Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

Technical Appendix 9.5Ad: Addendum Biodiversity Net Gain Report

Prepared on behalf of

Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

ALDERHOLT MEADOWS

Final Report

24 May 2024

22/40-5C

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Report Release Sheet

Draft/Final:	Final Report
Issue Number:	22/40-5C
Date:	24 May 2024
Client:	Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Scope

1.1 This document has been prepared by Ecological Planning & Research Ltd (EPR) on behalf of Dudsbury Homes (Southern) in connection with an outline planning application for a proposed residential development on land at Alderholt, in East Dorset.

1.2 This report presents details of the 2024 updated evaluation of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of the Proposed Development in order to demonstrate that the requisite gains in biodiversity can be achieved.

1.3 This report is accompanied by two separate Excel documents, Defra's Biodiversity Metric 3.1 spreadsheet and the accompanying Condition Assessment spreadsheet for baseline habitats, which have been completed for the Proposed Development (an extract of the metric results is provided at **Annex 1**).

Site Location and Description

1.4 The Proposed Development is at Alderholt in East Dorset (hereafter the Site) (see **Map 1**).

1.5 The Site extends to approximately 122ha and is predominantly occupied by farmland.

Outline of Proposed Development

1.6 The Proposed Development description is as follows:

> *"Outline application for a mixed use development of up to 1700 dwellings including affordable housing and care provision; 10,000sqm of employment space in the form of a business park; village centre with associated retail, commercial, community and health facilities; open space including the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG); biodiversity enhancements; solar array; and new roads, access arrangements and associated infrastructure. (All matters reserved apart from access off Hillbury Road)."*

1.7 Please refer to **Chapter 3 Background to Development** and **Chapter 5 Development Description** for full details of the Site and the Proposed Development.

Policy and Legislative Context

1.8 The requirement for demonstrating that the Proposed Development is capable of delivering BNG is borne out of the following:

- The Environment Act 2021 requires a 10% net gain in biodiversity units above baseline to be achieved (expected to become a mandatory requirement in 2023);

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- 25 Year Environment Plan (Defra, 2018);

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021), where the requirement for BNG to be provided is included under paragraph 174 d);

- The Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Core Strategy (Adopted 2014), and in particular policies:

  - ME1 Safeguarding Biodiversity and Geodiversity, and

  - ME2 Protection of the Dorset Heathlands.

- Due regard has also been afforded to draft Policies of the consultation draft Dorset Council Local Plan (2021):

  - ENV1 Green Infrastructure,

  - ENV2 Habitats and Species, and

  - ENV3 Biodiversity and Net Gain (which requires a minimum gain of 10%).

Guidance and Procedure

1.9   The means by which BNG can be demonstrated is set out in the following guidance and resources, and these have been used to inform the BNG assessment and overall approach set out in this report:

- CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2019) Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development;

- CIEEM (2021) Biodiversity Net Gain Report and Audit Templates;

- British Standard (2021) BS 8683:2021 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain – Specification;

- Biodiversity Metric 3.1 (Natural England, 2022) including the Technical Supplement, User Guide, Calculation Tool and Habitat Condition Sheets; and

- The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 1.1 (Butcher *et al.*, 2020).

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2. PROCEDURE

Metric Used

2.1 The approach taken to achieving BNG is in accordance with principles set out in CIEEM's guidance, the British Standard, and national legislation and policy and local policy referenced in **Section 1**.

2.2 The mitigation hierarchy has been adhered to in the first instance, as set out in the summaries in **Section 3** for Habitats and Hedgerows.

2.3 The current version of Natural England's Biodiversity Metric (version 3.1) has been used to calculate changes in biodiversity units. The calculations were carried out by Dr Robert Souter, Specialist Principal Ecologist at EPR.

2.4 The habitat survey and condition assessments underpinning the habitat categories previously reported were originally carried out by ABR Ecology, as part of the Ecological Appraisal (ABR Ecology, 2022).

2.5 An update baseline habitat survey of the Site was carried out in April 2024 to check and where necessary update the baseline UK Habitat Classification mapping, and to check and where necessary update the BNG baseline habitat types and condition assessments. The completed Condition Assessment forms are provided as a separate Excel spreadsheet for baseline habitats, with post-development habitats set out in **Annex 2** and **3**. The update survey is reported in more detail in ES TA 9.1Ad: Addendum Ecology Baseline.

Metric Inputs

2.6 The pre-development and post-development habitats are shown on two separate maps in each case in order to align with the Biodiversity Metric spreadsheet which considers linear habitats separately from all other habitats.

2.7 The following plans were used as the basis for the pre- and post-development calculations:

- **Map 2** Baseline Habitats - showing existing habitats;
- **Map 3** Baseline Linear Habitats – showing hedgerows and ditches;
- **Map 4** Proposed Habitats, Hedgerows and Ditches – presenting an interpretation of the detailed development masterplan for proposed habitats and hedgerows; and
- **Map 5** Hedge Loss and Gains – clarifying the locations of proposed hedge removal and new planting.

Limitations

Limitations of Metrics in General

2.8 As acknowledged in the User Guide (NE, 2022b), the Biodiversity Metric includes several inherent limitations (these also apply to metrics in general). These are summarised in the Limitations section of the Guide from paragraph 2.19 onwards. Extracts are provided below:

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"The metric and its outputs should [therefore] be interpreted, alongside ecological expertise and common sense, as an element of the evidence that informs plans and decisions.

The metric is not a total solution to biodiversity decisions. While it is underpinned by ecological evidence the units generated by the metric are only a proxy for biodiversity and, to be of practical use, it has been kept deliberately simple. The numerical values generated by the metric represent relative, not absolute, values [Principle 3]

The metric focuses on typical habitats and widespread species; important or protected habitats and features should be given broader consideration. Protected and locally important species needs are not considered through the metric, they should be addressed through existing policy and legislation. [Principle 4]

The metric is designed to inform decisions, not to override expert opinion. Management interventions should be guided by appropriate expert ecological advice and not just the biodiversity unit outputs of the metric. [Principle 6]"

2.9   In relation to Principle 4, protected and valued species are considered in detail as part of the EMEP. This includes avoiding and mitigating impacts and promoting enhancements such as the provision of wildlife boxes, the latter of which should also be taken into account when assessing the overall BNG that can be delivered by the Proposed Development.

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3. PRE-DEVELOPMENT

Habitats

3.1 **Table 3.1** presents the revised baseline habitats on Site for each land 'parcel' (as identified by ABR Ecology in their Ecological Baseline report (Annex 3 to **TA 9.1: Ecology Baseline**)) based on the 2024 update survey, as shown on **Map 2**. It also shows revisions to the recorded condition and indicates the impact of the habitat type and condition changes for the metric calculation.

3.2 Condition assessment forms are set out in the separate spreadsheet referenced at **Annex 2**.

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Table 3.1: Updates to Areal Habitat Types and Condition 2024 (see Map 2)

2022 Parcel ID	2022 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	2024 Parcel ID	2024 Habitat Type	2024 Condition	Impact on Metric
A1, A2	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	A1, A2	Cereal crops	n/a	No change
A2	Modified grassland	Moderate	A2a	Modified grassland	Good	Higher baseline
A3	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	A3	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	No change
A4	Modified grassland	Moderate	A4	Other neutral grassland	Poor	No change in units, but impacts trading rules
A4	Ruderal/ephemeral	Moderate	A4a	Bramble scrub	n/a	No change
A4	Modified grassland	Moderate	A4b	Modified grassland	Poor	Lower baseline
A4	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	n/a	A4c	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	n/a	No change
A4	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	A4d	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	No change
A4	Bramble scrub	n/a	A4e	Bramble scrub	n/a	No change
A5	Modified grassland	Moderate	A5	Other neutral grassland	Poor	No change in units, but impacts trading rules
A6	Modified grassland	Moderate	A6	Other neutral grassland	Poor	No change in units, but impacts trading rules
A6	Bramble scrub	n/a	A6a	Bramble scrub	n/a	No change
A6	Ruderal/ephemeral	Moderate	A6b	Ruderal/ephemeral	Moderate	No change
A6	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	Moderate	A6c	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	Moderate	No change
A6	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	A6d	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	No change
A7	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	A7	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	No change
A7	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Moderate	A7a	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Moderate	No change
A8	Cereal crops	n/a	A8	Cereal crops	n/a	No change
A8	Bramble scrub	n/a	A8a	Bramble scrub	n/a	No change
A9	Non cereal crops	n/a	A9	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	No change
A10	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	A10	Other neutral grassland	Poor	Lower baseline
A10	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	A10a	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Moderate	Higher baseline, stricter trading rules
A11	Wet woodland	Moderate	A11	Wet woodland	Poor	Lower baseline

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2022 Parcel ID	2022 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	2024 Parcel ID	2024 Habitat Type	2024 Condition	Impact on Metric
A11	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Moderate	A11a	Other woodland, mixed	Moderate	Lower baseline
A11	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Moderate	A11b	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Good	Higher baseline
A11	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	Moderate	A11c	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	Moderate	No change
A11	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	A11d	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	No change
A11	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	Moderate	A11e	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	Moderate	No change
A11	Modified grassland	Moderate	A11f	Vegetated garden	n/a	Lower baseline
A11	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Moderate	A11g	Other woodland, broadleaved	Moderate	Lower baseline
A11	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	A11h	Other neutral grassland	Poor	Lower baseline
A11	Purple moor grass and rush pasture	Moderate	A11h	Other neutral grassland	Poor	Lower baseline
A11	Purple moor grass and rush pasture	Moderate	A11i	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Lower baseline
A12	Modified grassland	Moderate	A12	Modified grassland	Moderate	No change
A12	Modified grassland	Moderate	A12a	Modified grassland	Moderate	No change
A12	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	Moderate	A12b	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	Moderate	No change
A13	Modified grassland	Moderate	A13	Modified grassland	Good	Higher baseline
A13	Bramble scrub	n/a	A13a	Bramble scrub	n/a	No change
A13	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	A13b	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	No change
A14	Missing - now offsite?					
A15	Non-cereal crops	n/a	A15	Non-cereal crops	n/a	No change
A16	Modified grassland	Moderate	A16	Modified grassland	Poor	Lower baseline
A17	Cereal crops	n/a	A17	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	No change
A18	Modified grassland	Moderate	A18	Modified grassland	Poor	Lower baseline

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2022 Parcel ID	2022 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	2024 Parcel ID	2024 Habitat Type	2024 Condition	Impact on Metric
A19	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	A19	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Poor	Higher baseline, stricter trading rules
A19	Other woodland, mixed	Moderate	A19a	Other woodland, mixed	Moderate	No change
A20	Modified grassland	Moderate	A20	Modified grassland	Moderate	No change
A21	Modified grassland	Moderate	A21	Modified grassland	Good	Higher baseline
A21	Bramble scrub	n/a	A21a	Bramble scrub	n/a	No change
A21	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	Moderate	A21b	Vacant/derelict land/bare ground	Moderate	No change
A22	Modified grassland	Moderate	A22	Modified grassland	Moderate	No change
A22	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	A22a	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	No change
A23	Modified grassland	Moderate	A23	Other neutral grassland	Good	Higher baseline, stricter trading rules
A23	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	A23a	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	No change
A23	Bramble scrub	n/a	A23b	Bramble scrub	n/a	No change
A24	Modified grassland	Moderate	A24	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Higher baseline, stricter trading rules
A24	Modified grassland	Moderate	A24a	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Higher baseline, stricter trading rules
A24	Bramble scrub	n/a	A24b	Bramble scrub	n/a	No change
A25	Modified grassland	Moderate	A25	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	Lower baseline
A26	Modified grassland	Moderate	A26	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	Lower baseline
A27	Modified grassland	Moderate	A27	Modified grassland	Moderate	No change
A27	Cereal crops	n/a	A27a	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	No change
A28	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	A28	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	No change
A28	Cereal crops	n/a	A28a	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	No change
A28	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	A28b	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	No change
A29	Modified grassland	Moderate	A29	Other neutral grassland	Poor	No change in units, but stricter trading rules
A29	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	A29a	Developed land, sealed surface	n/a	No change
A30	Modified grassland	Moderate	A30	Other neutral grassland	Poor	No change in units, but stricter trading rules

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2022 Parcel ID	2022 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	2024 Parcel ID	2024 Habitat Type	2024 Condition	Impact on Metric
A30	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	A30a	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	No change
A31	Cereal crops	n/a	A31	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	No change
A31	Ruderal/Ephemeral	Moderate	A31a	Other neutral grassland	Poor	No change in units, but stricter trading rules
A31	Ruderal/Ephemeral	Moderate	A31b	Other neutral grassland	Poor	No change in units, but stricter trading rules
A31	Cereal crops	n/a	A31c	Temporary grass and clover leys	n/a	No change
A32	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	A32	Other lowland acid grassland	Good	Higher baseline
A32	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	A32a	Other Scot's pine woodland	Poor	Lower baseline
A33	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	A33	Wet woodland	Moderate	No change
A33	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	A33a	Other woodland, mixed	Poor	Lower baseline
A33	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	A33b	Felled	Good (default)	Higher baseline
A33	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	A33c	Other woodland, mixed	Poor	Lower baseline
A33	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	P8	Ponds (priority)	Moderate	Lower baseline
A33	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	P9	Ponds (priority)	Moderate	Lower baseline
A34	Other Woodland, Mixed	Moderate	A34	Other Scot's Pine Woodland	Poor	No change
A35	Other Woodland, Mixed	Moderate	A35	Other Scot's Pine Woodland	Moderate	No change
P1	Ponds (Priority Habitat)	Moderate	P1	Ponds (Priority Habitat)	Poor	Lower baseline
P2	Ponds (Priority Habitat)	Moderate	P2	Ponds (Priority Habitat)	Moderate	No change
P3	Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Moderate	P3	Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Moderate	No change
P4	Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Moderate	P4	Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Moderate	No change
P5	Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Moderate	P5	Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Moderate	No change

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2022 Parcel ID	2022 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	2024 Parcel ID	2024 Habitat Type	2024 Condition	Impact on Metric
P6	Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Moderate	P6	Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Moderate	No change
P7	Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Poor	P7	Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Poor	No change

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Hedgerows

3.3   **Table 3.2** presents the revised baseline hedgerow habitats on Site (as per ABR Ecology boundary numbers set out in their Ecological Baseline report (Annex 3 to TA 9.1: Ecology Baseline)) based on the 2024 update survey, as shown on **Map 3**. It also shows revisions to the recorded condition and indicates the impact of the habitat type and condition changes for the metric calculation.

3.4   Condition assessment forms are set out in the separate spreadsheet referenced at **Annex 3**.

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Table 3.2: Updates to Linear Habitat Types and Condition 2024 (see Map 3)

ABR Boundary Number	2022 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	2024 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	Impact on Metric
A1.1	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	Moderate	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - with Bank or Ditch	Moderate	No change
A1.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	Poor	Lower baseline
A2.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Poor	Lower baseline
A2.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	Poor	Lower baseline
A2.3	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A2.4	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	Moderate	Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A3.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A3.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Moderate	No change
A3.3	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A3.4	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A3.5			Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Not recorded in 2022
A4.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A4.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Poor	Lower baseline
A4.3			Line of Trees	Moderate	Not recorded in 2022
A4.4	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch	Good	Higher baseline
A5.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Poor	Lower baseline

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ABR Boundary Number	2022 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	2024 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	Impact on Metric
A5.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A5.3	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Poor	Lower baseline
A6.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	Moderate	Line of Trees	Moderate	No change
A6.2	Hedge Ornamental Non Native	Poor	Hedge Ornamental Non Native	Poor	No change
A6.3	Hedge Ornamental Non Native	Poor	Hedge Ornamental Non Native	Poor	No change
A6.4	Hedge Ornamental Non Native	Poor	Hedge Ornamental Non Native	Poor	No change
A6.5	Hedge Ornamental Non Native	Poor			Not recorded in 2024
A6.6	Native Hedgerow	Moderate			Not recorded in 2024
A7.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Poor	Lower baseline
A7.2	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - with Bank or Ditch	Moderate	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - with Bank or Ditch	Moderate	No change
A7.3	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Poor	Native Hedgerow	Poor	No change
A7.4	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Moderate	Native Hedgerow	Poor	Lower baseline
A8.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Line of Trees	Poor	Lower baseline
A8.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch	Poor	Lower baseline
A9.3	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A9.4			Line of Trees	Moderate	Not recorded in 2022
A9.5			Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Not recorded in 2022
A10.1			Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Not recorded in 2022

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ABR Boundary Number	2022 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	2024 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	Impact on Metric
A10.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A10.3			Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Not recorded in 2022
A12.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - with Bank or Ditch	Moderate	No change
A12.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A13.1	Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Good	Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Lower baseline
A15.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Moderate	Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A16.1			Line of Trees	Poor	Not recorded in 2022
A16.2			Line of Trees	Poor	Not recorded in 2022
A18.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Good	Higher baseline
A20.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Poor	Lower baseline
A20.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A20.3	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Good	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Good	No change
A21.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Poor	Lower baseline
A21.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Good	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Lower baseline
A21.3	Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Good			Not recorded in 2024
A21.4	Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Good	Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Lower baseline
A21.5	Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Good	Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Lower baseline
A22.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Good	Line of Trees	Poor	Lower baseline

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ABR Boundary Number	2022 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	2024 Habitat Type	2022 Condition	Impact on Metric
A22.3	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	Good	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Lower baseline
A23.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Good	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Good	No change
A24.2	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	Good	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - with Bank or Ditch	Moderate	Lower baseline
A24.3			Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Poor	Not recorded in 2022
A25.1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	No change
A25.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	Moderate	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	Moderate	No change
A26.1			Line of Trees	Moderate	Not recorded in 2022
A26.2			Line of Trees	Moderate	Not recorded in 2022
A27.1	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	Good	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - with Bank or Ditch	Moderate	Lower baseline
A27.2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Good	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Moderate	Lower baseline
A28.1	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	Good	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - with Bank or Ditch	Moderate	Lower baseline

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Ditches and Streams

3.5   There is a network of drainage ditches associated with field boundaries (see **Map 3**). These drain to the south and west into Sleep Brook.

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4.   POST-DEVELOPMENT

Habitats

4.1   Post-development habitats will include those that are retained and enhanced, and new proposed habitats (see **Maps 4** and **5**).

Existing Habitats

4.2   Important existing habitats will be retained and enhanced. These will become part of the developed areas, GI and SANG areas alongside the proposed new habitats (see below). This includes the following important existing habitats:

- Woodland – Lowland broadleaved woodland, Other broadleaved woodland, Wet woodland;

- Grassland – Other neutral grassland, poor-semi-improved grassland, amenity grassland;

- Wetland – Ponds, streams, rush pasture;

- Scrub – Bramble;

- Hedgerows – For example, Native species-rich hedgerows with trees associated with a bank/ditch; and

- Trees – Individual mature trees and lines of trees.

4.3   It is proposed that all existing hedgerows will be subject to positive management to enhance their condition by one factor (Poor to Moderare, Moderate to Good) – e.g. introducing traditional management such as laying, coppicing, pollarding etc. Almost all hedgerows will in any case be enhanced by the creation and management of species and structurally diverse habitat buffers, creating more and better habitat and improved connectivity across the Proposed Development.

4.4   Further detailed mechanisms through which negative impacts on features of biodiversity importance will be avoided, mitigated or compensated, and biodiversity enhancements will be delivered, are set out in detail in the EMES.

Proposed Habitats

Developed Land; Sealed Surface

4.5   Much of the developed land (housing and roads etc) will be on land of low ecological value. The footprint of the housing, car parking and access roads are categorised as 'Developed Land; Sealed Surface'. No condition assessment applies to this category.

Vegetated Gardens

4.6   The houses have gardens, and rather than measuring the area covered by these the area of 'vegetated gardens' is estimated at 30% based on the BNG guidance. No condition assessment applies.

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Wildflower Meadow – Other Neutral Grassland

4.7   A large part of the SANGs will be sown and managed to provide attractive and biodiverse wildflower meadows. This is identified as 'Other neutral grassland' in the metric. Following a just few years of positive management aimed at promoting biodiversity, these wildflower meadows will achieve Good condition.

Open Grassland - Other Neutral Grassland

4.8   Within other parts of the SANGs areas grass dominated grassland will be sown and managed to provide more accessible grassland areas. These are again identified as 'Other neutral grassland' in the metric to distinguish them from amenity grassland (see below). They will include a diversity of herbs (e.g. clovers and trefoils) that tolerate more frequent mowing and trampling, whilst still providing sources of nectar and pollen for invertebrates.

Amenity Grassland – Modified Grassland

4.9   Where there is a requirement for informal sport and play or relaxation then harder wearing grass mixes which are tolerant of repeated trampling and mowing will be sown. These areas of amenity grassland are identified in the metric as 'Modified grassland'.

Ponds, Swales and Wetlands

4.10   The Proposed Development includes a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) with a series of swales and ponds. As part of the SuDS design there is the opportunity to create localised wetlands. Together these features will provide a substantial increase in biodiversity value and offer the new residents a greater range of habitats to enjoy.

Woodland and Trees

4.11   The existing pockets of woodland and mature trees will be complemented by additional planting of trees and woodland blocks. These will promote connectivity and ecological permeability across the Site within a short timeframe. In the medium to long-term they will provide additional mature habitat.

4.12   New tree planting will either be native locally appropriate species (as will be the case within the SANGs) or, where necessary for landscape reasons, ornamental species with a known value to wildlife (where not regarded as an non-native invasive species).

Summary

4.13   **Tables 4.1** to **4.6** present a summary of the proposed habitat in each 'compartment' to show the existing/proposed habitat in each field/parcel.

4.14   The compartments are:

- Built Development;
- Green infrastructure (not including SANGs);
- Field for potential solar array;
- Cross Roads Plantation SANG;

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- Alderholt Common SANG; and

- Harbridge Drove SANG.

Table 4.1 Built development compartments (and corresponding fields/parcels) with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Existing UK Habitats in Field 2024	**Proposed Habitats
A2	11	Land to the northeast of Foxhill Farm	Cereal crops Modified grassland	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A3	12	Land to the east of Foxhill Farm	Temporary grass and clover leys	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A4	13 (part)	Land around Oaktree Farm and Foxhill Farm	Other neutral grassland Bramble scrub Modified grassland	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A6	13 (part)	ditto	Other neutral grassland Bramble scrub Ruderal/ephemeral	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A7	2 (part)	Land north of Sleepbrook Farm	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Temporary grass and clover leys	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A8	2 (part)	ditto	Cereal crops Bramble scrub	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A12	3 (part)	Land around Sleepbrook Farm	Modified grassland	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A13	3 (part)	ditto	Modified grassland Bramble scrub	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A20	17	Land to south of Sleepbrook Farm	Modified grassland	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A21	16 (part)	Land to southeast of Sleepbrook Farm	Modified grassland Bramble scrub	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A22	16 (part)	ditto	Modified grassland	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A23	16 (part)	ditto	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Other neutral grassland Bramble scrub	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A24	16 (part)	ditto	Other neutral grassland Bramble scrub	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

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Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Existing UK Habitats in Field 2024	**Proposed Habitats
				Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A27	15	Land to east of Warren Park Farm	Modified grassland Temporary grass and clover leys	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge
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Table 4.2 Green Infrastructure (not including SANG) (and corresponding fields/parcels) with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Existing UK Habitats in Field 2024	**Proposed Habitats
A1	10	Land to the north of Foxhill Farm	Cereal crops	Open grass / Trees
A8	2 (part)	Land north of Sleepbrook Farm	Cereal crops	Open grass / Trees
A27	15	Land to east of Warren Park Farm	Temporary grass and clover leys	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Open grass / Trees

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Table 4.3 Field for potential Solar Array (and corresponding fields/parcels) with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Existing UK Habitats in Field 2024	**Proposed Habitats
A15	6	Land to the far west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse	Non-cereal crops	Potential solar array

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Table 4.4 Cross Roads Plantation SANG and corresponding fields/parcels with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Existing UK Habitats in Field 2024	**Proposed Habitats
A9	7	Land south of Cross Roads Plantation solar farm	Temporary grass and clover leys	Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A10	5 (part)	Land to the immediate west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse	Other neutral grassland Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Swale / Open grass / Trees
A11	4	Land around Sleepbrook Farmhouse	Wet woodland Other woodland; mixed Other woodland; broadleaved Other neutral grassland Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Wet woodland Other neutral grassland / Other woodland; mixed Purple moor grass and rush pastures
A16	5 (part)	Land to the immediate west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse	Modified grassland	Swale / Pond / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A32	1	Land east of Cross Roads Plantation	Other lowland acid grassland Other Scot's pine woodland	Scrub / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A33	20	Cross Roads Plantation	Wet woodland Other woodland; mixed	Woodland

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Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Existing UK Habitats in Field 2024	**Proposed Habitats
			Felled Ponds (priority)	Woodland / Open grass
A34	20	Cross Roads Plantation	Other Scot's Pine Woodland	Other woodland; mixed
A35	20	Cross Roads Plantation	Other Scot's Pine Woodland	Other woodland; mixed

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Table 4.5 Alderholt Common SANG and corresponding fields/parcels with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Existing UK Habitats in Field 2024	**Proposed Habitats
A17	18 (part)	Land to southwest of Sleepbrook Farm	Temporary grass and clover leys	Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Woodland
A18	18 (part)	ditto	Modified grassland	Swale / Pond / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A19	18 (part)	ditto	Purple moor grass and rush pastures Other woodland; mixed	Other neutral grassland (Marshy grassland) / Other woodland; mixed
A25	18 (part)	ditto	Temporary grass and clover leys	Swale / Ponds / Wetland / Reedbed / Open grass
A26	18 (part)	ditto	Temporary grass and clover leys	Swale / Ponds / Wetland / Reedbed / Open grass
A31	19	Land to southwest of Warren Park Farm	Temporary grass and clover leys Other neutral grassland	Swale / Pond / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Woodland Pond / Wildflower meadow / Trees

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Table 4.6 Harbridge Drove SANG and corresponding fields/parcels with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Existing UK Habitats in Field 2024	**Proposed Habitats
A4	13 (part)	Land around Oaktree Farm and Foxhill Farm	Other neutral grassland Bramble scrub Modified grassland	Swale / Ponds / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland Wildflower meadow / Trees
A5	13 (part)	ditto	Other neutral grassland	Swale / Ponds / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower

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Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Existing UK Habitats in Field 2024	**Proposed Habitats
				meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A28	14 (part)	Land around Warren Park Farm campsite	Temporary grass and clover leys	Wildflower meadow / Trees / Woodland
A29	14 (part)	ditto	Other neutral grassland	Existing Trees and Hedge / Open grass
A30	14 (part)	ditto	Other neutral grassland Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland / Open grass / Ponds

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Hedgerows

4.15   Some complete hedgerows will be removed to accommodate built development, and a few gaps created to provide access (paths/roads). New native species-rich hedgerows will be planted to compensate for the loss of hedgerows.

4.16   Moreover, existing hedgerows will be enhanced through gap planting and sensitive management to promote biodiversity benefits by improving integrity and connectivity.

4.17   The condition of all existing hedgerows will be improved following the cessation of agricultural management of hedgerows and use of adjoining land for intensive agriculture will bring the greatest benefit.

Ditches and Streams

4.18   There are proposals to create new ditches and enhance existing ones.

4.19   On-site watercourses and ditches that are tributaries of Sleep Brook and Hamer Brook will be retained and enhanced, and the creation and management of adjacent habitats will be complementary to ensure biodiversity gain is maximised.

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5.   SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Introduction

5.1   The following should be read with reference to **Maps 2 - 4** and the completed **Defra Metric 3.1 spreadsheet** (see Headline results in **Annex 1**), including the comments in the final column of the spreadsheet, and the condition assessment sheets (included in the separate Excel sheet **and at Annex 2**).

Habitats

5.2   As shown on **Map 4**, the Proposed Development was designed to follow the mitigation hierarchy as follows:

- Avoidance of impacts to important habitats, through retention, buffering and managing the buffers;

- Mitigation/minimisation of losses of valued habitats and features by focussing development to areas of low value modified grassland and cropland;

- Restoration of important habitats through sympathetic management; and

- Enhancement of modified grassland.

5.3   The resultant change in biodiversity units is:

- On-site baseline: 460.57 Habitat units

- On-site post-development: 515.61 Habitat units

- Total net unit change: 55.04 Habitat units

- On-site net % change: +11.95%

Hedgerows

5.4   As shown on **Map 5**, the Proposed Development was designed to follow the mitigation hierarchy as follows:

- Avoidance of impacts to irreplaceable habitats including hedgerows;

- Mitigation/minimisation of breaches to hedges by design by keeping the number of roads and paths to the minimum, using existing access points, and where crossings are located utilising existing gaps;

- Creation of new hedgerows by planting native species-rich hedgerows; and

- Enhancement of grassland where this provides a wide buffer to hedgerows.

5.5   The resultant change in biodiversity units is:

- On-site baseline: 90.08 Hedgerow units

- On-site post-intervention: 113.83 Hedgerow units

- Total net unit change: 23.75 Hedgerow units

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- On-site net % change: +26.37%

Ditches

5.6 As shown on **Map 5**, the Proposed Development was designed to follow the mitigation hierarchy as follows:

- <u>Avoidance</u> of impacts to irreplaceable habitats including ditches;

- <u>Mitigation/minimisation</u> of loss and degradation of ditches by design;

- <u>Creation</u> of new ditches as part of SuDS; and

- <u>Enhancement</u> of ditches through complementary habitat creation and management of habitats adjacent to ditches.

5.7 The resultant change in biodiversity units is:

- On-site baseline: 9.91 Ditch units

- On-site post-intervention: 16.83 Ditch units

- Total net unit change: 6.92 Ditch units

- On-site net % change: +69.80%

Species

5.8 Beyond the habitat-based assessment contained within the Biodiversity Metric, species-specific enhancements are considered as part of the EMEP. Measures to enhance to achieve BNG include habitat management and provision of features within the built development, including carefully sited bat bricks, Swift bricks, and holes in fence panels to aid movement across developed areas by Hedgehogs. See the EMEP for details.

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6.   CONCLUSIONS

6.1   Based on the above main assumptions and the additional notes included in the final column of the metric spreadsheet, the outline BNG calculation shows the following approximate change in biodiversity units is anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development:

- Increase in Habitat units of +11.95% above baseline.

- Increase in Hedgerow units of +26.37% above baseline.

- Increase in Ditch units of +69.80% above baseline.

6.2   This exceeds the requirement in the Environment Act and Draft Dorset Local Plan Policy ENV3 for a 10% net gain above baseline to be achieved.

6.3   Based on the above, it is concluded that the proposals as envisaged will be in accordance with the requirement for BNG to be provided under paragraph 174 d) of the NPPF.

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7. REFERENCES

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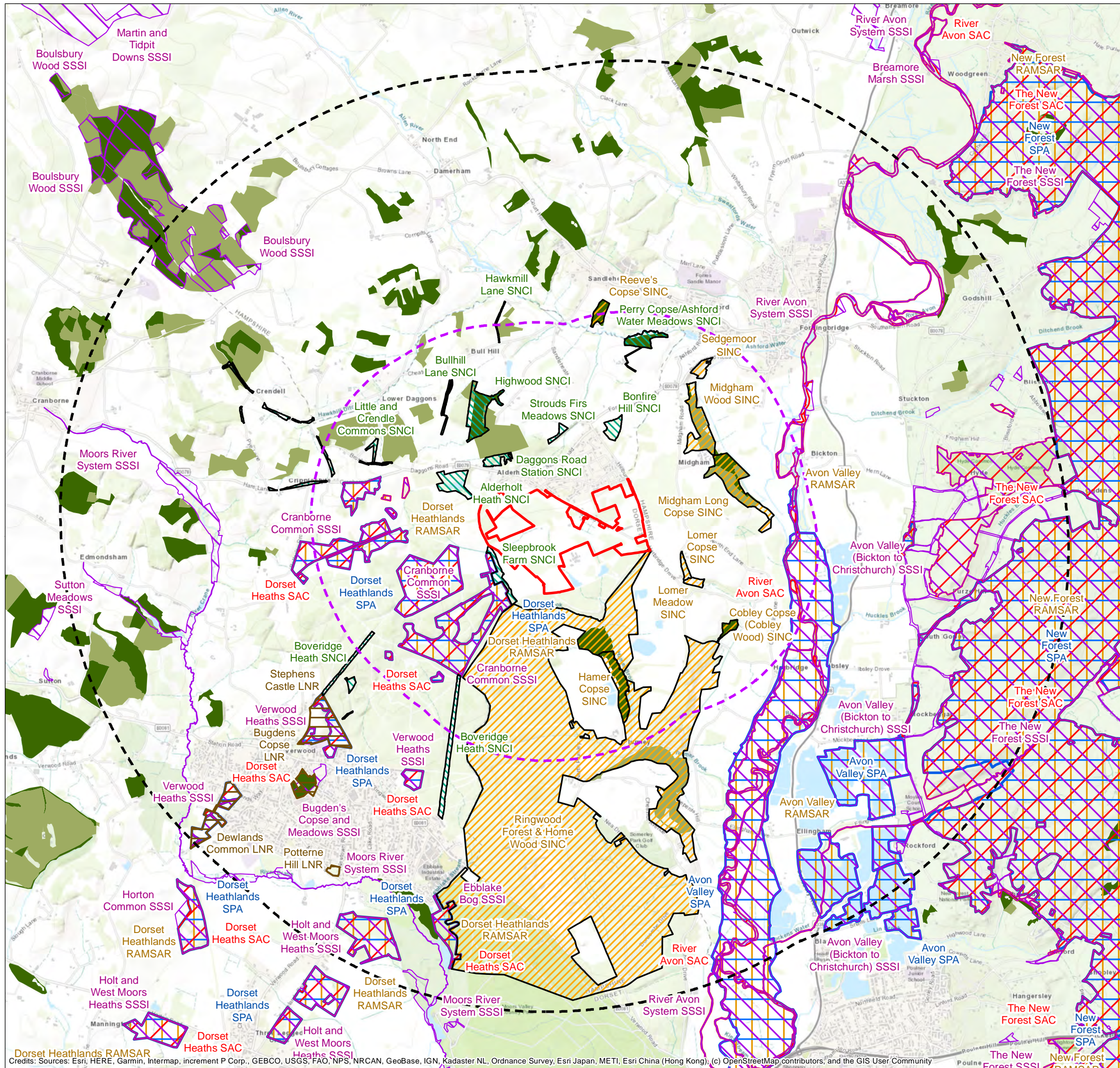
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MAP 1 Site Location & Nature Conservation Designations

KEY

Site boundary

2km linear distance from site boundary

5km linear distance from site boundary

Non-Statutory Sites

Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland

Ancient Replanted Woodland

Statutory Sites

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

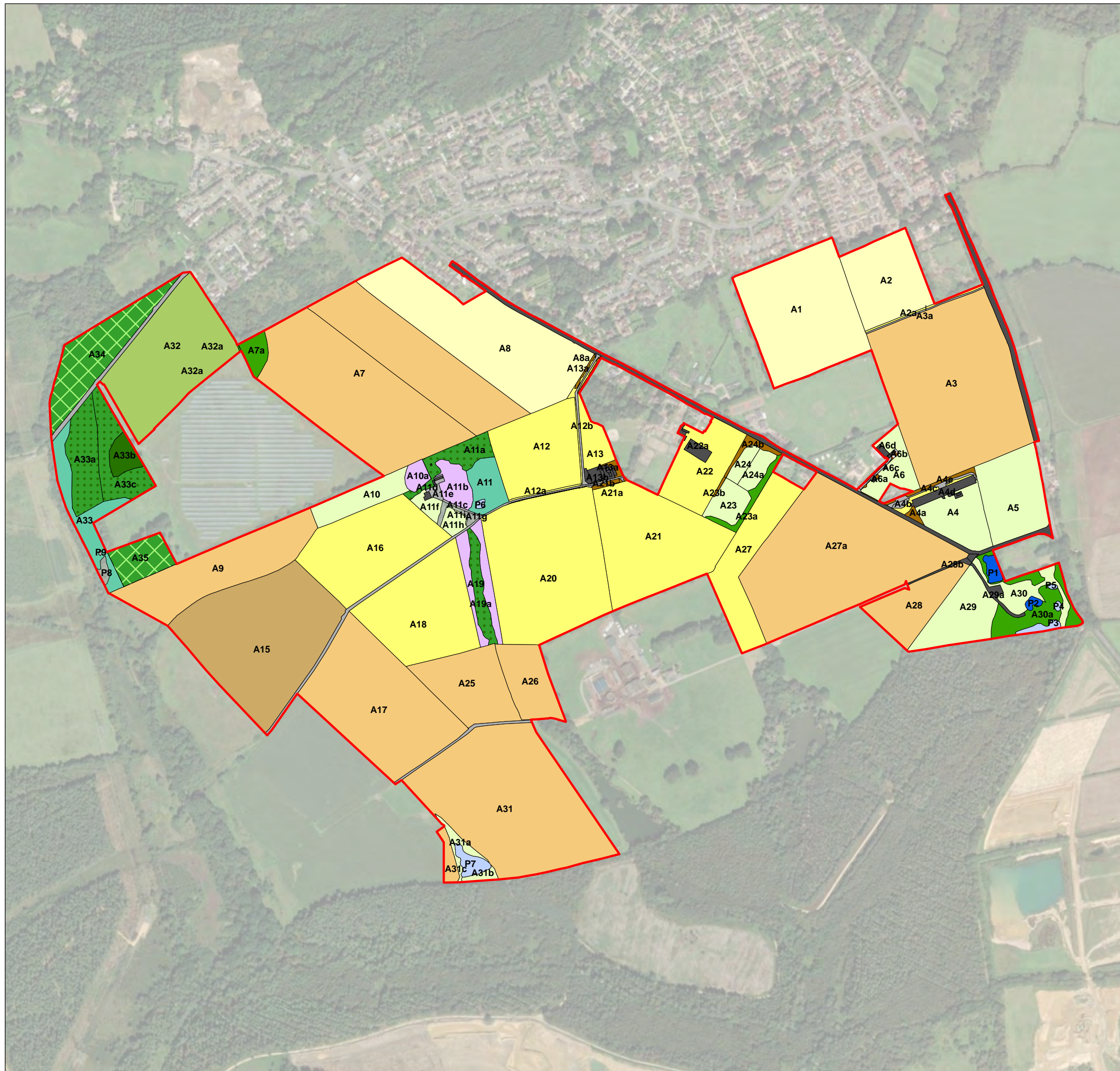Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Ramsar

Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

SCALE: 1:45,000 at A3

0   500   1,000   1,500   2,000 Metres

N

EPR

CLIENT: Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

PROJECT: Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

DATE: 29 November 2022

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SNCI: Dorset Environmental Records Centre, SINC: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

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Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Map labels:

Martin and Tidpit Downs SSSI
Boulsbury Wood SSSI
Boulsbury Wood SSSI
Boulsbury Wood SSSI
River Avon System SSSI
River Avon SAC
Breamore Marsh SSSI
New Forest RAMSAR
The New Forest SAC
New Forest SPA
The New Forest SSSI
Hawkmill Lane SNCI
Reeve's Copse SNCI
Perry Copse/Ashford Water Meadows SNCI
River Avon System SSSI
Sedgemoor SINC
Bullhill Lane SNCI
Highwood SNCI
Strouds Firs Meadows SNCI
Bonfire Hill SNCI
Midgham Wood SINC
Little and Crendle Commons SNCI
Moors River System SSSI
Daggons Road Station SNCI
Alderholt Heath SNCI
Dorset Heathlands RAMSAR
Midgham Long Copse SINC
Sutton Meadows SSSI
Cranborne Common SSSI
Dorset Heaths SAC
Dorset Heathlands SPA
Cranborne Common SSSI
Sleepbrook Farm SNCI
Dorset Heathlands SPA
Lomer Copse SINC
River Avon SAC
Dorset Heaths SAC
Dorset Heathlands RAMSAR
Lomer Meadow SINC
Cobley Copse (Cobley Wood) SINC
Avon Valley RAMSAR
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch) SSSI
New Forest RAMSAR
The New Forest SAC
Boveridge Heath SNCI
Cranborne Common SSSI
Dorset Heaths SAC
Hamer Copse SINC
New Forest SPA
Stephens Castle LNR
Boveridge Heath SNCI
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch) SSSI
The New Forest SSSI
Verwood Heaths SSSI
Bugdens Copse LNR
Dorset Heaths SAC
Verwood Heaths SSSI
Dorset Heathlands SPA
Ringwood Forest & Home Wood SINC
Avon Valley SPA
Verwood Heaths SSSI
Dorset Heaths SAC
Avon Valley RAMSAR
Bugden's Copse and Meadows SSSI
Dewlands Common LNR
Potterne Hill LNR
Moors River System SSSI
Ebblake Bog SSSI
Dorset Heathlands RAMSAR
Avon Valley SPA
Horton Common SSSI
Dorset Heathlands SPA
Holt and West Moors Heaths SSSI
Dorset Heaths SAC
Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch) SSSI
Dorset Heathlands RAMSAR
Holt and West Moors Heaths SSSI
Dorset Heathlands SPA
Dorset Heaths SAC
Moors River System SSSI
River Avon System SSSI
River Avon SAC
Avon Valley SPA
The New Forest SAC
New Forest SPA
Holt and West Moors Heaths SSSI
Dorset Heaths SAC
Dorset Heathlands RAMSAR
The New Forest SSSI
New Forest RAMSAR

MAP 2   BNG Baseline – Area Habitats

KEY

- Site boundary
- Cereal crops
- Non-cereal crops
- Temporary grass and clover leys
- Modified grassland
- Other lowland acid grassland
- Other neutral grassland
- Bramble scrub
- Ponds (priority habitat)
- Ponds (non- priority habitat)
- Ruderal/Ephemeral
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Bare ground
- Vegetated garden
- Purple moor grass and rush pastures
- Felled
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Other Scot's Pine woodland
- Other woodland; mixed
- Wet woodland

A1: Unique Area Feature ID

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A3
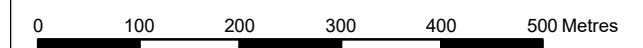
0   100   200   300   400   500 Metres

N

EPR

CLIENT: Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

PROJECT: Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

DATE: 24 May 2024

P22/40

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Aerial Image: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

MAP 3   BNG Baseline – Linear Habitats
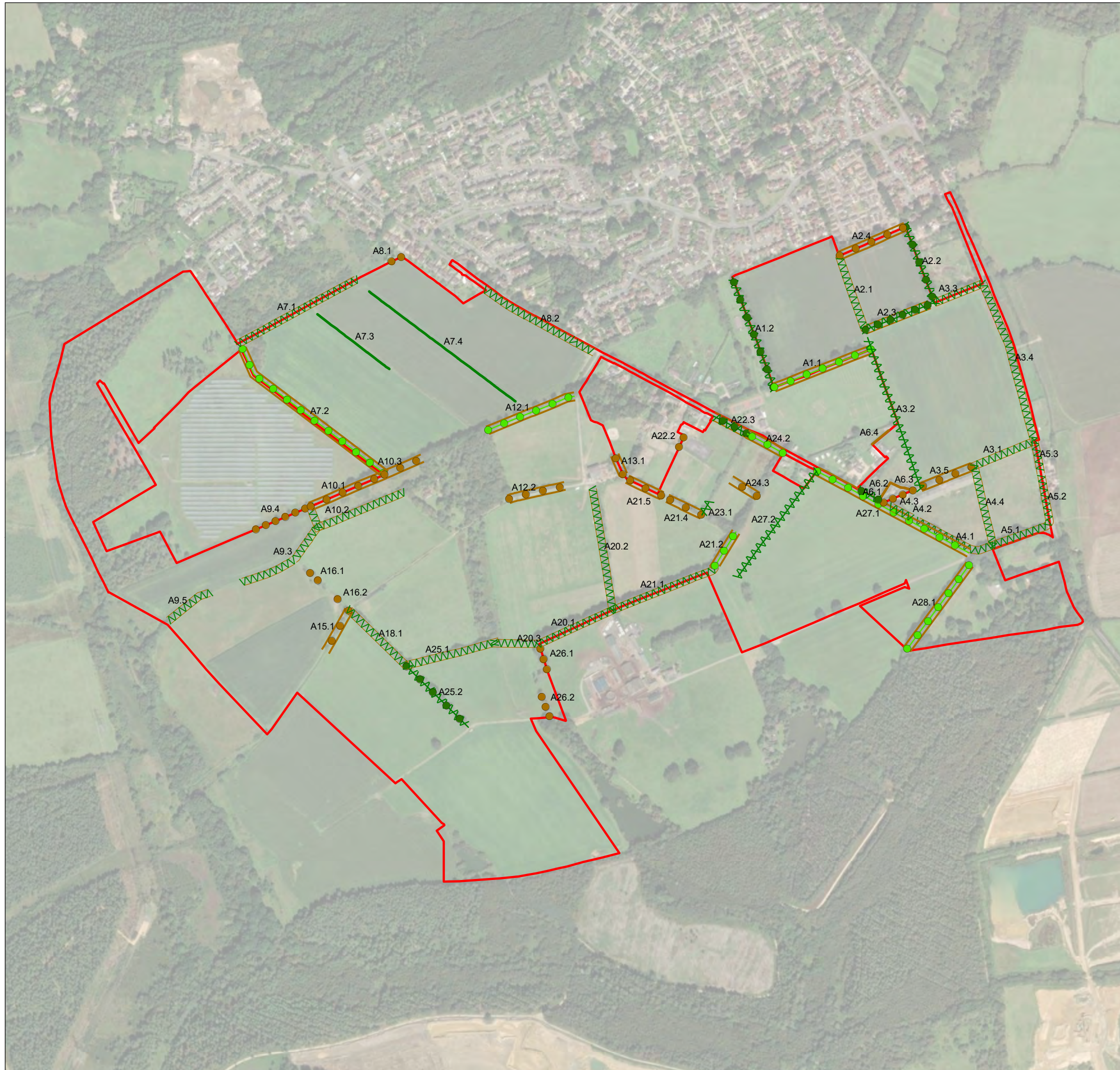
KEY

Site boundary

Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch

Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees

Native Species Rich Hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch

Native Species Rich Hedgerow

Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - associated with bank or ditch

Native hedgerow

Line of trees

Line of Trees - Associated with bank or

Hedge Ornamental Non Native

A1: Unique Linear Feature ID

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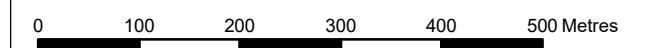
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N

CLIENT: Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

PROJECT: Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

DATE: 24 May 2024

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Aerial Image: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

MAP 4   Proposed Habitats, Hedgerows and Ditches

KEY

Site boundary

Proposed trees

Proposed hedges

Enhanced

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

Modified grassland (Amenity grassland)

Other neutral grassland

Other woodland; mixed

Pond

Purple moor grass and rush pastures

Wet woodland

Created

Allotments

Built

Open grass area

Paths

Play area

Pond

Potential solar array

Proposed woodland

Swales

Wetland, reedbed

Wildflower meadow

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A3

0   100   200   300   400   500 Metres

N

EPR
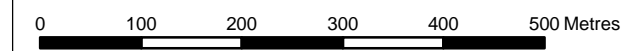
CLIENT: Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

PROJECT: Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

DATE: 07 December 2022

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Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community
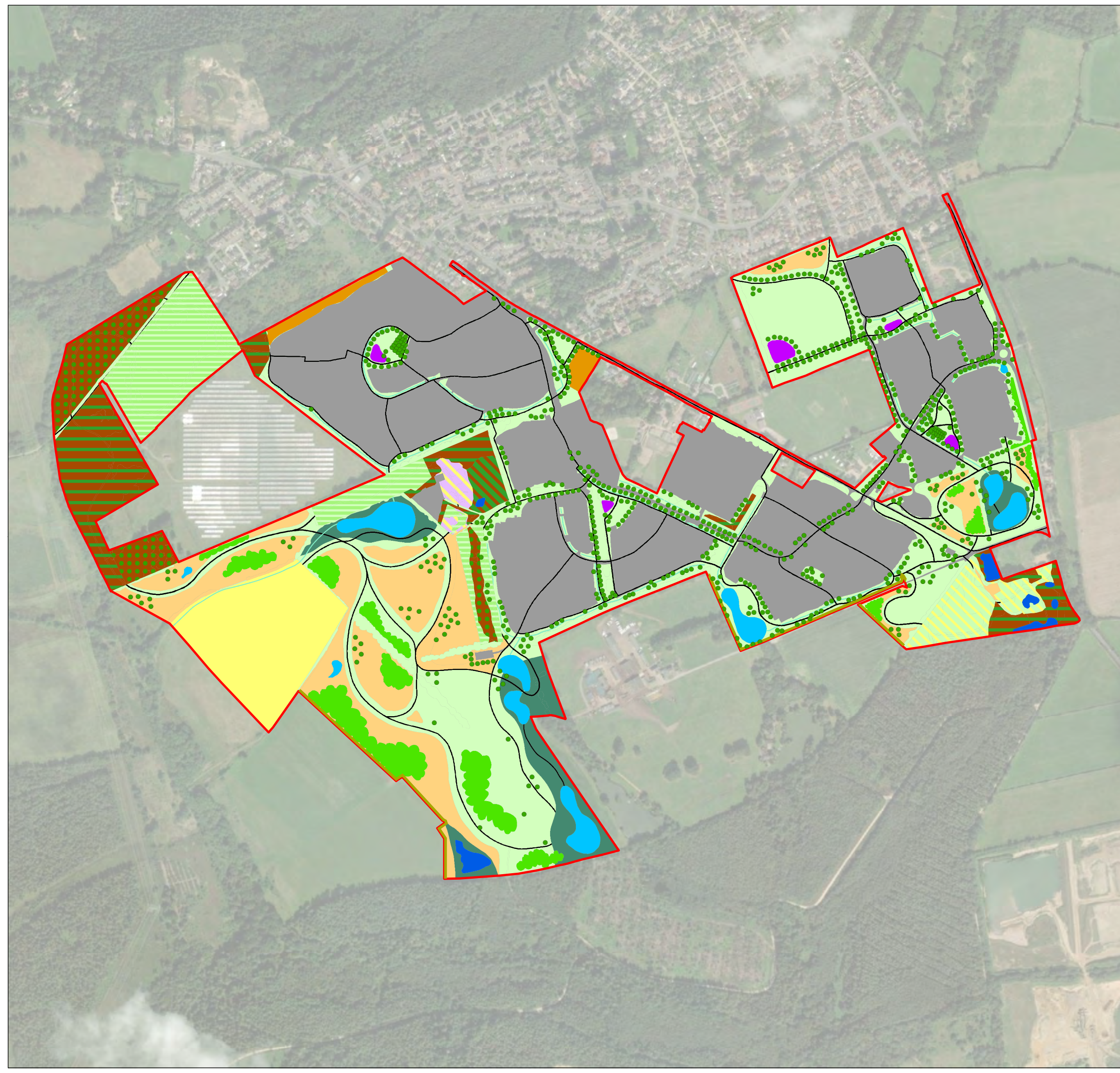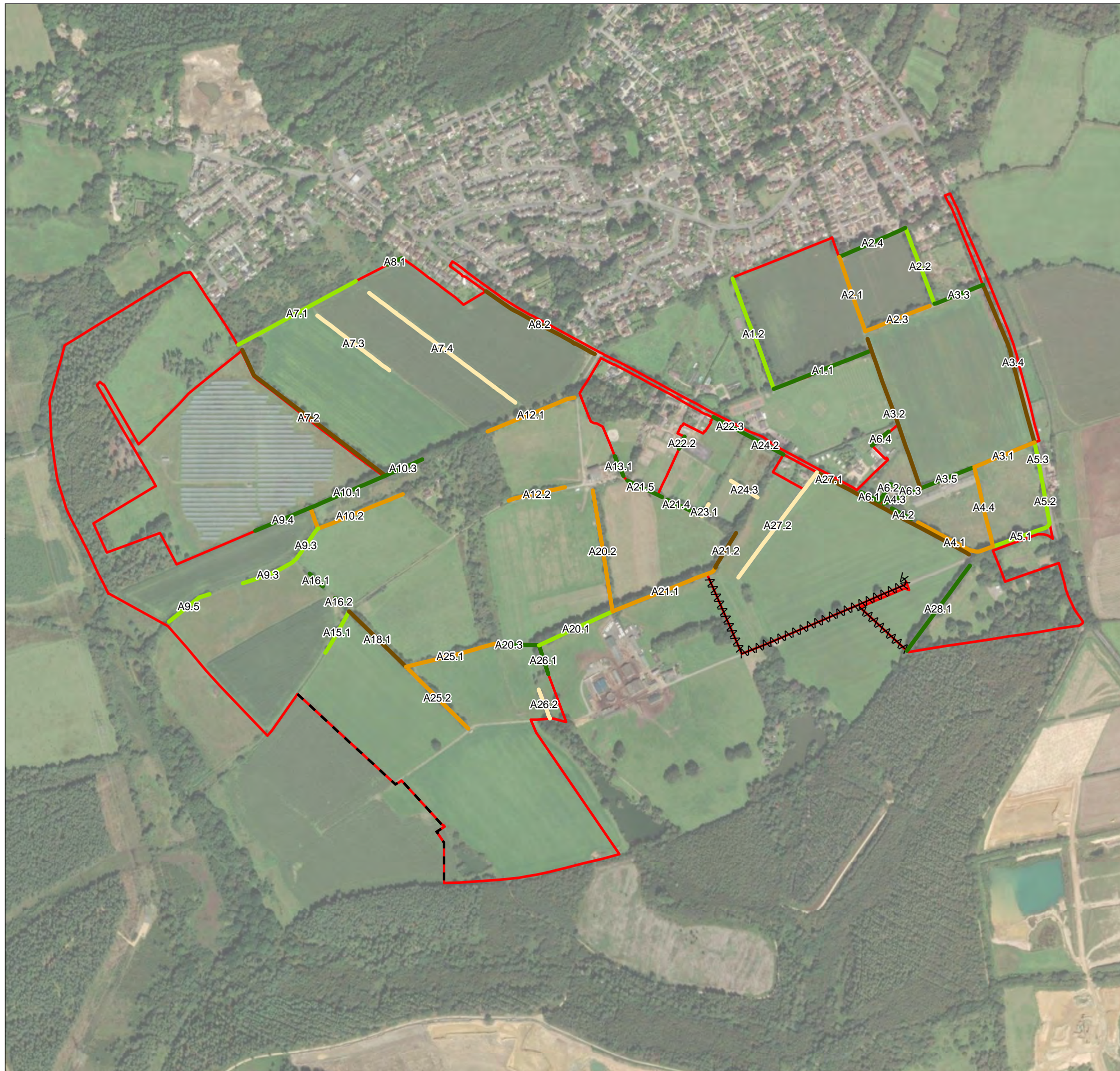
MAP 5   Hedge Loss and Gains

KEY

- Site boundary
- Enhanced
- Lost
- Part lost, part enhanced
- Part lost, part retained
- Retained
- - - - Potential native species rich hedgerow
- WWWWW Proposed native species rich hedgerow

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A3

0   100   200   300   400   500 Metres

N

CLIENT: Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

PROJECT: Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

DATE: 28 May 2024

P22/40

Y:\Alderholt, East Dorset 2240\GIS\E 9\Technical Appendices\Biodiversity Net Gain Report\Map5_HedgeLossGain_P2240_280524.mxd

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Annex 1

Biodiversity Metric 3.1 – Headline Results

Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge Headline Results		Return to results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	460.57
	Hedgerow units	90.08
	River units	9.91

On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	515.61
	Hedgerow units	113.83
	River units	16.83

On-site net % change (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	11.95%
	Hedgerow units	26.37%
	River units	69.80%

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00

Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00

Total net unit change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	55.04
	Hedgerow units	23.75
	River units	6.92

Total on-site net % change plus off-site surplus (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	11.95%
	Hedgerow units	26.37%
	River units	69.80%

Trading rules Satisfied?	Yes ✓

Annex 2
Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

EXISTING HABITATS

Refer to the separate Excel sheet for baseline habitat condition assessment forms.

PROPOSED HABITATS

Table A2.1: Habitat condition criteria assessment of <u>MEDIUM</u> distinctiveness grasslands

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)				
		A10	A11	A19	A32	A33
1	The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type (see UKHab definition). Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific grassland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981). Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	There are greater than 9 species per metre squared. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving good condition (non-acid grassland types only).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Result (Number of Passes)		**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**

Table A2.2: Summary condition assessment of <u>MEDIUM</u> distinctiveness grasslands

Ref area	Condition	Rationale
A10	Good	Predicted to pass all criteria due to favourable characteristics for restoration
A11	Good	Passes all criteria
A19	Good	Passes all criteria
A32	Good	Passes all criteria
A33	Good	Passes all criteria

Table A2.8: Habitat condition criteria assessment of <u>LOW</u> distinctiveness grasslands

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)								
		A4	A5	A6	A12	A13	A23	A24	A29	A30
1	There must be 6-8 species per m2. If a grassland has 9 or more species per m2 it should be classified as a medium distinctiveness grassland habitat type. NB - this criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (e.g., a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Result (Number of Passes)	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**

Table A2.9: Summary condition assessment of <u>LOW</u> distinctiveness grasslands

Ref area	Condition	Rationale
A4	Good	Predicted to pass all criteria due to favourable characteristics for restoration
A5	Good	Passes all criteria
A6	Good	Passes all criteria
A12	Good	Passes all criteria
A13	Good	Passes all criteria
A23	Good	Passes all criteria
A24	Good	Passes all criteria
A29	Good	Passes all criteria
A30	Good	Passes all criteria

Annex 3
Hedgerow Condition Assessment Sheets

EXISTING HEDGEROWS

Refer to the separate Excel sheet for baseline habitat condition assessment forms.

PROPOSED HEDGEROWS

Table A3.4: Summary condition assessment of hedgerows – <u>Enhanced</u>

Hedge No.	Condition	Rationale
		Suggested enhancement intervention to improve condition score
1.1	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
1.2	Moderate	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
2.1	Moderate	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
2.2	Moderate	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
2.3	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
2.4	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
3.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. South-facing side will be northern boundary of Harbridge Drove SANG. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan. North-facing side will be adjacent to development. Enhancement as part of EMES. Two narrow breaches for pedestrian paths to SANG. Narrow breach for swale to SuDS basin in Harbridge Drove SANG.
4.1	Good	SW edge of Harbridge Drove SANG. North-facing side adjacent to Harbridge Drove SANG. South facing side adjacent to track with tree line (A27.1) forming other side.
5.1	Moderate	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
5.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
5.3	Moderate	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.

Hedge No.	Condition	Rationale Suggested enhancement intervention to improve condition score
7.1	Moderate	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
9.3	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
9.5	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
10.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
12.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
12.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
15.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
20.1	Moderate	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
20.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
21.1	Moderate	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
25.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
25.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
26.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.