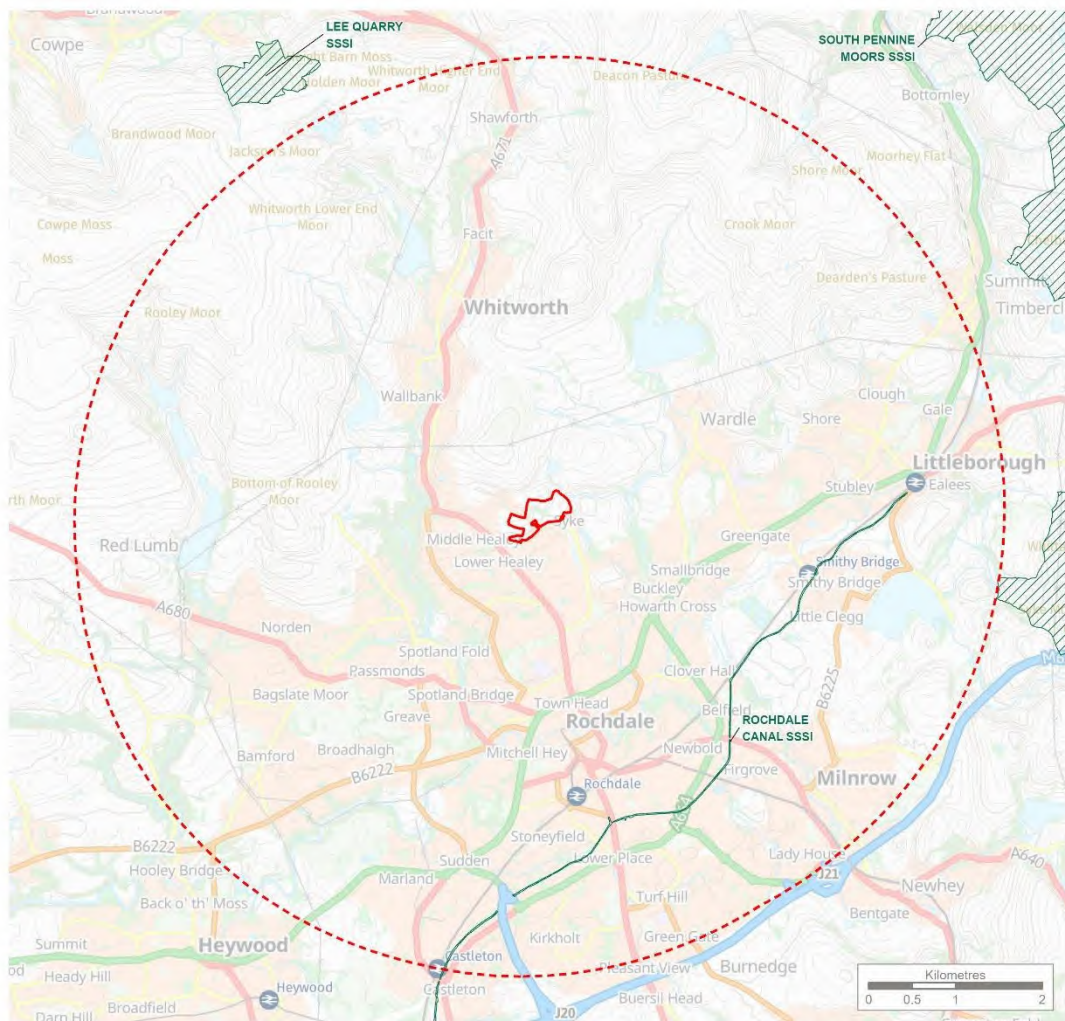


Figure 3: Internationally Designated sites within a 10km buffer



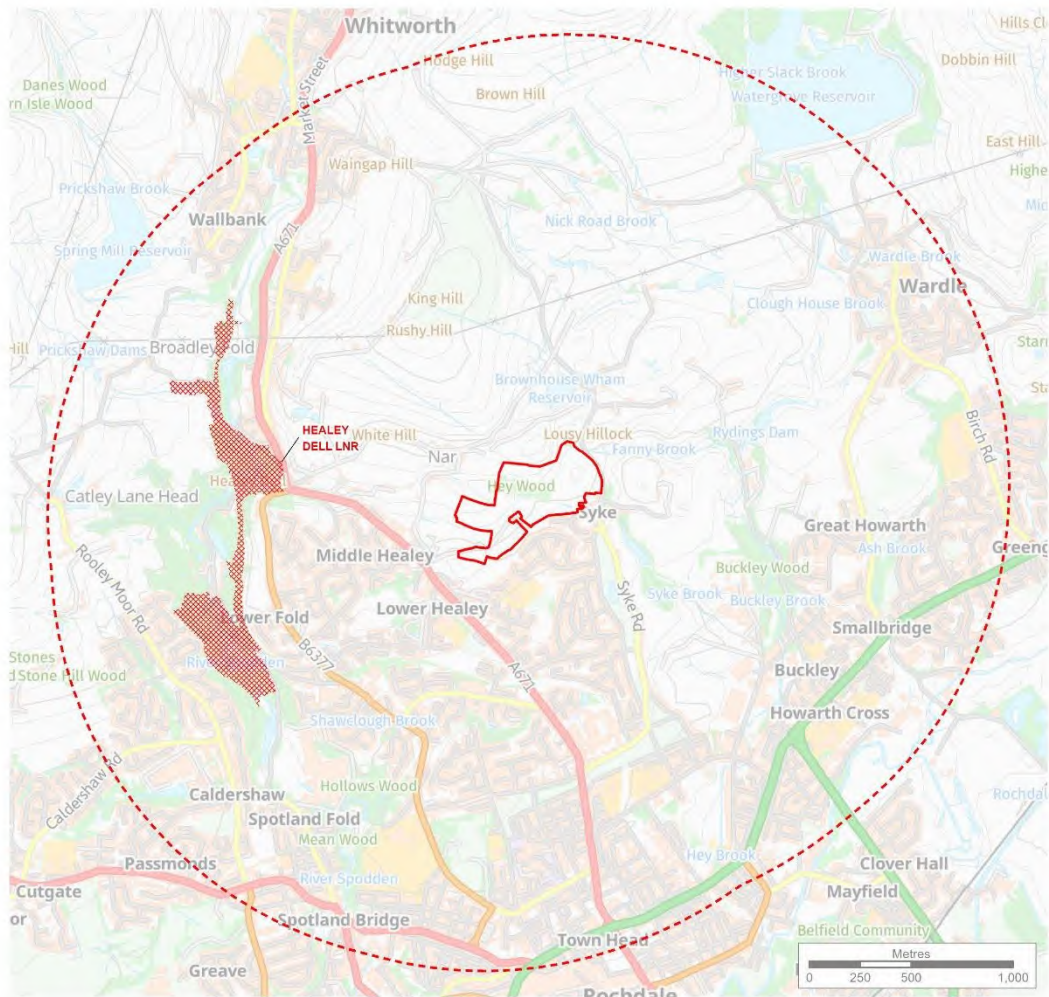
Key
 Site boundary
 Site boundary - 5km buffer
 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Sites searched for were as follows:
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - National Nature Reserve (NNR)
 - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP
 Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
 Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com
 Project
 Dewhirst Road, Rochdale

Title
Nationally Designated Sites Within a 5km Buffer
 Drawing Number
 G9995.003
 Scale
 1:60,000 @ A4
 Date
 30/06/2023
 Drawn
 SP
 Checked
 BJ
 Approved
 SB
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Figure 4: Nationally Designated sites within a 5km buffer



Key
 Site boundary
 Site boundary - 2km buffer
 Local Nature Reserve

Sites searched for were as follows:
 - Local Nature Reserves

**THE
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PARTNERSHIP**
 Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
 Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
 Dewhurst Road, Rochdale

Title
 Statutory Locally Designated Sites Within a
 2km Buffer

Drawing Number
 G9995.004

Scale
 1:25,000 @ A4

Date
 30/06/2023

Drawn
 SP

Checked
 BJ

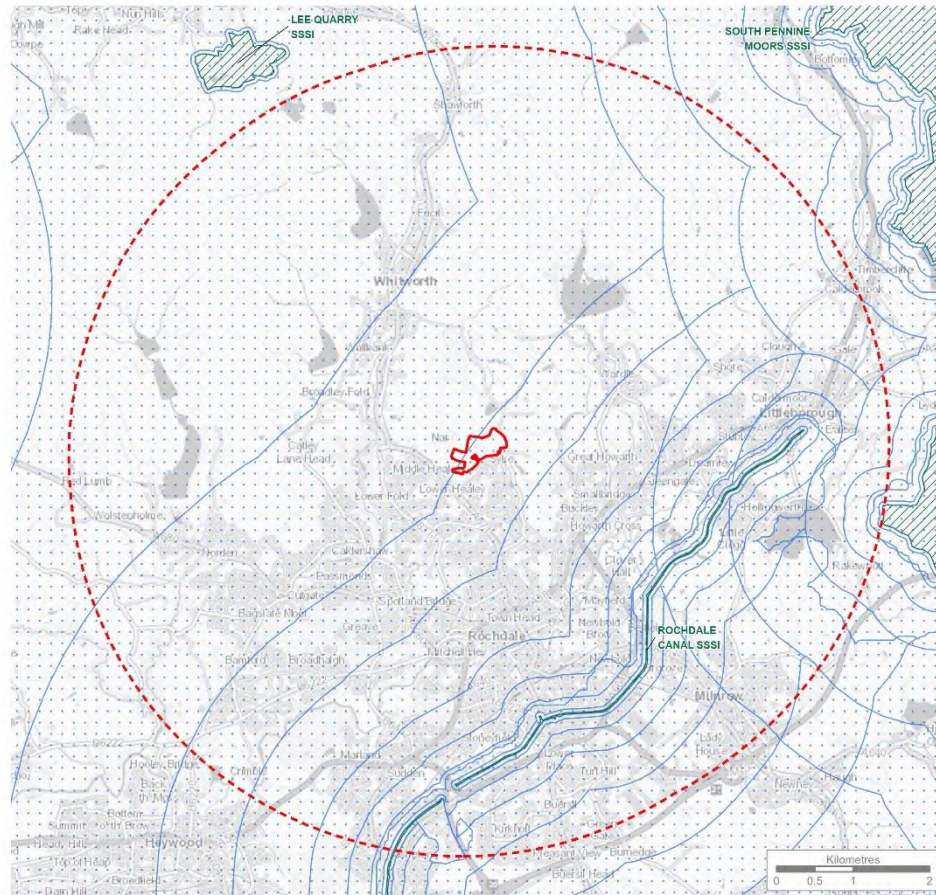
Approved
 SB

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Figure 5: Statutory Locally Designated sites within a 2km buffer

-
- 5.2 The Scheme lies within one SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) – these are zones determined by Natural England that identify likely impacts upon SSSIs, SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites that may result from planned development.
- 5.3 Figure 6 below illustrates and references the IRZs that overlap with the Scheme. The relevant IRZ and risk criteria are cross-referenced in Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023
- 5.4 Table 3.



Key

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 5km buffer
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest - Impact Risk Zone

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

General Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA5 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 | e-mail tep@tep.uk.com | www.tep.uk.com

Project
Dewhirst Road, Rochdale

Title
Sites of Special Scientific Interest - Impact Risk Zone

Drawing Number
G9995.006

Scale 1:60,000 @ A4		Date 30/06/2023
Drawn SP	Checked BJ	Approved SB

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Figure 6: SSSI Impact Risk Zones relevant to the Scheme (refer to Table 3 for IRZ criteria)

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Table 3: SSSI Impact Risk Zones crossed by the options

1. DOES PLANNING PROPOSAL FALL INTO ONE OR MORE OF THE CATEGORIES BELOW?

2. IF YES, CHECK THE CORRESPONDING DESCRIPTION(S) BELOW. LPA SHOULD CONSULT NATURAL ENGLAND ON LIKELY RISKS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

1 PROPOSAL	2 LPA SHOULD CONSULT NATURAL ENGLAND ON LIKELY RISKS FROM THE FOLLOWING:
Infrastructure	Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.
Minerals, Oil & Gas	Planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction.
Air Pollution	Planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction.
Combustion	General combustion processes >50MW energy input. Incl: energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis/gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration/ combustion.

GUIDANCE – How to use - https://magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/SSSI%20IRZ%20User%20Guidance%20MAGIC.pdf

Non-Statutory Wildlife Sites

- 5.5 Table 4 summarises the non-statutory locally designated wildlife sites identified within 2km of the Site (map provided in Figure 7 below). Distances are calculated between the closest points.

Table 4: Non-statutory local wildlife sites (information provided by GMEU)

Site Name	Status	Distance and Direction from Scheme	Key Interest Feature(s)
Buckley Wood Reservoir	SBI	250m south east	The larger southern basin dam was re-profiled in spring 1990. It is now almost completely covered by willow carr with small pockets of open water and marsh. The scrub is dominated by grey willow with goat willow and hawthorn. There are young trees of silver birch, ash and oak. The ground flora includes abundant broad buckler fern and Yorkshire fog. Coltsfoot, bramble, cocksfoot, bush vetch, bistort and honeysuckle are also present. The areas of marsh support bulrush, water horsetail, great hairy willowherb and greater birdsfoot trefoil. The bryophyte/lichen community recorded in 1990 from the eastern shoreline no longer appears to be present. The surrounding banks of the reservoir basin, above the original waterline, are covered with a mosaic of acid and neutral grassland. Some of the areas of neutral grassland are species rich. Species present include locally abundant devil's bit scabious and betony. Common knapweed, common sorrel, tufted vetch, meadow vetchling, wood horsetail, common birdsfoot trefoil, creeping cinquefoil and ziz-zag clover also occur. Grasses present include Yorkshire fog, wavy hair-grass, tufted hairgrass, red fescue, common bent and sweet vernal grass together with common sedge. In places these species-rich areas are being invaded by bramble. More acid areas support species such as mat grass, heath rush, hard fern, heath bedstraw, tormentil, bilberry, wavy hair-grass, foxglove and sheep's sorrel. Some areas of acid grassland are cattle grazed.
Water Grove Reservoir	SBI	2km north east	The reservoir is important for birds especially its breeding waders. In recent year's snipe, little ringed plover and common sandpiper have all bred or probably bred. Teal, great crested grebe, mallard, moorhen coot and Canada goose also breed. Numbers of wintering wildfowl vary with weather conditions, but species include teal, tufted duck, goosander and goldeneye. Oystercatcher, little grebe, ringed plover, dunlin, grey heron, widgeon, common gull, lesser black-backed gull and black headed gull are also recorded. The majority of the reservoir is surrounded by acid grassland, which is largely unimproved. Such grassland is a Greater Manchester Biodiversity Habitat. This grassland supports matt grass, wavy hair-grass, crested dogstail, sweet vernal grass and common bent. Herbs present include locally abundant heath bedstraw and occasional common bird's-foot trefoil, tormentil, wood horsetail,

Site Name	Status	Distance and Direction from Scheme	Key Interest Feature(s)
			harebell, bilberry, sneezewort, foxglove, yarrow and common sorrel. Ferns are relatively abundant, especially towards the northern end of the site where hard fern, lady fern, male fern and lemon-scented fern occur near the stream. There are also small patches of scattered ericaceous heath and scrub with gorse, broom and heather. Some non-native heather plants have been introduced. There are areas of coarser vegetation including Yorkshire fog, cock's-foot, false oat grass, mugwort and rosebay willowherb. Bracken is dominant in small areas in the west of the site.

Table 5: Non-statutory local wildlife sites (information provided by LERN)

Site Name	Status	Distance and Direction from Scheme	Key Interest Feature(s)
Hamer Pasture Reservoir	IWS (ref: 63)	Adjacent to the site	This site comprises a disused reservoir. The site is located in the south east of Rossendale abutting the Rochdale borough boundary. It connects to the "Hamer Pasture Reservoir" SBI in Rochdale and the "Rushy Hill" BHS in Rossendale. Species-rich fen vegetation has become established in the reservoir, which varies across the site from rush dominated marshy areas to pockets of drier vegetation typical of heathland communities. Species include dominant soft rush with frequent marsh thistle and locally abundant marsh pennywort and yellow sedge. Common sorrel, marsh violet, sweet vernal grass, heath rush, heath bedstraw, heather, bulbous rush are all locally frequent with a wide range of species occurring occasionally including lesser spearwort, oval sedge, rosebay willowherb, marsh willowherb and great willowherb, wavy hair-grass, Yorkshire fog, creeping soft-grass, tufted hair-grass, broad buckler and lady ferns, crowberry and hare's-tail cotton-grass. A diverse range of mosses is present including <i>Sphagnum recurvum</i> , <i>S. squarrosum</i> , <i>S. palustre</i> , <i>S. auriculatum</i> , <i>S. fimbriatum</i> , <i>S. sub-nitens</i> , <i>Aulacomnium palustre</i> , <i>Polytrichum commune</i> , <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> , <i>Dicranella palustris</i> and <i>Philonotis fontana</i> . The draw down zone is dominated by wavy hair-grass and other species typical of dry acid grassland.
Rushy Hill	IWS (ref: 62)	120m north west	The site comprises of heathland, acid and marshy grassland and areas of remnant blanket bog. At the high point there is an area of relict blanket bog. Here it is dominated by purple moor-grass with frequent common cotton-grass, wavy hair grass and occasionally cowberry and bilberry. Mat grass, common bent and sweet vernal occur occasionally. Cranberry occurred rarely across the site but is locally frequent. Wetter areas are marked by locally frequent common cotton grass, cranberry, heath rush, purple moor-grass and rarely occurring hare's-tail cotton grass. Bog asphodel occurs frequently with dominant carpets of <i>Sphagnum</i> moss.

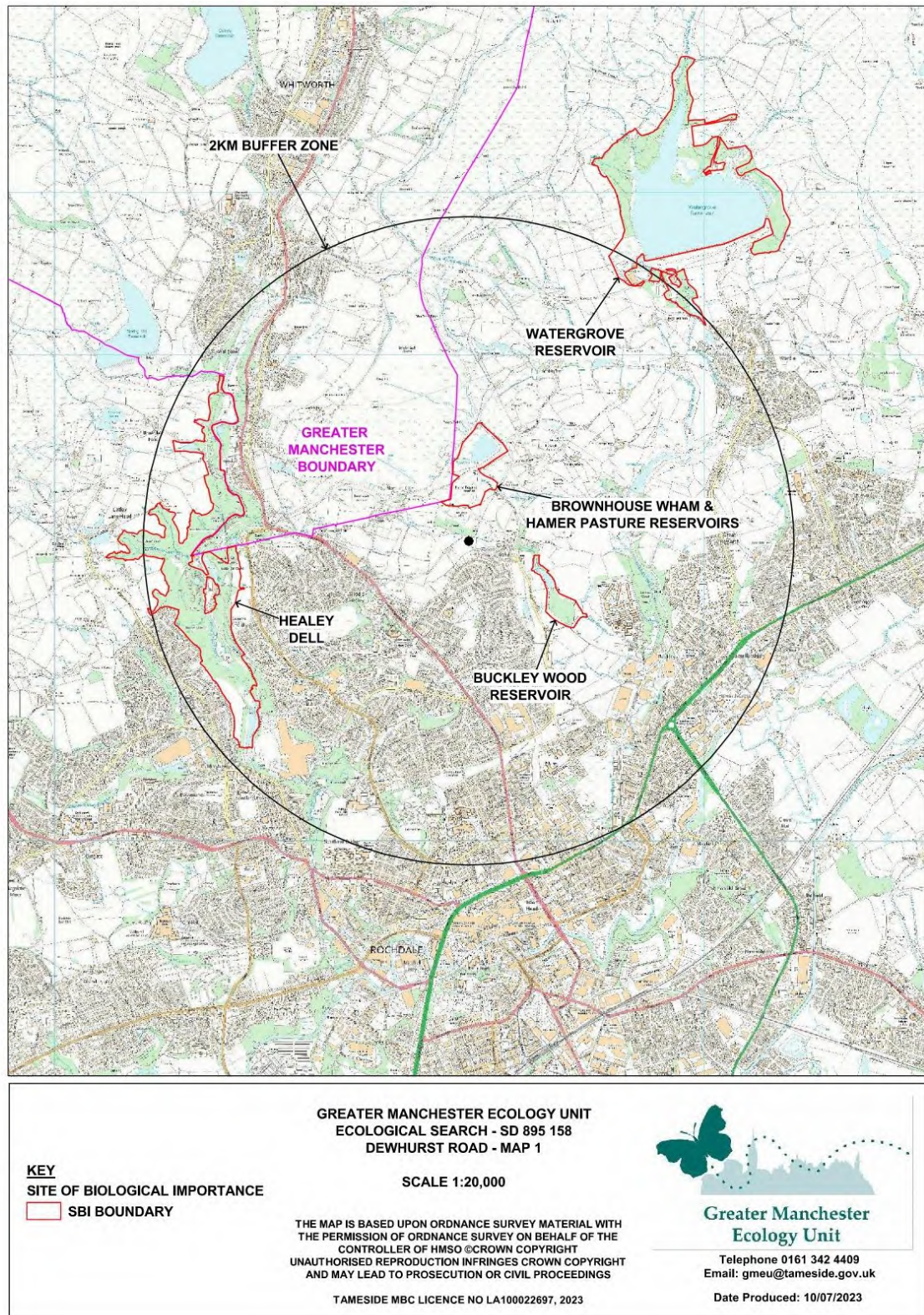


Figure 7: Non-statutory wildlife sites within 2km of the site (map provided by GMEU)

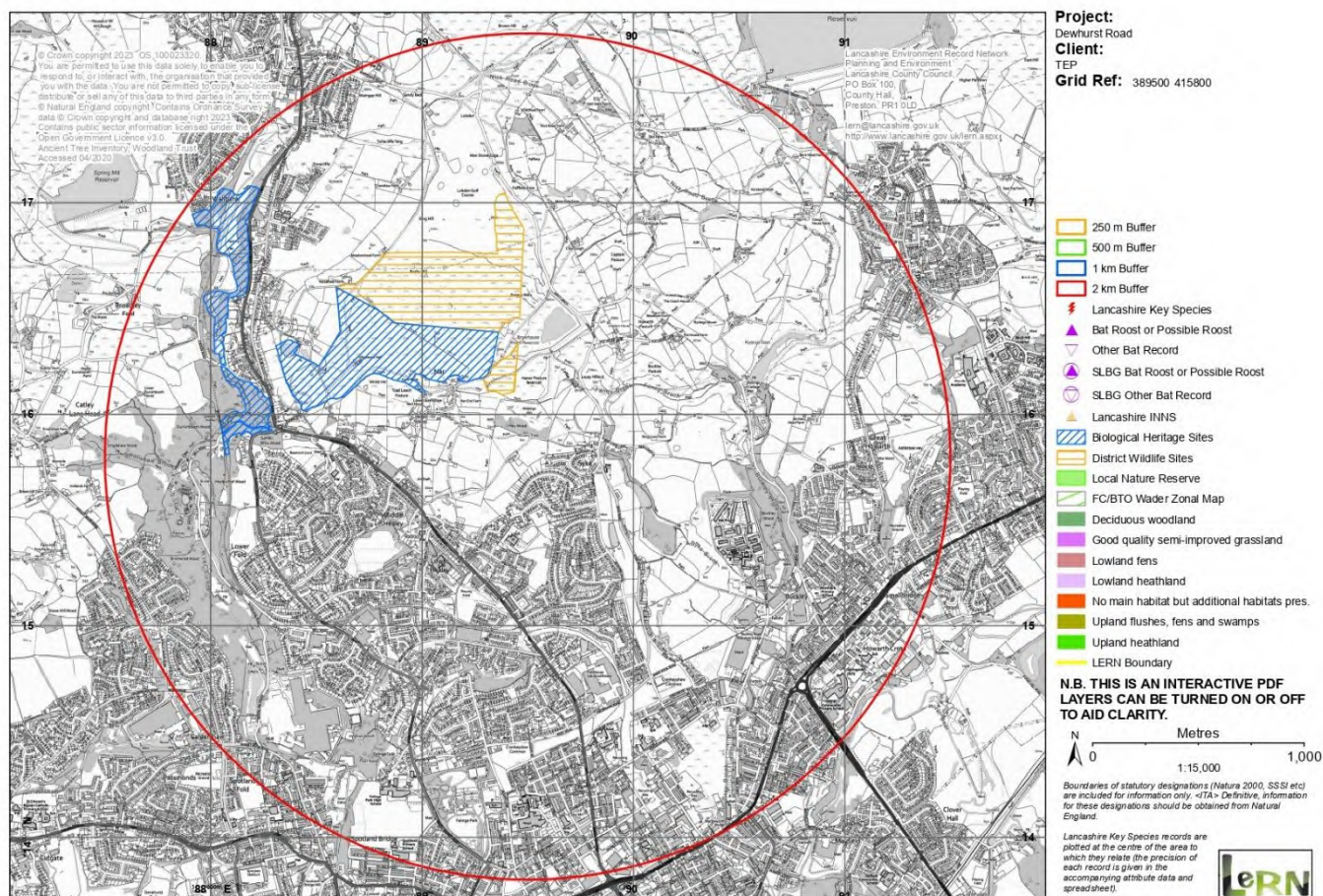


Figure 8: Non-statutory wildlife sites within 2km of the site (map provided by LERN)

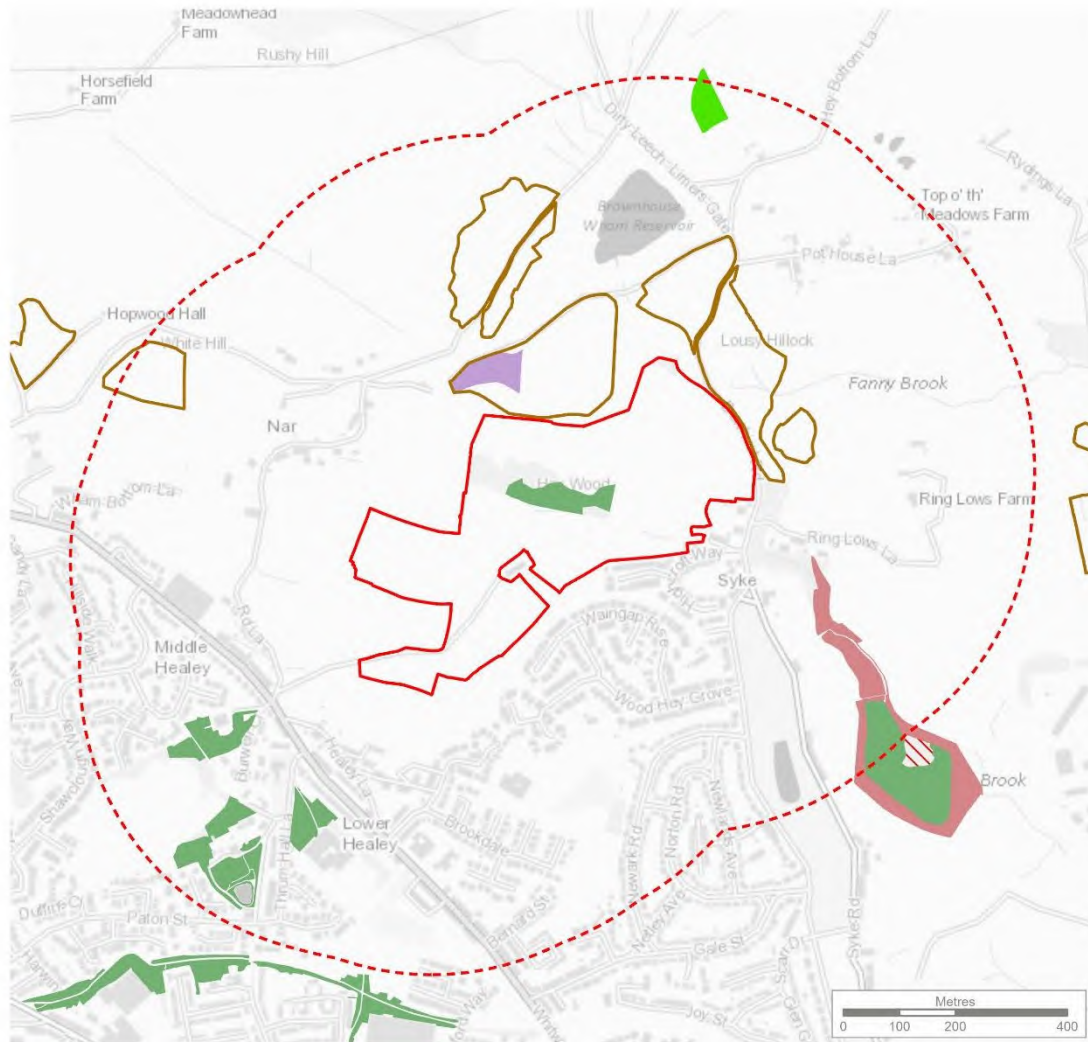
6.0 Notable Habitats

Ancient Woodland

- 6.1 There are no ancient woodlands present within the Site boundary nor within a 500m buffer of the Site, see Figure 8.

Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI)

- 6.2 There is one habitat of principal importance present within the site (Figure 8):
- Deciduous woodland (S41).
- 6.3 Areas of open mosaic, upland heathland, upland flushes, fens and swamps, lowland fens and no main habitat but additional habitats are present.
- 6.4 None of the priority habitats present on and adjacent to the site are listed under the GM BAP or the LBAP.



- Key**
- Site boundary
 - Site boundary - 500m buffer
 - Deciduous woodland
 - Lowland fens
 - Upland flushes, fens, and swamps
 - Upland heathland
 - No main habitat but additional habitats present
 - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land

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Project
Dewhirst Road, Rochdale

Title
Notable Habitats Within and Adjacent to the Site

Drawing Number
G9995.005

Scale 1:9,500 @ A4	Date 30/06/2023
Drawn SP	Checked BJ
Approved SB	

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Figure 9: Notable habitats within 500m buffer of the site

7.0 Protected and Notable Species

Protected Species Licences

- 7.1 A review of Natural England's open datasets for granted protected species licences did not return any class licence returns or pond survey data for great crested newts between 2017 and 2019 within 2km of the Scheme.
- 7.2 Two Natural England mitigation licence was identified within 2km of the Scheme.

Species	Species Licence	Dates	Impact on Breeding Site
Common Pipistrelle - Bat	2016-19740-EPS-MIT-1	01/04/2016 – 31/03/2021	Allow destruction to resting place
Common Pipistrelle - Bat	2016-19740-EPS-MIT-2	20/06/2016 – 01/04/2021	Allow destruction to resting place

Pre-existing Species Records

- 7.3 Identified using the Local Environmental Record Centre³⁴ map, the site is located within a 2km buffer of two separate Local Record Centres (LRCs). A species search has been completed by both LRCs. Numerous species records were returned from both the Lancashire Environment Record Centre (LERN) and the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) for within 2km of the Scheme. Table 5, summaries species records returned by GMEU and Table 6, summaries species records returned by LERN.

Table 6: Summary of pre-existing species records returned by GMEU records centre

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relevant Legislation / Status (as assigned by GMEU records centre)	Number of records (if provided)	Nearest record relevance
Amphibians				
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Great Crested Newt	EPS(Sch2), WCA5, S41	5	1.62km Northeast
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	WCA5, S41	3	1.1km Northwest
Birds				
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch	S41, BAm	132	1.3km West
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuckoo	S41, BRd	3	0.9km North
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	S41, BAm	334	1.3km West
<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Grasshopper Warbler	S41, BRd	2	0.4km Southeast

³⁴ <https://www.alerc.org.uk/lerc-finder.html> [Accessed 05/07/2023]

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relevant Legislation / Status (as assigned by GMEU records centre)	Number of records (if provided)	Nearest record relevance
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	n/a	2	1.3km West
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey Partridge	S41, BRd	2	0.7km East
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	S41, BRd	2	1.1km East
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Hobby	WCA1.1	1	1km East
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	S41, BRd	349	1.4km West
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kinfisher	WCA1.1	19	1.3km West
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	S41, BRd	21	0.5km South
<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Lesser Redpoll	S41, BRd	9	1.4km Northwest
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet	S41	24	0.5km
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine	WCA1.1	2	1.4km Northwest
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting	S41, BAm	28	1.3km West
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	S41, BRd	14	1.4km West
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	S41, BAm	119	1.4km West
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Spotted Flycatcher	EPS(Sch2), WCA5, S41	3	0.9km North
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	S41, BRd	333	1.5km Northwest
Flowering plants				
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	WCA13	3	1.1km East
Terrestrial Mammals – excluding Bats				
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Brown Hare	S41	1	0.4km North
<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	Feral Ferret	n/a	1	1km Northwest
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Otter	EPS(Sch2), WCA5, S41	2	1.2km South
Bats				
n/a	Bat sp	n/a	3	0.4km South
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Common pipistrelle	EPS(Sch2), WCA5	87	1km East
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Daubentons Bat	EPS(Sch2), WCA5	15	1.1km West
n/a	Myotis sp	n/a	1	1.2km South
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule Bat	EPS(Sch2), WCA5, S41	8	1.4km West
n/a	Pipistrelle sp	n/a	64	1.4km West

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relevant Legislation / Status (as assigned by GMEU records centre)	Number of records (if provided)	Nearest record relevance
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Soprano pipistrelle	EPS(Sch2), WCA5, S41	5	1.2km West
Bony Fish				
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Brown Trout	n/a	3	1.2km West
Invertebrates				
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	S41	7	1.2km West
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	S41	29	0.2km North
<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall	S41	27	1.4km Northwest
<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	White Ermine	S41	1	1.5km West
<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>	White-letter Hairstreak	WCA5, S41, GB RDB(EN)	3	1.6km Northwest

Table 7: Summary of pre-existing species records returned by LERN records centre

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relevant Legislation / Status (as assigned by GMEU records centre)	Number of records (if provided)	Nearest record relevance
Amphibians				
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common Frog	WCA5 – only inc in Appendix	2	1.7km
Birds				
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk	BAm	1	1.5km
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	S41, BRd, LBAP	1	590m
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher	WCA1.1	1	1.6km
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	BAm	1	1.6km
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit	BAm	2	380m
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	BRd	2	1.7km
<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Greenfinch	BRd	2	1.6km
<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Dipper	BAm	4	1.5km
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House Martin	BRd	2	270m
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting	S41, BAm, LBAP	2	270m
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	BAm	2	1.5km
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Snipe	BAm	5	1.5km
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen	BAm	2	1.6km

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relevant Legislation / Status (as assigned by GMEU records centre)	Number of records (if provided)	Nearest record relevance
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Linnet	S41, BRd	2	220m
<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	Twite	S41, LBAP	2	230m
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail	BAm	3	1.4km
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Curlew	S41, BRd	1	1.5km
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Wheatear	BAm	2	1.5km
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	S41, BRd	1	1.5km
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey Partridge	S41, BRd	3	1.5km
<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Wood Warbler	S41, BRd	8	1.5km
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	S41, BAm	1	1.5km
<i>Pyrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch	S41, BAm	2	1.5km
<i>Strix aluco</i>	Tawny Owl	BAm	2	1.5km
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	S41, BRd	1	1.5km
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	S41, BAm, LBAP	1	1.5km
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	BRd	2	1.5km
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	S41, BRd, LBAP	6	220m
Flowering Plant				
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking Chamomile	GB RDB(VU), ENG BSBI RDB(VU), NS	1	1.8km
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	GB RDB(VU), ENG BSBI RDB(VU)	3	2km
<i>Hieracium diaphanum</i>	Petite-leaved Hawkweed	NR	2	1.5km
<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	Water-violet	ENG, BSBI, RDB(VU)	4	1.7km
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	WCA8 – only inc in Appendix	24	1.7km
<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	Welsh Poppy	NS	4	1.8km
Terrestrial Mammals – excluding Bats				
<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	European Water Vole	WCA5, S41, LBAP	3	1.5km
<i>Pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle Bat species	EPS(Sch2), WCA5	1	2km
Bats				

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relevant Legislation / Status (as assigned by GMEU records centre)	Number of records (if provided)	Nearest record relevance
<i>Pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle Bat species	EPS(Sch2), WCA5	1	1.6km
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato</i>	Pipistrelle	EPS(Sch2), WCA5	2	2km
<i>Chiroptera</i>	Bats	EPS(Sch2), LBAP	2	1.4km
Bony Fish				
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Brown/Sea Trout	S41	2	1.6km
Invertebrates				
<i>Agrochola litura</i>	Brown-spot Pinion	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i>	Green-brindled Crescent	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	Ear Moth	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	Mouse Moth	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Dusky Brocade	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Cirrhia icteritia</i>	Sallow	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Small Square-spot	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Small Phoenix	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Entephria caesiata</i>	Grey Mountain Carpet	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Autumnal Rustic	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Eulithis mellinata</i>	Spinach	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Rosy Rustic	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Leucania comma</i>	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Litoligia literosa</i>	Rosy Minor	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	Dot Moth	S41	1	1.5km
<i>Tholera cespitis</i>	Hedge Rustic	S41	1	1.8km
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	S41	3	1.1km
<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	S41	1	2km

Annex A

Key Ecological Legislation and National Policy

Relevant Legislation

International Conventions

- A.1 The UK is a Contracting Party to numerous environmental conventions, the commonest form of international agreements to encourage a coordinated response to managing the environment. Key environmental conventions ratified in the UK include:
- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat ('Ramsar Convention'³⁵ or 'Wetlands Convention') - provides the only international mechanism for protecting sites of global importance;
 - The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention³⁶) - imposes legal obligations on contracting parties, protecting over 500 wild plant species and more than 1,000 wild animal species;
 - The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention³⁷ or CMS) - provides strict protection for endangered migratory species. The UK has currently ratified four legally binding Agreements under the convention relating to bats (EUROBATS), African-Eurasian migratory birds (AEWA), small cetaceans in the Baltic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and albatrosses and petrels (ACAP) in addition to five Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and is non-party range state to a further Agreement and a further MoU;
 - The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO World Heritage Convention) - seeks to protect both cultural and natural heritage;
 - The Convention on Biological Diversity (Biodiversity Convention³⁸ or CBD) - provides a legal framework for biodiversity conservation. Within the UK, delivery of the CBD and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020³⁹ is guided by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework⁴⁰.
- A.2 The legal obligations of the multiple Conventions to which the UK is a Contracting Party are enacted through a suite of national environmental legislation. The most relevant are described in the following paragraphs.

³⁵ Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ramsar, 2.2.1971 <https://www.ramsar.org/>

³⁶ Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Bern, 1979 <https://www.coe.int/>

³⁷ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn, June 1979 <https://www.cms.int/>

³⁸ Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro, June 1992 <https://www.cbd.int/>

³⁹ In October 2010, at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan, the Parties adopted a new 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020' along with its 20 'Aichi targets'. <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

⁴⁰ The framework is overseen by the Environment Departments of the four UK governments working through the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group. It demonstrates how the UK, through each of the four countries, contributes to achieving the 'Aichi targets', and identifies the activities required to complement the individual country biodiversity strategies <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-post-2010-biodiversity-framework/>

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations

- A.3 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017⁴¹ (2017 Regulations) transposed the land and marine aspects of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and certain elements of the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) (known as the Nature Directives) into domestic law.
- A.4 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019⁴² (2019 Regulations) amends the 2017 Regulations to make them operable following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (EU). Most of the changes involve transferral of functions from European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales, also extending to Scotland and Northern Ireland and applies to Scotland and Northern Ireland (including the adjacent territorial sea to a limited degree), as regards reserved and excepted matters respectively. It also amends Section 27 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to maintain existing protections and enforcement for species of wild birds.
- A.5 All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing guidance and obligations (of a competent authority) remain relevant.

National Site Network

- A.6 Under the 2019 Regulations, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) in the UK no longer form part of the EU's 'Natura 2000' ecological network, but instead (along with new SACs and SPAs designated under the 2019 Regulations) form the new National Site Network (NSN). Ramsar sites¹⁰ do not form part of the NSN but remain protected in the same way as SACs and SPAs.
- A.7 Proposals which may significantly affect a site belonging to the NSN and which are not connected with or necessary to the management of that site require (by Regulations 63 and 64 of the 2017 Regulations, as amended by Regulations 24 and 25 of the 2019 Regulations, respectively) competent authorities to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the plan or project in view of that site's conservation objectives. This process is commonly referred to as a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA). The assessment must consider the potential effects both of the plan/project itself and in combination with other plans or projects. Where an adverse effect on the site's integrity cannot be ruled out, and where there are no alternative solutions, the plan or project can only proceed if there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest (IROPI) and if the necessary compensatory measures can be secured.

Protected Species

- A.8 Certain animals and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under Regulation 43 of the 2017 Regulations, which makes it illegal to:

⁴¹ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/1012) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/>

⁴² Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/579) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/579/>

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal or to deliberately take or destroy the eggs of such an animal;
 - Deliberately disturb such an animal; and
 - Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.
- A.9 Disturbance is defined in the 2017 Regulations as an activity which is likely to impair a species' ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, to rear or nurture young or, in the case of animals hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate, migrate or which may significantly affect the local distribution or abundance; of the species.
- A.10 A bat's resting place is known as a roost site. Because bats tend to be faithful to roost sites, but their biology is such that different roost site characteristics are preferred at different times of the year by different species for different functions, a bat roost is considered to be afforded protection even when it is not occupied.
- A.11 Certain plant species are protected under Regulation 47 of the 2017 Regulations against deliberate picking, collecting, cutting, uprooting or destruction. It is also an offence to be in possession or control and to transport any live or dead plant or part of a plant of such a species which has been taken in the wild.
- A.12 The 2017 Regulations (Regulation 55) enables a relevant licensing body to grant a licence for certain activities that may affect animal or plant species protected by the above provisions. The purpose must conform to one of those listed under Regulation 55(2). For most development related activities, the purpose normally relates to Regulation 55(2)(e) 'preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequence of primary importance for the environment' – commonly known as the IROPI test. Regulation 55(9) introduces two further tests that the licensing body must consider:
- There is no satisfactory alternative; and
 - The favourable conservation status of the species concerned will be maintained and/or enhanced.
- A.13 Under Regulation 9(1) of the 2017 Regulations (as amended), competent authorities "must exercise their functions which are relevant to nature conservation... so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the Directives". Regulation 9(3) requires a competent authority, in exercising any of its function, to "have regard to the requirements of the Directives so far as they be affected by the exercise of those functions." Local planning authorities must therefore consider the above three 'tests' when determining if planning permission should be granted for developments likely to cause an offence under the Regulations.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

- A.14 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁴³ (WCA) is a major legal instrument for wildlife protection in the UK. In respect of habitats and flora, the WCA

⁴³ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 c. 69 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/>

protects important habitats and/or species as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The designation of UK Ramsar sites¹⁰ has usually been underpinned through prior notification of these areas as SSSI and accordingly they receive statutory protection under the WCA.

- A.15 The obligations of the Bern Convention¹¹ (the protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats) are transposed into law for England and Wales⁴⁴ by the WCA. The legal requirement for the protection of migratory species listed by the Bonn Convention¹² is also provided by the WCA.
- A.16 All wild birds (as defined by the WCA and with exception to species listed in Schedule 2) are protected under the WCA, which makes it illegal to:
- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
 - Take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) of any wild bird; or
 - Take or destroy the eggs of any wild bird.
- A.17 Special penalties are available for offences related to birds listed in Schedule 1, for which there are additional offences of disturbing these birds at their nests, or their dependent young. The Secretary of State may also designate Areas of Special Protection (subject to exceptions) to provide further protection to birds. The WCA also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking birds, restricts the sale and possession of captive bred birds, and sets standards for keeping birds in captivity.
- A.18 Certain animal species (listed under Schedule 5) of the WCA receive protection which makes it illegal (with certain exceptions) to:
- Intentionally kill, injure or take any such animal;
 - Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any such animal;
 - Intentionally or recklessly disturb such animals while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection.
- A.19 The Environment Act (EA) 2021 amends the licensing regime under Section 16 of the WCA 1981 to enable licences to be granted (in England only) for reasons of overriding public interest. This new purpose will enable those involved in development activities to apply for a derogation under the WCA for species domestically protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981.
- A.20 The amendments introduced by the EA 2021 at Section 16(3) requires that licensed may only be granted (in England) where:
- there is no other satisfactory solution, and
 - the grant of the licence is not detrimental to the survival of any population of the species of animal or plant to which the licence relates.

⁴⁴ In Scotland by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended) and in Northern Ireland by Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

- A.21 Plant species listed under Schedule 8 of the WCA 1981 are protected from unauthorised intentional picking, uprooting and destruction.
- A.22 It is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant that is included in Schedule 9.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

- A.23 Part III of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000⁴⁵ (CROW) deals specifically with wildlife protection and nature conservation. It requires that Government Departments have regard for the conservation of biodiversity, in accordance with the CBD. In addition, it requires that The Secretary of State publishes a list of living organisms and habitat types that are considered to be of principal importance in conserving biodiversity.
- A.24 CROW also amends the WCA, expanding the terms of offences to include reckless activity. It increases the legal protection of threatened species, by also making it an offence to “recklessly” obstruct access to a sheltering place used by an animal listed in Schedule 5 of the WCA or “recklessly” disturb an animal occupying such a structure or place.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

- A.25 Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC)⁴⁶ places a duty to conserve biodiversity on public authorities in England. It requires local authorities and government departments to have regard to the purposes of conserving biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with the exercise of their normal functions such as policy and decision-making. 'Conserving biodiversity' may include enhancing, restoring or protecting a population or a habitat.
- A.26 Section 41 requires the Secretary of State to publish and maintain lists of species and types of habitats which are regarded by Natural England to be of "principal importance" for the purposes of conserving biodiversity in England.
- A.27 These habitats and species of principal importance (HPI and SPI) are drawn from earlier lists of United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species and Habitats. The Section 41 (S41) lists of HPI and SPI are needed by decision-makers in local and regional authorities when carrying out their duties under Section 40 of the Act.

Environment Act 2021

- A.28 The Environment Act 2021⁴⁷ was passed into law in November 2021. The Act applies only to England, although many of its measures are designed to be operable across the UK with the consent of devolved administrations. The Act requires statutory long-term (15+ years) targets to be set (and monitored, reported and reviewed) in the four

⁴⁵ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 c. 37 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/>

⁴⁶ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 c. 16 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/>

⁴⁷ Environment Act 2021 c.30 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/>

priority areas of waste reduction, air quality, water resources and biodiversity as well as additional targets relating to species abundance and fine particulates by 2030.

- A.29 The Environment Act amends the Town and Country Planning Act 1990⁴⁸ in that planning permissions granted after the provisions come into force⁴⁹ are deemed to be subject to a condition prohibiting the start of development before a biodiversity gain plan has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA).
- A.30 The biodiversity gain plan must demonstrate a net gain of at least 10% in the biodiversity value of the development site “as at the time the development is completed”. Biodiversity net gain must be demonstrated by calculations using the biodiversity metric (currently version 3.1 published by Natural England)
- A.31 The Environment Act introduces Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), a new system of spatial strategies for nature, covering the whole of England. LNRS are to be prepared and published by the ‘responsible authority’, namely the local authority, mayoral authority or National Park authority whose area is, or is within, the strategy area, the Broads Authority or Natural England. Section 40 of the NERC Act (duty to conserve biodiversity) makes provision about the duties of public authorities in relation to LNRS.
- A.32 A ‘responsible authority’ is to be appointed to lead each LNRS area, which could include LPAs and which in mayoral combined authorities is highly likely to be the mayor. The responsible Authority must map the most valuable existing natural habitat in its area and develop a biodiversity strategy, including specific proposals for creating or improving habitats and priorities for nature recovery.
- A.33 In addition to the above, the Environment Act Part 6 (Nature and biodiversity) will also:
- Strengthen the biodiversity duty through amendments to Section 40 of the NERC Act.
 - Impose a duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling;
 - Strengthen woodland protection enforcement measures;
 - Introduce Conservation Covenants (agreements between a landowner and a responsible body);
 - Protected Site Strategies (prepared and published by Natural England) to improve the conservation and management of a protected site (including SACs, SPAs listed before exit day, Sites of Community Importance (SCI)⁵⁰ listed before exit day and those sites proposed before exit day as SACs).
 - Species Conservation Strategies (prepared and published by Natural England) to improve the conservation status of any species of flora or fauna, with which a LPA in England and any prescribed authority must have regard so far as relevant to its functions, including when discharging its duties under the 2017 Regulations (as amended);

⁴⁸ Town and Country Planning Act 1990 c. 8 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/>

⁴⁹ The Biodiversity Gain provision of the Environment Act requires the Secretary of State to first publish detailed regulations (see s147(3) of the Act). These are anticipated in November 2023.

⁵⁰ SCIs are established under the European Union Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and are (under the Habitats Directive) the pre-requisite step for establishing SACs and SPAs.

- Prohibit larger UK businesses from using commodities associated with wide-scale deforestation (where ‘forest’ is defined as “*an area of land of more than 0.5 hectares with a tree canopy cover of at least 10% (excluding trees planted for the purpose of producing timber or other commodities)*”, which includes “*land that is wholly or partly submerged in water whether temporarily or permanently*”);
- Require regulated businesses to establish a system of due diligence for each regulated commodity used in their supply chain, requires regulated businesses to report on their due diligence, introduces a due diligence enforcement system.

Hedgerow Regulations 1997

- A.34 Important hedgerows are protected from removal by the Hedgerows Regulations⁵¹ (as amended). Regulation 3 defines the hedgerows to which the Regulations apply. Regulation 4 sets out the criteria for identifying “important hedgerows” including ecological, landscape or historical/cultural reasons. Under the Hedgerow Regulations it is against the law to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the local planning authority. Works to “important hedgerows” are exempt under the Hedgerow Regulations if planning consent is granted which allows their removal.
- A.35 The identification of important hedgerows also provides an additional means to value hedgerows aside from their botanical value (e.g. species richness) as the assessment of importance also includes characteristics relating to maturity and structure (e.g. associated features, connectivity, integrity) which will affect the functional value of the hedgerow.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

- A.36 Badgers and their setts receive statutory protection under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (PBA)⁵². This makes it an offence to wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or to attempt to do so; or to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett.
- A.37 Sett interference includes disturbing badgers whilst they are occupying a sett, as well as damaging or destroying a sett or obstructing access to it. A badger sett is defined in the legislation as “any structure or place, which displays signs indicating current use by a badger.”

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

- A.38 All UK wild mammals are afforded a degree of protection from certain cruel acts. The Act is intended to preserve animal welfare more so than nature conservation. The Act makes it an offence to use a variety of methods to intentionally cause suffering to a wild mammal. It also has exemptions including in relation to euthanasia and otherwise lawful use of certain methods of killing.

⁵¹ The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (SI 1997/1167) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/>

⁵² Protection of Badgers Act 1992 c. 51 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/>

Relevant National Policy

National Planning Policy Framework

- A.39 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF21)⁵³ sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied at a local level in development plans and how developers should address them. The Framework places great emphasis on plans and developments contributing to sustainable development.
- A.40 Relating to the planning and delivery of large-scale developments, Paragraph 22 requires that a vision should look at least 30 years ahead. Paragraph 73 identifies a number of considerations to help guide such large-scale proposals including consideration of opportunities presented by the scope for net environmental gains, ensuring sustainable communities, quality of places, rates of delivery and establishment of Green Belt around or adjoining new developments of significant size.
- A.41 Paragraph 174 requires that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- 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);
 - 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;
 - maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
 - minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
 - preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
 - remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.
- A.42 Paragraph 180 requires local planning authorities to apply the following principles when determining planning applications:
- if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

⁵³ National Planning Policy Framework (2021) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
www.gov.uk/government/publications

- development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
 - development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and;
 - development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.”
- A.43 Paragraph 181 stipulates that the following should be given the same protection as habitats sites⁵⁴:
- potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
 - listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
 - sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.
- A.44 Paragraph 182 confirms the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

Government Circular 06/2005

- A.45 Government Circular 06/2005⁵⁵ remains pertinent in national policy even though PPS9, which it originally supported, was revoked by the NPPF.
- A.46 The Circular outlines the legislative provisions relating to biodiversity and geological conservation which affect planning and development. The Circular provides guidance on the protection of designated international and national nature conservation sites, non-designated sites, the conservation of species, and advice on the related issues and statutory powers.
- A.47 Paragraphs 123 and 124 of Part IV of Circular 06/2005 state that “the likelihood of disturbing a badger sett, or adversely affecting badgers’ foraging territory, or links

⁵⁴ Defined by NPPF21 as “Any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites”.

⁵⁵ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) ‘Government Circular: Geological and Biological Conservation – Statutory obligations and their implications within the planning system’ ODPM circular 06/2005, DEFRA circular 01/2005 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7692/147570.pdf

between them, or significantly increasing the likelihood of road or rail casualties amongst badger populations, are capable of being material considerations in planning decisions. Although consideration of the case for granting a licence is separate from the process of applying for planning permission, a planning authority should advise anyone submitting an application for development in an area where there are known to be badger setts that they must comply with the provisions of the Act”.



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APPENDIX B: July 2023 Survey - Target Notes

Dewhurst Road - Target Notes Report

Survey Visit 2 – July 2023

Target Note F1

Semi-improved acid grassland grazed by horses. More improved than other parts of the site.

<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	A
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	F
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	F
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	F
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	F
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	O
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescue	O
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	O
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	O
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	O
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	R
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	R

Target Note F2

Area of less improved acid semi-improved grassland with rocky outcrops. Heavily grazed.

<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	D
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	A
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	A
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	F
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	F
<i>Moss sp.</i>	Moss species	F
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Mat-grass	F
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	F
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	F
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	F
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	F
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	F
<i>Avenella flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair-grass	O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	O
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescue	O
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	O
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	O
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	O
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass	O
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	O
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	O
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	R
<i>Euphrasia sp.</i>	Eyebright species	R
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	R
<i>Juncus squarrosus</i>	Heath Rush	R
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	R
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	R

KEY - D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

Target Note F3

Heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland.

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	A
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	A
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	A
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	A
<i>Moss sp.</i>	Moss species	F
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	O
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	O
<i>Euphrasia sp.</i>	Eyebright species	R
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	R
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	R
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	R
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	R

Target Note F4

Heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland.

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	A
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	A
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	A
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	A
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	F
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	F
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	F
<i>Moss sp.</i>	Moss species	F
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Mat-grass	F
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	F
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	F
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	F
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	O
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	O
<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Changing Forget-me-not	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern	R
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	R
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	R
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	R

Target Note F5

Heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland.

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	A
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	A
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	A
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	A
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	F

KEY - D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	F
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	F
Moss sp.	Moss species	F
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Mat-grass	F
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	F
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	F
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	F
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	O
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	O
<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Changing Forget-me-not	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern	R
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	R
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	R
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	R

Target Note F6

Steeper and less heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland.

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	A
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A
Moss sp.	Moss species	A
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	F
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	F
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	F
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass	F
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Mat-grass	F
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	F
<i>Avenella flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair-grass	O
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	O
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescue	O
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	O
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	O
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	O
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield-fern	O
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Oak species	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	O
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	O
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	O
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern	R
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	R
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern	R
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb	R
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	R
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	R

Target Note F7

Heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland.

<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	A
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	F
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	F
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	O

KEY - D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

<i>Moss sp.</i>	Moss species	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	O
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	O
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	O
<i>Avenella flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair-grass	R
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	R
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	R

Target Note F8

Heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland.

<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	A
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	F
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	F
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	O
<i>Moss sp.</i>	Moss species	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	O
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	O
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	O
<i>Avenella flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair-grass	R
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	R
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	R

Target Note F9

Steeper and less heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland. Same species as F6.

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	A
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A
<i>Moss sp.</i>	Moss species	A
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	F
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	F
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	F
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass	F
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Mat-grass	F
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	F
<i>Avenella flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair-grass	O
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	O
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescue	O
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	O
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	O
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	O
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield-fern	O
<i>Quercus sp.</i>	Oak species	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	O
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	O
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern	R
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	R
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern	R
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb	R
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	R
<i>Rosa canina agg.</i>	Dog Rose	R

Target Note F10

Grazed semi-improved acid grassland.

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	A
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KEY - D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	F
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	F
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	F
<i>Moss sp.</i>	Moss species	F
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	F
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	F
<i>Avenella flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair-grass	O
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescue	O
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	O
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	O
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	O
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	O
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	O
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	False Fox-sedge	R
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	R
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Marsh Willowherb	R
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	R
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	Water-pepper	R
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	R

Target Note F11

Heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland.

<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	A
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	A
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	F
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	F
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	O
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	O
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	O
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	O
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	O
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	Dandelion	R

Target Note F12

Semi-improved acid grassland that is very heavily grazed by sheep and rabbits.

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	A
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	A
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	A
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	A
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	F
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	F
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	F
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	O
<i>Carex sp.</i>	Sedge species	R
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	R
<i>Euphrasia sp.</i>	Eyebright species	R

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<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	R
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	R

Target Note F13

Area of heavily grazed semi-improved neutral grassland with areas of tall ruderal and scattered hawthorn scrub.

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	A
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	A
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	A
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Knapweed	F
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	F
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	F
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	O
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	O
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	O
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	O
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	O
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	O
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	O
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass	O
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	O
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	R
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	R
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	R
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp.	Eyebright species	R
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	R
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	R
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	R

Target Note F14

Area of ungrazed semi-improved neutral grassland with scattered hawthorn scrub.

<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	A
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	A
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Sedge species	F
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	F
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	F
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	F
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	F
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	O
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	O
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	O
<i>Carex nigra</i>	Common Sedge	O
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	O
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	O
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	O
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	O
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	O
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	O
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	R
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	R
<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.	Cotoneaster species	R
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	R
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	R
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Japanese Rose	R
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	R

KEY - D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

Target Note F15

Area of semi-improved neutral grassland. There is evidence of previous grazing but the area was ungrazed at the time of survey.

<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	A
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	A
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	A
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	F
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	F
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	F
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	F
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	F
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	O
<i>Carex sp.</i>	Sedge species	O
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	O
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	O
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	O
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	O
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	O
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	O
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	O
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	R
<i>Bistorta officinalis</i>	Bistort	R
<i>Carex nigra</i>	Common Sedge	R
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Knapweed	R
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	R
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	R
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	R
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	R
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	R
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	R
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	Dandelion	R
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	R
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	R

Target Note F16

Heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland. An area of rush-dominated marshy grassland is present within this parcel (target noted separately).

<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	A
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	F
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	F
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	F
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Moss sp.</i>	Moss species	O
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	R
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	R
<i>Lamium galeobdolon argentatum</i>	Variegated Archangel	R
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	R

Target Note F17

A very heavily grazed and poached horse paddock. Species-poor semi-improved grassland.

<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	A
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	F

KEY - D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	O
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Common Ragwort	O
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	O
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	O

Target Note F18

Heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland.

<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	A
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	F
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	F
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	F
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	F
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	O
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Moss sp.</i>	Moss species	O
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	R

APPENDIX C: Statutory Metric Condition Assessment

Site Name: Dewhirst Road Habitat Bank
Metric Version: Statutory Metric
Date of Survey:
Surveyor:

Habitats			Criteria											
Habitat Reference	UK Habitat Classification	Condition	A	B	C	D	E	Total	Essential Criteria	Enhancement Options	Target Condition	Baseline Units	Uplift	BU gained
F1	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock and bramble B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing.	Good	4.80	6.48	1.68
F2	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, marsh thistle, broad-leaved dock and bramble. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing.	Good	10.32	13.93	3.61
F3	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, marsh thistle, broad-leaved dock, nettle and bramble. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing.	Good	9.28	12.53	3.25
F4	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, marsh thistle, broad-leaved dock and bramble. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing.	Good	2.96	4.00	1.04
F5	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, marsh thistle, broad-leaved dock and bramble. Creeping buttercup and white clover are abundant in the sward here - cover could be monitored and managed if needed. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing	Good	2.00	2.70	0.70
F6	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Poor	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	2	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage bramble. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing. C: Reduce cover of bare ground - this may occur once grazing is removed, monitor and reseed using green hay from the field if required. Achieving all of the above will enable two levels of enhancement to good condition which is considered achievable.	Good	1.48	3.21	1.73
F7	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, marsh thistle. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing.	Good	5.68	7.67	1.99
F8	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, marsh thistle. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing.	Good	1.76	2.38	0.62

F9	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Poor	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	2	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage bramble. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing. C: Reduce cover of bare ground - this may occur once grazing is removed, monitor and reseed using green hay from the field if required. Achieving all of the above will enable two levels of enhancement to good condition which is considered achievable.	Good	8.52	18.51	9.99
F10	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage broad-leaved dock and bramble. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing.	Good	3.68	4.97	1.29
F11	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle. White clover is abundant in the sward here - cover could be monitored and managed if needed. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing.	Good	8.80	11.88	3.08
F12	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock, reduce scrub cover (hawthorn) to <5%, retaining some to increase structural diversity and niches for fauna to use. White clover is abundant in the sward here - cover could be monitored and managed if needed. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing. Remove Japanese knotweed from western boundary.	Good	21.36	28.84	7.48
F13	Grassland - Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	3	Fails criterion F for Good condition	Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing. D: Reduce scrub cover (hawthorn) to <5%, retaining some to increase structural diversity and niches for fauna to use. F: White clover is abundant in the sward here - cover could be monitored and managed if needed. F: It is likely species diversity will increase once grazing is removed/reduced, monitor and if further increase required, seed with forb species only mix and include yellow rattle.	Good	4.64	6.26	1.62

F14	Grassland - Other neutral grassland	Poor	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	2	Fails criterion A and F for Moderate/Good condition	A: Currently ungrazed; cut and scarify to encourage new growth. B: Create diverse sward height through targeted mowing. D: Reduce scrub cover (hawthorn) to <5%, retaining some to increase structural diversity and niches for fauna to use. E: Remove/manage creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock, curled dock. Remove Japanese rose and Cotoneaster sp. from north, south and eastern boundaries. F: It is likely species diversity will increase once the sward is opened up, monitor and if further increase required, seed with forb species only mix and include yellow rattle. It is anticipated that criteria A, D and E can be passed relatively easily in order to achieve Moderate condition.	Moderate	2.36	4.01	1.65
F15	Grassland - Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	2	Fails criterion F for Good condition	B: Create diverse sward height through targeted mowing. E: Currently ungrazed with abundant creeping thistle; cut and scarify to encourage new growth. Remove/manage creeping thistle, marsh thistle, nettle, great willowherb, curled dock, broad-leaved dock . F: It is likely species diversity will increase once the sward is opened up, monitor and if further increase required, seed with forb species only mix and include yellow rattle.	Good	11.92	16.09	4.17
F16	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Poor	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	2	n/a	A: Remove grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock. In order to be clearly identified as acid grassland, green hay from one of the other field parcels can be strewn to help develop recognisable species assemblage. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing. E: Remove variegated archangel from southern boundary. One level of enhancement to moderate condition is targeted, but monitoring could determine if good condition can be achieved in the future for all the above.	Moderate	4.72	8.03	3.31
F17	Grassland - Modified grassland	Poor	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	5	Fails essential criterion A for Moderate/Good condition	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage broad-leaved dock and ragwort, B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing. A and F: It is likely species diversity will increase once grazing is stopped, in addition in order to further increase grass and forb diversity, scarify and seed with wildflower meadow seed mix which includes yellow rattle. Targeted to enhance to 'other neutral grassland' in moderate condition.	Other neutral grassland - Moderate	1.18	3.66	2.48

TN7	F18	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Moderate	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	n/a	A: Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock. In this parcel, in order to be clearly identified as acid grassland, green hay from one of the other field parcels can be strewn to help develop recognisable species assemblage. B: create diverse sward height through targeted mowing.	Good	4.80	6.48	1.68
	F20	Grassland - Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	3	Fails criterion F for Good condition	This parcel falls within F16. Remove/reduce grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), mowing may not be appropriate because comprises dense rushes, although consider thinning out so other species can establish and increase diversity. It is unlikely however, that criterion F could be met for this small area of marshy grassland and therefore it will remain at moderate condition.	Moderate	1.04		
	W1	Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved	Poor	1	2	3	1	2	19	n/a	A - planting of saplings/whips will increase age classes (score 2) B - remove grazing pressure (score 3) C - (score remains 3) D - introduce at least five native species (score 3) E - increased native species cover with native species planting (score 3) F - planting and regeneration will reduce open space (score 2) G - removal of grazing will allow regeneration - monitor for deer/rabbit grazing (score 2) H - (score remains 3) I - plant with woodland indicators suitable for soil conditions e.g. bluebell, wood sorrel, wavy hair-grass, great wood-rush. (score 2) J - plant a shrub layer will increase to two storeys e.g. with hazel, rowan (score 2) K - no veteran trees (score remains 1) L - unlikely to change deadwood levels (score remains 1) M - removal of grazing will reduce disturbance and nutrient enrichment (score 2) Total score for enhancement: 29	Moderate	6.58	11.18	4.60

TN5	W2	Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved	Poor	1	2	3	1	2	19	n/a	A - planting of saplings/whips will increase age classes (score 2) B - remove grazing pressure (score 3) C - (score remains 3) D - introduce at least five native species (score 3) E - increased native species cover with native species planting (score 3) F - planting and regeneration will reduce open space (score 2) G - removal of grazing will allow regeneration - monitor for deer/rabbit grazing (score 2) H - (score remains 3) I - plant with woodland indicators suitable for soil conditions e.g. bluebell, wood sorrel, wavy hair-grass, great wood-rush. (score 2) J - plant a shrub layer will increase to two storeys e.g. with hazel, rowan (score 2) K - no veteran trees (score remains 1) L - unlikely to change deadwood levels (score remains 1) M - removal of grazing will reduce disturbance and nutrient enrichment (score 2) Total score for enhancement: 29	Moderate	0.37	0.63	0.26
TN3	S1	Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub	Poor	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	1	n/a	A: increase species diversity by planting up with hazel B: Removal/reduction of grazing will allow regeneration - monitor for deer/rabbit grazing; D: create good edge habitat with longer grassland and some scattered scrub (keep <5% for the grassland). E: Size of scrub parcel not large enough to create glades/rides so not able to achieve good condition.	Moderate	0.52	0.96	0.44
TN3	S2	Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub	Poor	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	1	n/a	A: increase species diversity by planting up with hazel B: Removal/reduction of grazing will allow regeneration - monitor for deer/rabbit grazing; D: create good edge habitat with longer grassland and some scattered scrub (keep <5% for the grassland). E: Size of scrub parcel not large enough to create glades/rides so not able to achieve good condition.	Moderate	0.12	0.22	0.10
	F21	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Good	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass			To be managed so that good condition is retained.	Good	2.04		
	n/a	Sparsely vegetated land - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	Good	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass				To be monitored and interventions used so that good condition is retained.	Good	4.32		
	Track	Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Poor	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail			A: Remove grazing (will also reduce nutrient load), remove/manage creeping thistle, broad-leaved dock. In order to be clearly identified as acid grassland, green hay from one of the other field parcels can be strewn to help develop recognisable species assemblage. C: Seeding and reduced usage by machinery will reduce percentage of bare ground E: Reduction in machinery use will reduce physical damage. One level of enhancement to moderate condition is targeted, but monitoring could determine if good condition can be achieved in the future for all the above.	Moderate	0.36	0.60	0.24
												Total BU	125.61	175.22	57.01

Totals	
Upland Acid Grassland (Poor - Moderate)	15.27
Upland Acid Grassland (Moderate - Good)	26.42
Other Neutral Grassland (Poor - Moderate)	4.13
Other Neutral Grassland (Moderate - Good)	5.79
Mixed Scrub	0.54
woodland	4.86
Total - Habitat Bank	57.01
Total Without Woodland	52.15

APPENDIX D: Extract of October 2022 Survey - Target Notes

* Abundance using DAFOR scale. D= Dominant, A= Abundant, F= Frequent, O= Occasional R= Rare.

Target Notes – October 2022 (TEP Ref: 9698.01.001) (with corresponding reference for 2023 BNG drawings)

Target Note	Description	Species and abundance*	
TN1 (corresponds to field parcels F1, F3, F18, F11 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Grassland covering much of the site, for the most part very heavily grazed by horses and sheep. The whole swathe has been mapped as semi-improved acid grassland for ease, but in reality it varied in a mosaic between areas with a more improved and neutral character, usually in flatter areas, and a less improved acidic character, usually in the more sloping and or rocky areas. Occasional yellow waxcaps.	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> <i>Festuca rubra</i> <i>Holcus lanatus</i> <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> <i>Festuca ovina</i> <i>Odontites verna</i> <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> <i>Ranunculus repens</i> <i>Trifolium pratense</i> <i>Trifolium repens</i> <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> <i>Cirsium arvense</i> <i>Galium saxatile</i> <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> <i>Nardus stricta</i> <i>Polytrichum</i> sp. <i>Potentilla erecta</i> <i>Rumex acetosella</i> <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail F Red Fescue F Yorkshire-fog F Common Bent O Sheep's Fescue O Red Bartsia O Ribwort Plantain O Creeping Buttercup O Red Clover O White Clover O Sweet Vernal-grass R Creeping Thistle R Heath Bedstraw R Common Cat's-ear R Mat-grass R Moss species R Tormentil R Sheep's Sorrel R Bilberry R
TN2 (corresponds to field parcels F2, F6, F7, F9, F21 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Less improved and heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland areas, along paths, in steeper and more rocky areas.	<i>Nardus stricta</i> <i>Achillea millefolium</i> <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> <i>Avenella flexuosa</i> <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> <i>Festuca ovina</i> <i>Festuca rubra</i> <i>Galium saxatile</i> <i>Holcus lanatus</i> <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> <i>Luzula multiflora</i> <i>Molinia caerulea</i> <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> <i>Poa pratensis</i> <i>Rumex acetosella</i> <i>Blechnum spicant</i> <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> <i>Cirsium arvense</i> <i>Cirsium palustre</i> <i>Cladonia</i> sp. <i>Dryopteris dilatata</i> <i>Juncus effusus</i> <i>Juncus tenuis</i> <i>Ranunculus repens</i> <i>Trifolium repens</i> <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Mat-grass F Yarrow O Common Bent O Wavy Hair-grass O Crested Dog's-tail O Tufted Hair-grass O Sheep's Fescue O Red Fescue O Heath Bedstraw O Yorkshire-fog O Common Cat's-ear O Heath Woodrush O Purple Moor-grass O Ribwort Plantain O Smooth Meadow-grass O Sheep's Sorrel O Hard Fern R Heather R Creeping Thistle R Marsh Thistle R Cladonia species R Broad Buckler-fern R Soft Rush R Slender Rush R Creeping Buttercup R White Clover R Bilberry R

Target Note	Description	Species and abundance*		
TN3 (corresponds to S1 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Area of scrub and tall ruderal herb with scattered trees along bank.	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. <i>Urtica dioica</i> <i>Salix caprea</i> <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> <i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Hawthorn Bramble Nettle Goat Willow Sycamore Wych Elm	F F F O R R
TN4 (corresponds to F13 and F15 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Tussocky, unmanaged semi-improved neutral grassland which has developed into tall ruderal herb in some places.	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> <i>Festuca rubra</i> <i>Achillea millefolium</i> <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> <i>Centaurea nigra</i> <i>Cirsium arvense</i> <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> <i>Elymus repens</i> <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> <i>Lolium perenne</i> <i>Phleum pratense</i> <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> <i>Ranunculus acris</i> <i>Ranunculus repens</i> <i>Rumex crispus</i> <i>Trifolium repens</i> <i>Urtica dioica</i> <i>Carex hirta</i> <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Creeping Bent Cock's-foot Red Fescue Yarrow False Oat-grass Knapweed Creeping Thistle Crested Dog's-tail Common Couch Meadow Vetchling Perennial Ryegrass Timothy Ribwort Plantain Selfheal Meadow Buttercup Creeping Buttercup Curled Dock White Clover Nettle Hairy Sedge Tufted Hair-grass Common Cat's-ear	F F F O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O R R R
TN5 (corresponds to W1 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Mature broadleaved plantation woodland, including trees with bat potential. Livestock have access to the woodland and the ground flora is impoverished. There is only one smallish area with a closed canopy, the remainder is gappy.	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> <i>Holcus lanatus</i> <i>Quercus</i> sp. <i>Urtica dioica</i> <i>Juncus effusus</i> <i>Polytrichum</i> sp. <i>Ranunculus repens</i> <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Sycamore Beech Creeping Bent Yorkshire-fog Oak species Nettle Soft Rush Moss species Creeping Buttercup Bramble Tufted Hair-grass	A A F F F F O O O O O R

* Abundance using DAFOR scale. D= Dominant, A= Abundant, F= Frequent, O= Occasional, R= Rare.

Target Note	Description	Species and abundance*		
TN6 (corresponds to F5 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Acid grassland area like TN1 but with a longer sward and abundant devil's bit scabious.			
TN7 (corresponds to F20 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Juncus dominated marshy grassland.	<i>Juncus effusus</i> <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> <i>Juncus inflexus</i> <i>Nasturtium officinale</i> <i>Ranunculus flammula</i> <i>Ranunculus repens</i> <i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Soft Rush Tufted Hair-grass Hard Rush Watercress Lesser Spearwort Creeping Buttercup Jointed Rush	D F O O O O R
TN8 (corresponds to F22 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Small orchard in private garden over amenity grassland. Mature but not ancient trees. Not accessed - viewed from boundary.	<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple	D
TN9 (corresponds to F19 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Amenity grassland lawn in rear garden of private property. Not accessed - viewed from boundary.	n/a		
TN10 (corresponds to H1 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Very gappy, defunct hedge along boundary of private garden.	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	D
TN11 (corresponds to F17 on Drawings G9995.009-.011)	Species-poor semi improved neutral grassland heavily grazed with several poached areas of bare ground.	n/a		

* Abundance using DAFOR scale. D= Dominant, A= Abundant, F= Frequent, O= Occasional, R= Rare.

APPENDIX E: Statutory Metric

(provided as a separate document)

APPENDIX F: Associated Plans

Phase 1 Habitat Baseline Survey (G9995.007)

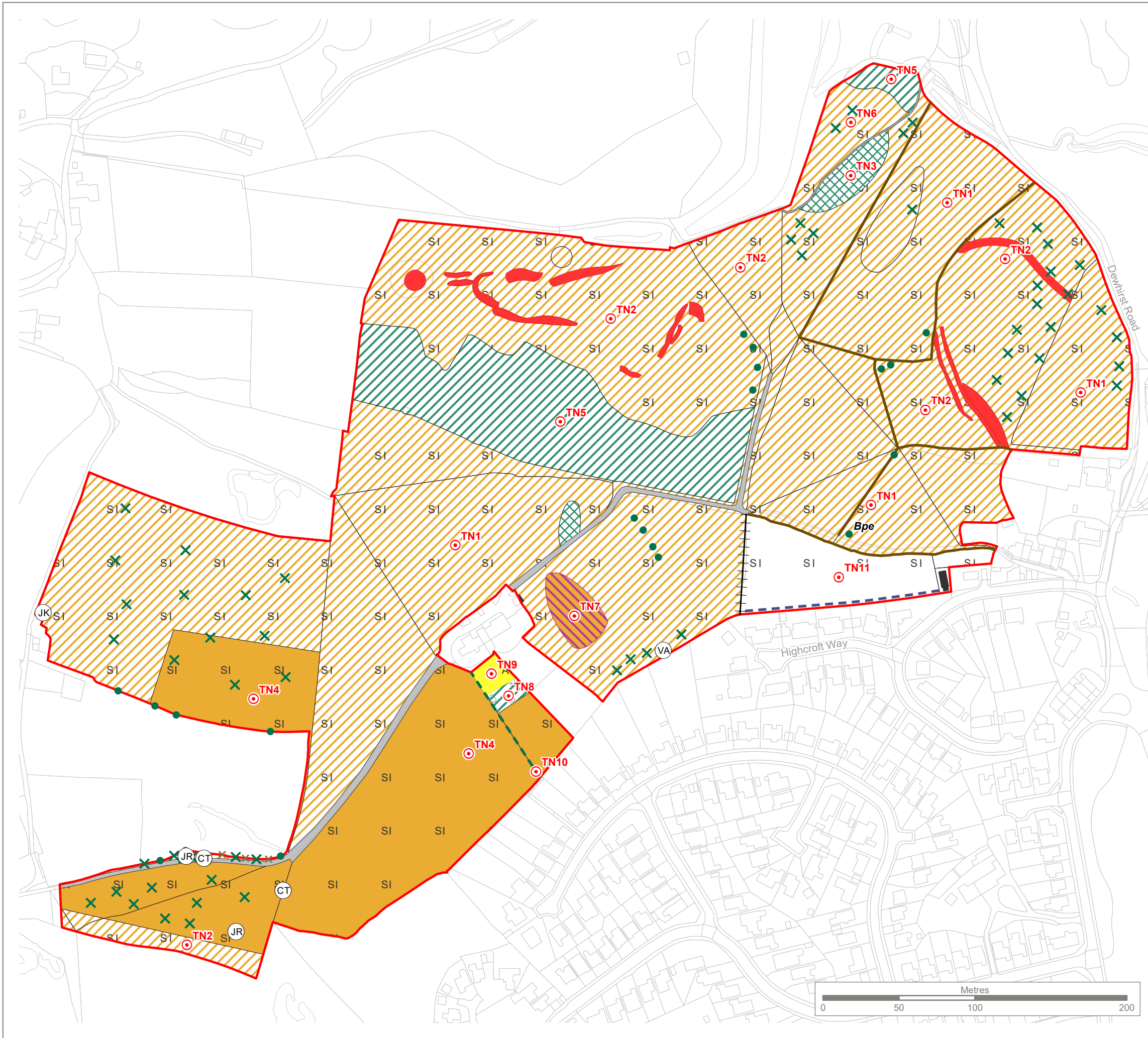
UK Habitat Classification - Baseline (G9995.01.001)

Baseline Condition and Strategic Significance (G9995.01.002)

UK Habitat Classification Proposed Enhancement (G9995.01.003A)

Proposed Enhancement Condition and Strategic Significance (G9995.01.004A)

Habitat Change Plan (G9995.01.005)



KEY

Site boundary

Target note

Cotoneaster

Japanese knotweed

Japanese rose

Variegated archangel

Scattered scrub

Scattered broad-leaved tree

Scattered bracken

Species-poor defunct hedge

Fence

Wall

Dry ditch

Plantation broad-leaved woodland

Dense/continuous scrub

Orchard

Semi-improved acid grassland

Semi-improved neutral grassland

Marsh/marshy grassland

Poor semi-improved grassland

Acid/neutral exposure inland cliff

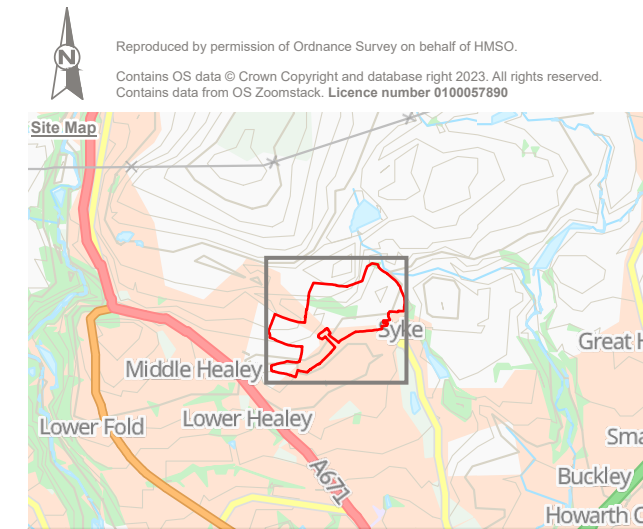
Amenity grassland

Building

Hardstanding

Species Codes
Bpe Silver birch

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
Dewhirst Road, Rochdale

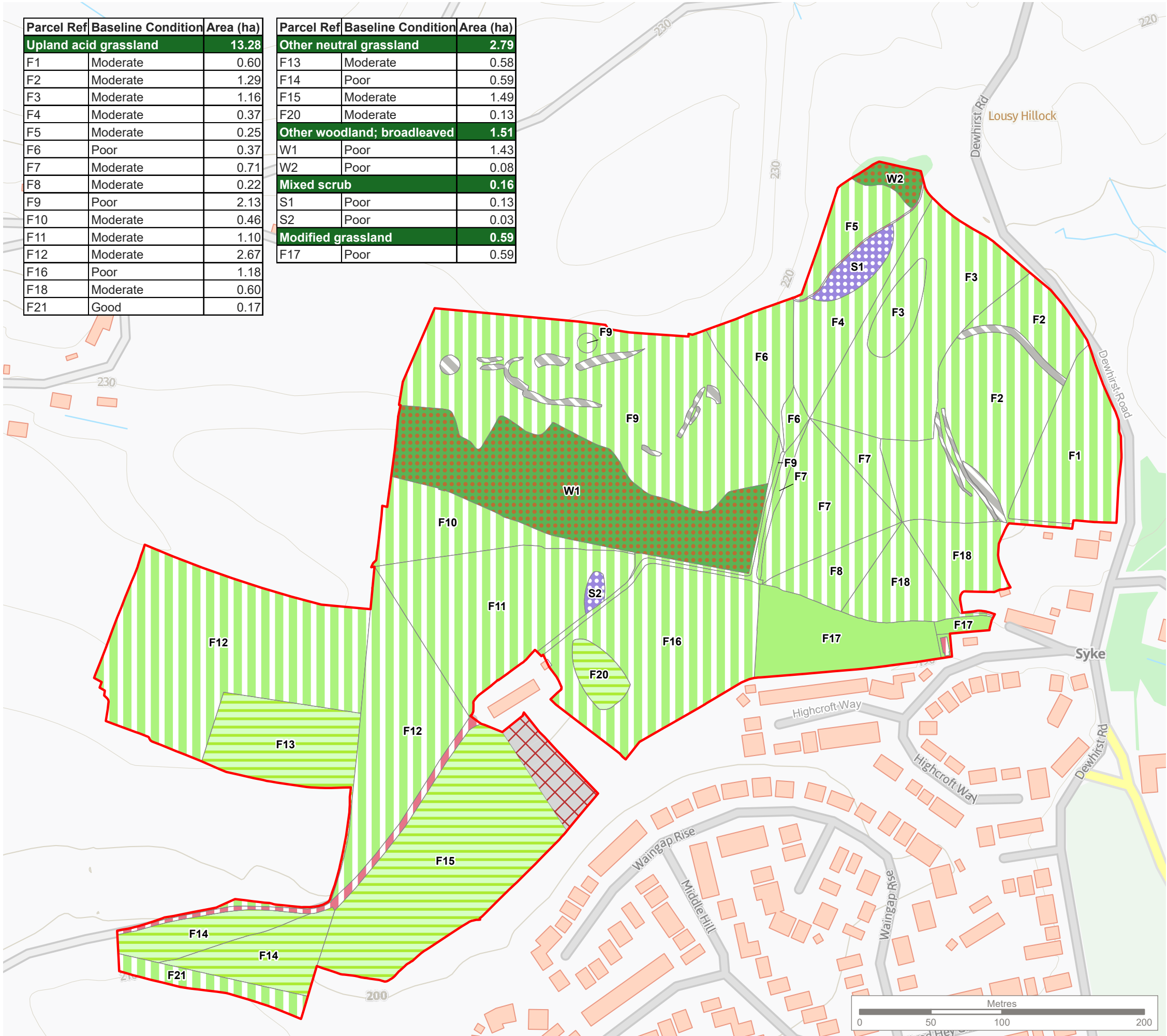
Title
Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Drawing Number
G9995.007

Drawn CW	Checked MK	Approved ACP	Scale 1:2,500 @ A3	Date 08/08/2023
-------------	---------------	-----------------	-----------------------	--------------------

Parcel Ref	Baseline Condition	Area (ha)
Upland acid grassland		13.28
F1	Moderate	0.60
F2	Moderate	1.29
F3	Moderate	1.16
F4	Moderate	0.37
F5	Moderate	0.25
F6	Poor	0.37
F7	Moderate	0.71
F8	Moderate	0.22
F9	Poor	2.13
F10	Moderate	0.46
F11	Moderate	1.10
F12	Moderate	2.67
F16	Poor	1.18
F18	Moderate	0.60
F21	Good	0.17

Parcel Ref	Baseline Condition	Area (ha)
Other neutral grassland		2.79
F13	Moderate	0.58
F14	Poor	0.59
F15	Moderate	1.49
F20	Moderate	0.13
Other woodland; broadleaved		1.51
W1	Poor	1.43
W2	Poor	0.08
Mixed scrub		0.16
S1	Poor	0.13
S2	Poor	0.03
Modified grassland		0.59
F17	Poor	0.59

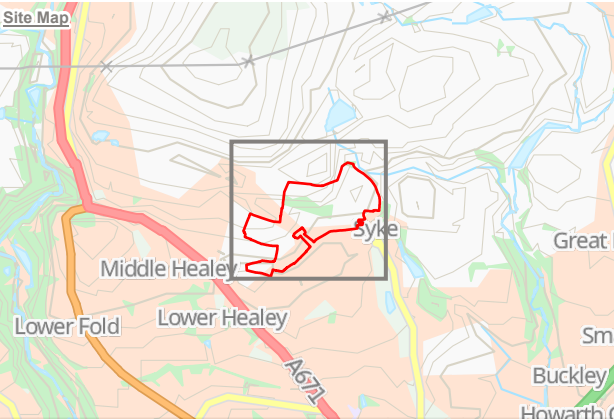


KEY

- Site boundary
- Areas out of scope
- Grassland**
 - Modified grassland
 - Other neutral grassland
 - Upland acid grassland
- Heathland and Shrub**
 - Mixed scrub
- Sparsely Vegetated Land**
 - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
- Woodland and Forest**
 - Other woodland, broadleaved
- Urban**
 - Developed land, sealed surface

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.
Proposed UK habitats from drawing G9995.008.

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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

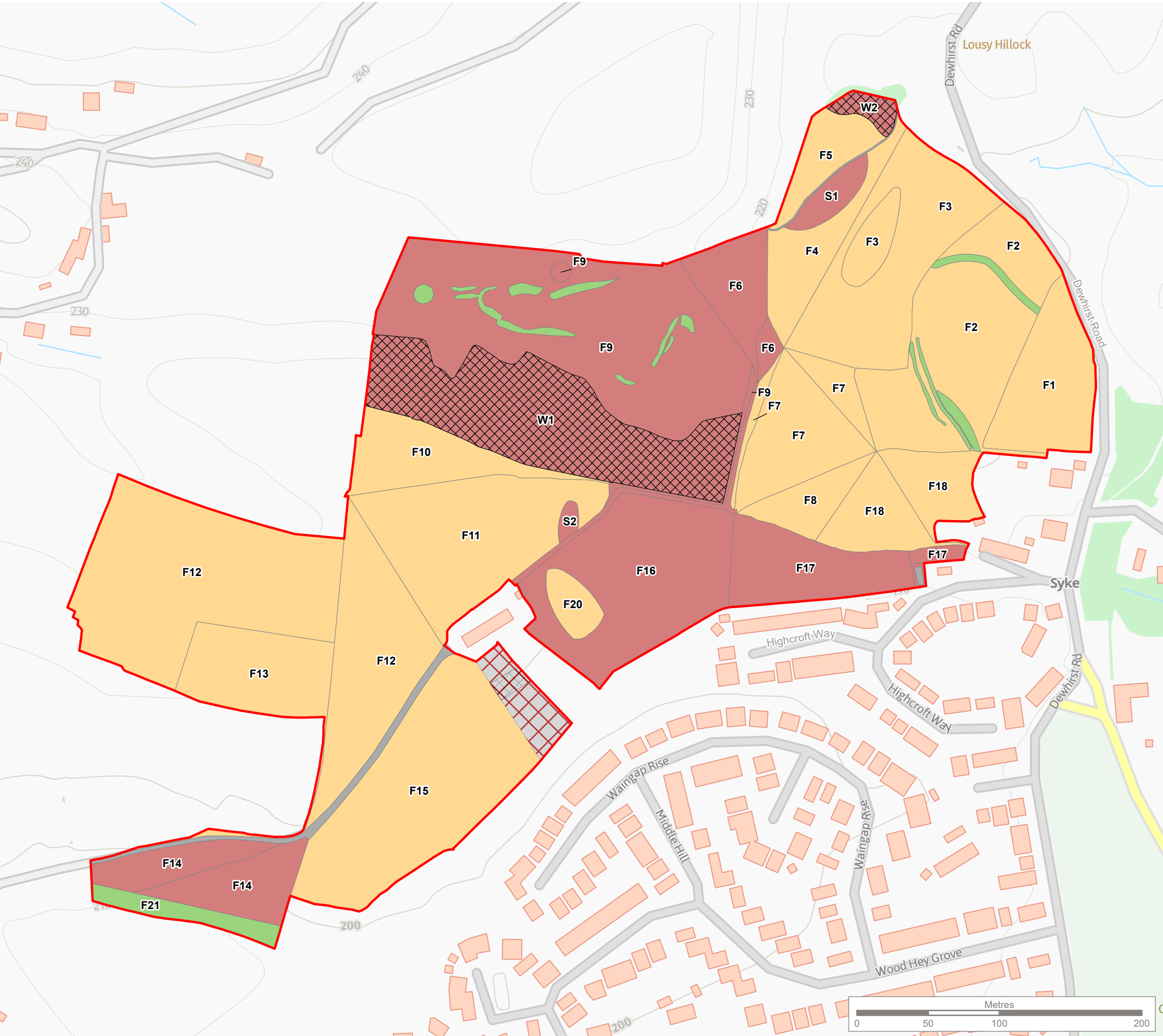
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Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
Dewhirst Road BNG Updates

Title
Baseline UK Habitats

Drawing Number
G9995.01.001

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
BJ	CW	RT	1:2,750 @ A3	14/10/2024



KEY

Site boundary

Areas out of scope

Habitat Condition

Good

Moderate

Poor

Not applicable - other

Strategic Significance

Formally identified in local strategy

All other habitats with strategic significance value of 'area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy'

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.
UK habitats from drawing G9995.008.

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Site Map

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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Project
Dewhurst Road BNG Updates

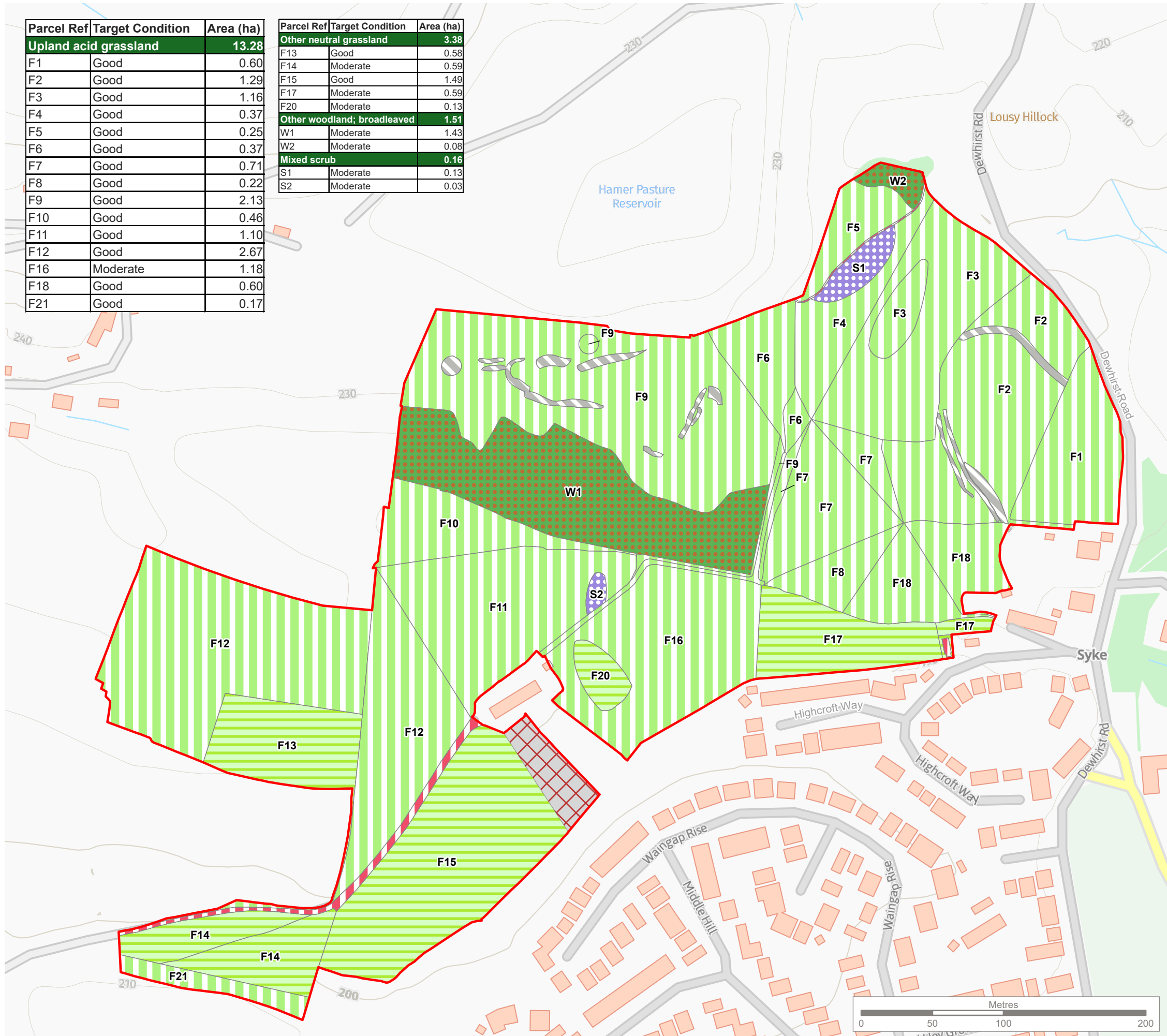
Title
Baseline Habitat Condition and Strategic Significance

Drawing Number
G9995.01.002

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
BJ	MK	ACP	1:2,750 @ A3	14/10/2024

Parcel Ref	Target Condition	Area (ha)
Upland acid grassland		13.28
F1	Good	0.60
F2	Good	1.29
F3	Good	1.16
F4	Good	0.37
F5	Good	0.25
F6	Good	0.37
F7	Good	0.71
F8	Good	0.22
F9	Good	2.13
F10	Good	0.46
F11	Good	1.10
F12	Good	2.67
F16	Moderate	1.18
F18	Good	0.60
F21	Good	0.17

Parcel Ref	Target Condition	Area (ha)
Other neutral grassland		3.38
F13	Good	0.58
F14	Moderate	0.59
F15	Good	1.49
F17	Moderate	0.59
F20	Moderate	0.13
Other woodland; broadleaved		1.51
W1	Moderate	1.43
W2	Moderate	0.08
Mixed scrub		0.16
S1	Moderate	0.13
S2	Moderate	0.03

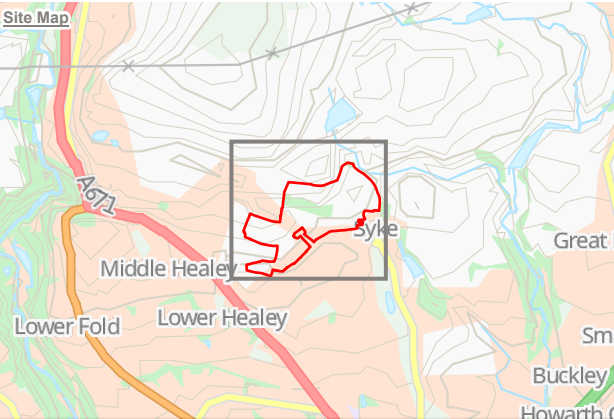


KEY

- Site boundary
- Areas out of scope
- Grassland
 - Other neutral grassland
 - Upland acid grassland
- Heathland and Shrub
 - Mixed scrub
- Sparsely Vegetated Land
 - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
- Woodland and Forest
 - Other woodland, broadleaved
- Urban
 - Developed land, sealed surface

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.
Proposed UK habitats from drawing G9995.010.

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A	Change to F6 and F9 habitat condition	BT	AP	19/06/2025
Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

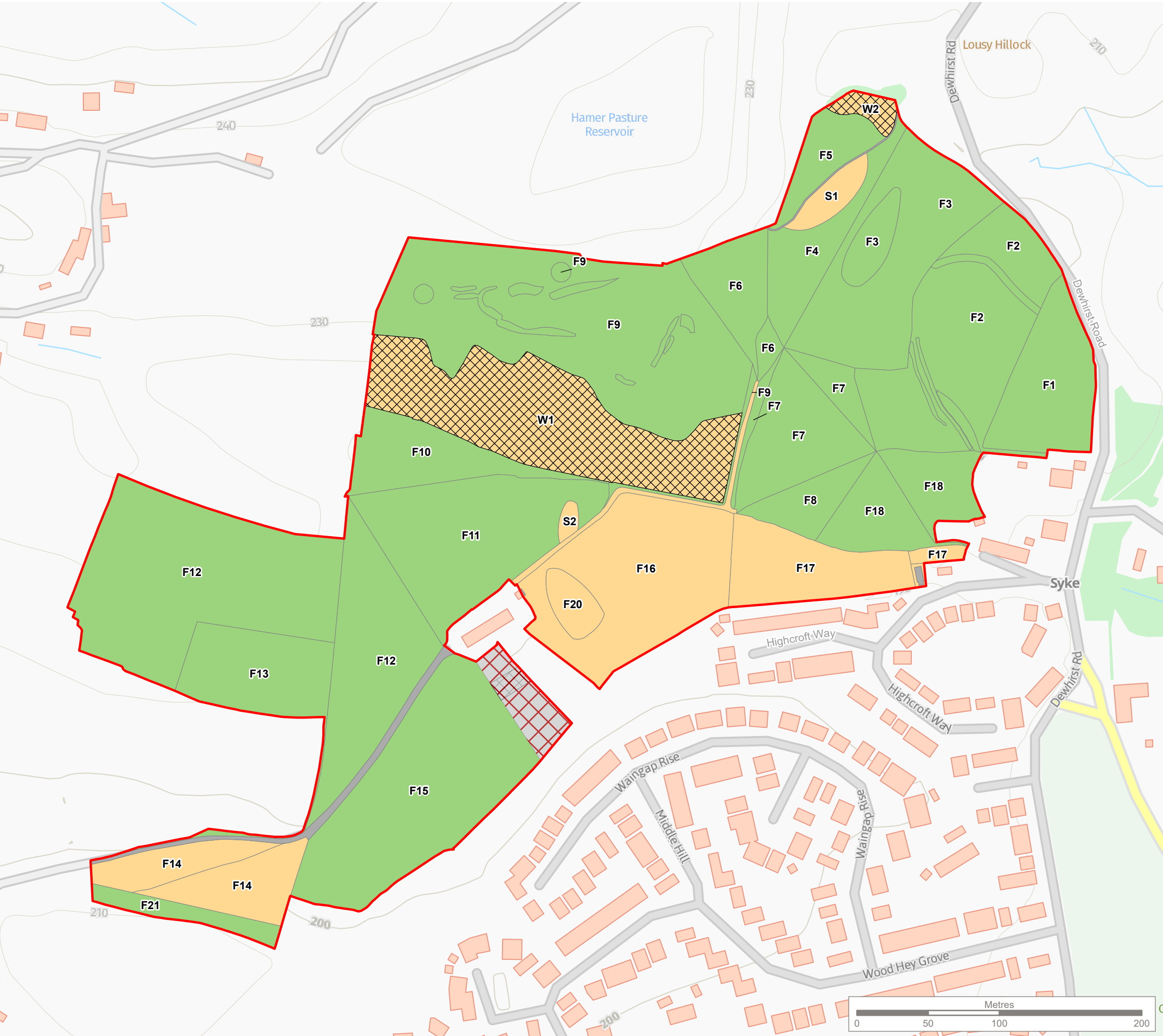
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Project
Dewhirst Road BNG Updates

Title
Proposed UK Habitats

Drawing Number
G9995.01.003A

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
BJ	CW	RT	1:2,750 @ A3	19/06/2025



KEY

Site boundary

Areas out of scope

Habitat Condition

Good

Moderate

Not applicable - other

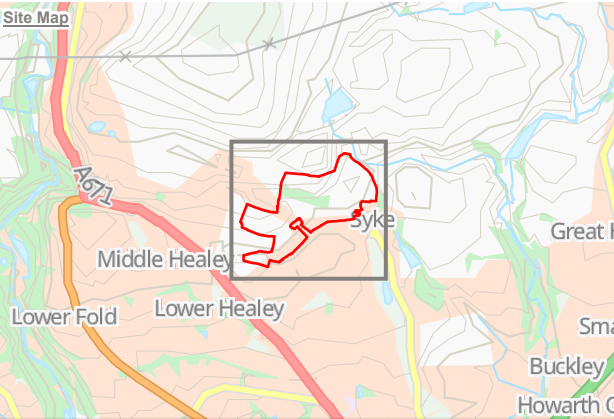
Strategic Significance

Formally identified in local strategy

All other habitats with strategic significance value of 'area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy'

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.
Proposed UK habitats from drawing G9995.010.

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A	Change to F6 and F9 habitat condition	BT	AP	19/06/2025
Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

Tep

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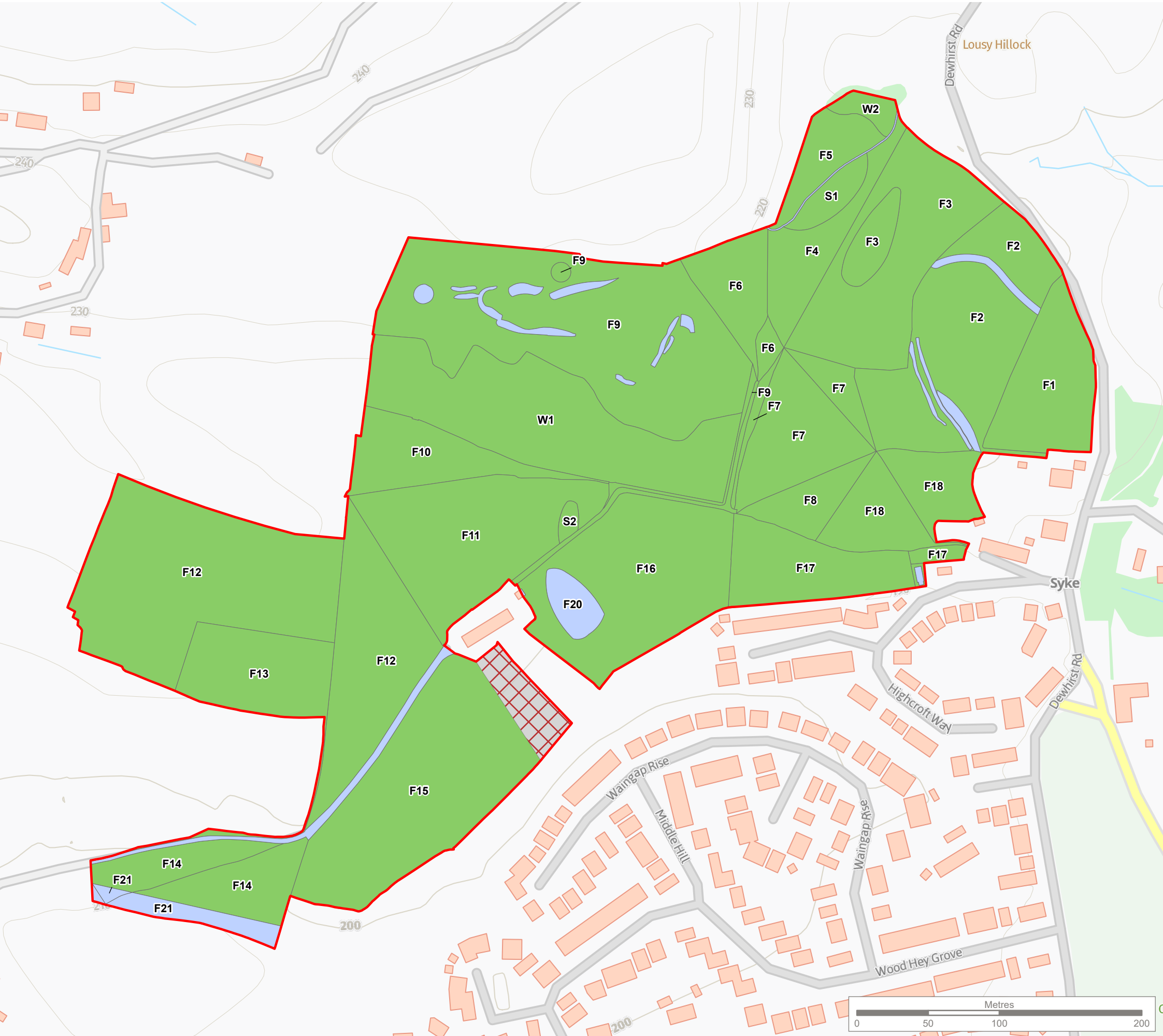
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Project
Dewhurst Road BNG Updates

Title
Proposed Habitat Condition and Strategic Significance

Drawing Number
G9995.01.004A

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
BJ	MK	ACP	1:2,750 @ A3	19/06/2025



KEY

Site boundary

Areas out of scope

Habitat Impact

Enhanced

Retained

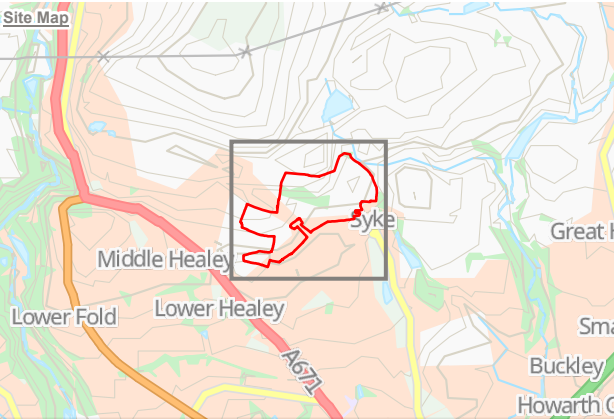
Note:
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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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Project
Dewhirst Road BNG Updates

Title
Habitat Impact

Drawing Number
G9995.01.005

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
BJ	MK	ACP	1:2,750 @ A3	14/10/2024



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