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**MINETY SUBSTATION EXTENSION  
MINETY, WILTSHIRE  
DORMOUSE MITIGATION STRATEGY**

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## **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX A: PDD-101488-LAY-302-REV - 3 Proposed Development

## **DRAWINGS**

G9236.019D - Figure D Impacts Plan

G9236.021D - Figure E3 Specifications for Mitigation and Compensation

G9236.022 - Hedgerow Location Plan

## 1.0 Introduction, Site Location and Purpose

- 1.1 TEP was commissioned by National Grid (NG) in December 2021 to undertake an Ecological Assessment of land surrounding the existing Minety 400kV substation (hereafter referred to as the 'Application Area') in relation to potential extension proposals to the west and north of the substation. An updated extended phase 1 habitat survey was completed in May 2023 following amendments to the site application boundary.

### Site Location

- 1.2 The footprint of the development boundary measures approximately 8ha and lies to the southwest of the village of Minety, Malmesbury in Wiltshire. The site is bordered on three sides by mature woodland with agricultural fields beyond. The location is shown in Figure 1. The approximately central grid reference is SU 00028 89842.
- 1.3 Figure 1 shows the clients ownership boundary in the wider landscape.



Figure 1. Site Ownership Location

### Background

- 1.4 The Ecological Assessment<sup>1</sup>, included an extended phase 1 habitat survey. The phase 1 habitat survey confirmed the presence of suitable habitat to support dormice, therefore, dormouse surveys were recommended to be undertaken to support any future planning application. Dormouse nest tube surveys were completed on the site between March and September 2022.

<sup>1</sup> TEP Doc Ref: 9236.003

- 1.5 Full dormouse survey methods and results can be found in the Dormouse Survey Report (TEP Doc Ref: 9236.004) which was submitted as part of the initial planning application. In summary, a single dormouse nest and a single possible dormouse nest were found in two separate nest boxes in September and October 2022, respectively.

### **Purpose**

- 1.6 The Ecological Assessment included the completion of a Desk Study, Extended Phase 1 habitat survey and further detailed surveys for protected and notable species over the course of 2022-2023, with surveys for dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), confirming the presence of this species onsite.
- 1.7 The hazel dormouse is listed as a European Protected Species (EPS) on Schedule 2 of the Conservation Regulations (Annex IV(a) to the Habitats Directive), affording it protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010).
- 1.8 In the absence of appropriate compensation and mitigation measures, the development proposals are considered likely to result in the destruction of, and disturbance to, dormouse habitat both on and immediately adjacent to the Application Site. Additionally, the potential for disturbance, injury and killing of individuals could also arise during the pre-construction and construction phases. Should the development proposals be consented, given the risk of causing an offence under the Conservation Regulations a development licence from Natural England (NE), will therefore be necessary prior to any commencement of works.
- 1.9 This Dormouse Habitat Creation Strategy, therefore, sets out the recommended sensitive working methodologies to be implemented during the pre-construction and construction phases of the development proposed. The methodologies devised are based upon the findings of the dormouse survey completed by TEP during 2022.
- 1.10 This strategy also sets out the recommended compensation, mitigation and enhancement measures to be implemented as part of the proposals, to ensure no significant negative effects will arise upon the favourable conservation status of the local dormouse population following project completion.
- 1.11 As such, it is considered that this strategy could form the basis of the Method Statement template comprising any future development licence application submission to NE going forward.
- 1.12 Furthermore, this strategy sets out to address comments made by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Ecologist and Natural England (NE) during the determination process of the planning application (Ref: PL/2022/09258). The comments made were as follows:
- Evidence how connectivity will be maintained between Park Copse and Stonehill Wood.  
*"Based on the information available it appears that connectivity between Park Copse to the west of the site and Stonehill Wood to the southeast of the site may not be maintained. The woodland strip to the south of the site is likely to provide an important commuting corridor and we recommend*

*that the proposals demonstrate that a functional ecological corridor for dormice is maintained between the two blocks of woodland."*

- Requirement for Habitat Creation Strategy.  
*"The supporting Dormouse Survey Report states that the proposals include the loss of approximately 2ha of suitable dormouse habitat. While Natural England welcomes the need to mitigate this habitat loss, we are concerned that the permanent loss of suitable habitat will be mitigated off-site to the detriment of the local population. Based on the information provided Natural England advises that the proposals without appropriate mitigation would result in a significant reduction in the habitat available which may have a detrimental impact on the local dormouse population. The final dormouse mitigation strategy should be agreed by your Authority's Ecology Team."*

1.13 It should be noted that this strategy has been developed in accordance with the comments received by the County Ecologist on 23 March 2023 and 27 September 2023. It has been further informed by ongoing discussions with Natural England through NE's Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) in 2023 and 2024.

## 2.0 Survey Findings

2.1 Full survey findings are detailed in the Dormouse Survey Report (TEP Doc Ref: 9236.004). A summary of the findings is provided below:

- A data search completed in January 2022 identified no dormouse records within 2km of the site (Source: Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC)). However, historical records of dormice are known to exist originating from Ravensroost Wood Nature Reserve, located approximately 1.5km southeast of the site.
- In March 2022, 50 dormouse nest tubes were installed in suitable habitats around the substation, spaced approximately 20 metres apart in a grid pattern. Additionally, 15 nest boxes were installed at regular intervals to supplement the nest tubes. Both tubes and boxes were left to settle for about three weeks before the first monthly survey. Monthly surveys began in April and continued through September 2022. In September 2022, a single dormouse nest was found in nest box 5, and during an ad-hoc site visit in October 2022, a potential dormouse nest was discovered in nest box 10. No dormouse-chewed hazelnuts were found during the surveys. By conducting surveys from April through September, an Index of Probability score of 21 was achieved. These surveys were conducted in line with best practice guidance.



## 3.0 Impact Assessment in Absence of Mitigation or Compensation

- 3.1 The overall site (including Application Area and land currently in client's ownership) measures 9.53ha.
- 3.2 The proposed development will result in the permanent loss within the Application Area of approximately:
- 1.14ha of optimal suitable dense mixed scrub;
  - 0.10ha of optimal semi-natural broadleaved woodland, and
  - 0.16ha of sub-optimal plantation broadleaved woodland.
- 3.3 It will also result in the temporary loss of approximately:
- 0.04ha of optimal semi-natural broadleaved woodland, and
  - 0.06ha of sub-optimal plantation broadleaved woodland.

*Table 1. Habitat Impacts*

Habitat	Permanent Loss (ha)	Temporary Loss (ha)	Retained (ha)	Enhanced (ha)
Optimal Habitat				
Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	0.10	0.04	0.64	-
Dense/continuous scrub	1.14	-	0.85	-
Sub-Optimal Habitat				
Plantation broadleaved woodland	0.16	0.06	0.01	1.35

- 3.4 Habitat losses proposed across the Application Site have the potential to kill, injure and/or disturb dormice that may be present therein. In the absence of mitigation or compensation and considering the likely small size of the dormouse population located within the local landscape, such impacts upon the dormouse population present onsite are considered to be significant low negative at the site and local level, but negligible at the regional and national levels.

### Assessment of Adjacent Planning Applications

- 3.5 The following planning applications have been reviewed to inform this strategy which either fall within NG land ownership or adjacent to it are:
- 20/07390/FUL,
  - PL/2023/03501,
  - PL/2022/05504,



- 19/11460/FUL,
- 18/04718/FUL, and
- 20/03528/FUL.

Planning Application: 20/07390/FUL

- 3.6 This scheme falls within NG land ownership boundary, located within the grassland field to the east of the existing substation. Proposals are for the installation of a battery storage facility and ancillary development.
- 3.7 The landscape design for planning application 20/07390/FUL indicates that the belt of plantation woodland located on the eastern ownership boundary is not to be impacted by the proposals. A new native hedgerow is proposed to be planted along the western site boundary (See Figure 2). The hedgerow will measure approximately 100m in length and comprise dogwood, dog rose, hawthorn, blackthorn, and hazel. The hedgerow will link to existing woodland in the north and terminate at the substation access road to the south. Although the new hedgerow will not be directly connected to woodland (Stonehill Wood) to the south of the access road, this gap isn't considered impassable for dormice.

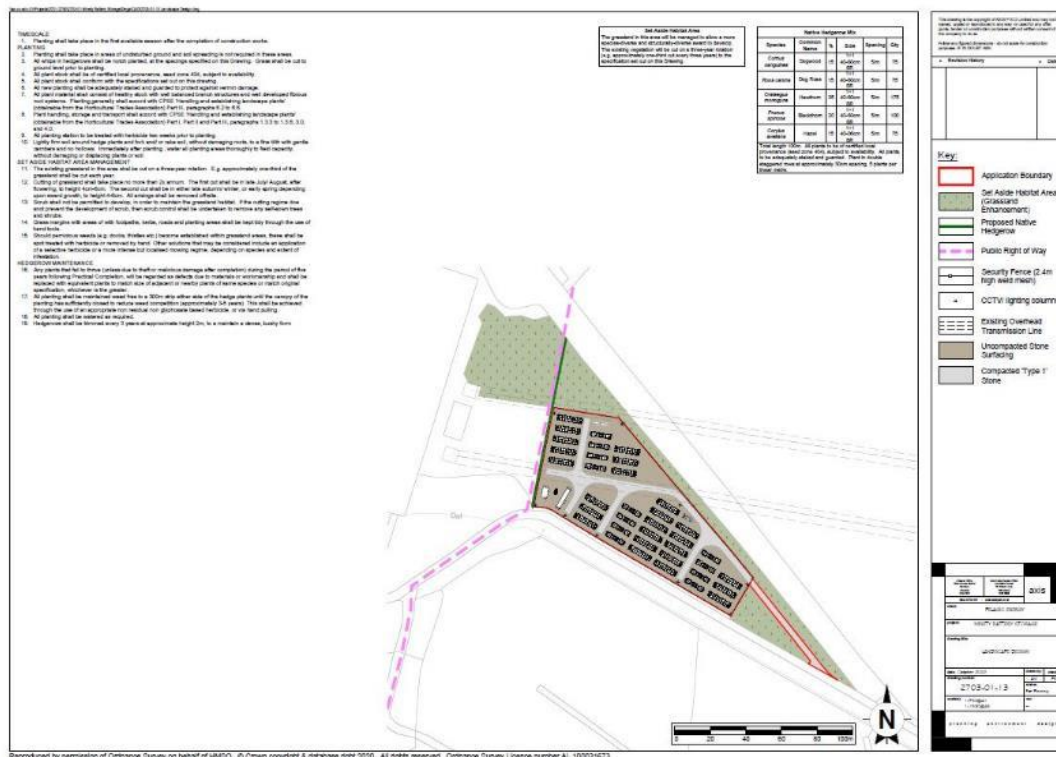


Figure 2. 20/07390/FUL Landscape Design

Planning Application: PL/2023/03501 - Variation of condition 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 & 20 of 20/03528/FUL

- 3.8 This scheme falls adjacent to the NG land ownership boundary to the north and extends both to the west around Park Copse and to the east between Cloatley Farm SSSI and Stonehill Wood.

- 3.9 Proposals are for installation of a renewable led energy scheme comprising ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with transformer stations; access; internal access track; landscaping; security fencing; security measures; access gate; and ancillary infrastructure.
- 3.10 The landscape masterplan (Drawing No: P19-2270\_13) shows large areas of land surrounding the north of the substation and Park Copse being allocated for soft landscaping in the form of WFG8 Hedgerows and Shaded Areas Grassland mix seeding (See Figure 3). Furthermore, existing gaps in hedgerows within the wider scheme are proposed to be enhanced through supplementary planting. Therefore, improving potential dormouse habitat within the wider area. The woodland belt separating the site and Cloatley Farm SSSI will not be impacted by the proposals.



Figure 3. PL/2023/03501: Landscape Masterplan

Planning Application: PL/2022/05504

- 3.11 This scheme falls adjacent to NG land ownership boundary to the southwest. Proposals are for the installation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) together with associated ancillary infrastructure, equipment, and access arrangements.
- 3.12 The landscape plan (Drawing No: 862/01 Rev B) shows a large area of proposed tree and shrub mix planting to be located adjacent to Park Copse woodland and extending down the western boundary (Figure 4). This proposed planting scheme will expand and enhance existing off-site hedgerows and scrub located to the south of the substation. Therefore, providing the local dormouse population with increased suitable habitat in the wider area.

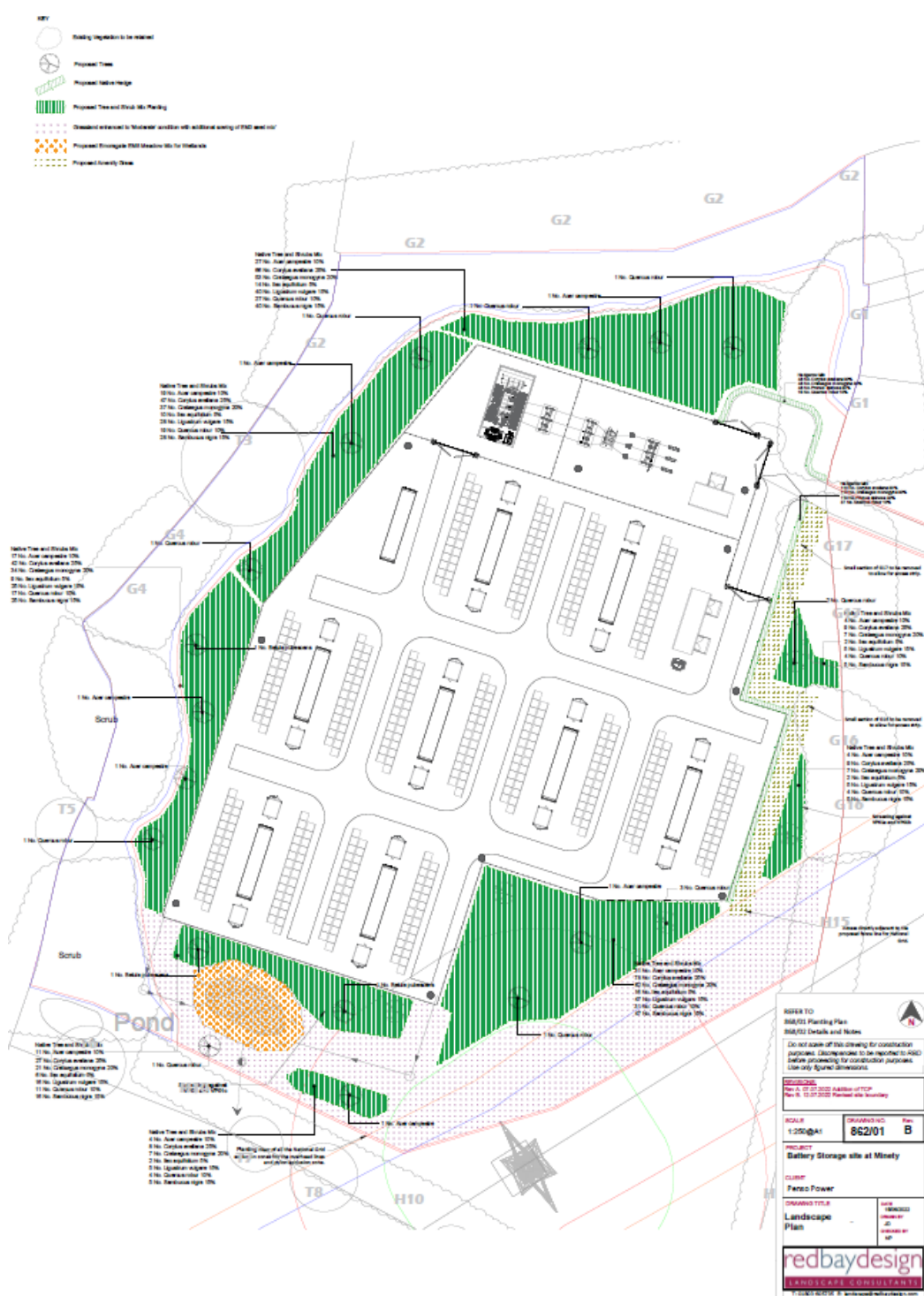


Figure 4. PL/2022/05504 Landscape Plan

## 4.0 Mitigation and Compensation

### Works to be Undertaken

- 4.1 Mitigation measures will be set out in a 'Toolbox Talk' at the outset of works, in addition to being explained to the site contractors at a pre-works commencement meeting on site. The Named Ecologist or Accredited Agent (AA) will be on site during the vegetation clearance and planting phases to ensure that all works are being implemented in accordance with the licence. A fingertip search by the Named Ecologist or AA will be undertaken prior to any relevant vegetation clearance on site.

### Site Clearance Methods

- 4.2 Due to the significant delays encountered during the planning application/determination period, the commencement of construction once planning permission and a mitigation licence is granted is essential. Therefore, a single stage 'summer clearance' method is proposed in this instance. It has been proposed by Wiltshire Council that a Site Clearance Management Plan be approved prior to clearance to ensure adequate protection and mitigation for ecological receptors prior to and during construction.
- 4.3 Once a NE dormouse mitigation licence has been granted, vegetation clearance will be undertaken in a single stage approach between mid-September and end of October 2024.

#### Summer Clearance Methodology

- 4.4 Single stage, summer clearance methodologies, aimed at displacing active individuals away from the area to be cleared and towards retained vegetation adjacent, are proposed.
- 4.5 Single stage summer clearance works will involve the completion of both above-ground and belowground vegetation clearance during the dormouse active season, with above-ground vegetation clearance confined to the period mid-September to 31st October 2024, thereby avoiding the main dormouse breeding season (considered to be between mid-June and August inclusive), and hibernation period (considered to be between November and March inclusive). Clearance works will be overseen by the suitability qualified ecologist (or their accredited agents and assistants) named on the licence. The removal of all mature trees considered to have bat potential will be subject to a prior update inspection by a licensed bat ecologist.
- 4.6 The construction of the Proposed Development will follow general mitigation measures to be used throughout the construction process, including:
- Machinery will be switched off when not in use;
  - No overnight working will be undertaken; and
  - If task lighting is required between dusk and dawn, it shall be directional and avoid light spill onto adjacent vegetated areas.
- 4.7 Should there be a delay in receiving planning permission or granting of the mitigation licence and works do not commence until November 2024, then a two stage 'winter clearance' methodology will be employed.

## Habitat Creation

- 4.8 TEP and the Client have had ongoing discussions with Natural England to re-design the habitat creation scheme to ensure the proposals fully compensate for the habitat loss and the locality of such creation provides connectivity for the local population.

### Woodland Creation

- 4.9 An existing horse grazed grassland field located to the southeast of the Site is proposed to be planted with woodland tree specimens to create a mixed woodland. The area of proposed woodland creation measures 4.61ha, which equates to a gain of just over 3:1 ratio in area of habitat proposed to be lost under current proposals. Refer to Drawing G9236.021D
- 4.10 The location of this off-site created woodland has been chosen as it is functionally linked to both Stonehill Wood to the west and the surrounding hedgerow network to the south and east.
- 4.11 Once matured, the created woodland will act as a 'stepping stone', allowing dormice in the area to disperse. It is well positioned, linking with surrounding hedgerows which connect to the Ravensroost Wood Nature Reserve, where historical records of dormice have been noted.

### Scrub Creation

- 4.12 Two off-site areas of habitat creation is proposed. Firstly, an area measuring 0.74ha located immediately to the north of the Site is proposed to be enhanced and planted with mixed scrub specimens. The existing grassland field is currently used for silage.
- 4.13 A second area of off-site scrub creation is proposed. This 15m wide buffer strip measuring a total of 0.81ha will border the entire western side of Park Copse (ancient woodland) and will not only replace the scrub buffer habitat lost as part of the development but act as a new ancient woodland buffer to the proposed third-party development located to the west of the Site. Both areas of proposed scrub planting will maintain and improve habitat connectivity between habitats within this area of the site and the wider landscape to the north. Overall, this proposal would ensure there is connectivity between habitats (scrub and woodland) on the west and east of the site via off-site habitats (hedgerows and woodland) to the north.
- 4.14 With the mitigation measures outlined above, no long-term adverse effects on the site's ecological functionality are expected. Combined, the proposed woodland and scrub creation measures proposed and described above is set to deliver a habitat creation gain at a 4:1 ratio. Based on the proposed mitigation, it is considered that the favourable conservation status of dormice in the area will be preserved.
- 4.15 Refer to Figure X. Aerial Imagery showing proposed additional areas of habitat creation.
- 4.16





Figure 5: Additional off-site habitat creation areas

#### Dead Hedging and Habitat Piles

- 4.17 The creation of over 600m of dead hedge is proposed throughout the site. Dead hedging is proposed along the western, southern, and eastern site boundaries. The creation of dead hedges will provide dormice with ranging opportunities in areas of the site where habitat enhancement is proposed. All dead hedges will be created using natural material that is felled during vegetation removal/enhancement measures. Created dead hedges will measure approximately 1m wide and 2m high.
- 4.18 A total of 10 log and brash piles will be created throughout the retained/enhanced habitats surrounding the substation by using material which has been felled. These log and brash piles will provide additional shelter opportunities for not only hibernating dormice but also amphibians, reptiles, and hedgehog. The indicative locations are shown on Drawing G9236.021D.

#### **Maintaining Habitat Connectivity**

- 4.19 As it stands, habitat connectivity between Park Copse and Stonehill Wood is present, albeit the majority of the habitat connecting the two areas of ancient woodland is considered sub-optimal dormouse habitat comprising plantation broadleaved woodland. The plantation woodland lacks a sufficient scrub understory and species diversity. An area of dense mixed scrub is present predominantly along the southern site boundary extending around the south and eastern side of the existing pylon.

- 4.20 To address the first Natural England comment (See Paragraph 1.6), habitat connectivity between Park Copse located to the west of the site and Stonehill Wood located to the east of the site will be maintained via retained scrub habitat which is present along the western and southern site boundaries. This corridor of suitable dormouse habitat (mixed scrub) measures approximately 10m wide on the west of the site. An existing low maintenance access track forms part of this 10m corridor. A 12.15m wide habitat corridor will also remain along the southern boundary running to the south of the existing pylon and the proposed 33kV switch room.
- 4.21 Although the habitat to the east of the pylon mainly comprises sub-optimal plantation woodland, a strip of dense scrub is present along the majority of southern site boundary. This strip of scrub measures approximately 4m wide and comprises predominately bramble but with stands of hazel and willow species present.



*Figure 6. Existing scrub corridor in the south of the site (To be retained)*

- 4.22 Furthermore, existing off-site hedgerows located to the south of the site provide valuable habitat connections between Park Copse and Stonehill Wood (See Drawing G9236.022 Hedgerow Location Plan). These hedgerows will not be affected as part of the proposals and will ensure habitat connectivity between the offsite woodlands and the habitats within the site itself remain intact and functional both during and post construction.
- 4.23 A pre-existing access track which provides access to a newly constructed battery storage facility located immediately to the south of the site, separates the plantation woodland that is present in the south of the site with Stonehill Wood to the east. This access track was likely once a farming access which has now been upgraded to support the access into the battery storage facility (See Figure 3).



- 4.24 Therefore, it is likely that there has always been some form of separation between woodlands in this area of the site. This gap measuring approximately 4-5m wide is considered not significant enough to deter dormice from ranging between woodlands. Furthermore, the canopies of both woodlands do connect at a height of approximately 3 - 4m, ensuring there is some level of connectivity between the two areas of woodland (Figure 4).



*Figure 7. Aerial Imagery of Site*



Figure 8. Photo indicating woodland connectivity above access track.

### Habitat Enhancement

- 4.25 The plantation woodland which is found throughout the site currently represents sub-optimal habitat for dormice due to the lack of structural and species diversity (See Figure 5 and 7). In order to improve the suitability of this habitat for dormice, it is recommended that all remaining plantation broadleaved woodland which is not to be impacted by development proposals, of which totals approximately 1.35ha in size, shall be enhanced by the management practice of 'thinning'.
- 4.26 Selective thinning to a maximum of 20% of the total number of trees in each woodland area is recommended under the guidance of an experienced arboriculturist and an ecologist. Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) has been identified throughout the site and is detailed in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report<sup>2</sup>. Removal of these trees may result in a slight increase in the percentage of woodland removed, however, this is considered acceptable, and will benefit the woodland in the long-term.
- 4.27 Once thinned, enhancement planting with a mix of dormouse favoured woody species including but not limited to hazel, honeysuckle, and oak will be completed, which, once matured will provide a wider network of suitable dormouse habitat surrounding the substation site leading into the wider landscape such as Stonehill Wood. A mitigation planting plan shall be produced for the mitigation licence application. The plan shall provide a breakdown of the species to be planted and location.

<sup>2</sup> Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report, Proposed Extension to Minety 400kV Substation, AECOM: December 2022.





*Figure 9. Sub-optimal dormouse habitat - Plantation Woodland located along the eastern Site boundary.*

- 4.28 Following vegetation removal, the remaining scrub located on the western site boundary bordering Park Copse shall be retained as it already represents good quality dormouse habitat and is well connected to both the ancient woodland to the west and retained woodland to the south. However, habitat connectivity in this area will be enhanced through the creation and maintenance of a dead hedge.
- 4.29 The dead hedge will measure approximately 150m in length and be located along the western site boundary acting as a temporary boundary feature between the site and adjacent third-party ancient woodland. It will be created using the material cut from the adjacent areas. The installation of a dead hedge will provide additional ranging and hibernating opportunities for dormice but also sheltering opportunities for a range of other species including hedgehog, birds, invertebrates, and other small mammals. An example of a dead hedge design is provided in Figure 6.





Figure 10. Example of a dead hedge



Figure 11. Plantation Woodland within the south of the Site

- 4.30 Approximately 0.1ha of semi-natural and plantation broadleaved woodland shall be cleared to facilitate access to the northern area of works. Once works are completed this strip of cleared vegetation will be left to naturally regenerate. A small area (0.05ha) of recently felled woodland was identified in the north during the updated phase 1 habitat survey. These cleared areas of woodland will act as glades, creating valuable woodland edge habitat.

## **Dormouse Boxes**

- 4.31 A total of 15 dormouse nest boxes were installed to supplement the nest tube survey in 2022. These boxes were left in place post survey completion. It is proposed that an additional 15 (minimum) nest boxes are installed across the site to provide further nesting opportunities for dormice. The existing nest boxes shall be relocated beyond the works area prior to works commencing. The indicative nest box locations are shown on Drawing G9236.021D.
- 4.32 Post-construction dormouse population monitoring will be proposed as part of any future NE dormouse mitigation licence method statement.

With the mitigation measures outlined above, no long-term adverse effects on the site's ecological functionality are expected. Based on the proposed mitigation, it is considered that the favourable conservation status of dormice in the area will be preserved.

## 5.0 Post-Development Site Safeguarding

### Habitat Management and Maintenance

- 5.1 Native woodland, scrub and tree planting to be implemented across the proposed development, will require ongoing sensitive and appropriate management over the lifetime of the development given the presence of dormice on site.
- 5.2 Sensitive management will seek to maximise the value of food, dispersal, breeding, and hibernation resources for dormice through:
- The maintenance of canopy and understorey connectivity within woodland areas through appropriate management measures, including sensitive levels of coppicing and thinning to ensure good light levels reach the woodland floor, and
  - Minimising disturbance within newly planted areas through the provision and future maintenance of permanent fencing installed around the peripheries of dormouse habitat to be created and enhanced to facilitate establishment whilst preventing public access.
- 5.3 Key management and maintenance prescriptions are detailed below.

### New Planting Areas

#### Planting and Establishment

- 5.4 Native woodland, scrub and tree planting is proposed along the southern, western northwestern and eastern boundaries of the Application Site, and will commence as soon as possible during the first appropriate season as determined by the Chartered Landscape Architect/Contractor appointed by the Developer.
- 5.5 The locations, planting densities and species incorporated into the new planting areas will be detailed within the soft landscape scheme.
- 5.6 Planting will be undertaken in accordance with those specifications stated therein. Additional measures are further provided below.
- 5.7 All planting material will incorporate native species and will be of local or at least UK origin. Such stock will be handled in accordance with the Horticulture Trade Association guidelines and will follow landscape specifications as provided by a Chartered Landscape Architect/Contractor appointed by the Developer.
- 5.8 All products will be supplied and fitted in accordance with the manufacture's guidelines and whips protected using stakes and durable rubber ties.
- 5.9 The condition of all tree stakes, ties and/or guards will be checked by the appointed Landscape Contractor or Developer, and all broken items will be replaced, and items regularly adjusted to accommodate plant growth and prevent rubbing. Any bark damage will be cut back. All plants will be straightened and the ground at the base to be firmed up. All shelters will be hand weeded.



- 5.10 Watering will be undertaken as necessary by the appointed Landscape Contractor or Developer to ensure the establishment and thriving of all planted areas. Watering will be to the full depth of the topsoil. If supply is restricted by emergency legislation, watering will not be carried out unless instructed to do so.
- 5.11 All areas where plants or trees have failed to thrive (through death, damage or disease), will be identified by the appointed Landscape Contractor or Developer, with specimens removed and replaced with equivalent or more appropriate native species to match the size of adjacent nearby plants in the next appropriate planting season, as frequent as necessary.
- 5.12 All plants will be pruned to promote healthy growth and natural shape, and any dead, dying or diseased wood and suckers will be removed. Pruning will be undertaken annually or as appropriate to each species between October and February inclusive, to avoid the main bird breeding and dormouse active season and undertaken according to best practice. All arisings will be removed for composting.
- 5.13 Cultivation adjacent to established vegetation will take care to ensure no damage to existing root systems, with disturbance kept to the minimum necessary to expose fresh soil.

### **Long-term Maintenance and Management**

- 5.14 To ensure the long-term viability of all retained and newly planted woodland, scrub and trees, an assessment of their condition will be carried out by an Arboricultural Association (AA), approved arboricultural contractor or professional arboriculturist every two years for the first five years, to ensure that the tree stock is managed for its health and safety and its lifespan and coverage optimised.
- 5.15 With respect to retained, and newly planted trees, and scrub species, their management will aim to maximise the value of food, nesting, and hibernation resources for dormice through the following measures:
- The implementation of long cutting cycles, with hedgerow cutting to occur every three years to maintain heights no less than 3m. Cutting will be undertaken on a 3 year rotation cycle, with a maximum of 30% of the hedgerow resource cut at any one time (thereby enabling a minimum of 30% left to grow for 7-10 years), to ensure that a proportion of cut versus un-cut hedgerows exists onsite at any one time;
  - The implementation of appropriate hedgerow management, including coppicing and/or laying of the hedgerow where appropriate according to species, to encourage the formation of a denser and more continuous hedgerow. Where stands of hazel, willow and other coppice-tolerant species are present, then such species should be subject to coppicing regimes on a 6–10-year rotation or where appropriate to species;
  - The selective thinning of all retained and newly planted native trees and shrubs, and small-scale removal of scrub and invasive species where appropriate, will be undertaken to ensure the following: that overcrowding is reduced with increasing species maturity; that slower growing climax species are not outcompeted; and that diseased and dying plants are



removed. Thinning is to be undertaken between December and February inclusive to avoid the main bird breeding and dormouse season; and

- The avoidance of herbicide use unless considered necessary to inhibit re-growth of non-native and invasive species.

5.16 In addition to the above, any maintenance pruning required should be undertaken in accordance with good horticultural and arboricultural practice with thinning, trimming and shaping of specimens undertaken as appropriate to species, location, and stage of growth. Pruning should be confined to the months of December and February inclusive, so as to avoid the main bird breeding and dormouse active seasons. All arisings from any vegetation clearance will be taken away from the vicinity of the development footprint no later than the day after vegetation clearance.

5.17 The management and maintenance of all retained, enhanced and newly created habitats will be undertaken by a Private Management Company over the lifetime of the development.

### **Dormouse Boxes**

5.18 Dormouse boxes installed across the Development Site will be annually inspected and regularly maintained over the required monitoring period, with damaged boxes replaced where necessary.

5.19 The maintenance and repair of dormouse boxes installed throughout the site remain the responsibility of the Developer, or any appointed Management Company.

5.20 The landscape plans of proposed planning applications surrounding the application site have also been reviewed to ensure any soft landscaping and/or mitigation proposed within this strategy will not be affected by the proposals of a third-party.

5.21 This Dormouse Mitigation Strategy has been produced to address the comments made by NE during the determination period of the proposed developments planning application (Ref: PL/2022/09258).

5.22 The proposed mitigation set out in Chapter 4.0 has been designed to ensure that the sites ability to support dormice not only remains during construction but is also enhanced post development alongside surrounding planning application landscape plans.

## 6.0 Monitoring and Works Schedule

### Monitoring

- 6.1 All dormouse nest boxes installed will be subject to monitoring both during the construction period and following completion, with monitoring completed during years 1, 3 and 5 following dormouse box installation by the suitably qualified ecologist (or their accredited agents) named on any future NE licence. A minimum of three checks will be completed during each monitoring year between May and November. Each check will be carried out between the 19th and 25th of the nominated month in line with national monitoring methodologies.
- 6.2 Evidence of dormice, including nests and individuals will be recorded. Individuals will be sexed and weighed where appropriate to do so, before returning to the box from which it was captured.
- 6.3 All findings will be recorded and submitted annually to Peoples Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and NE in accordance with the requirements of the licence. A monitoring report detailing the findings of the monitoring surveys and any remedial action undertaken to dormouse boxes and their habitat will also be submitted annually.

### Timetable of Works

- 6.4 Above and below ground woodland and scrub clearance is anticipated to commence from 16th September 2024 following the granting of consent of the detailed application, discharge of relevant conditions attached, and approved licence from NE.
- 6.5 Construction is anticipated to commence as soon as possible in 2025 following granting of consent and completion of the initial phase of vegetation clearance in late 2024, for a period of circa 36 months.

## **APPENDIX A: PDD-101488-LAY-302-REV - 3 Proposed Development**





**SHEQ NOTES**

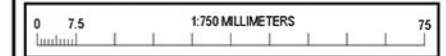
1. THIS IS A PLANNING PERMISSION DRAWING AND IS FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ONLY.

**LEGEND:**

- EXISTING EQUIPMENT
- NEW EQUIPMENT (NG OWNED) SCHEME NO 101488
- EQUIPMENT TO BE REMOVED
- TRANSFORMER FIRE DAMAGE ZONE
- RED LINE BOUNDARY



**PRELIMINARY DESIGN  
NOT TO BE USED FOR  
CONSTRUCTION**



**THIS DRAWING NEEDS TO PRINTED IN COLOUR**

Rev	Description	Cre'd	Chk'd	App'd	Date
3	NO COMMENTS IMPLEMENTED	BK	VB	VK	13.10.2022
2	NO COMMENTS IMPLEMENTED	BK	VB	VK	28.08.2022
1	NO COMMENTS IMPLEMENTED	BK	VB	VK	13.08.2022
0	ISSUED FOR COMMENTS	BK	JP	VK	08.09.2022

**nationalgrid**

Master Scheme No: 101488 Sub-Scheme No: 101488 Site: MINETY 400KV SUBSTATION

Scheme Name: MINETY SUBSTATION GENERATION CONNECTIONS FEASIBILITY

Document Title: PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING LAYOUT

Created by: BK	Date: 02.09.2022	Checked by: JP	Date: 02.09.2022	Approved by: VK	Date: 08.09.2022
Development Eng: MIKE HALES	Document Type: DWG	Scale: 1:750	Format: A1	Sheet(s): 1 OF 1	Rev: 3

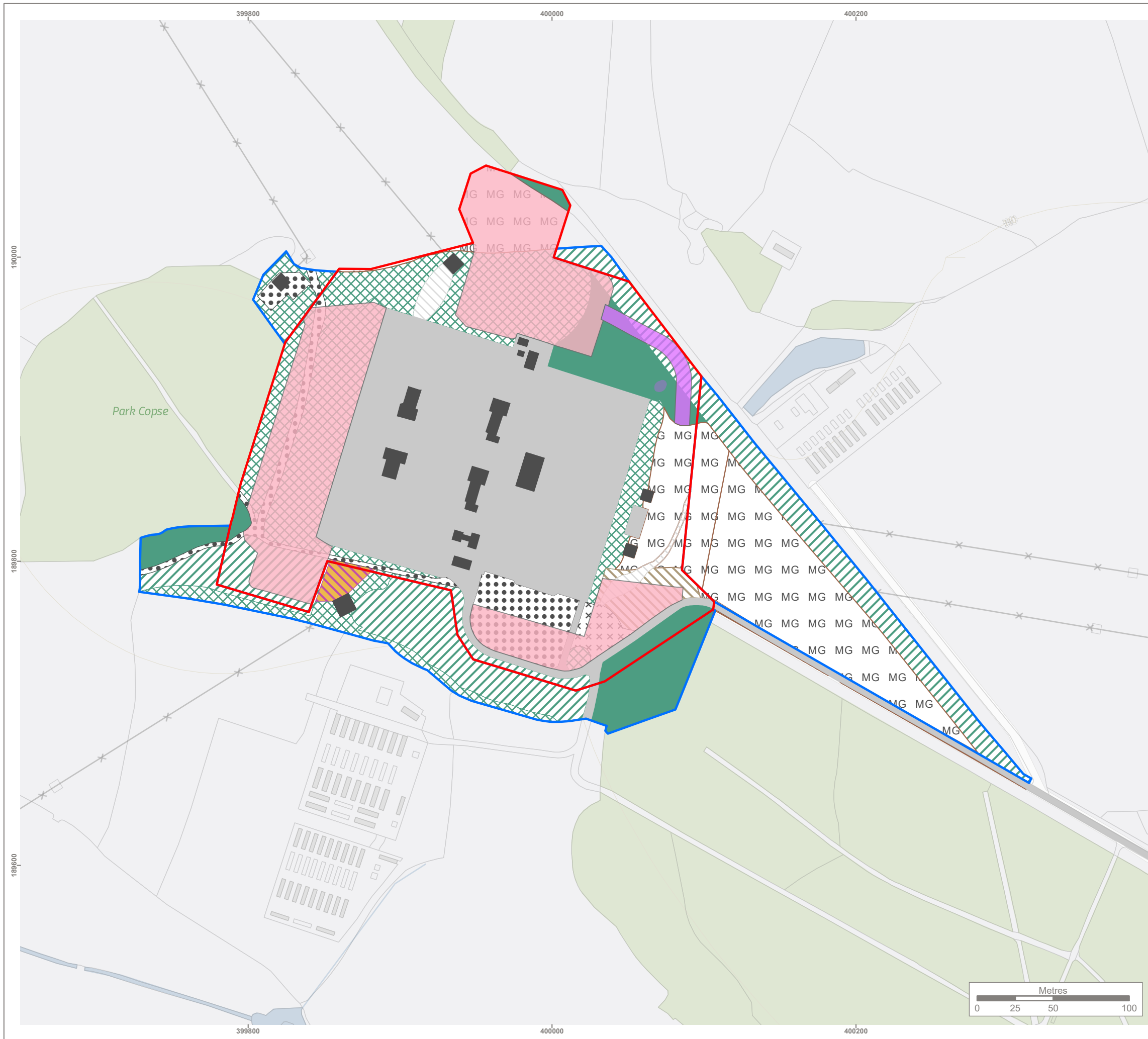
National Grid Document Number: PDD-101488-LAY-302

FEED Document Number: 5211464-ATK-XX-ZZ-DR-E-1302

## **DRAWINGS**

**G9236.019D - Figure D Impacts Plan**  
**G9236.021D - Figure E3 Specifications for Mitigation and Compensation**  
**G9236.022 - Hedgerow Location Plan**





**KEY**

- Site application boundary
- Client ownership boundary
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey**
- Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland
- Plantation broad-leaved woodland
- Dense/continuous scrub
- Species-poor modified neutral grassland
- Marsh/marshy grassland
- Tall ruderal
- Standing water
- Dense/continuous ephemeral/short perennial
- Building
- Bare ground
- Other habitat
- Hardstanding
- Impact Assessment**
- Permanent loss of woodland, scrub and grassland
- Temporary loss of woodland, scrub and grassland

**Note:**

The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.

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**Site Map**

D	Updated Phase 1 and impact areas	BJ	PB	30/05/2024
C	Added ownership boundary	BJ	CK	12/06/2023
Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

**TEP** | **THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP**

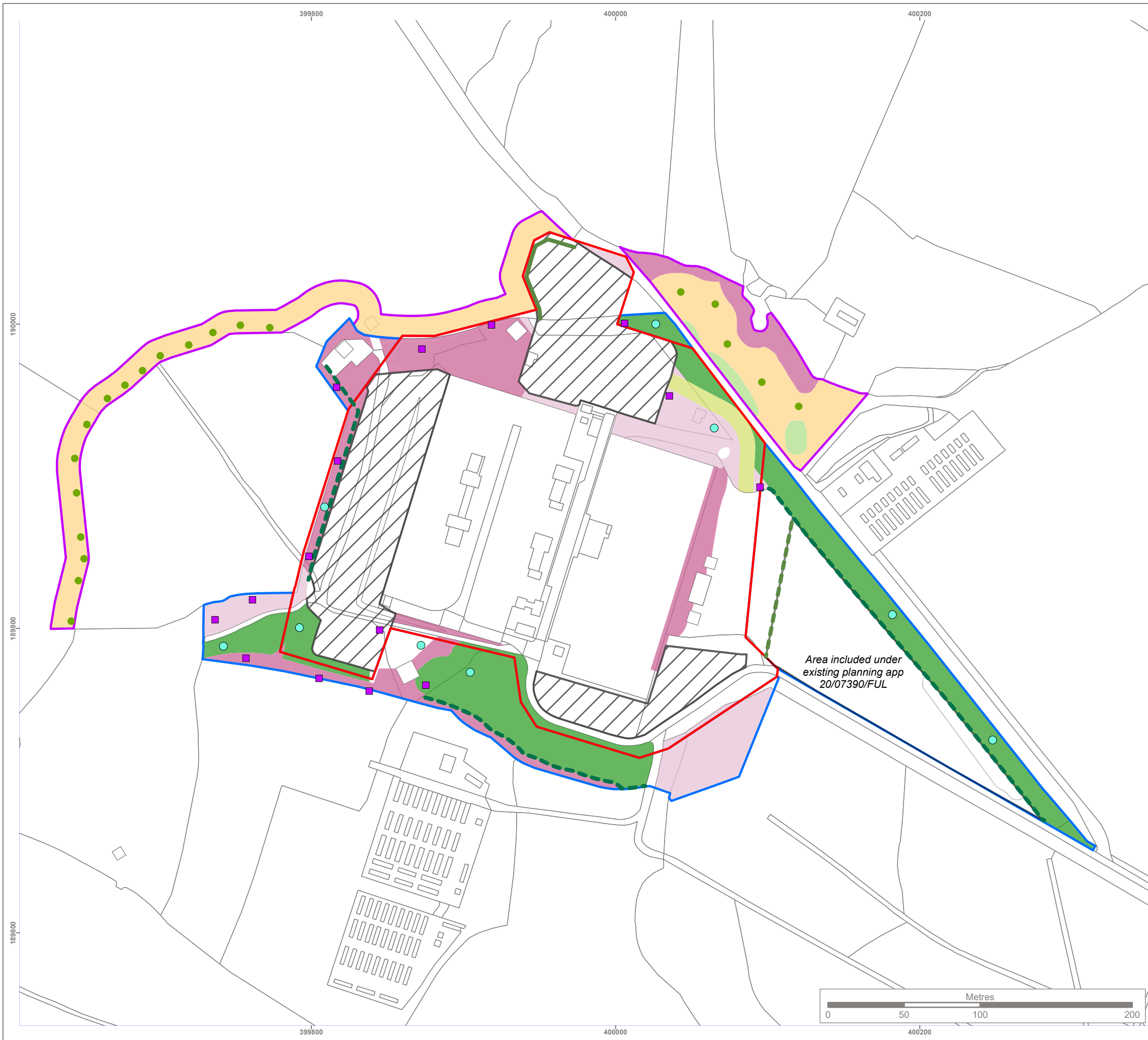
401 Faraday Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington, WA3 6GA  
 Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project  
**Minety Substation Extension, Minety**

Title  
**Figure D: Impacts Plan**

Drawing Number  
**G9236.019D**

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AR	MH	CK	1:2,500 @ A3	22/03/2023



**KEY**

- Site application boundary
- Client ownership boundary
- Off-site mitigation areas
- Permanent loss

**Mitigation/Compensation**

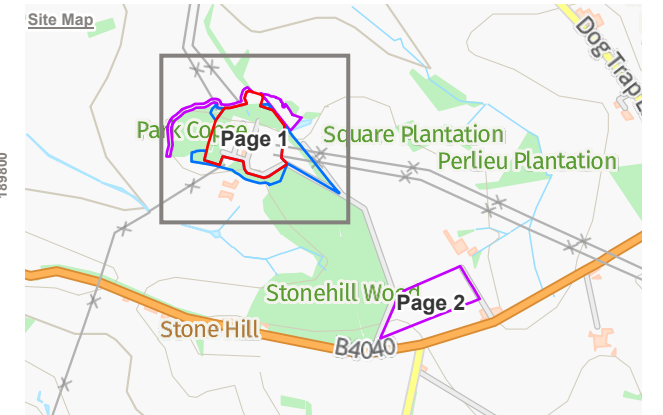
- Box location
- Log/brush piles
- Proposed rural tree planting
- Dead hedge
- Created hedge
- Proposed new native hedgerow under planning app: 20/07390/FUL
- Enhanced woodland
- Enhanced scrub
- Natural regeneration
- Scrub creation
- Retained scrub
- Retained woodland

**Note:**

The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.



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D	Added off-site mitigation areas	BJ	PB	30/05/2024
C	Existing planning application information added	BJ	PB	06/07/2023
Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



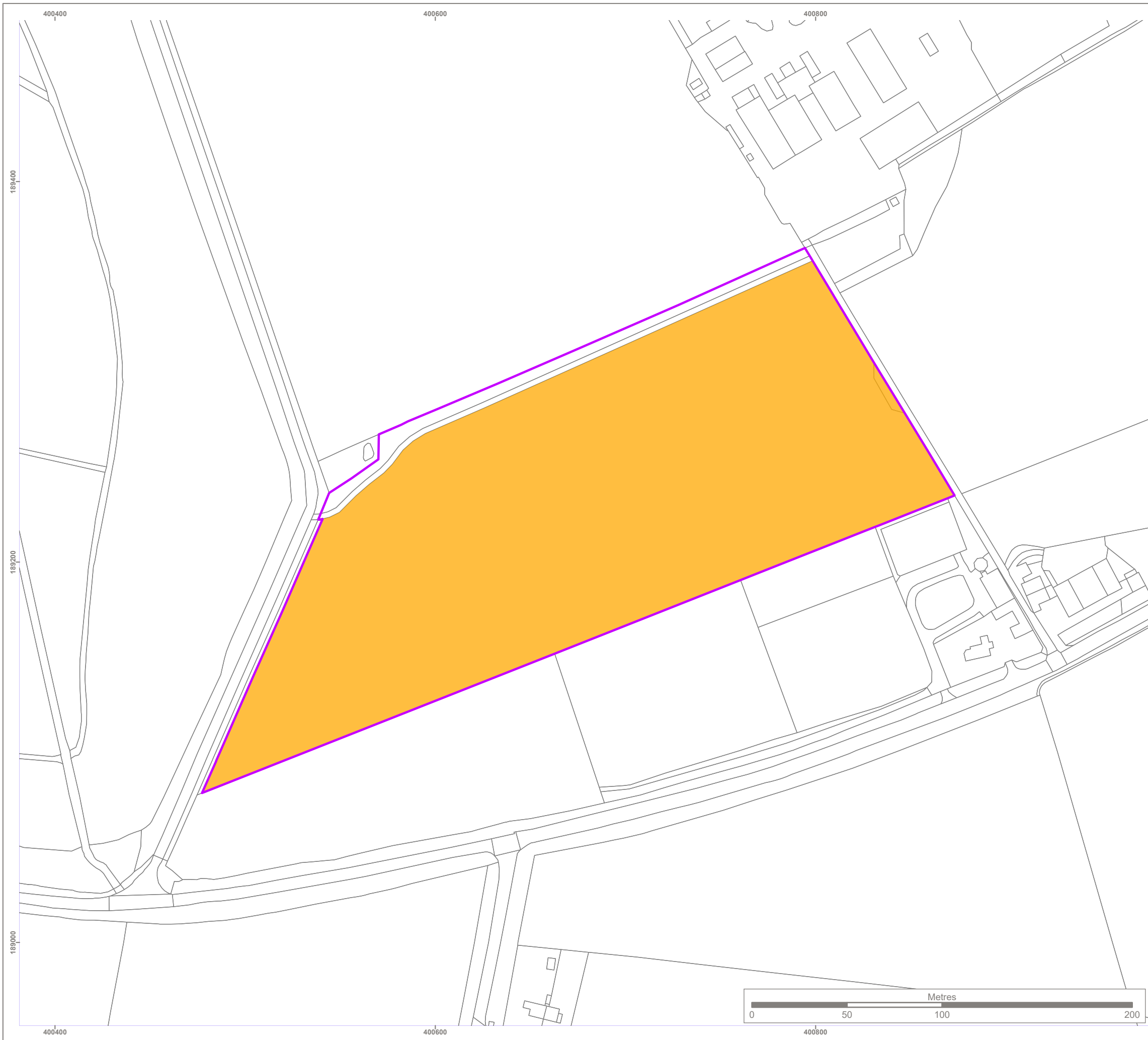
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Project  
**Minety Substation Extension, Minety**

Title  
**Figure E3: Specifications for Mitigation/Compensation**

Drawing Number <b>G9236.021D.1</b>				Page 1 of 2
Drawn <b>AR</b>	Checked <b>MH</b>	Approved <b>CK</b>	Scale <b>1:2,500 @ A3</b>	Date <b>22/03/2023</b>





**KEY**

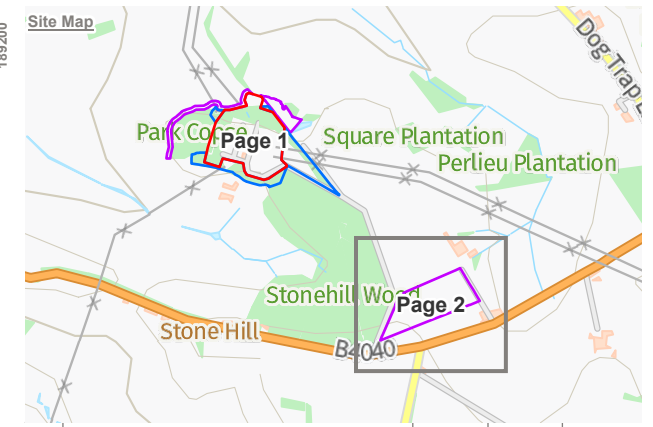
- Off-site mitigation areas
- Woodland planting

**Note:**

The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.



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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date
D	Added off-site mitigation areas	BJ	PB	30/05/2024
C	Existing planning application information added	BJ	PB	06/07/2023

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Project  
**Minety Substation Extension, Minety**

Title  
**Figure E3: Specifications for Mitigation/Compensation**

Drawing Number	Page 2 of 2
G9236.021D.2	

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AR	MH	CK	1:2,000 @ A3	22/03/2023





**KEY**

- Site boundary
- Hedge

**Note:**  
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DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN and the GIS User community.



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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Project  
**Minety Substation Extension, Minety**

Title  
**Hedgerow Location Plan  
Off site**

Drawing Number  
**G9236.022**

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
SP	##	CK	1:3,600 @ A3	27/02/2023







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