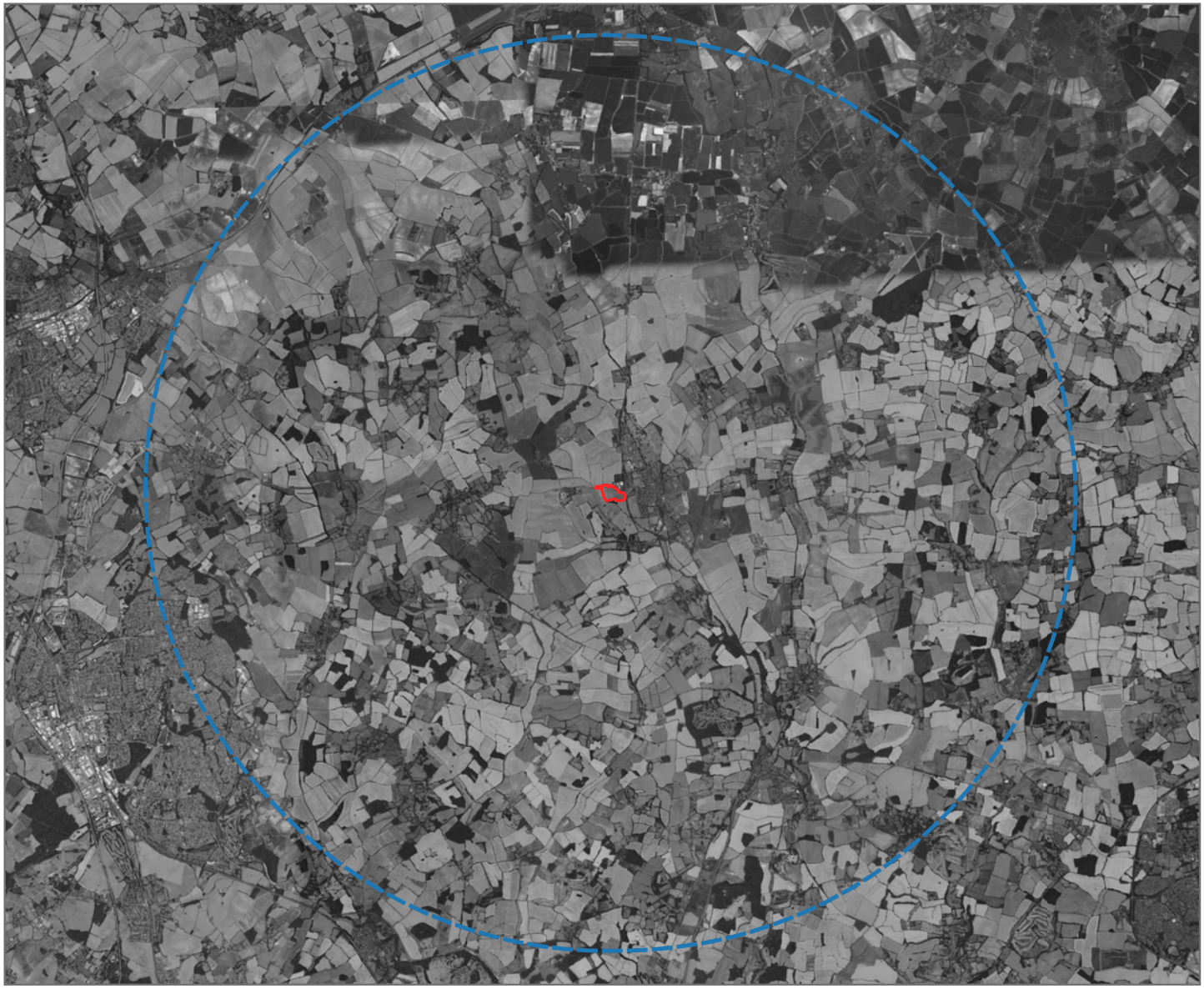
Appendix C

Desk Study Information



Site boundary

10km buffer

*No International Statutory Designations identified within search area.

0 2.5 5 km

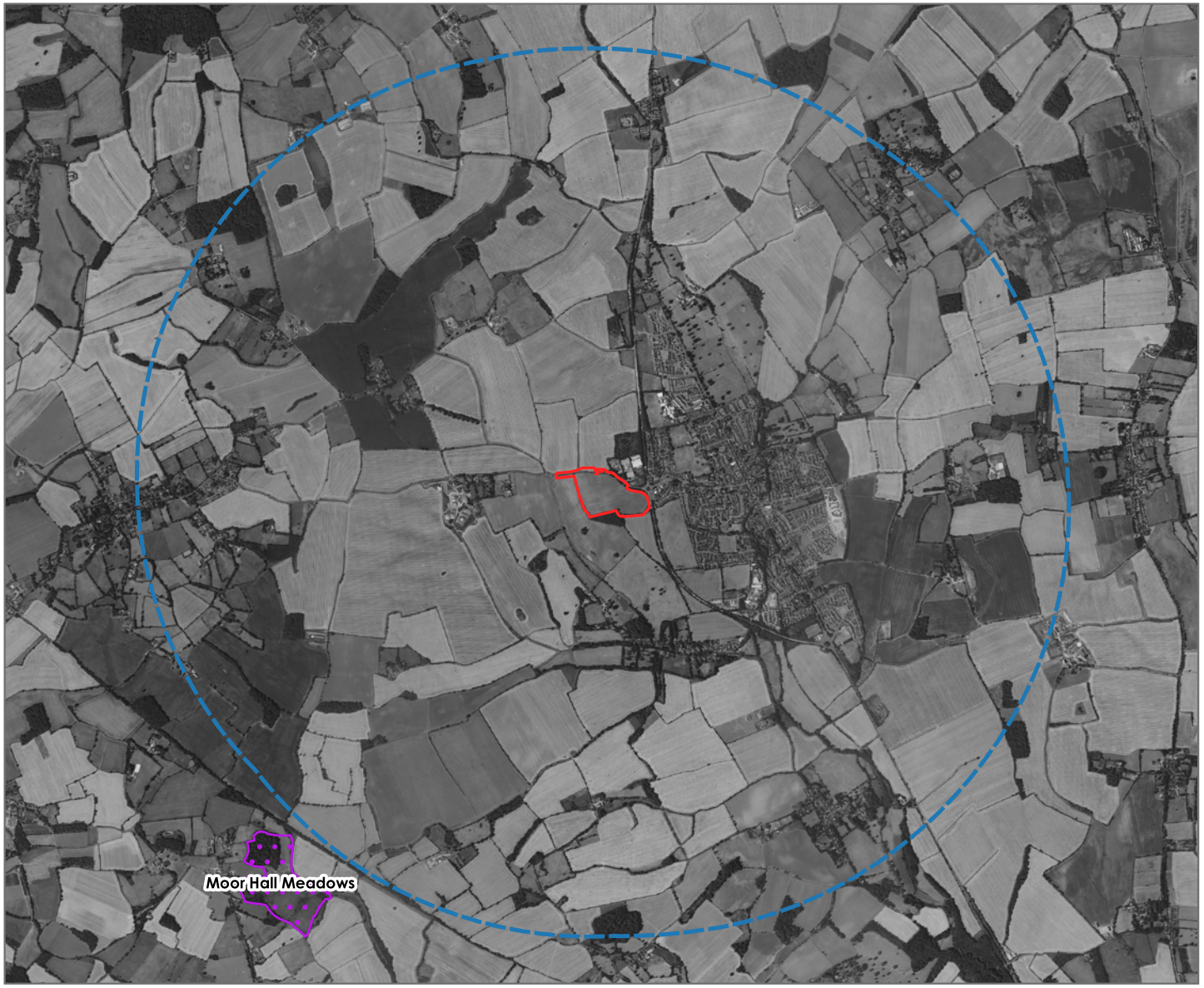
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Project	Land South of A507 and West of Buntingford	Date	June 2024	Drawing No.	CSA/6815/105
Drawing Title	International Statutory Designations	Scale	Refer to scale	Rev	B
Client	Hallam Land Management Limited	Drawn	RG	Checked	AC



Site boundary

3km buffer

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

*No National/Local Statutory Designations identified within search area.

0 1 2 km

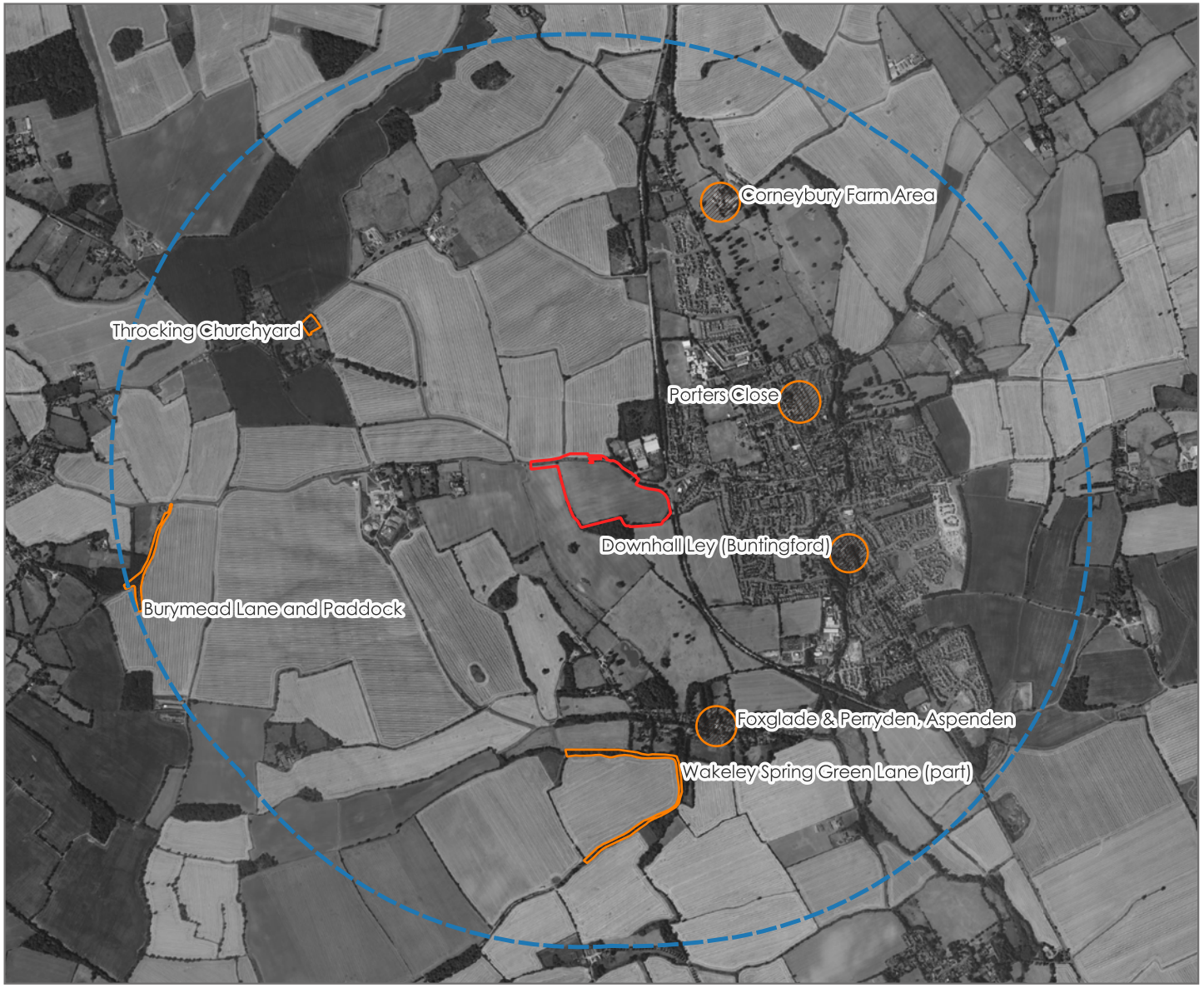
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Drawing Title	National/Local Statutory Designations	Scale	Refer to scale	Rev	B
Client	Hallam Land Management Limited	Drawn	RG	Checked	AC



N

Site boundary

2km buffer

Local Wildlife Sites

0 0.5 1 km

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Project	Land South of A507 and West of Buntingford	Date	June 2024	Drawing No.	CSA/6815/104
Drawing Title	Non-Statutory Designations	Scale	Refer to scale	Rev	B
Client	Hallam Land Management Limited	Drawn	RG	Checked	AC



N

Site boundary

1km buffer

Deciduous woodland

Traditional orchard

Chalk river - high certainty

Chalk river - low certainty

0 0.5 1 km

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Project	Land South of A507 and West of Buntingford	Date	June 2024	Drawing No.	CSA/6815/102
Drawing Title	Priority Habitats	Scale	Refer to scale	Rev	B
Client	Hallam Land Management Limited	Drawn	RG	Checked	AC



Site boundary

1km buffer

*No ancient woodland, as shown on the ancient woodland inventory within search area.

0 0.5 1 km

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Project	Land South of A507 and West of Buntingford	Date	June 2024	Drawing No.	CSA/6815/107
Drawing Title	Ancient Woodland	Scale	Refer to scale	Rev	B
Client	Hallam Land Management Limited	Drawn	RG	Checked	AC



N

Site boundary

500m buffer

250m buffer

Pond (with reference number)

0 250 500 m

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Project	Land South of A507 and West of Buntingford	Date	June 2024	Drawing No.	CSA/6815/101
Drawing Title	Pond Plan	Scale	Refer to scale	Rev	B
Client	Hallam Land Management Limited	Drawn	RG	Checked	AC

Appendix D

Habitats and Flora Species List

Table 1. Habitat Polygons

Site Name	Land south of A507, Buntingford						
Survey Date and Surveyor(s)	06/12/2023, 20/02/2024 Alexandra Cole						
Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Parcel Number/Habitat Type					
		F1-F3 (c1)	W1 (w1g)	W2 (w1f)	W3 (w1f)	W4 (w1g)	W5 (w1f)
Herb Species							
Anthriscus sylvestris^	Cow parsley^	X			X		
Arctium sp.	Burdock	X					
Artemisia vulgaris	Mugwort	X					
Arum maculatum	Lords-and-ladies					X	
Centaurea nigra	Common knapweed	X					
Cirsium arvense^	Creeping thistle^	X					
Cirsium vulgare^	Spear thistle^	X					
Conium maculatum	Hemlock					X	
Galium aparine	Cleavers	X				X	
Geranium molle	Dove's-foot crane's-bill	X					
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert			X			
Geum urbanum	Wood avens			X			
Glechoma hederacea	Ground-ivy	X			X		
Helminthotheca echioides	Bristly oxtongue	X					
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	X					
Lamium album	White dead-nettle	X					
Lapsana sp.	Nipplewort	X					
Ranunculus auricomus	Goldilocks buttercup			X			
Ranunculus repens^	Creeping buttercup^	X					
Rumex sp.	Dock	X					
Senecio jacobaea	Common ragwort	X					
Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel	X					
Taraxacum officinale agg.	Dandelion	X					
Urtica dioica^	Common nettle^	X	X	X	X	X	X
Veronica persica	Common field-speedwell	X					
Grasses							
Arrhenatherum elatius	False oat-grass	X		X	X		
Brachypodium sylvaticum	False brome			X			
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	X					
Elytrigia repens	Common couch	X					
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	X					
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	X					
Lolium perenne	Perennial rye-grass	X					
Phalaris arundinacea	Reed Canary-grass	X					
Poa annua	Annual meadow-grass	X					
Woody Species							
Coniferous							
Taxus baccata	Yew			X			
Broadleaved							
*Acer campestre**	Field maple*			X			
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore			X	X		
Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse-chestnut			X	X		X
Castanea sativa	Sweet chestnut			X	X		X
*Corylus avellana**	Hazel*	X		X			
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn			X	X	X	X
Fagus sylvatica	Beech			X			
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	X					
Hedera helix	Ivy	X	X	X	X		X
*Ilex aquifolium**	Holly*			X			
Quercus robur	Pedunculate oak			X			
Ribes uva-crispa	Gooseberry			X			
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	X	X				
Sambucus nigra	Elder		X			X	X
Tilia sp.	Lime sp.				X		
Ulmus sp.	Elm			X	X		X

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Parcel Number/Habitat Type					
		F1-F3 (c1)	W1 (w1g)	W2 (w1f)	W3 (w1f)	W4 (w1g)	W5 (w1f)

** = Hertfordshire ancient woodland vascular plants list*

^ = Species indicative of suboptimal condition for grassland habitats

Table 2. Linear Habitats

Site Name	Land south of A507, Buntingford							
Survey Date and Surveyor(s)	06/12/2023 Alexandra Cole, 01/05/2024 Rhodri Gruffydd							
Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Parcel Number/Habitat Type						
		H1 (h2a)	H2 (h2a)	H3 (h2a)	H4 (h2a)	H5 (h2a)	H6 (h2a)	H7 (h2a)
Herb Species								
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic mustard						X	
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow parsley						X	
Arctium sp.	Burdock sp.	X						
Cirsium arvense	Creeping thistle	X						
Conium maculatum	Hemlock	X						
Dipsacus fullonum	Wild Teasel				X			
Epilobium sp.	Willowherb	X						
Ficaria verna	Lesser celandine						X	
Galium album	Hedge bedstraw						X	
Galium aparine	Cleavers						X	
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved crane's-bill						X	
Glechoma hederacea	Ground-ivy						X	
Helminthotheca echioides	Bristly oxtongue	X						
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	X					X	
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell						X	
Lamium album	White dead-nettle						X	
Urtica dioica	Common nettle	X					X	X
Grasses								
Anisantha sterilis	Barren brome						X	
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot				X			
Elytrigia repens	Common couch						X	
Festuca rubra	Red fescue						X	
Woody Species								
Broadleaved								
*Acer campestre**	Field maple*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore		X	X				
Betula pendula	Silver birch	X						
Cornus sp.	Dogwood	X	X			X	X	
*Corylus avellana**	Hazel*		X					X
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	X		X	X	X	X	
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle		X					
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	X		X	X	X		
Hedera helix	Ivy		X	X	X	X		
Juglans regia	Walnut	X						
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	X			X	X	X	
Quercus robur	Pedunculate oak	X					X	
Rosa sp.	Rose sp.	X	X	X	X	X		X
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sambucus nigra	Elder	X	X		X			
Ulmus sp.	Elm	X	X	X		X	X	X
Viburnum lantana	Wayfaring-tree					X		
*Viburnum opulus**	Guelder-rose*	X						

** = Hertfordshire ancient woodland vascular plants list*

Appendix E

Evaluation & Assessment Methods

1.1. Ecological features are evaluated and assessed in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) 2018 Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA). For clarity, the evaluation and assessment process adopted within this EcIA is set out below.

Establishing Potentially Important Ecological Features

1.2. Ecological features are assessed where they are considered to be important, and where they may be impacted by a proposed development. A feature may be considered important for a variety of reasons, such as quality, extent, rarity and/or statutory protection. Table 1 below sets out a non-exhaustive list of ecological features that are typically considered, along with key examples:

Table 1. Potentially important ecological features (adapted from CIEEM 2018)

Potentially Important Ecological Features	Typical examples
Statutory designated sites under international conventions or European Legislation	Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA)
Statutory designated sites under national legislation	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNR, Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
Non-statutory, locally designated wildlife sites	Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), County Wildlife Sites (CWSs), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)
National biodiversity lists	Habitats or Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity (Section 41, NERC Act 2006), Ancient Woodland Inventory
Local biodiversity lists	Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species or habitats
Red Listed / Rare Species	Species of conservation concern, Red Data Book (RDB) species, Birds of Conservation Concern, nationally rare and nationally scarce species
Legally Protected Species	E.g. species listed under Sch.5 of the W&C Act 1981, or Sch.2 of the Hag. Regs. 2017
Legally Controlled Species	E.g. species listed under Sch.9 of the W&C Act 1981

1.3. It should also be noted that the social, community, economic or multi-functional importance attributed to ecological features are not assessed as they fall outwith the scope of this assessment.

Establishing Likely Zone of Influence

1.4. The 'zone of influence' for a project is the area over which ecological features may be subject to significant effects as a result of the project and associated activities. The project's zone of influence varies across different ecological features, which have different vulnerabilities and

sensitivities. For the purposes of this assessment, the following zones were considered:

- International statutory nature conservation designations up to 10km from the Site
- National and local statutory nature conservation designations up to 3km from the Site
- Non-statutory locally designated wildlife sites up to 1km from the Site

1.5. These arbitrary distances are considered sufficient for identifying the nature conservation designations which could be subject to significant effects. However, it is acknowledged that in certain circumstances effects beyond these distances are possible and should be considered as far as is reasonably practicable to do so.

1.6. For other ecological features, such as habitats and species, the appropriate zone of influence is described and justified as appropriate within the report, depending on their respective sensitivity to an environmental change.

1.7. The results of professionally accredited or published scientific studies have been used and referenced, where available, to establish the spatial and temporal limits of the biophysical changes likely to be caused by specific activities, and to justify decisions about the zone of influence.

Geographic Context and Significance Criteria

1.8. The importance of ecological features, as well as the significance of any likely impacts and their effects, are considered here within a defined geographic context:

- International
- National
- Regional
- County
- Local

1.9. While higher geographic tiers correspond to clearly defined areas, local context is subjective and will vary on a case-by-case basis. It will range from the Site and its surroundings, to ecologically connected environs, to the scale of the District/Borough, according to the professional judgement of the author.

1.10. The size, conservation status and the quality of features are all relevant in determining their importance and assigning this to the geographic scale. Where the importance of a feature is considered to fall below the Local scale, they are scoped out of detailed assessment.

1.11. Impacts and their effects are taken to be significant where they support or undermine biodiversity conservation objectives, with the scale of significance defined according to the above geographic context. Where an impact or effect is unlikely to be perceptible at a Local scale, this is taken to be not significant.

Characterising Ecological Impacts and their Effects

1.12. Where likely significant ecological impacts and effects are identified in connection with the proposed project, these are considered and described with reference to the following characteristics (where this is helpful in accurately portraying the ecological effect and determining the scale of significance):

- Positive or negative (i.e. does the anticipated change accord with nature conservation policies and objectives?)
- Extent (i.e. the spatial area over which the impact or effect may occur)
- Magnitude (i.e. the quantified size, amount, intensity or volume)
- Duration (i.e. the timeframe over which the impact or effect may occur, in both human and ecological terms)
- Frequency and timing (i.e. the number of times an activity occurs, where this is likely to influence the effect)
- Reversibility (i.e. is spontaneous recovery possible or may the effect be counteracted by mitigation?)

Appendix F

Badger

1.0 Legislation

1.1 Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 which, in part, makes it an offence to:

- Kill, injure or take a badger
- Destroy or damage a badger sett or any part of it
- Obstruct access to, or any entrance of, a badger sett
- Disturb a badger whilst it is occupying a sett

1.2 Impacts to badgers and their setts should be avoided in the first instance by retaining setts and implementing an appropriate buffer distance to limit disturbance. Where this is not possible, a Natural England licensing system exists to permit certain works that would otherwise be illegal. This can include direct or direct impacts which may result in any of the above offences. Where a licence has been granted, permitted impacts to a badger sett can only be carried out between the months of July and November (inclusive) and following an agreed method statement.

2.0 Methods

2.1 A dedicated badger survey was conducted on 20 February 2024 by Alexandra Cole MCIEEM, using standard survey methods, searching the Site and immediately adjacent areas for field signs of badger and mapping any present such as:

- Feeding signs such as snuffle entrances made during foraging
- Hairs caught on vegetation or fences
- Latrines, usually positioned on territorial boundaries
- Foraging tracks through vegetation or under fences
- Badger setts

2.2 Further incidental evidence of badger was recorded during a site visit on 22 April 2024 by Rhodri Gruffydd.

2.3 When badger setts are found the number of entrances are recorded as well as the level of usage. Recording this information gives an indication of the type of sett by categorising it according to the criteria listed in Table 1 below (Harris *et al*. 1989, Cresswell *et al*. 1990, Wilson *et al*. 1997).

Table 1. Criteria used to determine sett type.

Sett Type
Main Setts - These usually have a large number of entrances with large spoil heaps, and the sett generally looks well used. There will be well-used paths to and from the sett and between sett entrances. Although normally the breeding sett is in continuous use, it is possible to find a main sett that has become disused due to excessive digging or some other reason; it should be recorded as a disused main sett. In the first survey, the average size of an active main sett was twelve entrances (including all categories of use).
Annexe setts - They are often close to a main sett, usually less than 150 metres away, and are usually connected to the main sett by one or more obvious well-worn paths.

They usually have several entrances, but may not be in use all the time even if the main sett is very active. In the first survey the average size was five entrances (including all categories of use).
Subsidiary setts - These often only have a few; four (including all categories of use) was the average number in the first survey. They are usually at least 50 metres from a main sett, and do not have an obvious path connecting with another sett. They are not continuously active.
Outlying setts - These usually have only one or two entrances, often have little spoil outside the entrance, have no obvious path connecting with another sett, and are only used sporadically. When not in use by badgers, they are often taken over by foxes or even rabbits. However, they can still be recognised as badger setts by the shape of the tunnel (not the actual entrance entrance), which is usually at least 250mm in diameter, and is rounded or a flattened oval shape. Fox and rabbit tunnels are smaller and often taller than broad.
Entrance Type
Well used entrances - These are clear of any debris or vegetation, are obviously in regular use, and may or may not have been excavated recently.
Partially used entrances - These are not in regular use and have debris such as leaves and twigs in the entrance, or have moss and/or other plants growing in or around the entrance. Partially used entrances could be in regular use after a minimal amount of clearance.
Disused entrances - These have not been in use for some time, are partially or completely blocked, and could not be used without a considerable amount of clearance. If the entrance has been disused for some time, all that may be visible is a depression in the ground where the entrance used to be, and the remains of the spoil heap, which may be covered in moss or plants.

Limitations

3.0 There were no specific limitations to the badger survey, which was conducted at an optimum time of year and in good conditions.

4.0 Results

4.1 No badger setts were identified on-site. A single latrine was identified along H1 in the north of the Site.

4.2 A partially active outlier badger sett was recorded in woodland W2 on 22 April 2024, within a bank along the northern boundary. Two entrances were present, no paths leading to the entrances and no other evidence of badger.

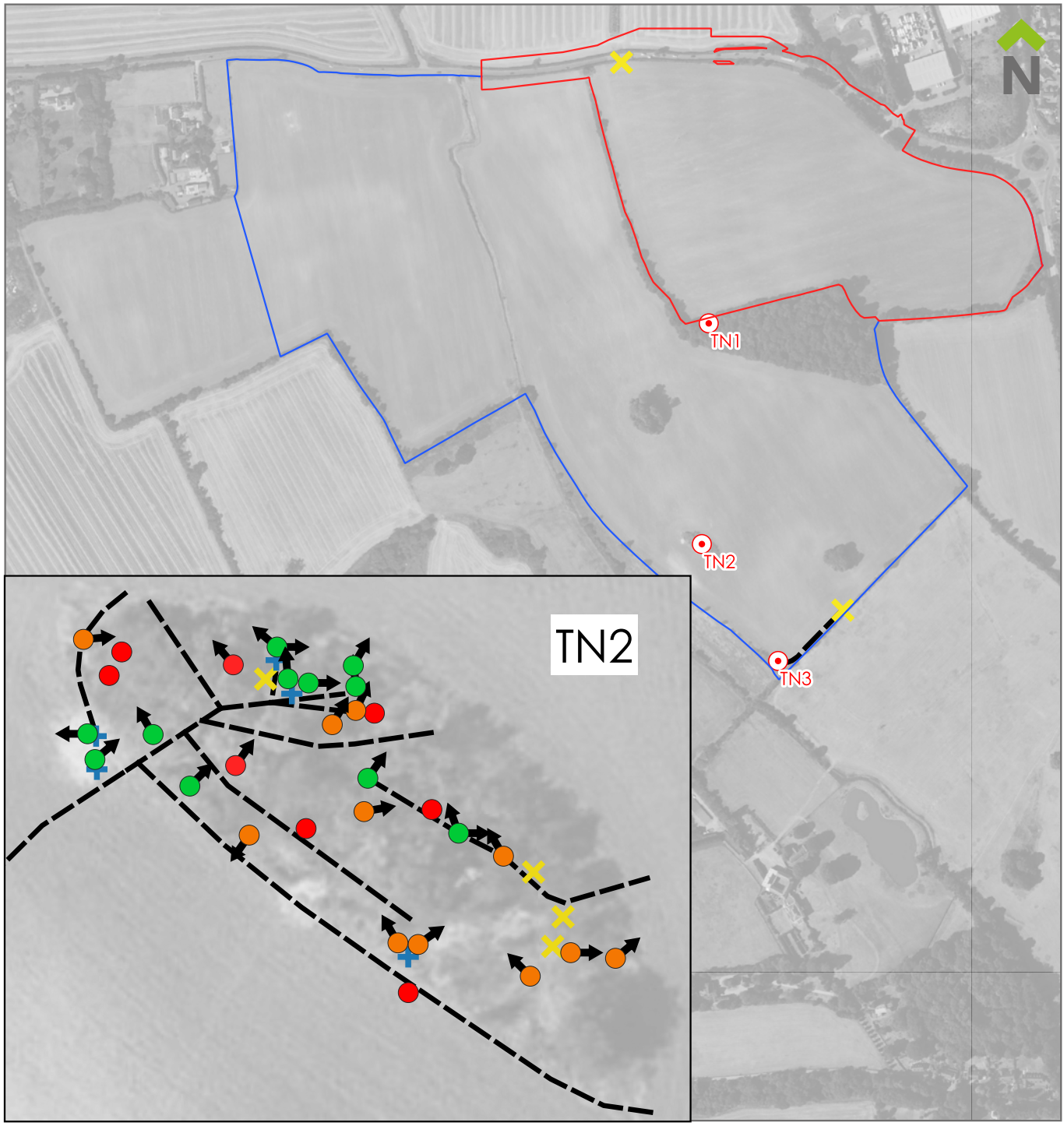
4.3 A main badger sett was identified within woodland W4. A large number of active and partially active entrances were recorded, with the majority of active entrances in the north-west of the woodland and the majority of the partially active entrances in the south and south-east. Spoil heaps and bedding were recorded around a number of active entrances and one badger footprint found in the north-west. Three latrines were recorded in close proximity in the south-east, with a further latrine in the north. A network of badger paths connect the sett entrances in the north-east, with further paths linking these to the partially used entrances in the south-east. One path headed south-west out of the woodland into Field F2.

4.4 An outlier sett comprising a single active entrance was recorded along the field boundary within the southern corner of F2, c. 150m south-east of the main sett. See Table 2 for full survey results.

Table 2. Badger Survey Results

Sett No.	Grid Reference	Sett Type	Entrance Type	Notes
1	TL 35157 29209	Outlier	Partially used	A partially active outlier badger sett within W2, along the northern boundary. Two entrances present, no paths leading to the entrances.
2	TL 35153 28943	Main	Well used	Main badger sett within W4, comprising 11 active, 11 partially active and eight disused/collapsed entrances. Four latrines and a number of spoil heaps and badger paths were recorded.
3	TL 35240 28803	Outlier	Well used	A single outlier active badger sett entrance along the field boundary within the southern corner of F2. A single path linked the sett entrance to a latrine c. 100m north-east along the field boundary.

4.5 Badger activity identified at the Site is shown on the Badger Survey Plan (CSA/6815/108/B) below.



Site boundary

Survey area

Target note
TN1: active outlier badger sett with two entrances
TN2: active main badger sett
TN3: active outlier badger sett with single entrance

Badger Activity Signs

Path

Latrine

Spoil heap

Badger Sett Entrance Status

Active

Partially active

Disused/collapsed

*Arrow denotes tunnel direction

0 200 400 m

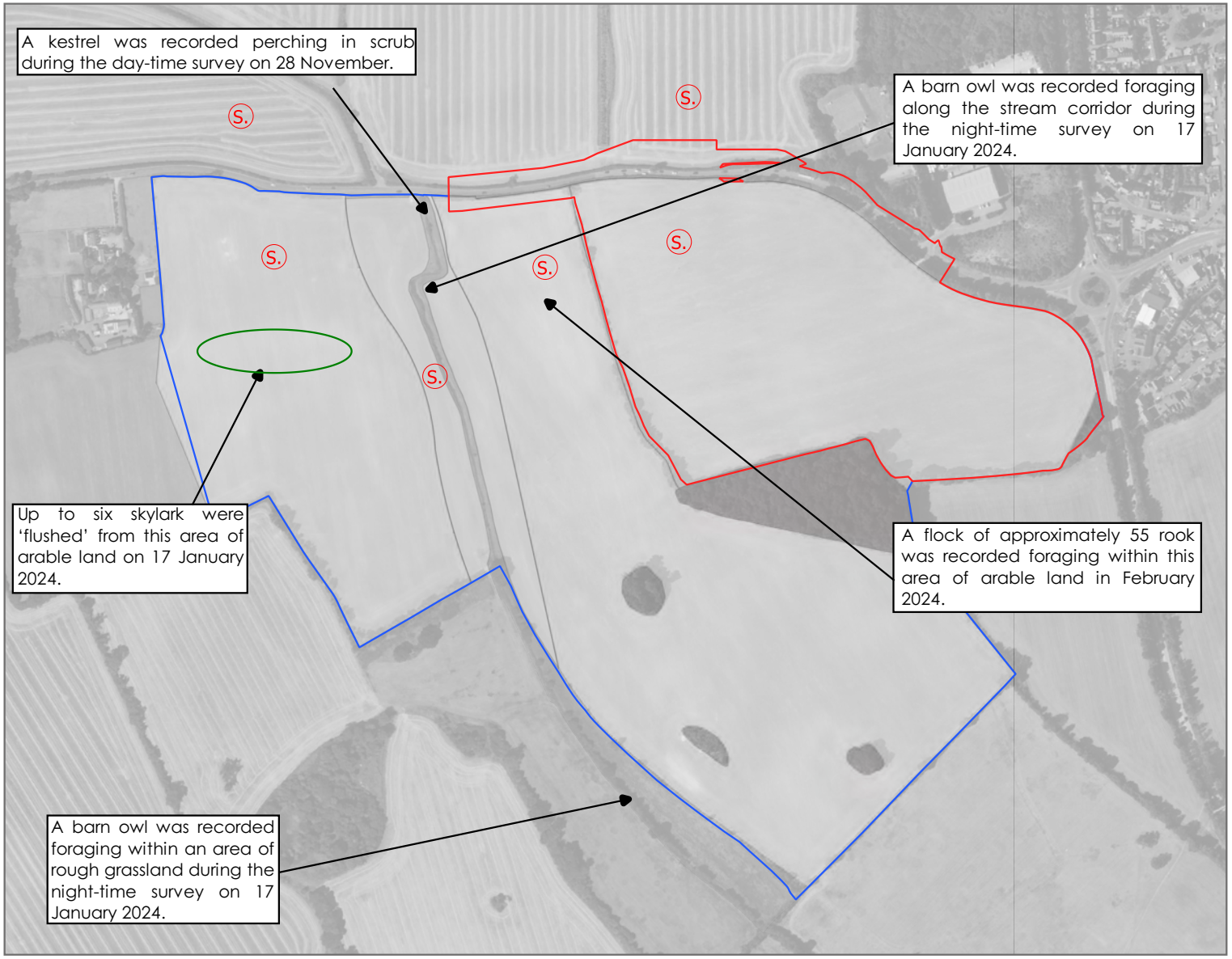
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Drawing Title: Badger Survey Plan		Scale: Refer to scale	Rev: B
Client: Hallam Land Management Limited		Drawn: RG	Checked: AC

Appendix G

Birds



N

Site boundary

Survey area

2023/24 Winter Bird Surveys: Summary of Results (November 2023 to February 2024)

The hedgerow, scrub and woodland habitats within the Site and/or its immediate surroundings were found to support the following 'Priority Species' at relatively low densities:

BoCC5 - Red Listed Birds

FF - Fieldfare
GR – Greenfinch
HS - House sparrow
LI - Linnet
S. - Skylark
Y. - Yellowhammer

BoCC5 - Amber Listed Birds

D. - Dunnock
K. Kestrel
RE - Redwing
ST - Song thrush
SD - Stock dove
WP - Woodpigeon
WR - Wren

BoCC5 - Green Listed Birds

BO - Barn owl

S. Skylark in 'song flight' during the February 2024 survey visit

0 125 250 m

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Drawing Title	Wintering Bird Survey Plan	Scale Refer to scale	Rev B
Client	Hallam Land Management Limited	Drawn LF	Checked JL

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