

7.5.2 Habitats

7.5.2.1 UK Priority Habitats

UK Priority Habitats were identified for online sources (including www.magic.gov.uk) in the wider Desk Study Area and are summarised in Table 2 of the PEAR, **Appendix 7A**. Wherever possible these have been entirely avoided by the English Onshore Scheme. Where they occur partially or entirely within the planning application boundary, they are summarised in **Table 7-9**.

Table 7-9: Priority Habitats within the Planning Application Boundary

Habitat	Location of Habitat	Extent of habitat within planning application boundary
Section 1 – Landfall to Bainton		
Maritime Cliff and Slope	East coast, south of Wilsthorpe	0.3 ha Will be entirely avoided due to trenchless (likely HDD) installation method to be used for cable installation at the landfall as detailed in Chapter 3: Description of the English Onshore Scheme , therefore scoped out of this EclA.
Coastal and Floodplain and Grazing Marsh	Land immediately adjacent to River Hull, west of Wansford	2.65 ha Will be entirely avoided due to trenchless (likely HDD) installation method to be used for cable installation across the River Hull Headwaters SSSI as detailed in Chapter 3: Description of the English Onshore Scheme , therefore scoped out of this EclA.
Section 2 – Bainton to Market Weighton		
Deciduous Woodland	South Dalton – small strip of woodland forming part of Wilberforce Way/Hudson Way LNR	0.15 ha Will be entirely avoided due to trenchless (likely HDD) installation method to be used for cable installation across the Wilberforce Way/Hudson Way LNR as detailed in Chapter 3: Description of the English Onshore Scheme , therefore scoped out of this EclA.
Section 3 – Market Weighton to River Ouse		
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	North Howden – several small fields east and west of B1228 Station Road	3.08 ha Crossed by the cable corridor and within areas proposed for drainage located east and west of Station Road. Surveyed during Extended Phase 1 surveys and assessed as improved grassland however characteristics associated with this priority habitat type remain present i.e. the local drainage network which support the low-lying grassland habitat. As such the habitat is taken forward into the assessment for consideration.
Deciduous Woodland	Newsholme /Newsholme Park	0.58 ha Area classified as commercial willow plantation (biofuels) by Phase 1 Survey As such it does not meet the criteria as priority deciduous woodland habitat and as such has been scoped out of the assessment.
Mudflats	On both banks of the River Ouse, north-east of Drax	0.2 ha Will be entirely avoided due to trenchless (likely HDD) installation method to be used for cable installation across the River Ouse as detailed in Chapter 3: Description of the English Onshore Scheme , therefore scoped out of this EclA. Potential indirect effects upon associated /linked designated sites and aquatic/marginal habitats are considered.
Section 4 – River Ouse to Drax Substation		
No priority habitats identified by desk study within planning application boundary within this Section.		

7.5.2.2 General Overview of Habitats within the Planning Application Boundary

Habitats within the Survey Area are shown on the Phase 1 Habitat Map provided as **Figure 7-3**. A general overview of habitat types is provided across the entire English Onshore Scheme, and where, habitat/habitat features of interest are present these are summarised within each of the Sections below where relevant to the assessment.

The Survey Area is dominated by agricultural land comprising mainly of intensively farmed arable fields, interspersed with smaller permanent grassland paddocks (used for horse and livestock grazing). These habitats are species poor and of low ecological value. Along the underground DC cable route, the most ecologically diverse habitats were limited to small pockets of land not in use for either agricultural cropping or grazing, such as small parcels of woodland scattered along the underground DC cable route, the calcareous grasslands within Hudson's Way LNR, and the marginal swamp and riverine habitats along the River Hull Headwaters SSSI at the River Hull and Kelk Beck.

Arable fields are the most prevalent habitat type by area within the Survey Area, typically cereal or bean crop with fences and intact species-poor hedgerows (occasionally species-rich) separating them from adjacent land. Improved grassland paddocks, occasionally grazed by livestock and dominated by species such as perennial ryegrass, dandelion (*Taraxacum agg.*), white clover, ribwort plantain, daisy (*Bellis perennis*), docks (*Rumex sp.*) and nettles are also prevalent in the landscape. Generally, uncultivated arable margins are relatively narrow and where present show signs of high nutrients from adjacent agriculture, with low floristic diversity.

Infrequent areas of higher quality semi-improved neutral grassland are present within the Survey Area, including in some fields east of Drax Power Station, east of North Howden Fish Ponds LWS, in the Welham Bridge area, south of Hudson Way LNR, and on some track verges and small parcels in the Fraisthorpe area. In general, these habitats have been subject to low levels of grazing and non-intensive management and have a higher floristic diversity than seen across the majority of improved grassland paddocks. Grassland of particular note is present within and adjacent to the Hudson Way LNR (specifically Kiplingcoates Station Pit which is a 'deleted' status former LWS), which displays a more calcareous character than anywhere else within the Survey Area. Here, high floristic diversity derived from base-rich soils and minimal management results in some rarities, including orchids and calcicolous plants including common restharrow, pyramidal orchid, hairy St Johns-wort, quaking-grass and yellow oat-grass. It is not known why this LWS was de-classified, however direct impact upon the habitat will be entirely avoided by the English Onshore Scheme.

Whilst small parcel/blocks of woodland occur frequently within the Survey Area, usually isolated within the arable landscape or around farms, these are typically broadleaved plantation woodland with only occasional semi-natural broadleaved and mixed plantation woodland present. The planning application boundary avoids woodland wherever possible with only small areas present within it where the underground DC cable route crosses linear features such as natural watercourses where trees and woodland is present on the banks.

Standing water habitat is present across the Survey Area, particularly south of Little Kelk, south-east of Holme-Upon-Spalding-Moor, around Brind and North Howden and east of Drax. These waterbodies vary in size and are typically the result of poor drainage or have been dug around farms for livestock. They range in water quality, diversity of aquatic marginal and emergent vegetation and macrophyte cover and are occasionally ephemeral. In some cases, dense reedbeds and swap habitat dominated by common reed and bulrush, with occasional encroachment by scrub, are present. Naturalised waterbodies are very infrequent to absent in the Yorkshire Wolds section of the route (Section 2) east of Market Weighton given the underlying calcareous substrate. Linear features such as drainage ditches in the arable landscape are prevalent, but the majority within intensive arable land are typically of highly managed/ dredge and poor quality or dry.

Running water is present in several rivers, streams and drains throughout the Survey Area, most notably the River Ouse (Section 4), River Foulness (Section 3) and River Hull (Section 1), as well as notable smaller watercourses such as Nafferton Beck, Kelk Beck, Carr Dyke, Earl's Dyke and Auburn Beck in Section 1.

Other larger streams are all of a generally similar character, with widths between two and six metres and steep earthen banks, a slow flow, poor to moderate water quality and low turbidity. Stands of marginal tall ruderal vegetation are present along the majority of the stream channels, and in some

areas dense scrub vegetation and woodland overgrows and overshadows the watercourses. Many of the unnamed smaller drains with flowing water are between arable fields, often overshadowed by a hedgerow and with channels choked by scrub and overgrown marginal vegetation. Some show signs of dredging and regular management, but the majority are infrequently managed, have narrow bank-top margins and generally low diversity of aquatic macrophytes and emergent vegetation in the channel.

Other habitat types such as tall ruderal, scattered scrub and amenity grassland are also present throughout the planning application boundary and are of less than Local value and as such are not discussed or taken forward into the EclA. Other features such as hard standing, bare ground, built structures and buildings are excluded from the EclA (unless they provide suitability for protected species i.e. roosting potential for bats).

7.5.2.3 Section 1 – Landfall to Bainton

The only designated site crossed by the English Onshore Scheme in this Section is the River Hull Headwaters SSSI which is crossed at two locations. This Section of the planning application boundary is dominated by arable habitats comprising large open fields within limited tree or woodland cover except small plantation blocks, small areas of improved grassland pasture are present, but these are grazed/managed and were of low botanical interest. The arable is interspersed with a network of field drains including Auburn Beck, Carr Dike and Earl's Dike to the east of Gransmoor village and Gransmoor Drain, Kelk Beck, Nafferton Beck, the River Hull and Driffield Canal at Wansford and Knorka/Skerne Dike around Hutton and to the east of the Sunderlandwick Estate. Hedgerows where present are predominantly species poor and well managed. Habitats/designations of relevance to the EclA within this Section are described below.

7.5.2.3.1 Landfall Area

The working area for the landfall is located within a large arable field habitat bordered by a mixture of field drains and/or defunct species poor hedgerows. The surrounding habitat is dominated by arable land and further west the presence of wind turbines within the arable to the west of Auburn Beck as shown on **Figure 7-3**.

7.5.2.3.2 River Hull Headwaters SSSI

The English Onshore Scheme crosses the Kelk Beck south-west of the village of Little Kelk and then again further west it crossed the main River Hull (also described as West Beck) south-west of Wansford. Kelk Beck as a tributary of the river catchment and forms part of the SSSI boundary. In both areas, the SSSI consists of a chalk river (more stream like at Kelk) and associated small areas of marginal habitats (the designated features include: Flowing waters - Type III: base-rich, low-energy lowland rivers and streams, generally with a stable flow regime; M22 - *Juncus subnodulosus* - *Cirsium palustre* fen meadow; and S4 - *Phragmites australis* swamp and reed-beds). The SSSI citation for the River Hull Headwaters SSSI lists 23 separate units, of which the following are located partially within the planning application boundary:

- Unit 35 – Upper reaches of River Hull also called West Beck – Unfavourable (Recovering) condition at Wansford; and
- Unit 37 - Kelk Beck and Foston Beck – Unfavourable (Recovering) condition at Kelk/Little Kelk.

At the time of the Phase 1 Habitat survey, the SSSI at the River Hull was found to consist of a mesotrophic stream (Unit 35), with very clear water, moderate flow and with aquatic vegetation in the channel such as stream water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus pencillatus*) (dominant here, which is indicative of a base-rich stream system), water starworts (*Callitriche* sp.) and the flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*). In some areas of the bank, scattered willow (*Salix* sp.) scrub is present, and a thin band of marginal vegetation is present across much of the northern and southern banks which is integral to the river community, with species including common reed (*Phragmites australis*), reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), fool's water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*) and common valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*).

The SSSI where the English Onshore Scheme crosses at Kelk Beck consists of the channel (Unit 37), which has many similar characteristics of Unit 35, including clear water (although more turbid than the River Hull area) and a slow flow. The channel has some dense areas of stream water-crowfoot at the fringes, as well as marginal stands of common reed and reed canary-grass and occasionally lesser water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*). The banks are near-vertical and approximately 1.5 m high, with stands

of hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*) in places and willow and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub present on both sides of the channel. To either side of the channel is a thin margin of improved grassland with a footpath, in generally poor condition and made up of common species including Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*).

7.5.2.4 Section 2 – Bainton to Market Weighton

Habitats in this Section are similarly dominated by arable landscape but are more characteristic of the undulating landscape associated with the Yorkshire Wolds, with large open cereal fields interspersed with managed hedgerows. The Dalton estate located west of South Dalton village does include areas of typical managed (sheep grazed) parkland habitat within mature trees and areas of semi natural and plantation woodland present. The English Onshore Scheme traverses outside the core parkland habitat, avoiding woodland and traverses typical calcareous arable habitats south before crossing Wilberforce Way; a disused railway line which is slightly elevated within the section crossed the planning application boundary and comprises a number of designations as detailed below. Drains and ponds are typically absent in this Section, with waterbodies generally only at the Market Weighton end of the Section to the north of Houghton Hall or where artificial water storage features have been created. Habitats and designations of relevance to the EclA within this Section are described below.

7.5.2.4.1 Hudson Way LNR, Granny's Attic Railway LWS and Etton-Gardham Disused Railway LWS Corridor

The Wilberforce Way corridor includes three ecological designations where it is crossed by the planning application boundary. These are Hudson's Way LNR, Granny's Attic Railway LWS and Etton-Gardham Disused Railway LWS. The LNR and LWSs are designated for the neutral and calcareous grassland habitat (although scrub is noted on the LNR selection details). The LNR extends across the entire width of the planning application boundary, with the two LWSs partially forming the same areas and adjoining each other and partially within the planning application boundary. Overall, the section of corridor comprises a mixture of grassland, scrub and scattered trees and forms a distinct habitat feature within the local landscape. The section of the at the western side of the planning application boundary consists of a grassy path approximately 5 m wide, with steep scrubby embankment with varying degrees of scrub and young trees. Further east, within the area the access haul road is proposed the corridor is less steeply embanked. Where grassland is dominant, it is calcareous and species-rich, with a medium to tall sward (a lack of grazing/other management is evident) and moderate botanical diversity with calcareous herb and grass indicators present, such as common restharrow (*Ononis repens*), pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), hairy St Johns-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) and quaking-grass (*Briza media*). The scrub on the embankments is encroaching into the grassland, and is dense in places, creating sheltered edge habitats, and there is evidence of regeneration and mixed age classes. As the scrub is encroaching, thus reducing the grassland diversity, it is considered that the two LWSs would currently only partially achieve the LWS criteria for grassland (as defined for Local Sites in East Yorkshire within Ref 7-25), although there is evidence of loss of grassland extent on cutting slopes and impact of the encroachment of ongoing scrub habitat. As a precautionary principal, combined the habitats are considered to be of Moderate condition and have been assigned overall as of County value.

7.5.2.5 Section 3 – Market Weighton to River Ouse

As the English Onshore Scheme traverses south west from Market Weighton, the habitats continue to be arable dominated but become more typical of lowland farmland with a greater frequency of hedgerows including those with trees, well connected drain networks as well as a greater abundance of waterbodies within this Section. There are no statutory or non statutory designated sites present within this Section which are crossed by the English Onshore Scheme. The nearest SSSI to the English Onshore Scheme within this Section is Barn Hill Meadows SSSI located approximately 340 m from nearest extent of the English Onshore Scheme, which is a proposed access route, and approximately 770 m from underground DC cable route. South Cliffe Common SSSI is approximately 1 km south of the English Onshore Scheme located east of Tollingham and of the (disused) Market Weighton Canal.

The route avoids direct impacts upon a number of nearby LWSs including North Howden Fish Ponds and Yarmshaw Plantation LWS, both of which are discreet sites respectively and are surrounded by arable or improved grassland. There are linkages via the localised drainage ditch network from the English Onshore Scheme to these sites, albeit not specifically directly as many of the smaller

unmanaged drains are dry/lack flow. Potential indirect linkages to these sites are discussed in Section 7.7.

There are several more significant watercourses also present within this Section including the Back Delfin Drain, a section of the disused Market Weighton Canal and Egremont Drain which are all located within close proximity to one another and are partially scrub and tree lined creating a linear habitat corridor.

The River Foulness and Featherbed/Bishopsoil Drain close to Welhambridge are both crosses by the English Onshore Scheme in this Section. Within the planning application boundary, the River Foulness channel is approximately 6 m, with 2 m high moderately steep banks. The banks are occasionally bare but typically have short grasses and low diversity of herbs, with emergent common reed in places at the margins and high turbidity. There are few macrophytes present and marginal vegetation, where present, was not diverse and patchy. Featherbed drain is not as significant in width but has a moderate flow and is steep banked. Both shows signs of being dredged/managed but offer suitable habitat for otter and water vole. Small areas/corpses of semi-natural broadleaved woodland are present along the banks which are generally young/ semi-mature, with a limited scrubby ground flora including species such as elder, bramble, docks, ivy (*Hedera helix*) and common nettle, and closed canopies which limit floristic diversity in the ground layer with many being used for game bird rearing.

Occasional small fields comprising poor semi-improved or improved grassland are present in this Section around North Howden, Brind, and west of Asselby. The majority are used for sheep or horse grazing. Where hedgerows are present around paddocks they are generally species poor or defunct and replaced with stock fencing.

A commercial plantation site for biofuels is present north-east of Newsholme, south of Brind, which is a monoculture of willow and is young in age. Some parcels also contain coniferous species such as Scot's pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), some of which are commercially planted, and others planted as screening on farms or along watercourses such as Black Dyke.

West of Asselby the English Onshore Scheme crosses a section of disused railway line now comprising of dense scrub and semi-natural woodland, whilst only of local interest and botanical diversity, the linear feature provides suitable habitat for birds and foraging bats. Several more drainage ditches are present within lower lying arable dominated land to the north of the River Ouse, including Asselby Marsh Drain, Lowfields Drain and the habitat is typical flood plain with an absence of hedgerow or trees and of negligible botanical interest.

Within this Section the designated sites within indirect linkages to the English Onshore Scheme, species rich hedgerows, watercourses and ponds are the only habitats to be taken forward for consideration in the assessment.

7.5.2.6 Section 4 – River Ouse to Drax Substation

Within Section 4 of the planning application boundary (within Selby District Council), the habitats are typically dominated by low lying arable dominated fields adjacent to the south of the River Ouse, but also includes grassland associated with smaller residential and grazing use on the outskirts of Drax village as shown on **Figure 7-3**. Hedgerows, where present closer to Drax village and south of Woodcock Wood and Wren Hall Lane are mature with present of mature trees, however post field boundaries comprise drainage ditches in this Section. No designated sites or priority habitats are present within the planning application boundary within this Section and the most noteworthy habitats are the hedgerows with mature trees along Wren Hall Lane east of the converter station site considered to be of Local value.

7.5.2.6.1 Converter Station

The proposed converter station east of Drax Power Station is situated within an arable field, planted with bean crop during 2021. The arable field is bordered to the south and east by an intact species-rich native hedgerow, 3 m tall by 2 m wide, with occasional semi-mature trees. The hedgerow is dominated by hawthorn, with frequent blackthorn, occasional bramble and ash, and rarely hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and rose (*Rosa* sp.). The ground story and verge adjacent to the track beyond the hedgerow is relatively diverse, with herbs and grasses present including white dead nettle (*Lamium album*), cow parsley, common nettle, cleavers (*Galium aparine*), curled dock, cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, herb Robert

(*Geranium robertianum*), perennial rye grass, daffodil (*Narcissus* spp.), hogweed, meadowsweet, meadow buttercup, red fescue, curled dock, greater plantain and periwinkle (*Vinca minor*).

The field is bordered to the west by a species-poor intact hedgerow alongside New Road and to the north is a parcel of broadleaved semi-natural woodland with small clearings of neutral semi-improved grassland. There are game bird feeding stations within the woodland and signs of management, including scrub and tree clearance. The woodland is separated to the arable field by a field drain. Several standalone oak and ash trees are present within the arable field immediately north of the converter station site which also have been subject to bat potential assessment and are considered to be of at least Moderate bat roost potential (See **Table 7-11**).

7.5.2.6.2 River Ouse

The River Ouse is approximately 100 m wide at the location where the cable will cross using trenchless installation methods, with a turbid, rippled channel, bank toe and set-back embankment for flood defence on both side of the channel. The area is open and devoid of any areas of woodland cover with evidence of flood management features comprising grassland which is typically poor semi-improved with occasional tall ruderal vegetation. The channel margins and bank face on both banks have occasional scattered standard willows as well as willow and hawthorn scrub.

Arable land traversed by managed drainage ditches abuts the river channel on both sides within areas proposed for the working areas for the drilling of the cable.

7.5.2.7 Habitat Evaluation Summary

Table 7-10 outlines a summary of the main habitats present within the extents of the planning application boundary (across all Sections unless specified) and a justification of the evaluation assigned. Those which are of Local value or higher are then taken forward into the assessment. Whilst small areas of other habitat types were identified within the planning application boundary; dense and scattered scrub (less than 1 ha in total), tall ruderal (1.6 ha), amenity grassland (0.02 ha), ephemeral/short perennial (1.3 ha total) and bare ground (0.08 ha) these were all considered to less than Site value and therefore scoped out of the EclA.

To clarify these are habitats which are present within the planning application boundary but do not form part of any designated sites listed in **Tables 7-7** and **7-8**.

Table 7-10: Summary of habitats within the Planning Application Boundary included in the EclA

Habitat Type	Evaluation Justification	Value
Arable, Improved and poor semi-improved grassland	Arable, improved and poor semi-improved grassland is present throughout the planning application boundary. These habitat types make up the majority (approximately 530 ha of total area of 628 ha (~85%) of the planning application boundary. Botanically these habitats are species poor and are considered to be of low botanical importance and are common and widespread. However arable farmland does provide an important habitat resource for certain species and is recognised by its listing on the Selby LBAP. Therefore, these habitats have a Site nature conservation value.	Site
Semi-improved grassland	Small areas (approximately 1.85 ha in total) of neutral and calcareous semi-improved grassland are present within the planning application boundary. This equates to an area less than 0.3% of the total planning application boundary. Here it has been identified it is associated with features the small area within Section 2 such as that present along the Hudson Way LNR and Granny's Attic/Etton-Gardham Disused Railway LWSs. Within the context of the planning application boundary these very small areas of grassland habitat are not considered to be of more than Site value and not taken forward into the EclA. Areas of semi improved calcareous/neutral grassland located within the planning application boundary which form part of a designated site (e.g. a LWS) are evaluated and assessed separately.	Site
Semi-natural Woodland and Trees	Woodland is an important habitat providing botanical and structural diversity as well as supporting a wide range of faunal species. Woodland is included on both the East Riding and Selby LBAPs.	Local

Habitat Type	Evaluation Justification	Value
	<p>The percentage cover of woodland within East Riding is limited, with an overall woodland cover of around 5,570 ha, a total of 2.2% of the land cover within the local authority area. The total woodland cover in the Selby Local Authority area is 2,617.2 ha, a total of 4.3% of the land cover (Forestry Commission 2005, Ref 7-26). The average woodland cover in England is 8.4%, therefore both local authority areas support less woodland than the national average. An area equating to approximately 17.5 ha (< 3% of the total planning application boundary) of woodland (including all types; broadleaved, coniferous, semi-natural and plantation) is present within the planning application boundary. Of this 17.5 ha, more than 15 ha is plantation woodland including an area planted as willow biomass at Newsholme in Section 3. The remaining ~2.5 ha of semi-natural woodland is scattered across the cable route as several areas no more than 0.25 ha each which has been assessed as being of Poor or Moderate habitat condition by the surveys conducted to support the BNG assessment.</p> <p>Whilst woodland is an infrequent habitat within the East Riding of Yorkshire area in particular, no significant areas are located within the planning application boundary. Although woodland is scarce it appreciably enriches the local area's habitat resource, however given the very limited amount of this type of habitat and its condition within the planning application boundary, a Local conservation value has been assigned.</p>	
Hedgerows – native species rich	<p>The majority of field boundaries with the planning application boundary are formed by a network of hedgerows. Hedgerows are listed as a Priority UK BAP Habitat, and are included on both the East Riding of Yorkshire and Selby LBAP. These hedgerows contain a greater level of species diversity (containing 4 or more woody species) and therefore are considered to be of higher ecological value (than species poor or defunct hedgerows).</p> <p>A total of approximately 5.4 km of species rich hedgerows (including those which are intact, defunct and with trees) have been identified entirely or partially within the planning application boundary. Of this, 2.6 km is located within the DC cable working width (40 m swathe). Species rich hedgerows as a receptor within the planning application boundary are considered to be of County Value.</p>	County
Hedgerows – species poor	<p>Hedgerows are listed as a Priority UK BAP Habitat and are included on both the East Riding of Yorkshire and Selby LBAP.</p> <p>A total of approximately 22 km of species poor hedgerows were identified entirely or partially within the entirety of the planning application boundary. The majority of the total length are located outside the cable route working width.</p> <p>Despite being less diverse, these hedgerows nevertheless provide valuable wildlife corridor particularly where present in arable dominated landscape, often being the only semi-natural habitat in the area and as such enhance the local area's habitat resource at a Site level. Therefore, species poor hedgerows as a receptor within the planning application boundary are considered to be of Site Value and are not considered within this EclA</p>	Site
Standing Water (Ponds, Lakes and Canals)	<p>Since 2007, some types of ponds which meet the criteria are listed as a UK BAP priority habitat (under the 'Standing Open Water and Canals BAP' broad habitat). Furthermore, ponds are included within both the Selby and East Riding of Yorkshire LBAPs and whilst the majority of ponds are small, the habitat they provide is important, providing areas of semi-natural habitat and offering habitat for faunal species (including those of legal protection status and conservation concern). Only four areas of standing water are present within the planning application boundary equating to a total area of less than 0.3 ha. Overall this habitat receptor within the planning application boundary is considered to be of Local Nature Conservation Value.</p>	Local
Running Water (Main Rivers/watercourses with priority habitat status)	<p>Rivers are included within both the Selby and East Riding of Yorkshire LBAP. This receptor includes the 8 main rivers/watercourses which are intersected by the planning application boundary. These include Kelk Beck, Nafferton Drain, Nafferton Beck, Driffield Canal, River Hull, Market Weighton Canal, River Foulness and the River Ouse but also a number of smaller watercourses which have been categorised as meeting the criteria as priority habitat such as Auburn Beck, Gransmoor Drain, Carr Dyke, and Featherbed Drain. Overall, these rivers and watercourses provide a diverse and ecological important aquatic habitat network. The extent of this habitat</p>	County

Habitat Type	Evaluation Justification	Value
	<p>within the planning application boundary represents only a proportion of the wider river /watercourse catchment resource it is considered that to be of up to County value.</p> <p>Rivers that are designated as statutory sites are evaluated separately.</p>	
Running Water (Dykes, becks and drains) Non designated	<p>Streams and ditches are included within the Selby LBAP. This receptor includes all minor streams, becks, drains and dykes; of which there are approximately 65 minor watercourses that are specifically crossed by the English Onshore Scheme across all Sections. Overall, these drains and ditches provide a diverse and ecological important network, however many are highly managed and/or are predominately lacking in aquatic habitat or bank margins therefore are of reduced ecological value. The extent of this within the planning application boundary is considered to only be a small proportion of this habitat resource within the County/Region and therefore is considered to represent habitat of Local value.</p> <p>Stream and drains which form part of a designated statutory or non-statutory site or are a main or priority watercourses are evaluated separately above.</p>	Local
Maritime Cliff and Slope (including soft cliff) (Section 1 only)	<p>Maritime Cliff and Slope is a local biodiversity action plan (LBAP) habitat. Soft rock cliffs, such as are present at the landfall, are of value for a number of important invertebrates, as well as providing a valuable sediment source for habitats down drift.</p> <p>The area of this habitat within the planning application boundary (approximately 0.3 ha), represents a small proportion of the extent of this habitat on the Holderness coast, although of little biodiversity value as much has been subject to coastal erosion and in a poor condition or absent entirely as is the case within the planning application boundary. Therefore, this habitat within the planning application boundary is not considered be of more than Site value.</p> <p>Furthermore, this habitat will be avoided by the English Onshore Scheme due to application of HDD installation method for the cable installation at the coast.</p>	Site

7.5.2.8 Invasive Non-Native Species

These species are list on Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause it to grow in the wild. In summary five species of INNS have been recorded within or within proximity to the planning application boundary incidentally during the completion of ecological surveys. These are:

- New Zealand pygmyweed (*Crassula helmslii*);
- Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*);
- Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*);
- Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*);
- Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) – recorded at multiple locations along the cable route including along tidal drains east of Drax which flow into the River Ouse; and
- Cotoneaster (Cotoneaster sp.), which may be one of the Schedule 9 species, were recorded within several discreet locations within the Survey Area.

Further details of the locations of where these INNS were recorded are provided in **Appendix 7A**. The majority of the incidences are not specifically from within the planning application boundary, however given the ability of some INNS to spread rapidly over time, INNS could be present within the planning application boundary during the construction phase.

These plant species do not hold value in an ecological sense but should be considered during the construction phase due to legal implications of the avoidance of causing INNS to be spread. Measures to address the legal requirements for INNS will be secured through the adoption of an Invasive Non-Native Species Method Statement (INNSMS) committed to within the Construction Environmental Management Plan which will be adopted by the appointed contractor. An outline CEMP is included in

Chapter 18: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. INNS are not considered further in this EclA.

7.5.3 Protected Species

Table 7-11 summarises the protected species baseline that has informed this assessment. Signposting to the relevant sections of the PEAR (**Appendix 7A**) and technical appendices where specific Phase 2 surveys were undertaken, is provided to avoid repetition of baseline information from the supporting documents.

PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

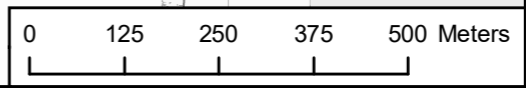
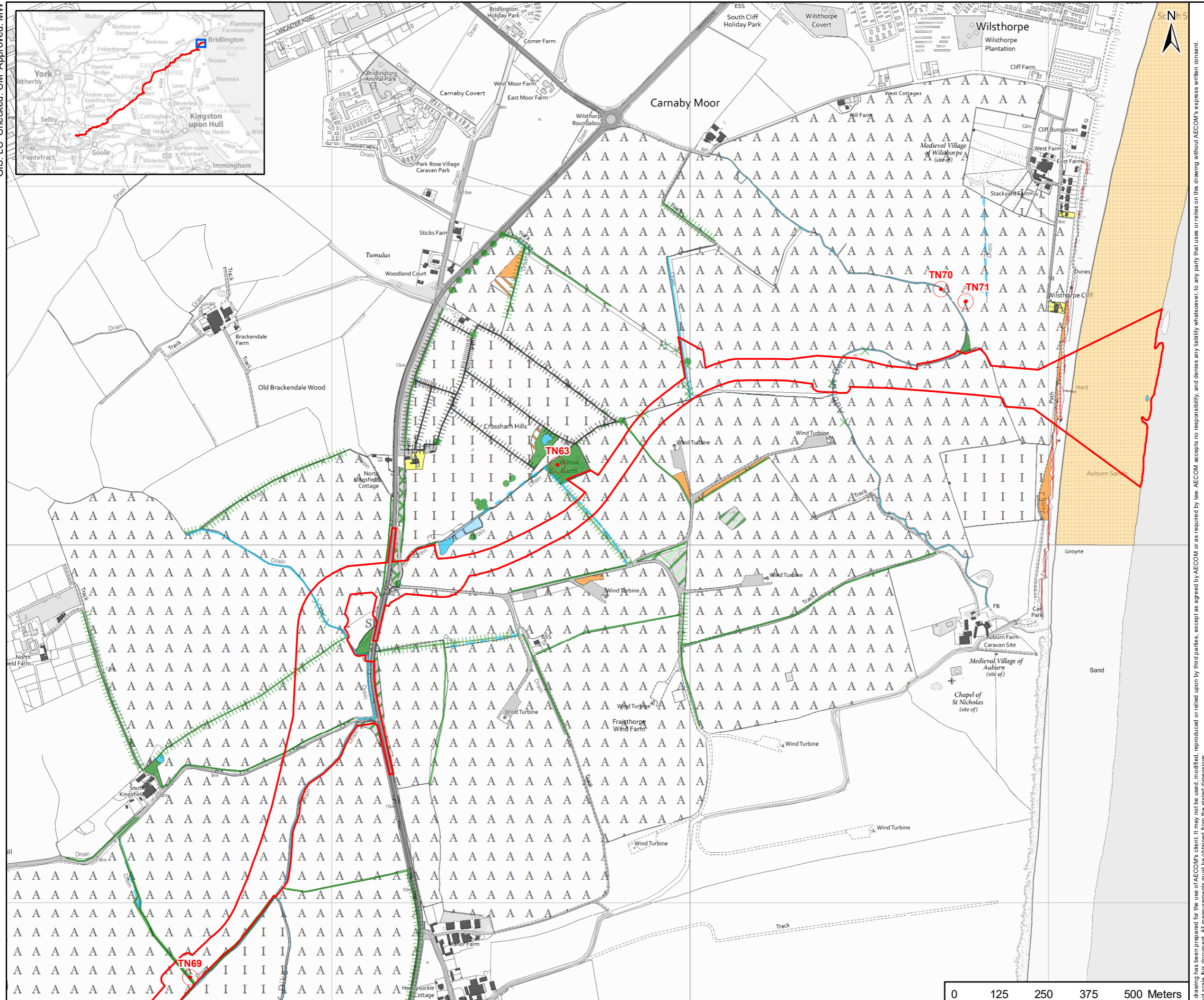
- KEY**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - Target Note
 - X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - X X X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - ● ● A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - G2 - Running water
 - J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - - - J2.2.2 - Defunct hedge - species-poor
 - ||||| J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
 - ||||| J2.4 - Fence
 - - - J2.6 - Dry ditch
 - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - ▨ A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
 - ▩ A1.3.2 - Mixed woodland - plantation
 - ▧ A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
 - B2.1 - Neutral grassland - unimproved
 - ▨ B2.2 - Neutral grassland - semi-improved
 - I B4 - Improved grassland
 - B B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - ▨ C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
 - F1 - Swamp
 - G1 - Standing water
 - G1.2 - Standing water - mesotrophic
 - G2 - Running water
 - H1.1 - Intertidal - mud/sand
 - ▨ H8.1 - Hard cliff
 - H8.4 - Coastal grassland
 - I J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
 - J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
 - J3.6 - Buildings
 - Z99 - Hardstanding

TITLE
Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

REFERENCE
SEGL2_T_ES_7-3_v2_20220531

SHEET NUMBER 1 of 21
DATE 31/05/2022

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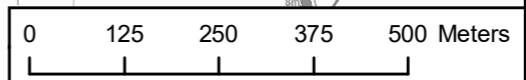
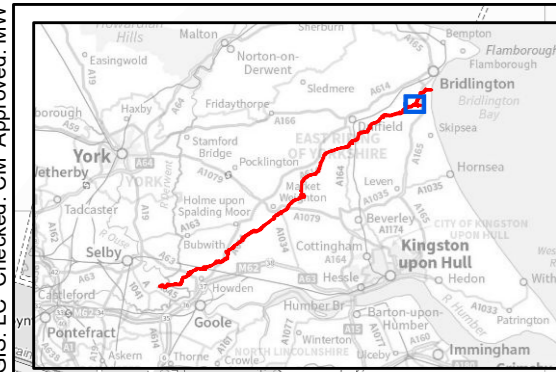
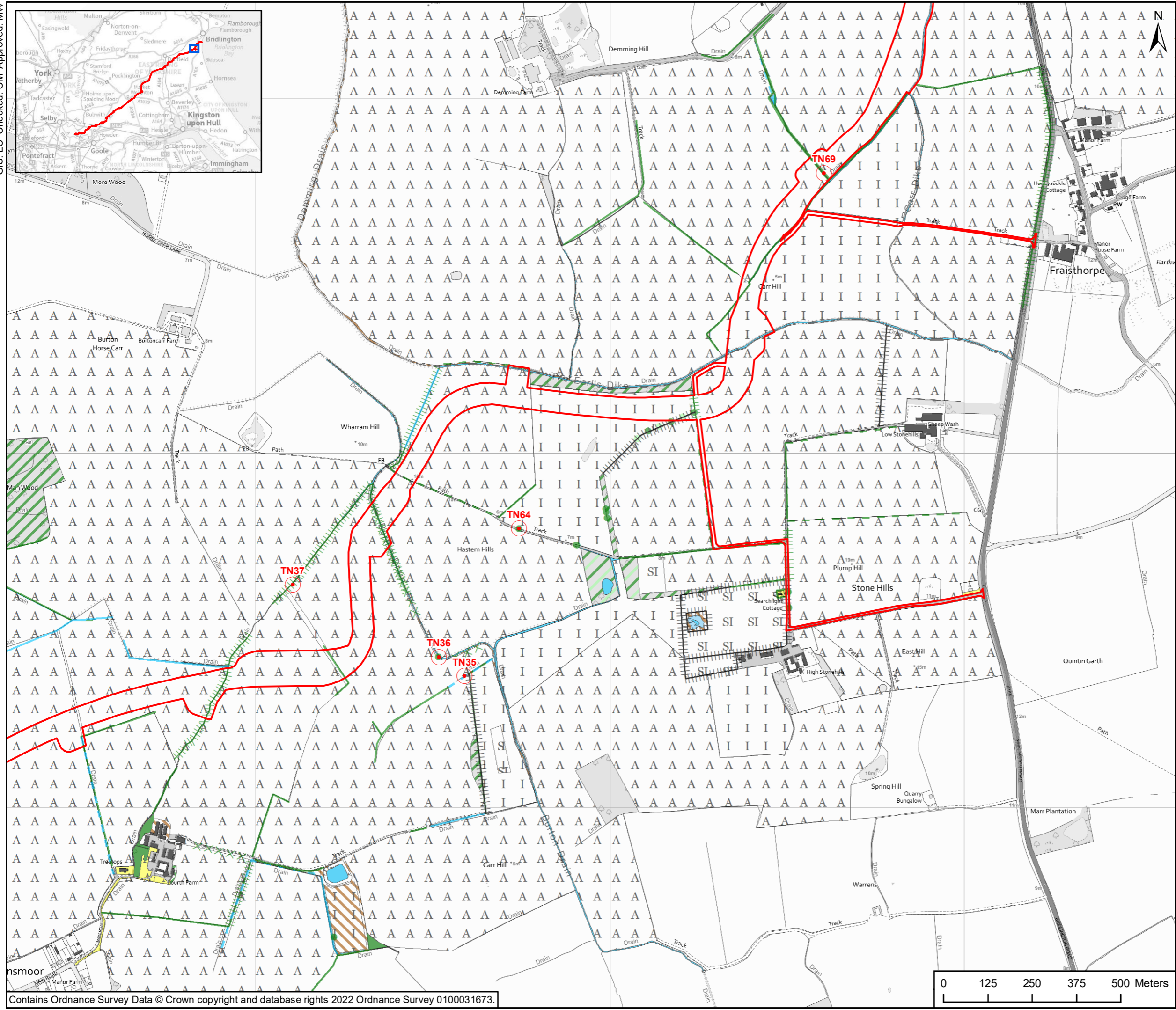
PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

- KEY**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - Target Note
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - A3.3 - Mixed parkland/scattered trees
 - G2 - Running water
 - J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - - J2.2.2 - Defunct hedge - species-poor
 - |||| J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
 - |||| J2.4 - Fence
 - - J2.6 - Dry ditch
 - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - ▨ A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
 - ▩ A1.3.2 - Mixed woodland - plantation
 - X A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
 - B4 - Improved grassland
 - B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
 - F1 - Swamp
 - F2.1 - Marginal and inundation - marginal vegetation
 - G1 - Standing water
 - G2 - Running water
 - G2.1 - Running water - eutrophic
 - J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
 - J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
 - J1.3 - Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial
 - J3.6 - Buildings
 - J4 - Bare ground
 - Z99 - Hardstanding

TITLE
Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

REFERENCE
SEGL2_T_ES_7-3_v2_20220531

SHEET NUMBER 2 of 21 **DATE** 31/05/2022



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PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

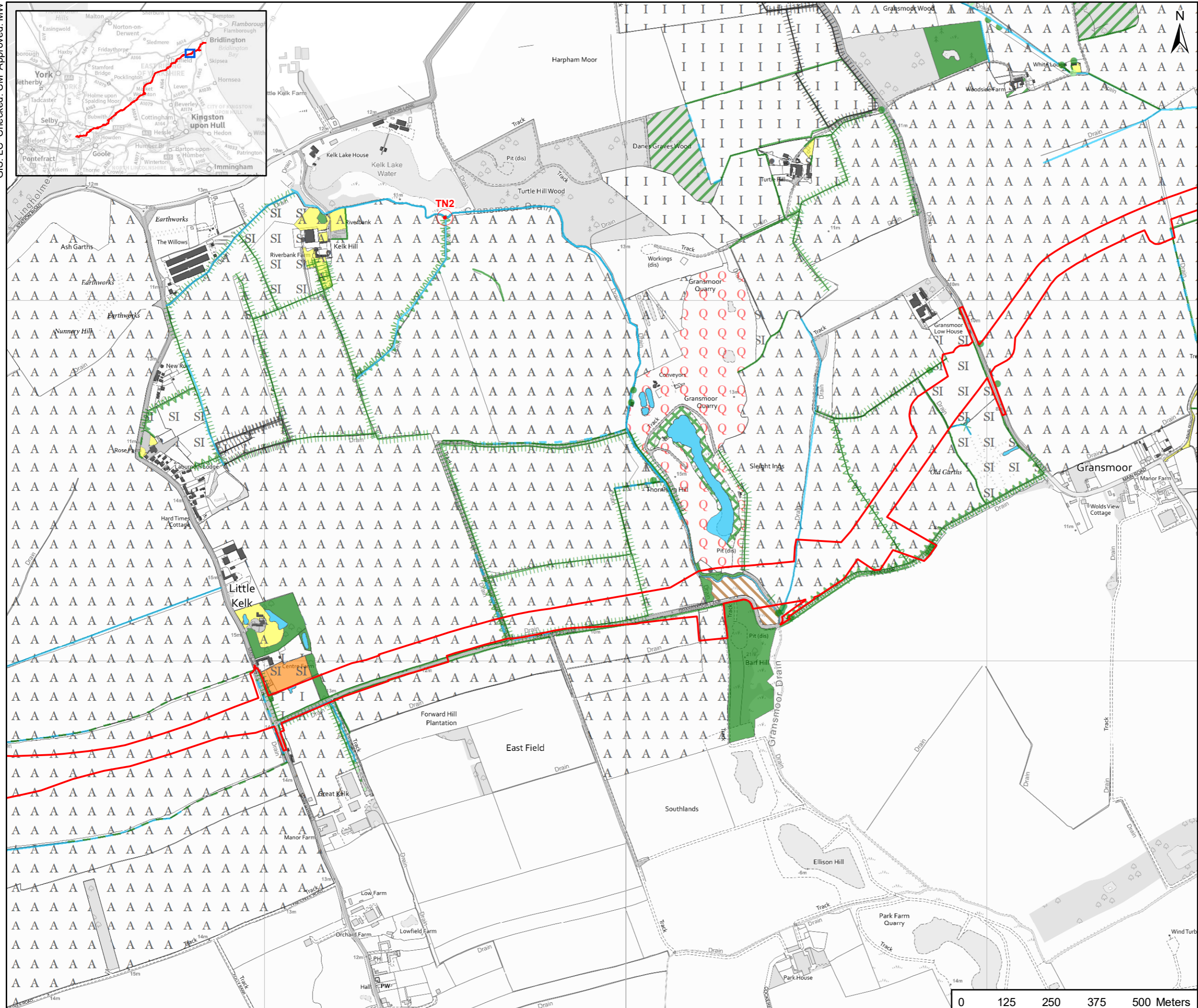
- KEY
- Planning Application Boundary
 - Target Note
 - X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - A3.2 - Coniferous parkland/scattered trees
 - G2 - Running water
 - ~ J2.1.1 - Intact hedge - native species-rich
 - J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - - J2.2.2 - Defunct hedge - species-poor
 - ~ J2.3.1 - Hedge with trees - native species-rich
 - |||| J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
 - |||| J2.4 - Fence
 - - J2.6 - Dry ditch
 - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - ▨ A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
 - ▨ A1.2.2 - Coniferous woodland - plantation
 - ▨ A1.3.2 - Mixed woodland - plantation
 - X A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
 - B2.2 - Neutral grassland - semi-improved
 - B4 - Improved grassland
 - B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - ▨ C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
 - G1 - Standing water
 - G2 - Running water
 - I2.1 - Quarry
 - J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
 - J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
 - J3.6 - Buildings
 - J4 - Bare ground
 - Z99 - Hardstanding

TITLE
**Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey**

REFERENCE
SEGL2_T_ES_7-3_v2_20220531

SHEET NUMBER
3 of 21

DATE
31/05/2022

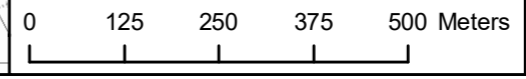


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Coordinate System: British National Grid



Scale @ A3 1:10,000

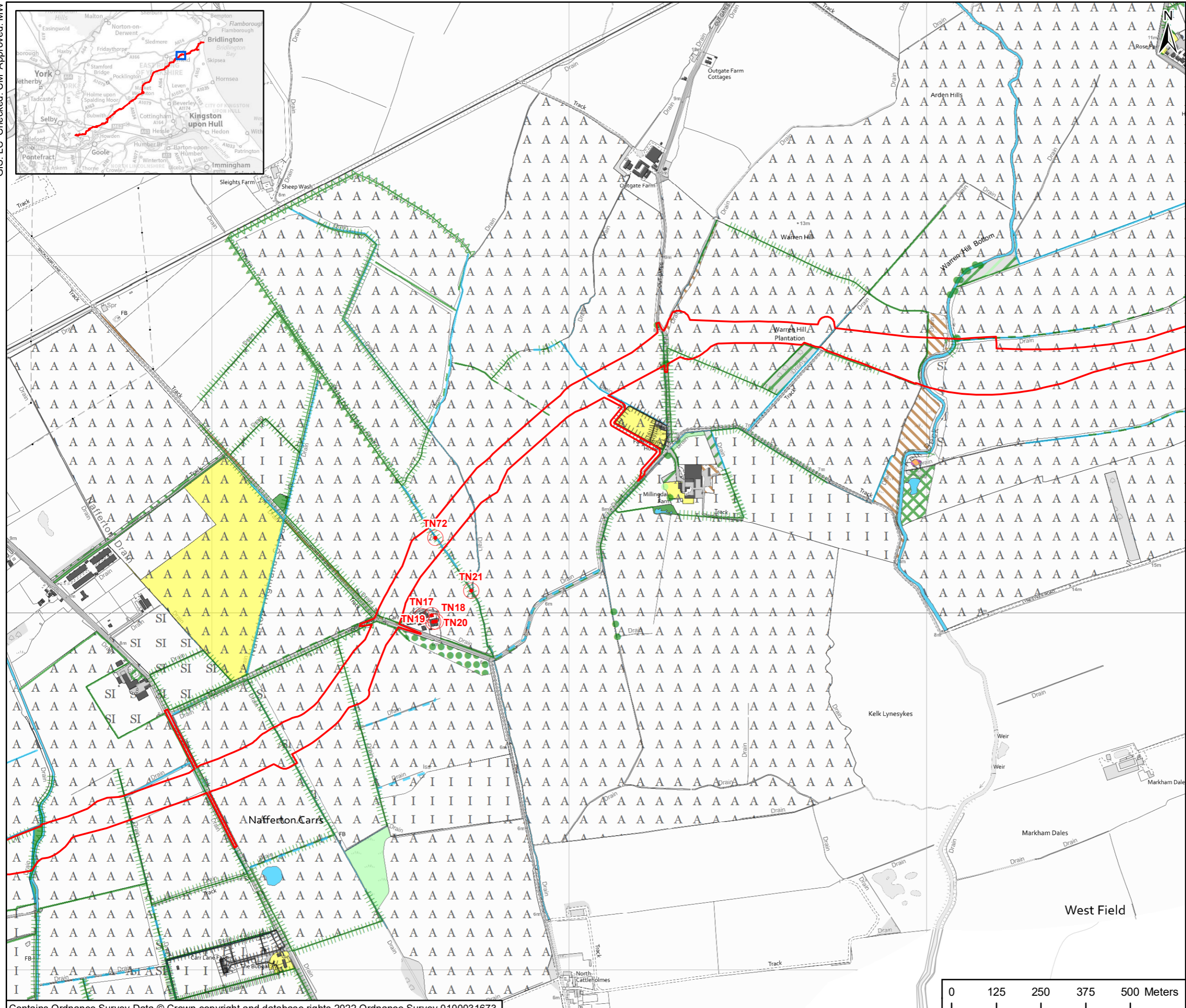
PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

- KEY**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - Target Note
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - A3.3 - Mixed parkland/scattered trees
 - G2 - Running water
 - V J2.1.1 - Intact hedge - native species-rich
 - J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - - J2.2.2 - Defunct hedge - species-poor
 - V J2.3.1 - Hedge with trees - native species-rich
 - | J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
 - | J2.4 - Fence
 - - J2.6 - Dry ditch
 - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - ▨ A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
 - A1.2.1 - Coniferous woodland - semi-natural
 - ▨ A1.3.1 - Mixed woodland - semi-natural
 - ▨ A1.3.2 - Mixed woodland - plantation
 - X A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - I B4 - Improved grassland
 - B5 - Marsh/marshy grassland
 - I B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
 - I F2.1 - Marginal and inundation - marginal vegetation
 - G1 - Standing water
 - E G1.1 - Standing water - eutrophic
 - G2 - Running water
 - A J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
 - A J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
 - J3.6 - Buildings
 - J4 - Bare ground
 - Z99 - Hardstanding

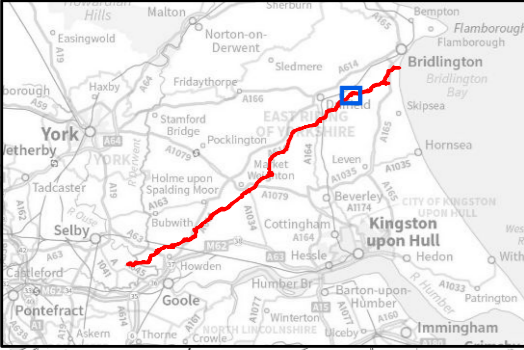
TITLE
Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

REFERENCE
SEGL2_T_ES_7-3_v2_20220531

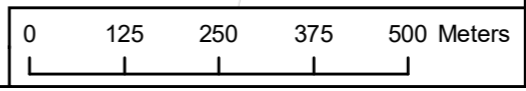
SHEET NUMBER 4 of 21 **DATE** 31/05/2022



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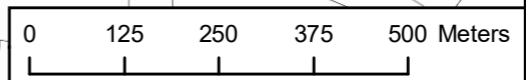
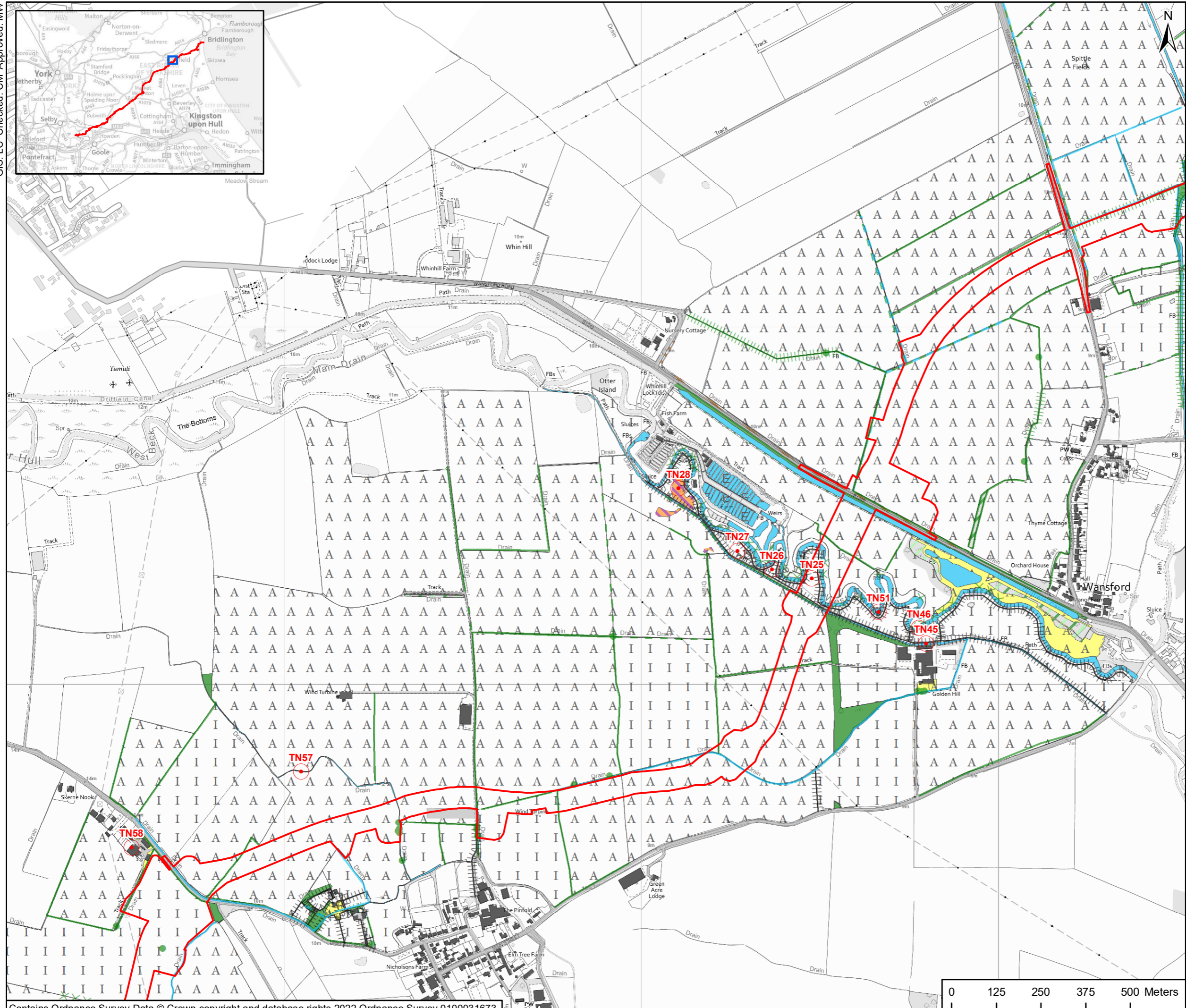
PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

- KEY**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - Target Note
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - X X X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - G2 - Running water
 - J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - - - J2.2.2 - Defunct hedge - species-poor
 - ||||| J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
 - ||||| J2.4 - Fence
 - - - J2.6 - Dry ditch
 - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - ▨ A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
 - ▨ A1.2.2 - Coniferous woodland - plantation
 - ▨ A1.3.2 - Mixed woodland - plantation
 - X X X A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
 - I B4 - Improved grassland
 - B5 - Marsh/marshy grassland
 - I B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
 - G1 - Standing water
 - E G1.1 - Standing water - eutrophic
 - G2 - Running water
 - M G2.2 - Running water - mesotrophic
 - I J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
 - J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
 - I J1.3 - Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial
 - J3.6 - Buildings
 - J4 - Bare ground
 - Z99 - Hardstanding

TITLE
Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

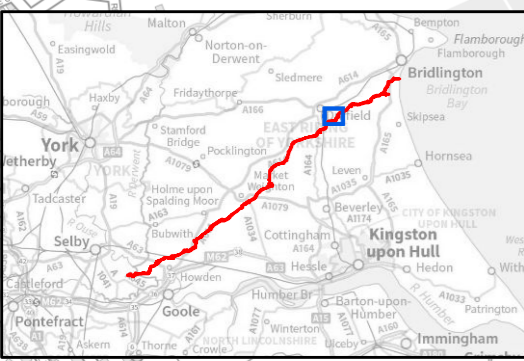
REFERENCE
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DATE 31/05/2022



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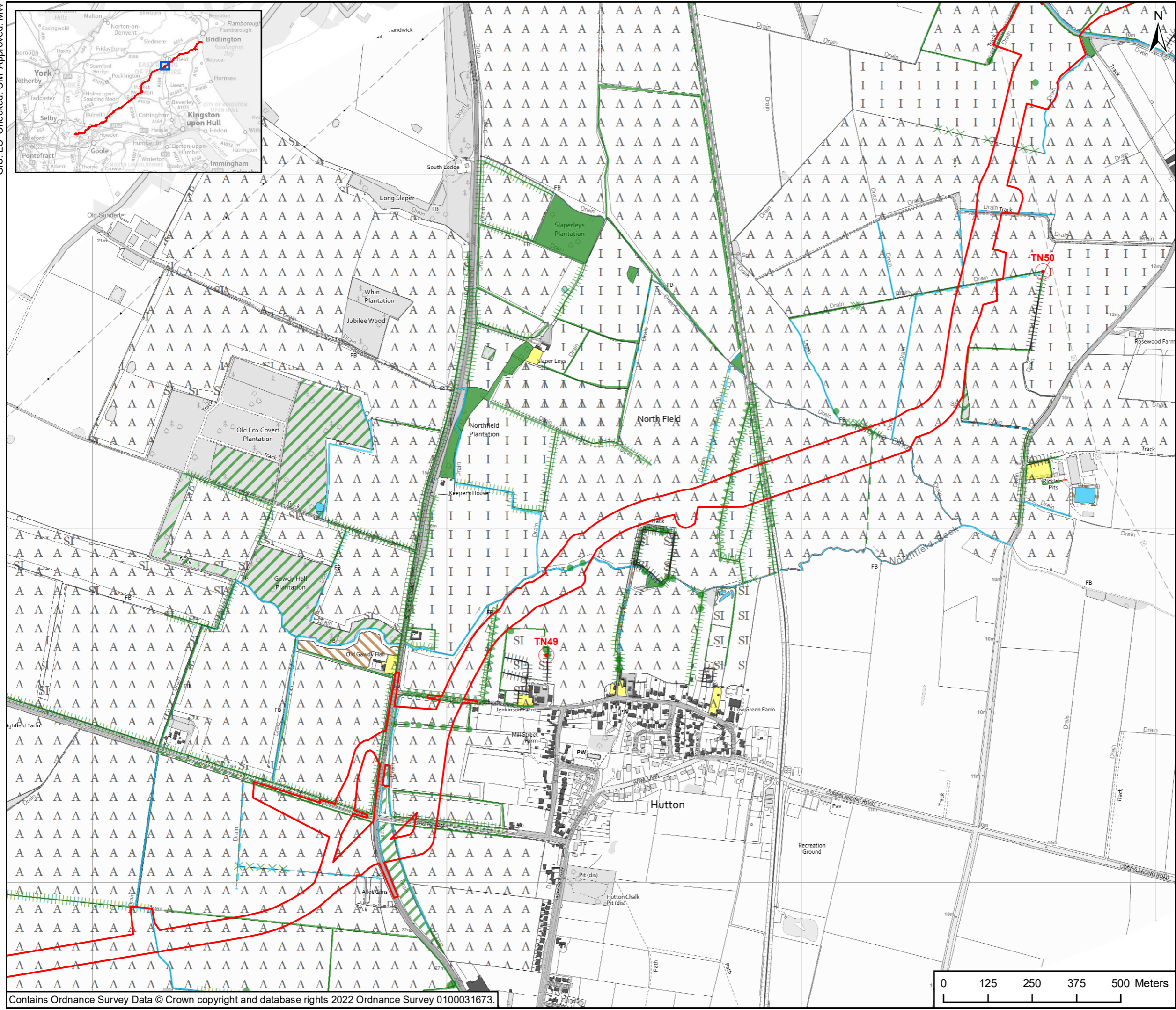
PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

- KEY**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - Target Note
 - X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - X X X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - ● ● A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - G2 - Running water
 - J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - - - J2.2.2 - Defunct hedge - species-poor
 - W W W J2.3.1 - Hedge with trees - native species-rich
 - H H H J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
 - H H H J2.4 - Fence
 - J2.5 - Wall
 - - - J2.6 - Dry ditch
 - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - ▨ A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
 - ▩ A1.3.2 - Mixed woodland - plantation
 - X X A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
 - X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - B2.2 - Neutral grassland - semi-improved
 - B4 - Improved grassland
 - B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - ▨ C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
 - C3.2 - Other tall herb and fern - non ruderal
 - F1 - Swamp
 - G1 - Standing water
 - G1.1 - Standing water - eutrophic
 - G2 - Running water
 - J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
 - J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
 - J1.3 - Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial
 - J3.6 - Buildings
 - J4 - Bare ground
 - Z99 - Hardstanding

TITLE
Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

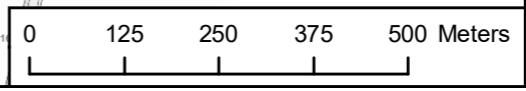
REFERENCE
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PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

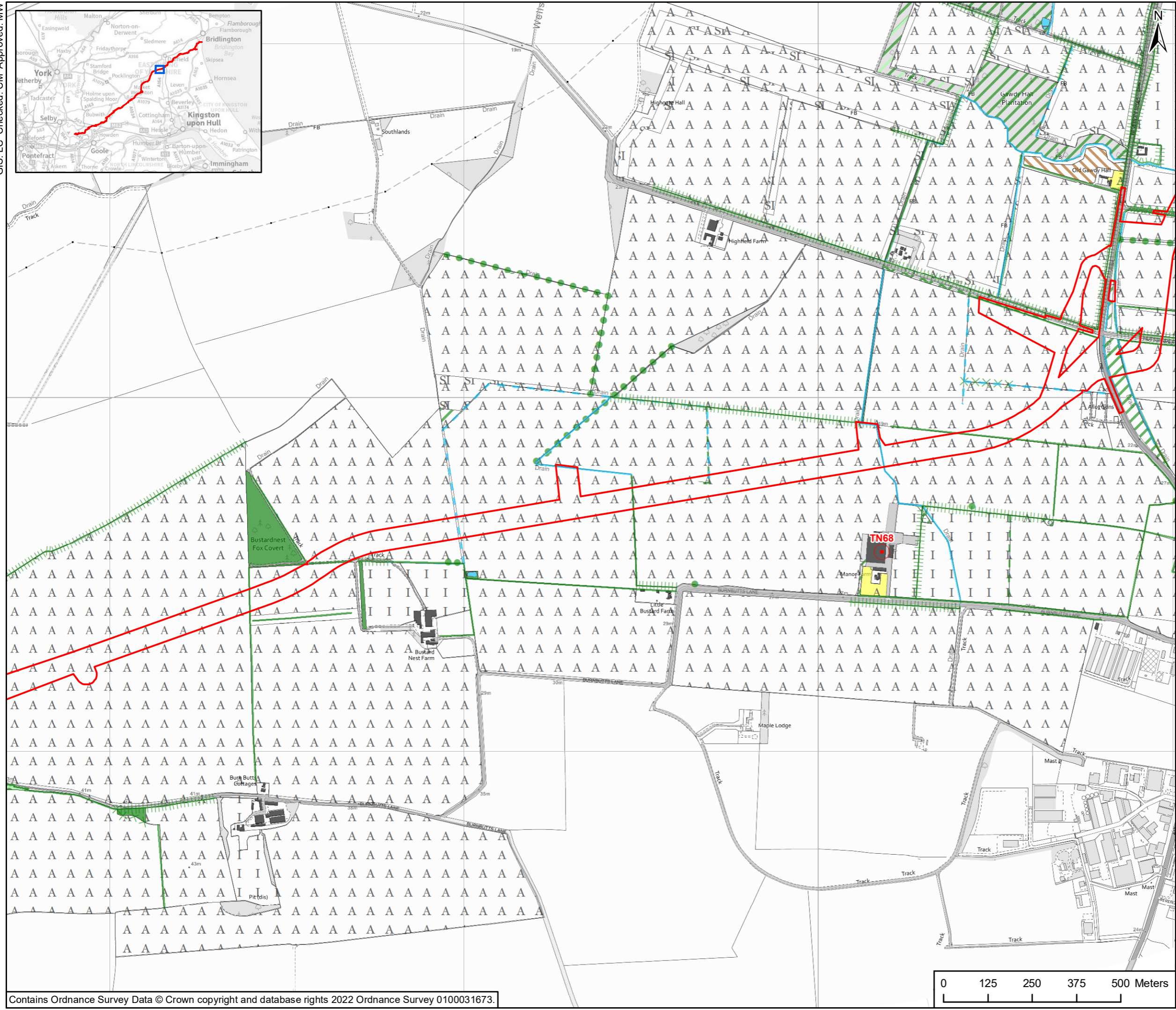
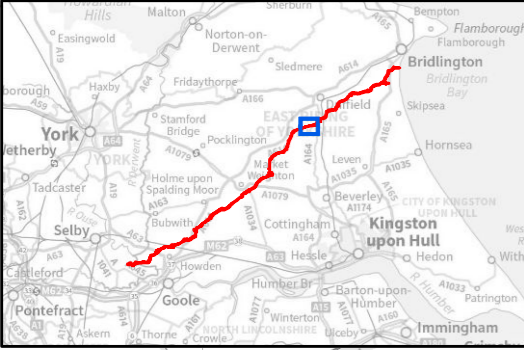
- KEY**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - Target Note
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - G2 - Running water
 - J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - - J2.2.2 - Defunct hedge - species-poor
 - W J2.3.1 - Hedge with trees - native species-rich
 - H J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
 - - J2.6 - Dry ditch
 - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - ▨ A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
 - A1.3.1 - Mixed woodland - semi-natural
 - ▨ A1.3.2 - Mixed woodland - plantation
 - X A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
 - B2.2 - Neutral grassland - semi-improved
 - I B4 - Improved grassland
 - S B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - ▨ C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
 - G1 - Standing water
 - E G1.1 - Standing water - eutrophic
 - ▲ J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
 - ▲ J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
 - J3.6 - Buildings
 - Z99 - Hardstanding

TITLE
Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

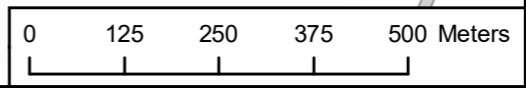
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SEGL2_T_ES_7-3_v2_20220531

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DATE 31/05/2022

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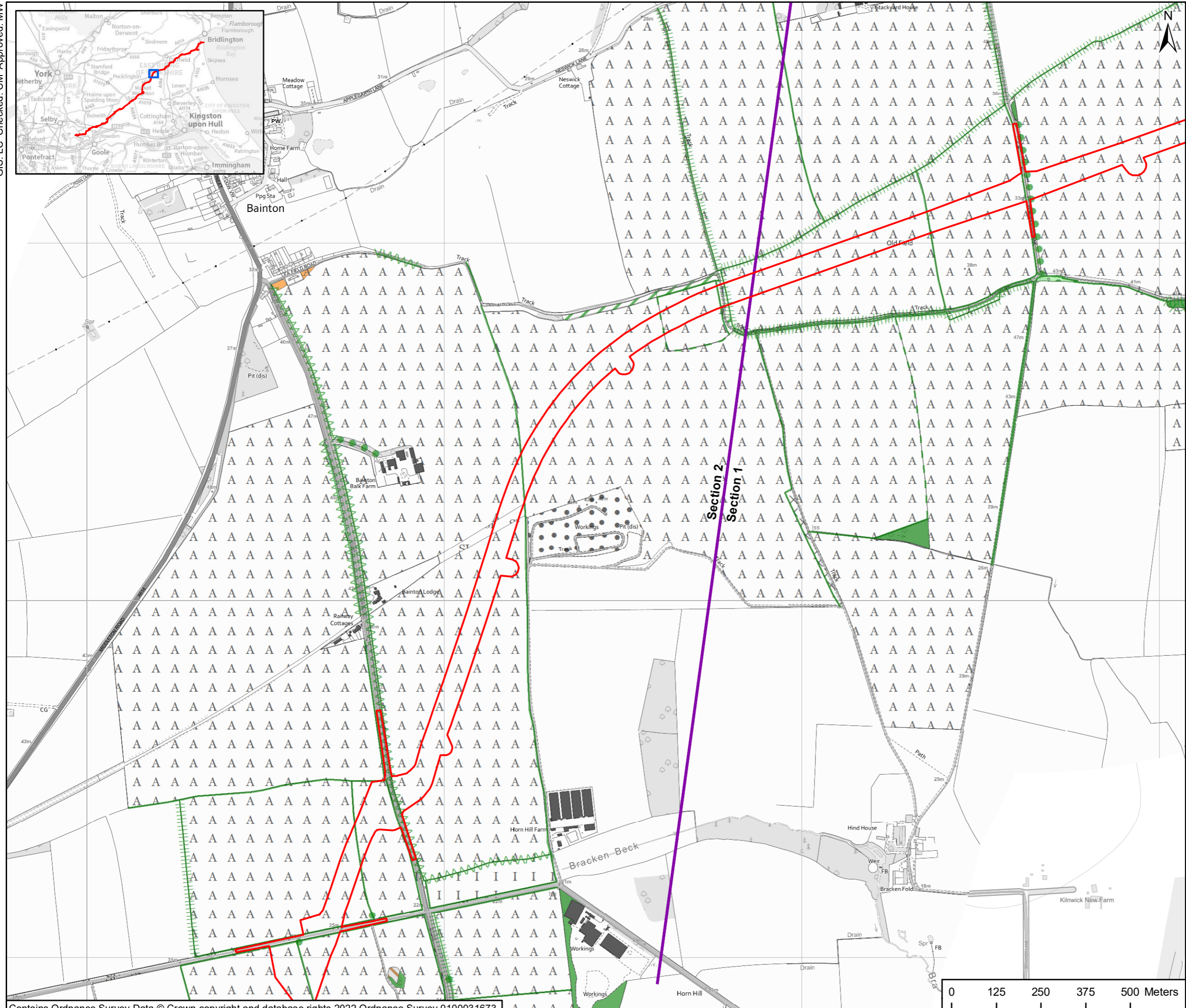


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PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

- KEY
- Planning Application Boundary
 - Route Section Break
 - Route Section Break
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - X A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - ~ J2.1.1 - Intact hedge - native species-rich
 - J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - - - J2.2.2 - Defunct hedge - species-poor
 - ||||| J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
 - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
 - A1.3.1 - Mixed woodland - semi-natural
 - B2.1 - Neutral grassland - unimproved
 - B4 - Improved grassland
 - B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
 - J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
 - J1.3 - Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial
 - J3.6 - Buildings
 - J4 - Bare ground
 - Z99 - Hardstanding

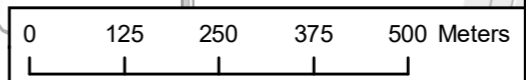


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TITLE
**Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey**

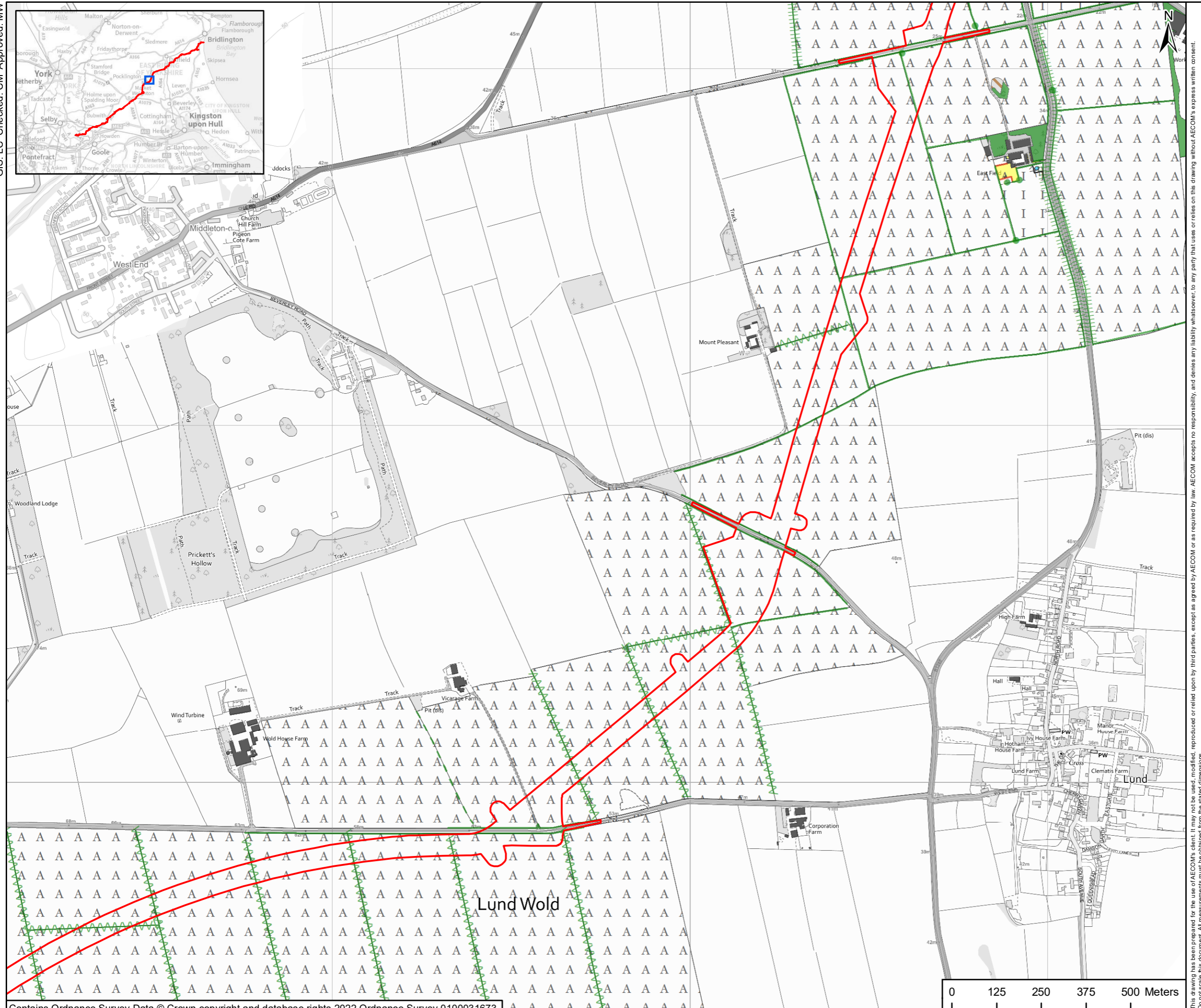
REFERENCE
SEGL2_T_ES_7-3_v2_20220531

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PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

- KEY
- Planning Application Boundary
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
 - ~ J2.1.1 - Intact hedge - native species-rich
 - J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - - - J2.2.2 - Defunct hedge - species-poor
 - ||||| J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
 - ||||| J2.4 - Fence
 - J2.5 - Wall
 - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - B4 - Improved grassland
 - B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
 - G1 - Standing water
 - J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
 - J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
 - J3.6 - Buildings
 - Z99 - Hardstanding

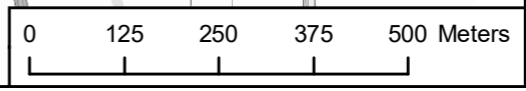


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TITLE
**Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey**

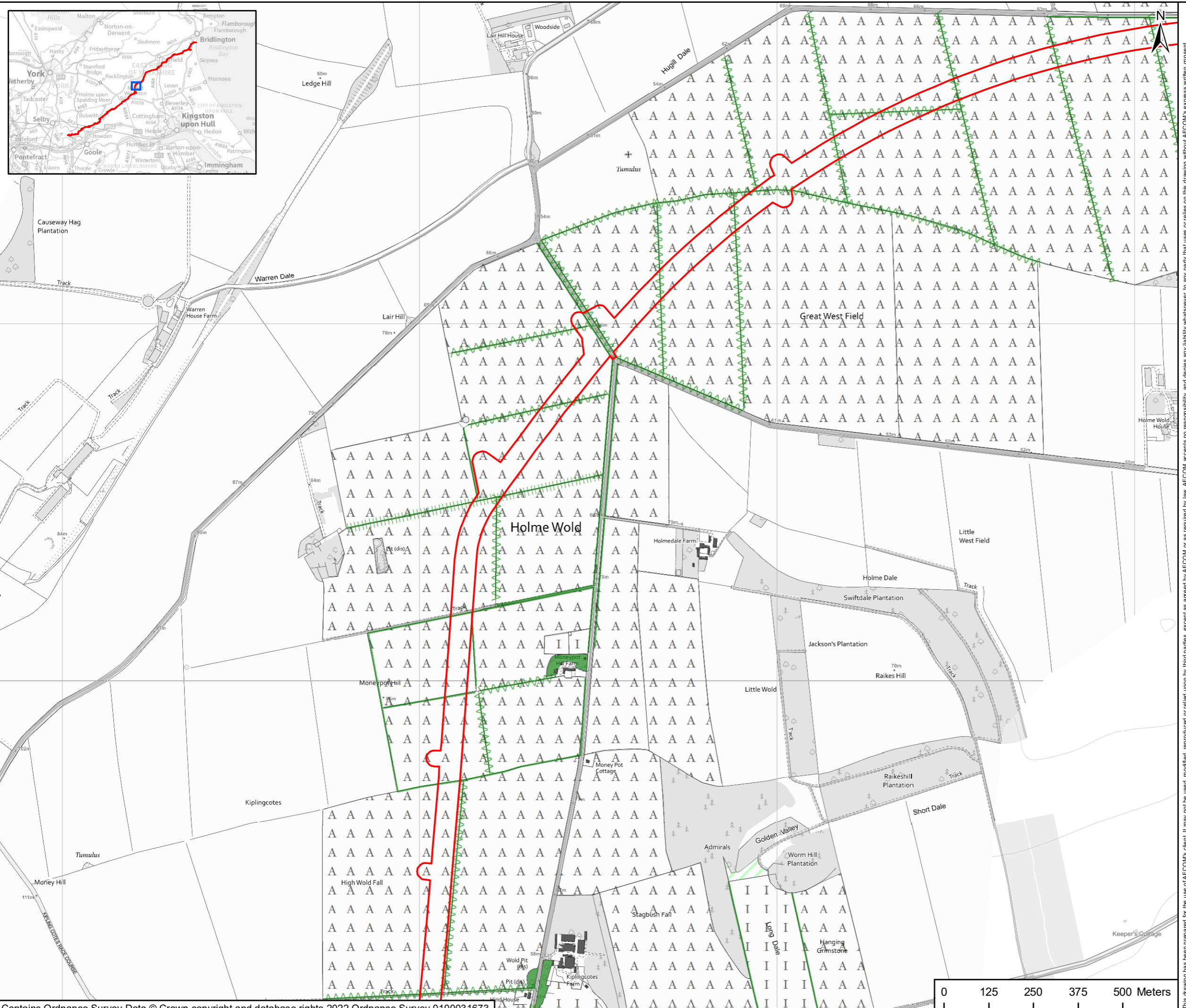
REFERENCE
SEGL2_T_ES_7-3_v2_20220531

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PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

- KEY
- Planning Application Boundary
 - J2.1.1 - Intact hedge - native species-rich
 - J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
 - A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - A1.2.2 - Coniferous woodland - plantation
 - B4 - Improved grassland
 - B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
 - J3.6 - Buildings
 - Z99 - Hardstanding



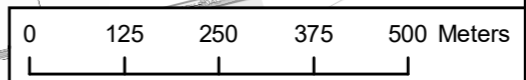
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TITLE
**Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey**

REFERENCE
SEGL2_T_ES_7-3_v2_20220531

SHEET NUMBER
10 of 21

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PROJECT
Scotland England Green Link 2

KEY

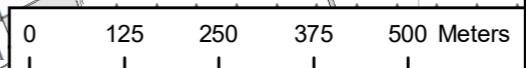
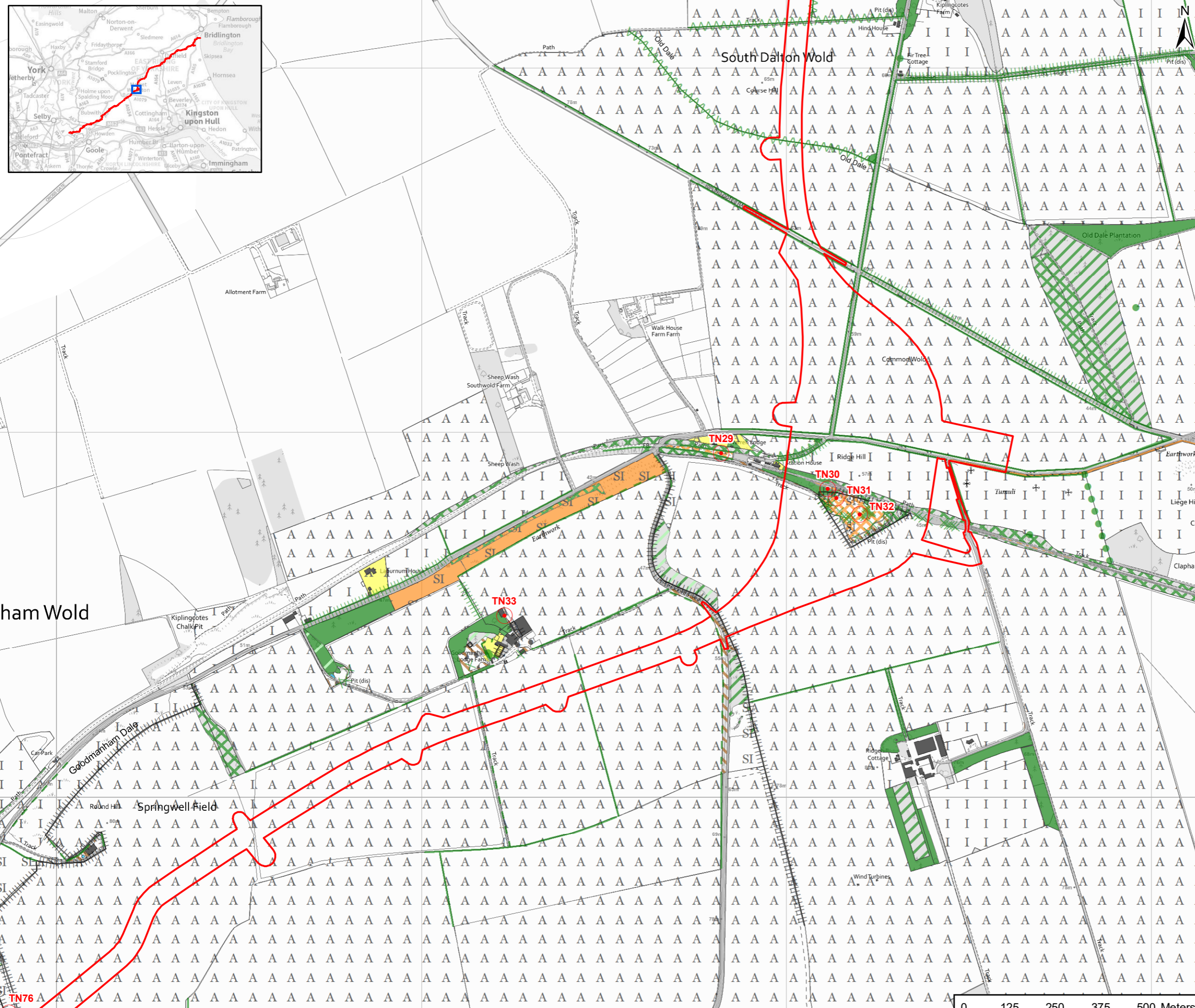
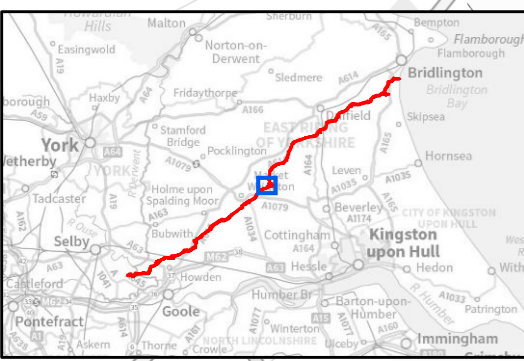
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	Target Note
	A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
	A3.1 - Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees
	J2.1.1 - Intact hedge - native species-rich
	J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor
	J2.2.2 - Defunct hedge - species-poor
	J2.3.1 - Hedge with trees - native species-rich
	J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
	J2.4 - Fence
	A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
	A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
	A1.2.2 - Coniferous woodland - plantation
	A1.3.2 - Mixed woodland - plantation
	A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
	A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
	B2.2 - Neutral grassland - semi-improved
	B3.2 - Calcareous grassland - semi-improved
	B4 - Improved grassland
	B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
	C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
	G1 - Standing water
	J1.1 - Cultivated/disturbed land - arable
	J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
	J3.6 - Buildings
	J4 - Bare ground
	J5 - Other habitat
	Z99 - Hardstanding

TITLE
**Figure 7-3
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey**

REFERENCE
SEGL2_T_ES_7-3_v2_20220531

SHEET NUMBER 11 of 21 DATE 31/05/2022

GIS: LC Checked: CM Approved: MW



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