

**Steeple Renewables Project**

Appendix 7.9: Otter and water vole  
report

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# 1 Introduction

1.1 This report is a technical appendix to accompany the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity and includes the following information:

- Methods.
- Results including relevant Figures, and summary interpretation.

1.2 For ease of reference the following will be terms referred to within this report to define areas within the Site:

- Proposed Solar Areas: areas within the Site which have been provisionally identified for locating the solar panels, battery storage and other associated infrastructure.
- Biodiversity Mitigation Areas (Eastern and Western): areas of the Site that would not be used for development, and provisionally identified for use as biodiversity mitigation and enhancement.

1.3 The Site: collectively including the Proposed Solar Areas and Biodiversity Mitigation Areas.



## 2 Methods

### Desk study

- 2.1 A desk study was undertaken to gather existing otter *Lutra lutra* and water vole *Arvicola amphibius* data in relation to the Site and the surrounding local landscape, to provide a wider ecological context to the study.
- 2.2 BSG Ecology obtained records from Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) and Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (NBGRC); data were received on 14 March 2024 and 20 March 2024 from the respective record centres. Records included within a 2 km radius of the Site boundaries. Records over 20 years old were excluded from the desk study (to ensure the results are still temporally relevant to the assessment).
- 2.3 A search of the 'Otter casualty map' (Otter Project, 2024) was undertaken to identify otter casualties local to the Site which could indicate presence in within the local landscape.
- 2.4 The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside database (MAGiC) was accessed and online maps were reviewed to establish the ecological context for the Site (Defra, 2024; Google and Image Landsat / Copernicus, 2024). Aerial images of the Site and a buffer of 100 m (Survey Boundary) were reviewed for potentially suitable terrestrial habitat (woodland, dense scrub) for otter.
- 2.5 Previous ecological survey work carried out in the surrounding area was also reviewed as part of the desk study, including water vole data presented in:
- Ecological baseline update survey, Sturton-Le- Steeple (ESL, 2010), Nottinghamshire County Council Planning Application Ref: ES/2089
  - Water Vole Presence/Likely Absence Survey, Development of Crossing Points for Haulage at Land North of Common Lane, Sturton-le-Steeple (Crestwood Environmental Ltd., 2016), Nottinghamshire County Council Planning Application Ref: v/3481
  - West Burton C (Gas Fired Generating Station), Field survey (AECOM, 2019), PINS Ref: EN010088

### Field survey

Dry ditches and areas of potentially suitable terrestrial habitat for otter and water vole within the Site were surveyed during the extended habitat surveys during spring 2024. Dates and other details of field surveys are provided in Appendix 7.9.1 and a description of methodologies is provided below.

- 2.6 Further scoping survey of land drains and streams, collectively referred to as 'watercourses', as well as wet ditches, were conducted in the spring, on 15 and 16 April 2024 by Emily McVean, Senior Ecologist, and Dr Jim Fairclough, Principal Ecologist. Dr Fairclough has 20 years' experience as a consultant ecologist and has extensive experience in survey of wetland habitats for a range of species, including water vole and otter. The weather during the surveys was variable, with heavy intermittent rain on 15 April and an average temperature of 8°C and no rain and an average temperature of 4°C on 16 April. Rainfall in the days prior to survey was intermittent scattered showers (Ventusky, 2024).
- 2.7 All watercourses and wet ditches identified during the habitat and scoping surveys were re-surveyed on 03 and 04 September 2024 by Emily McVean, Senior Ecologist, and Will Steele, Senior Ecologist, with assistance from Katie Hawke, Ecologist. The weather during the surveys was largely overcast with no rain and temperatures of 17-19°C. The weather in the days prior to the surveys was warm with light showers.

### Otter

- 2.8 During the extended habitat surveys across the Site, potentially suitable terrestrial habitats such as deciduous woodland and scrub were targeted as habitats which can provide features for natal dens (Chanin, 2003), and structures, including bridges and culverts, were identified and surveyed for the

presence of otter field signs. Field signs searched for include overland paths, across fields, under bridges, and culverts, holts in bankside trees, woodlands, and dense scrub, and couches in rough grassland.

- 2.9 During the April and September 2024 surveys, watercourses, wet ditches and riparian habitat within the Site were searched for evidence of otter, including spraints (droppings), footprints, runs (paths worn through vegetation adjacent to the water), couches (areas used by otters to rest and feed), slides (areas of steep bank showing signs of regular use by otters to access the water) and holts (burrows), in accordance with guidance in Chanin (2003). Checks for overland pathways were conducted during the September 2024 surveys (Chanin, 2003).
- 2.10 Otters often use conspicuous features as sprainting sites (Lampa *et al.*, 2015). Therefore, particular attention was paid to prominent bankside or in-stream features such as tree trunks, branches, rocks, areas of bare ground, culverts and inflowing ditches or pipes.

### **Water vole**

- 2.11 During the scoping survey, targeted searches of watercourses (including banks and margins) within the Site were inspected for evidence of water vole, including entrances to burrows, droppings, latrine sites, footprints, runs and feeding stations, and assigned a habitat suitability score of optimal, good, 'poor but suitable' and negligible, as described by Dean (2021). With reference to this guidance, a second survey of suitable watercourses within the Site was undertaken in September 2024; if a watercourse that previously held water was dry during the second survey, spot checks were undertaken every ca. 20-50 m along its length to confirm if water was held at any point. If water was found to be present, then spot checks for water vole field signs were undertaken in that area.
- 2.12 The April 2024 habitat suitability score was reviewed and updated as necessary during the September 2024 surveys.

### **Consideration of potential limitations**

- 2.13 The intermittent showers in the days prior to and during the April 2024 surveys could have potentially resulted in some field signs being lost or obscured (washed away or obscured by elevated water levels). It is considered that water vole burrows would have continued to be visible if present, and field signs of other small mammals were identified along a number of watercourses. It is considered unlikely that, if present, all water vole and otter signs would have been lost (although prior rainfall could have resulted in field signs being harder to identify/locate).
- 2.14 The light showers prior to the September 2024 surveys accumulated to <3 mm and are not considered to be a limitation to the survey<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.15 During the September 2024 surveys, bankside vegetation in the north and east of the Site had been cut to ca. 10 cm height. The reduction in vegetation height increased visibility of small mammal burrows, emergent vegetation (foraging resource), and berms (where latrines may be located) but could have damaged/disturbed feeding stations and bank face foraging signs of water vole if present. This is not considered to cause a significant limitation to the survey.
- 2.16 During the September 2024 surveys, an excavator was observed undertaking management work along a section of the Catchwater Drain, and the Catchwater and Mother Drains showed signs of recent disturbance at the time of the survey. There is a possibility that the drain maintenance works could have caused temporary displacement of mammals, including water vole and otter, or destroyed field signs at the time of the survey. However, other mammal field signs were recorded, indicating that field signs of water vole and otter could be recorded if present, and this is not considered to cause a significant limitation to the survey.
- 2.17 Ditch DD8 and the north to south section in the southeast of CD1(D) was not accessed during the September 2024 surveys because of the hazard of accessing the steep banks and poor visibility

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<sup>1</sup> Weather data taken from the closest weather station recorded on Met Office Weather Observation Website, ca. 5 km southwest of the Site (Met Office, 2024).

caused by dense vegetation growth. The more open and shallow-graded section running east to west on the central and western sections of CD1(D) was searched. Where inaccessible, the channel of DD8 and CD1(D) was surveyed from the bank where openings in the dense vegetation was present. The channel of DD8 was verified to be largely within bedrock and heavily shaded by scrub (from data collected during the April 2024 surveys) making it suboptimal for water vole burrows and foraging. It is possible that otter field signs were missed, if present, along DD8 and the un-surveyed section of CD1(D) during the September 2024 survey.

### 3 Results and summary interpretation

#### Desk study

##### *Otter*

- 3.1 The desk study returned 15 records relating to otter between 2009 and 2023<sup>2</sup>. One record of field signs (prints and spraint) from 2010 relates to a dry ditch, Z27, in the southeast of the Site (see Figure 7.9.1.2). A further record of prints and feeding remains from 2016 is located off-site approximately 170 m from the Site, northeast of ditch ED4 (see Figure 7.9.1.2). The remaining records are relating to the River Trent, adjacent the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area.
- 3.2 No records of otter casualties were returned within the desk study area; the closest record is from 2011 for a location over 10 km to the southeast of the Site.
- 3.3 Previous ecological survey undertaken in support of adjacent planning applications did not identify any field signs of otter within or adjacent to the Site (ESL, 2010; Crestwood, 2016; AECOM, 2019).

##### *Water vole*

- 3.4 The desk study returned 125 records relating to water vole between 2004 and 2023<sup>3</sup> and reported sightings of individuals, latrines, and burrows. With reference to Figures 7.9.1.3 and 7.9.1.4, fifteen of the records relate to ditches across the eastern half of the Site:
- ED5 – burrows (2010).
  - ED6 – two sightings of individuals (09/2012).
  - ED10 – two sightings of individuals (09/2012 and 08/2014).
  - Catchment ED12 – two sightings of individuals (07/2012).
  - FD1 – sighting of individual, burrows, latrine (10/2008).
  - FD5a – sighting of individual, burrows, latrine (10/2008); and
  - FD8 – sighting of individual (09/2012).
- 3.5 An additional 14 records are located off-site within 100 m of the Site boundary on connecting ditches and habitat (Figures 7.9.1.3 and 7.9.1.4):
- 75 m south of HD1 – sighting of individuals (07/2014).
  - 185 m northwest of HD5a and b – sighting of individuals (07/2014).
  - Catchment FD4 – sighting of individuals (07/2023).
  - Catchment ED12 – sighting of individuals (07/2017); and
  - Pond to the east of HD5a – no further information provided (04/2010).
- 3.6 A previous ecological survey undertaken in support of the adjacent sand and gravel extraction planning application (Nottinghamshire County Council Planning Application Ref: ES/2089), dated 2005, identified a single dead water vole on Catchment ED12 in the north of the Site, and a live water vole recorded along a ditch which is connected (ESL, 2010).

#### Field survey

- 3.7 Watercourses and dry ditches within the Site are all graded for their habitat suitability for water vole. Terrestrial habitat with potential to support otter resting sites, i.e., deciduous woodland and extensive

<sup>2</sup> One additional record relating to otter over 20 years old was returned, relating to the River Trent, and is not considered relevant to the study due to its age and proximity.

<sup>3</sup> Seventeen records over 20 years old relating to water vole were also returned, three of these relate to the Site, however it is considered that they are not relevant to the study due to the number of more recent records.

scrub, has been identified along with any field signs of water vole and otter within the survey area. These locations are shown in Figures 7.9.1.1 and 7.9.1.4 and descriptions and photographs referred to below are presented in Section 6 and Appendix 7.9.2.

### Otter

- 3.8 The majority of watercourses and some dry ditches at the Site could support movement of commuting otter through the landscape, but there is limited foraging habitat and limited potential for resting sites within or close to watercourses for otter on the Site. The following water courses support the highest potential foraging resource for otter within and adjacent to the Site (excluding the River Trent):
- Catchwater drain (ED12, ED13, and FD4) – slow and steady water flow of up to 25 cm depth, running through the centre of the Site from north to south.
    - Large fish were observed within the Catchwater drain during the September 2024 survey.
    - Two freshwater mussels *Anodonta sp.* were possibly predated, shells had been pulled onto the bank of the Catchwater drain. Species that may predate swan mussels include otter and grey heron *Ardea cinerea*; a grey heron was observed within the drain and footprints were present on the channel bed.
    - A possible otter spraint (tarry stain) was observed under a bridge on the northern boundary of the Site on the Catchwater drain (ED12).
    - Additionally, an incidental observation of remnants of an otter spraint (multiple overlapping stains) was also recorded off-site, ca. 170 m upstream of the Site boundary, under a bridge on the Catchwater Drain (FD4).
  - HD5a and HD5b – ca. 20-50 cm deep of slow flowing water, adjacent to a pond to the southeast, and small fish were recorded within the ditches.
- 3.9 Suitable watercourses for otter in the east of the Site (including HD5a and HD5b) are connected via the on-site drainage network to the River Trent, adjacent to the eastern Site boundary and the Catchwater drain (CatchED12, CatchED13, and CatchFD4) is connected to the River Trent, approximately 1 km to the north.
- 3.10 Mammal paths were identified across the Site during the September 2024 survey. However, these were all attributed to other mammal species using the Site, including badger *Meles meles* and deer species. No definitive otter overland paths were recorded during the surveys.
- 3.11 Three discrete parcels of land within the Site were identified during the desk study as having potential to support otter resting sites. With reference to Figures 7.9.1.1 and 7.9.1.2, Area AA1 supports two copses of plantation broadleaved woodland connected by a hedgerow. These two areas of plantation support dense understorey and scrub with an ephemeral pond in the north (Photographs 7.9.1 and 7.9.2). Area FA1 is a broadleaved woodland copse at the intersection of three on-Site ditches, FD5, FD6 and Z15 (dry ditch). During the extended habitat surveys in spring 2024, no evidence of otter or possible resting sites, such as holts or couches, were identified within areas AA1 or FA1. The survey also concluded FA1 is sub-optimal terrestrial habitat for otter due to limited understorey cover that could provide places of shelter (Photographs 7.9.3 and 7.9.4).
- 3.12 Area FA2 is a parcel of semi mature broadleaved woodland with ditches FD8 and FD9 bordering the northeast and east respectively (Photographs 7.9.5 and 7.9.6). A single hole under a tree root on the northern edge of FA2 and southern bank of ditch FD8 was identified during the extended habitat surveys; it was recorded as having dimensions that would make it suitable to function as an otter resting site, although at the time of the survey, high water levels had caused water to run out of the hole under the root and into the ditch. Further investigation during lower water levels on 04 September 2024 found the hole to be formed of a ca. 20 cm metal pipe; no signs of use by otter were recorded but it could not be discounted as a possible resting site in dry weather. It is, however, considered unlikely to support a natal site due to the fluctuation in water levels in and around the hole.

- 3.13 A further four areas of land within 100 m of the Site (within the Survey Boundary) were identified during the desk study as having potential to provide a resting site for otters. With reference to Figure 7.9.1.2, areas EA1 and EA2, at the northern boundary of the Site support wide/outgrown hedgerows, connected by dry ditches and are adjacent to the Catchwater drain in the east. Both EA1 and EA2 were surveyed as part of the extended habitat surveys in spring 2024; no evidence of otter or potential holt sites were identified.
- 3.14 Area GA1 is a woodland and scrub strip to the south of the Site in the east, which borders the intersection of ditch GD2 and an offsite drain. GA1 was surveyed for evidence of otter during the September 2024 surveys; no evidence of otter, including potential holts, were identified.
- 3.15 Area HA1 supports a rough grassland, bramble scrub, a pond, and two mature trees. HA1 was surveyed during the extended habitat surveys in spring 2024 and resurveyed during the September 2024 survey. No evidence of otter or potential holt sites was identified during the surveys, but it is possible that the pond supports foraging resource such as small fish and amphibians.

### **Water vole**

- 3.16 Watercourses and ditches assessed as having 'optimal' suitability for water vole (Dean, 2021) on average held between 20 and 50 cm of slow flowing water at the time of the April 2024 surveys and were perceived in the field as likely to hold water throughout the year (revalidated during the September 2024 surveys). Their banks are suitable for burrowing and provide abundant foraging material, such as emergent vegetation and tall grasses.
- 3.17 The majority of watercourses and ditches assessed as having 'good' suitability for water vole (Dean, 2021) on average held between 25 and 40 cm of water, with some ditches having shallow and/or deep sections, with varying rates of flow, across the length; these were also perceived to hold water throughout the year. Foraging material was continually present along the channel and bank sides, with the majority supporting occasional emergent vegetation and abundant tall grasses.
- 3.18 Watercourses and ditches that are assessed as having suitable but poor condition habitat for water vole (Dean, 2021) vary in characteristics across the Site. Half of the watercourses and ditches in this classification have bedrock, stone, or shale as part of the shore bank, which reduces their suitability for water vole burrowing. The majority have a depth of 5-25 cm of still or slow flowing water, two are deeper at an average of 30 cm of rapid flowing water. Suitable vegetation cover also varies, but overall provides less resource than what is assessed as optimal or good; some support frequent to abundant emergent vegetation with occasional to abundant tall grasses, and others supporting no emergent vegetation but occasional to frequent tall grasses.
- 3.19 The remaining ditches across the Site are assessed as having negligible habitat suitability for water vole. This is predominantly on account of the ditches holding very shallow to no water and being perceived to dry out each year, revalidated during the September 2024 surveys. Where negligible ditches do hold deeper flowing water, these were choked by vegetation and heavily shaded.
- 3.20 Overall, watercourses and ditches supporting optimal suitability for water vole at the Site account for approximately 4% of the total length, good suitability account for approximately 28%, suitable but poor cover accounts for approximately 13%, and negligible suitability accounts for approximately 55% of all watercourses and ditches, including dry ditches.
- 3.21 Although there is a range of watercourses and ditches at the Site with optimal, good and suitable but poor water vole habitat suitability, no confirmed water vole field signs were recorded during the surveys. During the April 2024 surveys the following mammal signs were recorded:
- One small mammal burrow which supported the typical dimensions for water vole was identified along FD5d, but no other field signs of water vole were recorded.
  - A number of small mammals, predominantly rat, harvest mouse *Micromys minutus*, and vole species, field signs, were identified along the optimal and good suitability watercourses and ditches, including droppings and burrows.

- 3.22 During the September 2024 surveys the following mammal signs were recorded:
- One burrow which supported the typical dimensions for water vole was identified along ED12 section of the Catchwater drain; no other field signs of water vole were recorded; rat droppings were recorded within the vicinity.
  - Burrows were observed on ditch GD2 with typical dimensions for water vole amongst a series of other burrows suitable for small vole species only. Small vole or mouse dropping were observed within the vicinity.
  - Three burrows, sufficient size for water voles, were recorded on ditch FD8, but no other water vole field signs were observed; rat droppings were present on ditch FD8.

### **Summary of key points**

- 3.23 The desk study, including ecological surveys for adjacent planning applications and local biological data records, show that otter and water vole have historically been present across watercourses in the centre and east of the Site.
- 3.24 The field survey identified the Catchwater drain and two ditches in the east of the Site suitable for otter foraging and 37 suitable for water vole on the Site. These are predominantly in the east of the Site; all watercourses within the Site are considered as suitable for supporting commuting otter through the landscape. The highest suitability watercourses for otter foraging and resting sites are present in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area and in the centre and southwest of the Proposed Solar Area. Six areas of land within the Survey Boundary were identified as having potential to support otter resting sites. No holt sites were confirmed within the Survey Boundary and with the lack of field signs, it is considered unlikely that there are any otter natal sites present within the Site boundary. One otter spraint was identified on the Catchwater drain in the north of the Site (ED12) and a second spraint was incidentally recorded, outside the Survey Boundary, on the Catchwater drain (upstream of the section of FD4).
- 3.25 Optimal suitability watercourses for water vole are present in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area and in the southeast of the Proposed Solar Area; good suitability watercourses are predominantly located in the eastern half of the Site and Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area; Oswald Beck in the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area also supports good suitability for water vole.
- 3.26 Although the desk study returned historical records of water vole within and surrounding the Site, and there are a number of suitable watercourses within the Site, no confirmed field evidence was identified during the surveys; multiple indeterminate burrows, suitable size for water vole, were identified along the Catchwater drain and within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area, but their status has not been confirmed.



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## 5 Figures

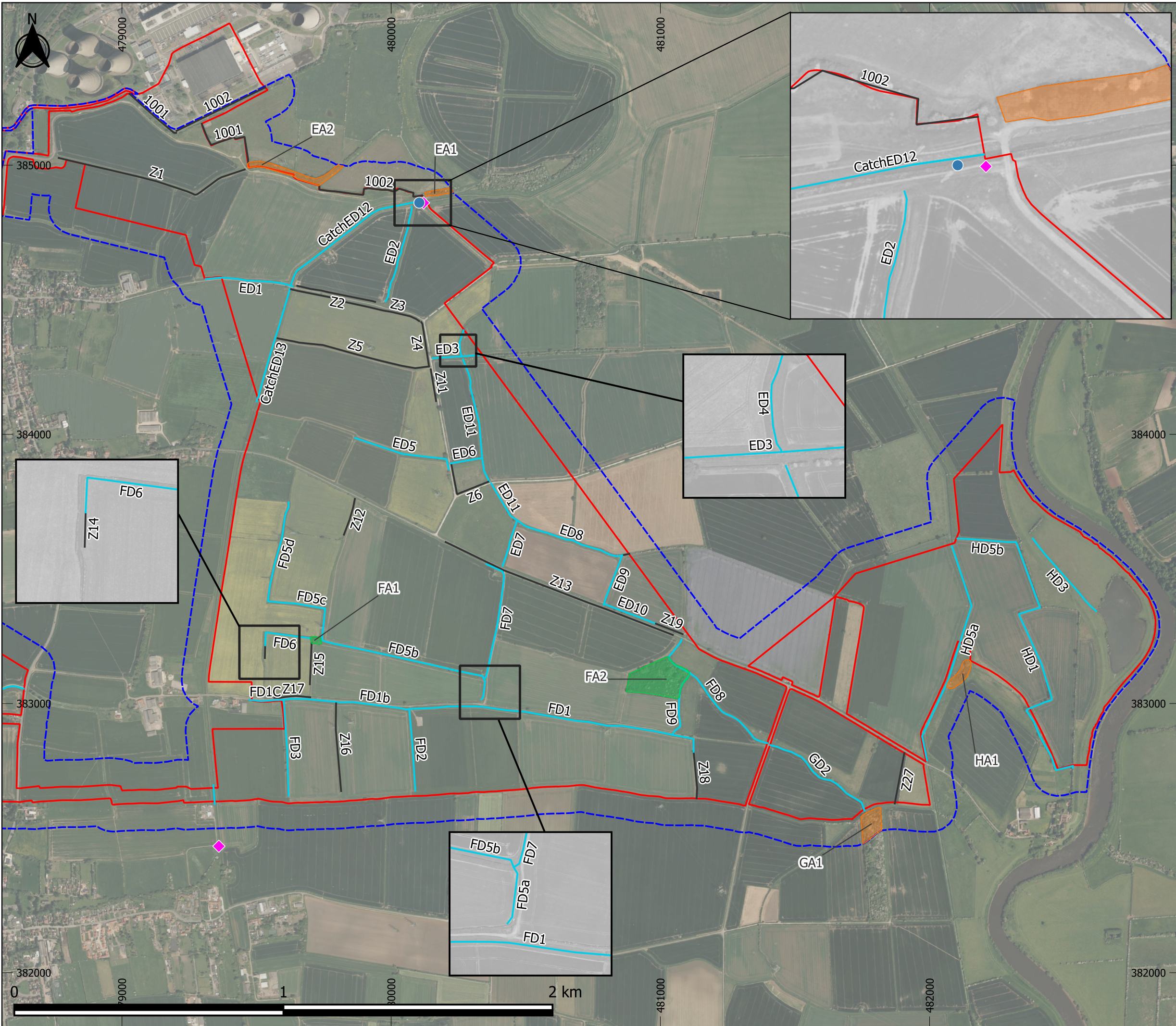
Figure 7.9.1.1 – Otter survey results Map 1 of 2

Figure 7.9.1.2 – Otter survey results Map 2 of 2

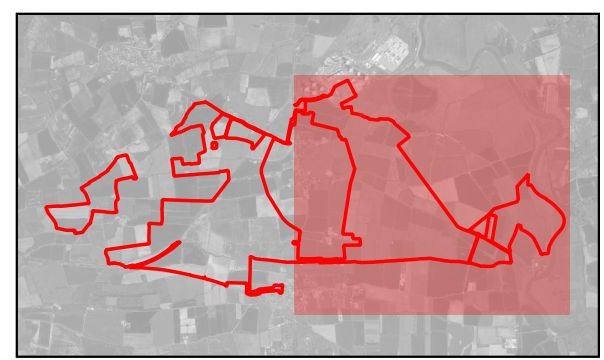
Figure 7.9.1.3 – Water vole survey results Map 1 of 2

Figure 7.9.1.4 – Water vole survey results Map 2 of 2





- Legend
- Site boundary
  - Survey boundary
  - Watercourses and ditches
    - Running water
    - Dry ditch
  - Potentially suitable resting site habitat
    - Onsite
    - Within 100 m of the Site
    - Otter - Feeding remains
    - ◆ Otter - Droppings/scat



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 Figure 7.9.1.1: Otter habitat suitability Map 1 of 2

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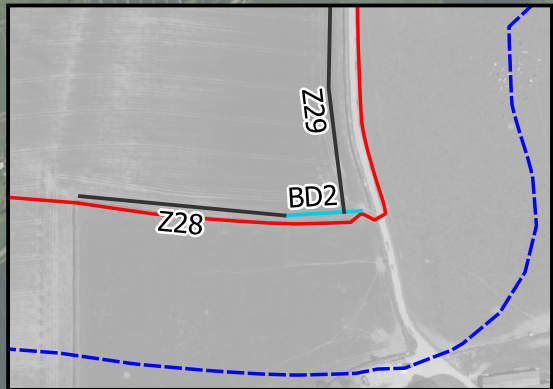
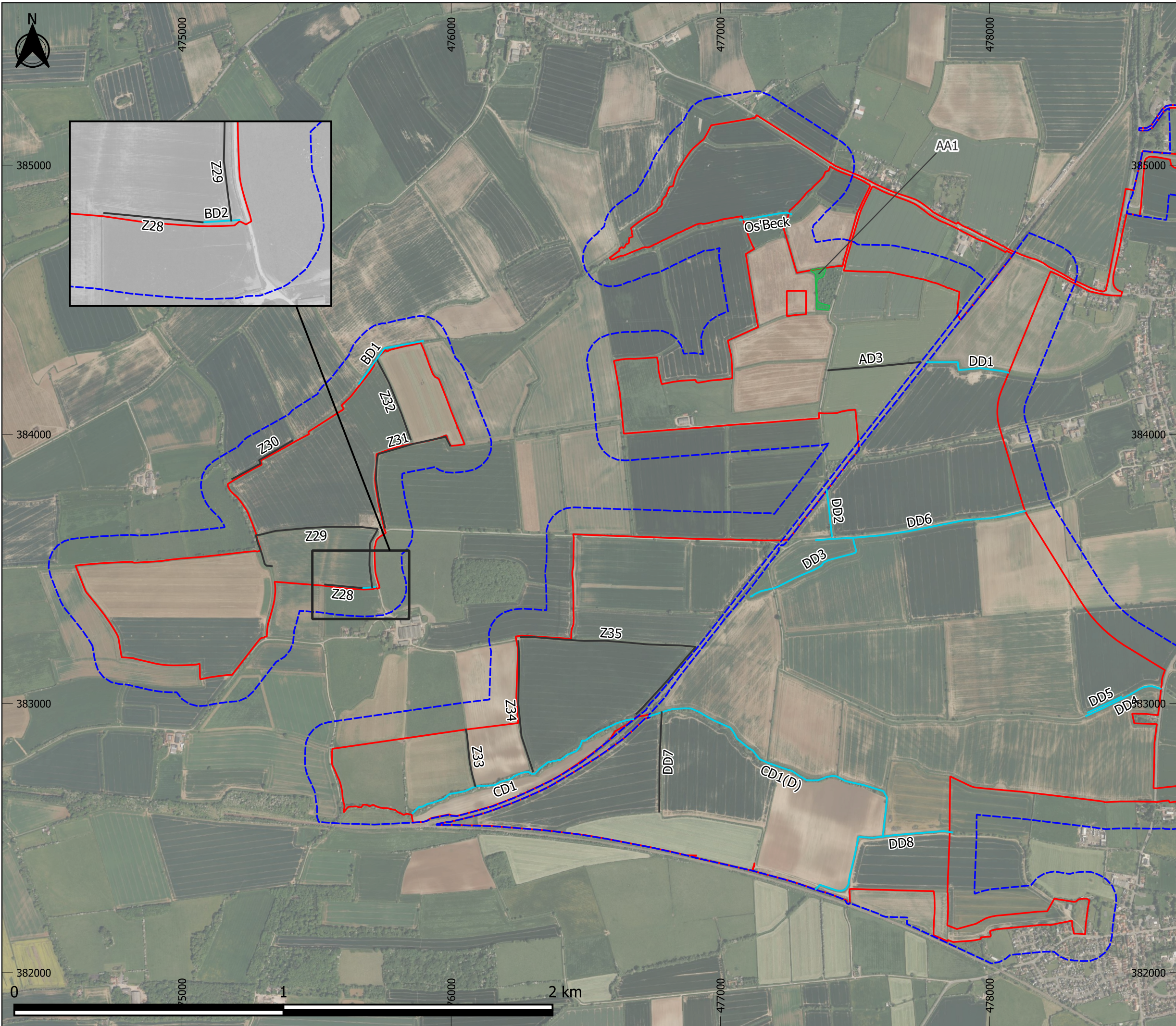
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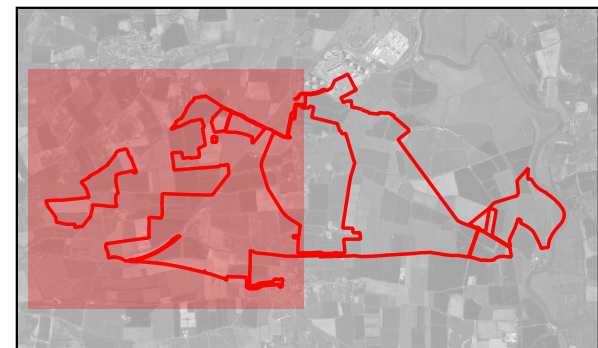
Sources: BSG Ecology survey data

Graphics Ref. No.: 07686





- Legend
- Site boundary
  - Survey boundary
  - Watercourses and ditches
  - Running water
  - Dry ditch
  - Potentially suitable resting site habitat
  - Onsite



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**Figure 7.9.1.2: Otter habitat suitability Map 2 of 2**

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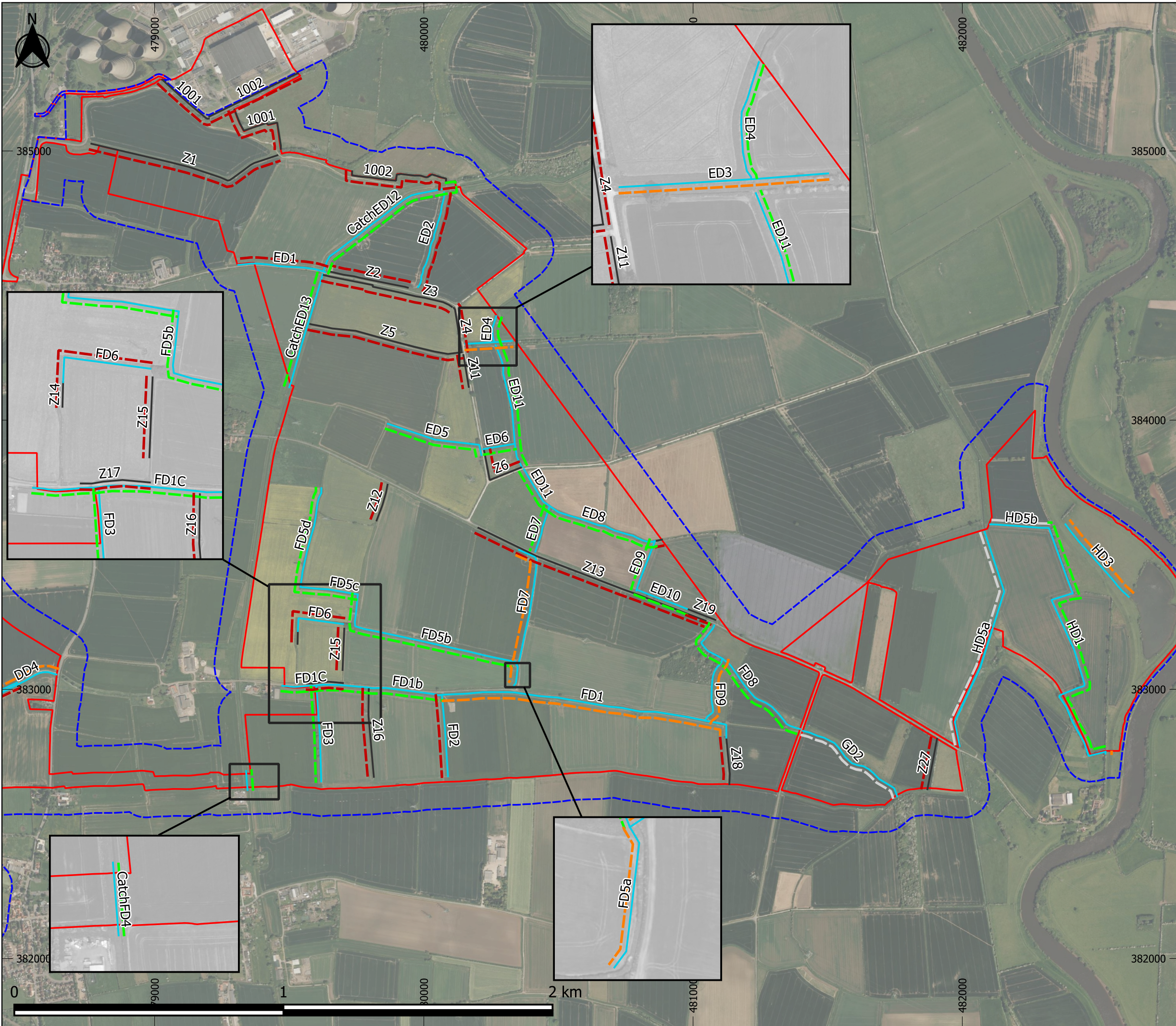
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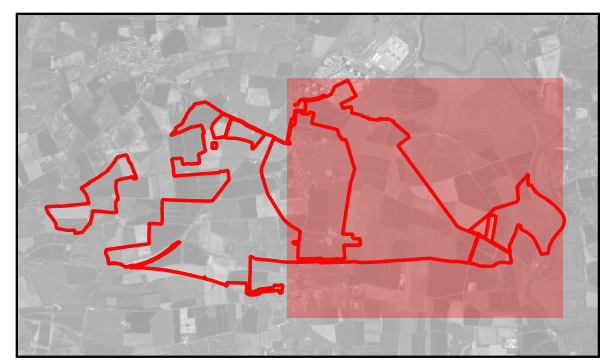
Sources: BSG Ecology survey data

Graphics Ref. No.: 08660





- Legend
- Site boundary
  - Rivers, Streams and Ditches
    - Running water
    - Dry ditch
  - Water vole suitability
    - Good
    - Poor
    - Negligible
    - Optimal



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**STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT**

DRAWING TITLE  
**Figure 7.9.1.3: Water vole habitat suitability  
 Map 1 of 2**

DATE: 20/11/2024      CHECKED: SV      SCALE: 1:13,500  
 DRAWN: SP      APPROVED: DF      VERSION: 1.4

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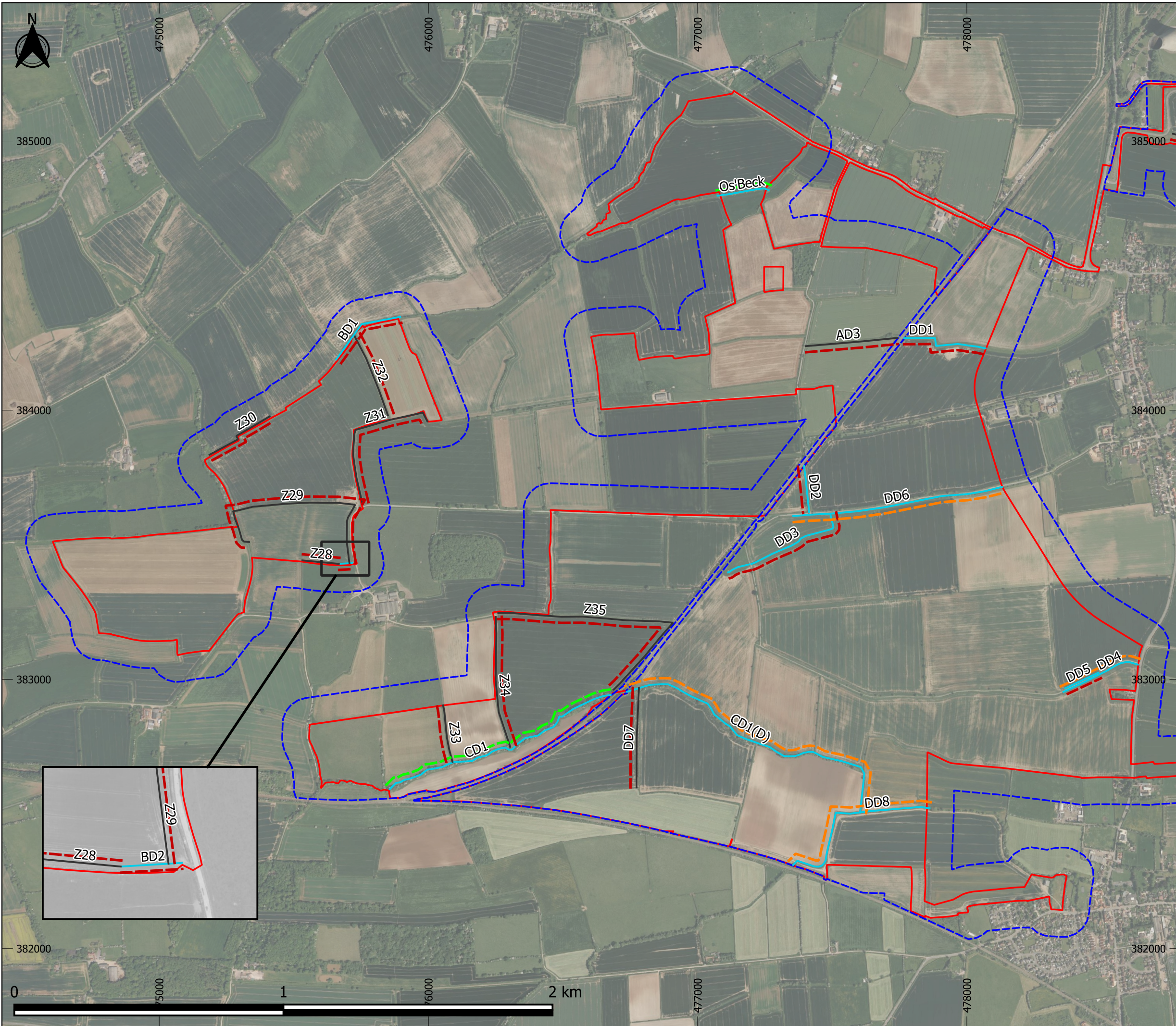
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Sources: BSG Ecology survey data

Graphics Ref. No.: 08661





- Legend
- Site boundary
  - Rivers, Streams and Ditches
    - Running water
    - Dry ditch
  - Water vole suitability
    - Good
    - Poor
    - Negligible



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**STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT**

DRAWING TITLE  
**Figure 7.9.1.4: Water vole habitat suitability  
 Map 2 of 2**

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Sources: BSG Ecology survey data

Graphics Ref. No.: 08662



## 6 Photographs

Photograph 7.9.1: View of AA1 from the southwest including adjoining hedgerow.



Photograph 7.9.2: Area of open structure and ephemeral pond within AA1.



Photograph 7.9.3: View of FA1 from the northeast.



Photograph 7.9.4: Open/exposed nature of FA1.



Photograph 7.9.5: L View of FA2 in the southwest.



Photograph 7.9.6: FA2 at intersection of ditch FD8 and FD9 in the northeast.





## Appendix 7.9.1: Survey dates and details



Date	Details	Surveyor	Cloud (Beaufort)	Temp. (°C)	Wind (Okta)	Rain
12/01/2024	Extended habitat survey – Area D	EM	3	3	3	None
29/01/2024	Extended habitat survey – Area F	EM	8	8	3	Light intermittent
29/01/2024	Extended habitat survey – Area E	DF	8	8	3	Light intermittent
31/01/2024	Extended habitat survey – Areas G/F	EM	8	4	2	None
12/02/2024	Extended habitat survey – Area H	EB	8	5	12	None
13/02/2024	Extended habitat survey – Area D	EB	7	8	1	Light intermittent
14/02/2024	Extended habitat survey – Areas A/D	EB	8	5	12	None
18/03/2024	Extended habitat survey – Area C	EM	3	6	3	None
15/04/2024	Watercourse scoping survey	EM / JF	8	8	4	Heavy intermittent
16/04/2024	Water course scoping survey	EM / JF	6	4	3	None
03/09/2024	Otter and water vole survey	EM/WS	4	19	2	None
04/09/2024	Otter and water vole survey	EM/WS/KH	7	17	2	None







## Appendix 7.9.2: Watercourse survey result

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Water depth (cm)</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Water flow</i>	<i>Bank profile (°) and material</i>	<i>Vegetation description and comments</i>	<i>Water vole suitability</i>	<i>Photograph (April 2024)</i>
AD3	N/A	0.7	N/A	45, soil	Trees, bushes, herbs present, grasses, submerged and emergent absent.  Example of dry ditch, choked with tall vegetation.	Negligible	
CD1	20	1	Rapid	40, soil and bedrock	Trees, bushes, herbs and grasses present, submerged and emergent absent.  Heavily shaded, areas eroded to bedrock.	Good	


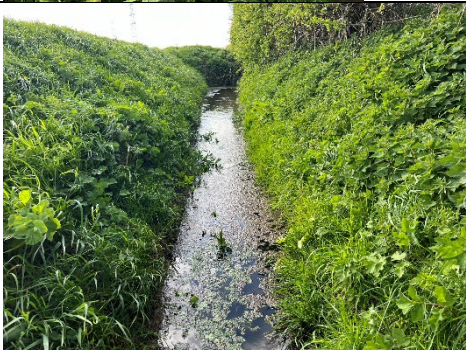



							
CD1(D)	30	1	Rapid	90, soil and bedrock	Trees, bushes, herbs and grasses present, submerged and emergent absent. Heavily shaded, areas eroded to bedrock.	Poor	
DD1	20	1	Slow	70-90, soil	Bushes dominant, herbs and grasses present, submerged and emergent absent. Heavily shaded.	Negligible	
DD2	0-10	0.7	Still	50-80, soil and stone	Trees rare, bushes, herbs, grasses present and emergent, submerged absent. Drying out.	Negligible	
DD3	60-70	2-5	Slow	45, soil	Trees absent, bushes, herbs, grasses present and emergent, submerged absent. Drying out, choked with vegetation.	Negligible	
DD4	<3	0.5	N/A	50, soil	Trees rare, bushes, herbs and grasses present, submerged and emergent absent. Heavily shade west of culvert.  Dried by September 2024.	Negligible	
DD5	0-15	12	Slow	45, soil	Trees, bushes, herbs, grasses present, submerged dominant, emerged frequent. Dry April and September 2024.	Negligible	

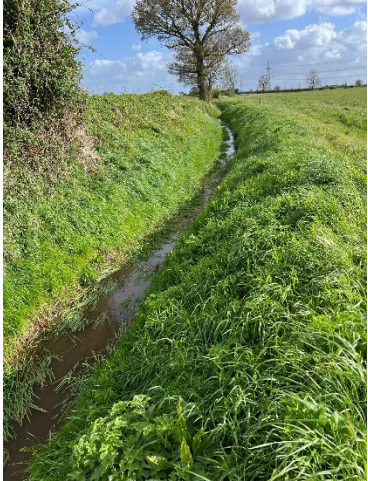

DD6	<3	0.5	N/A	50, soil and stone	<p>Trees rare, bushes, herbs and grasses present, submerged and emergent absent.</p> <p>Dominated by bramble in areas.</p> <p>Dried by September 2024.</p>	Negligible	
DD8	30	1	Rapid	90, soil and bedrock	<p>Trees, bushes, herbs and grasses present, submerged and emergent absent.</p> <p>Heavily shaded, areas eroded to bedrock.</p>	Poor	

ED1	0-6	1	Slow	60, soil and shale	<p>Trees absent, bushes, herbs, grasses and emergent present, submerged absent.</p> <p>Dried by September 2024.</p>	Negligible	
ED2	0-10	0.5	N/A	50, soil	<p>Trees absent, bushes, herbs, grasses and emergent present, submerged absent.</p> <p>Dried by September 2024.</p>	Negligible	
ED3	0-10	0.9	Slow	90, soil	<p>Trees rare, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.</p> <p>Dried by September 2024.</p>	Poor	





ED4	15	0.9	Slow	60, soil	<p>Trees absent, bushes dominant, herbs, grasses, submerged and emergent present.</p>	Good	
ED5	15-25	0.7-1	Slow	70, soil and silt	<p>Trees, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.</p> <p>Shallow, if it were to dry out in the summer, it would be poor suitability for water vole.</p>	Good	
ED6	15	0.7	Slow	45, soil	<p>Trees, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.</p>	Good	

ED7	25	0.9	Slow	45, soil	Trees absent, bushes dominant, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.	Good	
ED8	35	1	Slow	45, silt	Trees absent, bushes rare, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.	Good	
ED9	25	0.8	Slow	40, silt	Trees absent, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.	Good	
ED10	30	0.9	Slow	70, soil	Trees rare, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.	Good	
ED11a	15	0.9	Slow	60, soil and silt	Trees, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.  Rat droppings recorded.	Good	




ED11b	35-50	1	Still	50, soil and silt	<p>Trees, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.</p>	Good	
CatchED 12	25	3.2	Slow	45, soil	<p>Trees and bushes absent, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.</p> <p>2 m height strand line from bed level indicates potential signs of fluctuating water levels.</p> <p>Fish and swan mussels were recorded within the Catchwater (CatchED13, CatchED13, and CatchFD4) during September 2024 survey.</p>	Good	
CatchED 13	0.5-20	2.5	Steady	45, soil and silt	<p>Trees and bushes absent, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.</p> <p>Fish and swan mussels were recorded within the Catchwater (CatchED13, CatchED13, and CatchFD4) during September 2024 survey.</p>	Good	




FD1	0-25	0.8	N/A-Slow	45, soil	<p>Trees rare, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.</p> <p>Majority of length was dry by September 2024 except for the western extent.</p>	Poor	
FD2	0-20	0.5	Still	45, soil	<p>Trees and bushes absent, herbs, grasses, and emergent present, submerged absent.</p>	Negligible	
FD3	25-50	0.8	Still	45, soil	<p>Trees, bushes, herbs, grasses present, submerged and emergent rare.</p>	Good	

CatchFD 4	0.5-20	2.5	Steady	45, soil	<p>Trees and bushes absent, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.</p> <p>Fish and swan mussels were recorded within the Catchwater (CatchED13, CatchED13, and CatchFD4) during September 2024 survey.</p>	Good	
FD5a	0-50-70	0.7-1.2	N/A-Still	50-70, soil	<p>Trees absent, bushes herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.</p> <p>Significant change in water levels between April and September 2024; dried by September 2024.</p>	Poor	
FD5b	20-40	1.1	Still	20-40, soil	<p>Trees, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.</p> <p>'Small vole' signs and rat burrows. Harvest mouse nest in bank.</p>	Good	



FD5c	20-40	1.1	Still	40, soil	Trees and bushes absent, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.	Good	
FD5d	40-50	1-1.5	Still	30-50, soil	Trees and bushes absent, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.  Indeterminant small mammal burrow present, no other field signs recorded.	Good	
FD6	0-25	1	Still	50, soil	Trees absent, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.  Dried by September 2024.	Negligible	
FD7	0-40	1	Slow	50, soil	Trees absent, bushes, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.  Dried by September 2024.	Poor	
FD8	10-20	0.75	low	50, soil	Bushes absent, trees, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present. Obstacles to otter movement but suitable link to woodland habitat.	Good	

FD9	5	0.9	Sluggish	45, soil	Trees, bushes, herbs, and grasses present, submerged and emergent rare.	Poor	
GD2	30	1.5	Low	50, soil	Trees rare, bushes, herbs, grasses, and submerged present, emergent rare.	Optimal	
HD1	0-20	0.8	Still	50, soil	Trees, bushes, herbs, grasses, and emergent present, submerged absent.  Dried by September 2024.	Poor	
HD3	30	1.5	Slow	15, soil	Tree absent, bushes, grasses, and emergent present, herbs and submerged absent.	Poor	

HD5a	50	4	Sluggish	45, soil and silt	Trees absent, bushes rare, herbs, grasses, and emergent present, submerged rare.	Optimal	
HD5b	20	1	Slow	50, soil and silt	Trees and bushes absent, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.	Optimal	
Os'Beck	10	0.7	Rapid	45-80, soil	Bushes dominant, trees, herbs, grasses, submerged, and emergent present.	Good	