

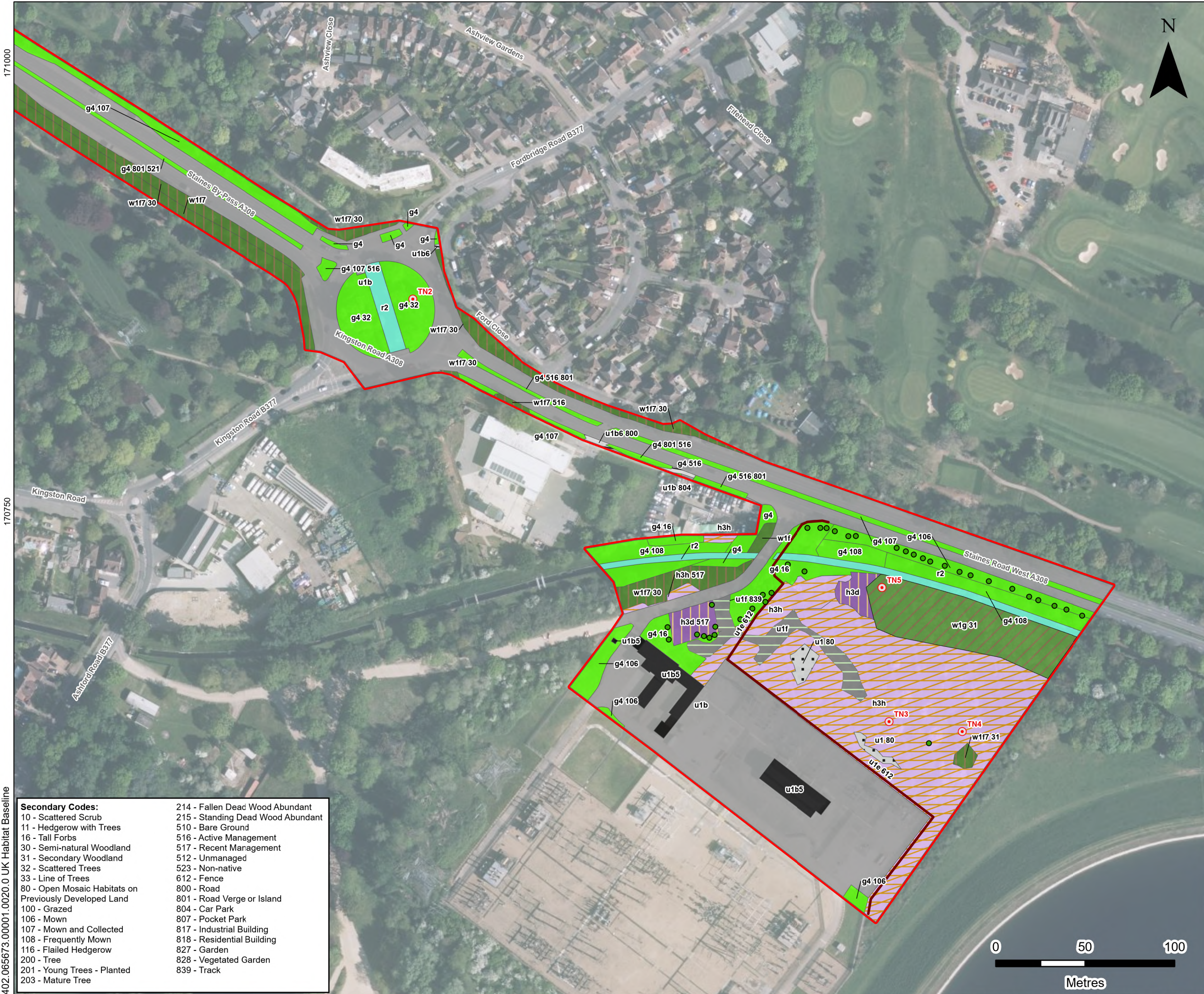
# Appendix A UKHab Baseline Habitat Map

Manor Farm Cables: Laleham Substation Corridor, Biodiversity Net Gain  
Assessment

Juniper Energy Limited

11<sup>th</sup> September 2025





LEGEND

132kV Site Boundary

Target Note

Individual Tree

Primary Habitat Classification

Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens

u1e - Built Linear Feature

Grassland - Modified Grassland

g4 - Modified Grassland

Heathland and Shrub - Dense Scrub

h3d - Bramble Scrub

h3h - Mixed Scrub

Rivers and Lakes - Rivers and Streams

r2 - Rivers and Streams

Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens

u1 - Built-up Area and Garden

u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface

u1b5 - Building

u1b6 - Other Developed Land

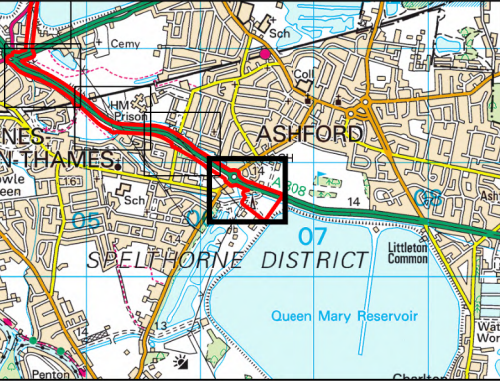
u1f - Sparsely Vegetated Urban Land

Woodland and Forest - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland

w1f - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

w1f7 - Other Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

w1g - Other Woodland; Broadleaved



JUNIPER ENERGY LTD

MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

UK HABITAT BASELINE

FIGURE 1.1

Scale  
1:2,000 @ A3

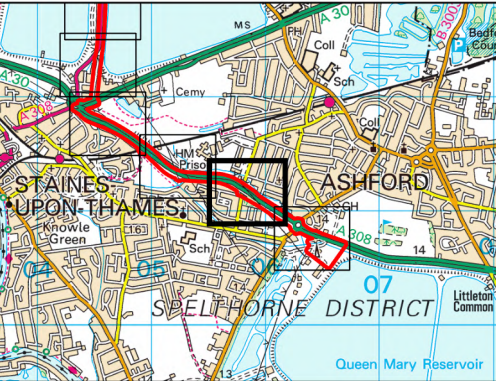
Date  
SEPTEMBER 2025





**LEGEND**

- 132kV Site Boundary
- Grassland - Modified Grassland
- g4 - Modified Grassland
- Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens
- u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface
- Woodland and Forest - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland
- w1f7 - Other Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland



**JUNIPER ENERGY LTD**



**MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR  
PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL  
UK HABITAT BASELINE**

**FIGURE 1.2**

Scale 1:2,000 @ A3 Date SEPTEMBER 2025

402.065673.00001.0020.0 UK Habitat Baseline

Secondary Codes:	
10 - Scattered Scrub	214 - Fallen Dead Wood Abundant
11 - Hedgerow with Trees	215 - Standing Dead Wood Abundant
16 - Tall Forbs	510 - Bare Ground
30 - Semi-natural Woodland	516 - Active Management
31 - Secondary Woodland	517 - Recent Management
32 - Scattered Trees	512 - Unmanaged
33 - Line of Trees	523 - Non-native
80 - Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land	612 - Fence
100 - Grazed	800 - Road
106 - Mown	801 - Road Verge or Island
107 - Mown and Collected	804 - Car Park
108 - Frequently Mown	807 - Pocket Park
116 - Flailed Hedgerow	817 - Industrial Building
200 - Tree	818 - Residential Building
201 - Young Trees - Planted	827 - Garden
203 - Mature Tree	828 - Vegetated Garden
	839 - Track



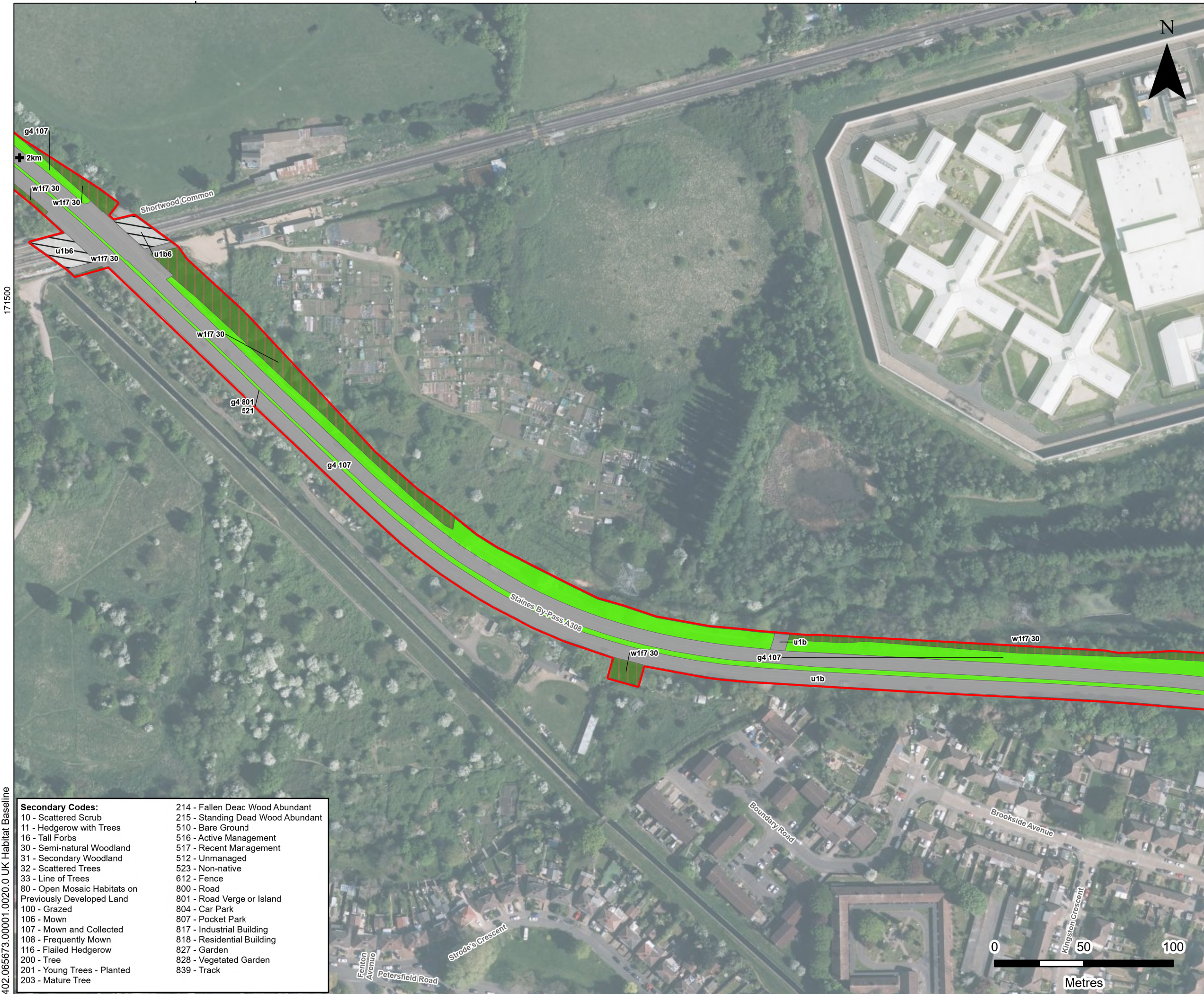
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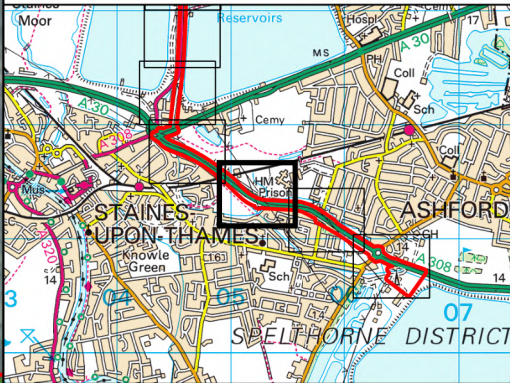
171500

402.065673.00001.0020.0 UK Habitat Baseline



LEGEND

- 132kV Site Boundary
- 2 km Route Marker
- Grassland - Modified Grassland
- g4 - Modified Grassland
- Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens
- u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface
- u1b6 - Other Developed Land
- Woodland and Forest - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland
- w1f7 - Other Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland



JUNIPER ENERGY LTD



MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR  
PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL  
UK HABITAT BASELINE

FIGURE 1.3

Scale 1:2,000 @ A3 Date SEPTEMBER 2025





LEGEND

132kV Site Boundary

+

2 km Route Marker

Primary Habitat Classification

Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens

u1e - Built Linear Feature

Woodland and Forest

w1 - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland

w2 - Coniferous Woodland

Grassland - Neutral Grassland

g3c - Other Neutral Grassland

Grassland - Modified Grassland

g4 - Modified Grassland

Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens

u1 - Built-up Area and Garden

u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface

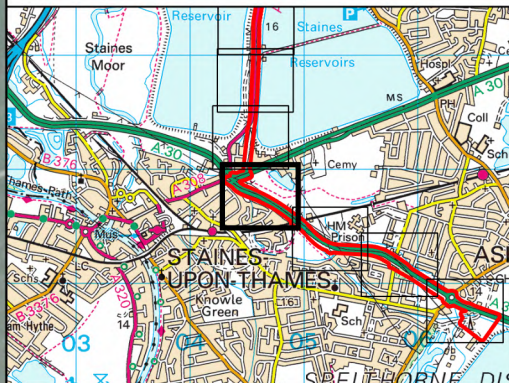
u1b6 - Other Developed Land

Woodland and Forest - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland

w1f7 - Other Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

w1g - Other Woodland; Broadleaved

w1h5 - Other Woodland; Mixed; Mainly Broadleaved



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MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

UK HABITAT BASELINE

FIGURE 1.4

Scale1:2,000 @ A3

DateSEPTEMBER 2025

402.065673.00001.0020.0 UK Habitat Baseline

Secondary Codes:	
10 - Scattered Scrub	214 - Fallen Dead Wood Abundant
11 - Hedgerow with Trees	215 - Standing Dead Wood Abundant
16 - Tall Forbs	510 - Bare Ground
30 - Semi-natural Woodland	516 - Active Management
31 - Secondary Woodland	517 - Recent Management
32 - Scattered Trees	512 - Unmanaged
33 - Line of Trees	523 - Non-native
80 - Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land	612 - Fence
100 - Grazed	800 - Road
106 - Mown	801 - Road Verge or Island
107 - Mown and Collected	804 - Car Park
108 - Frequently Mown	807 - Pocket Park
116 - Flailed Hedgerow	817 - Industrial Building
200 - Tree	818 - Residential Building
201 - Young Trees - Planted	827 - Garden
203 - Mature Tree	828 - Vegetated Garden
	839 - Track









504250

173000

172750

402.065673.00001.0020.0 UK Habitat Baseline

504500

504750

- LEGEND
- 132kV Site Boundary
  - Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens
  - u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface

u1b 800

Stanwell Moor Road (A3044)

Secondary Codes:	
10 - Scattered Scrub	214 - Fallen Dead Wood Abundant
11 - Hedgerow with Trees	215 - Standing Dead Wood Abundant
16 - Tall Forbs	510 - Bare Ground
30 - Semi-natural Woodland	516 - Active Management
31 - Secondary Woodland	517 - Recent Management
32 - Scattered Trees	512 - Unmanaged
33 - Line of Trees	523 - Non-native
80 - Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land	612 - Fence
100 - Grazed	800 - Road
106 - Mown	801 - Road Verge or Island
107 - Mown and Collected	804 - Car Park
108 - Frequently Mown	807 - Pocket Park
116 - Flailed Hedgerow	817 - Industrial Building
200 - Tree	818 - Residential Building
201 - Young Trees - Planted	827 - Garden
203 - Mature Tree	828 - Vegetated Garden
	839 - Track

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MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR  
PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL  
UK HABITAT BASELINE

FIGURE 1.6

Scale	1:2,000 @ A3	Date	SEPTEMBER 2025
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504250

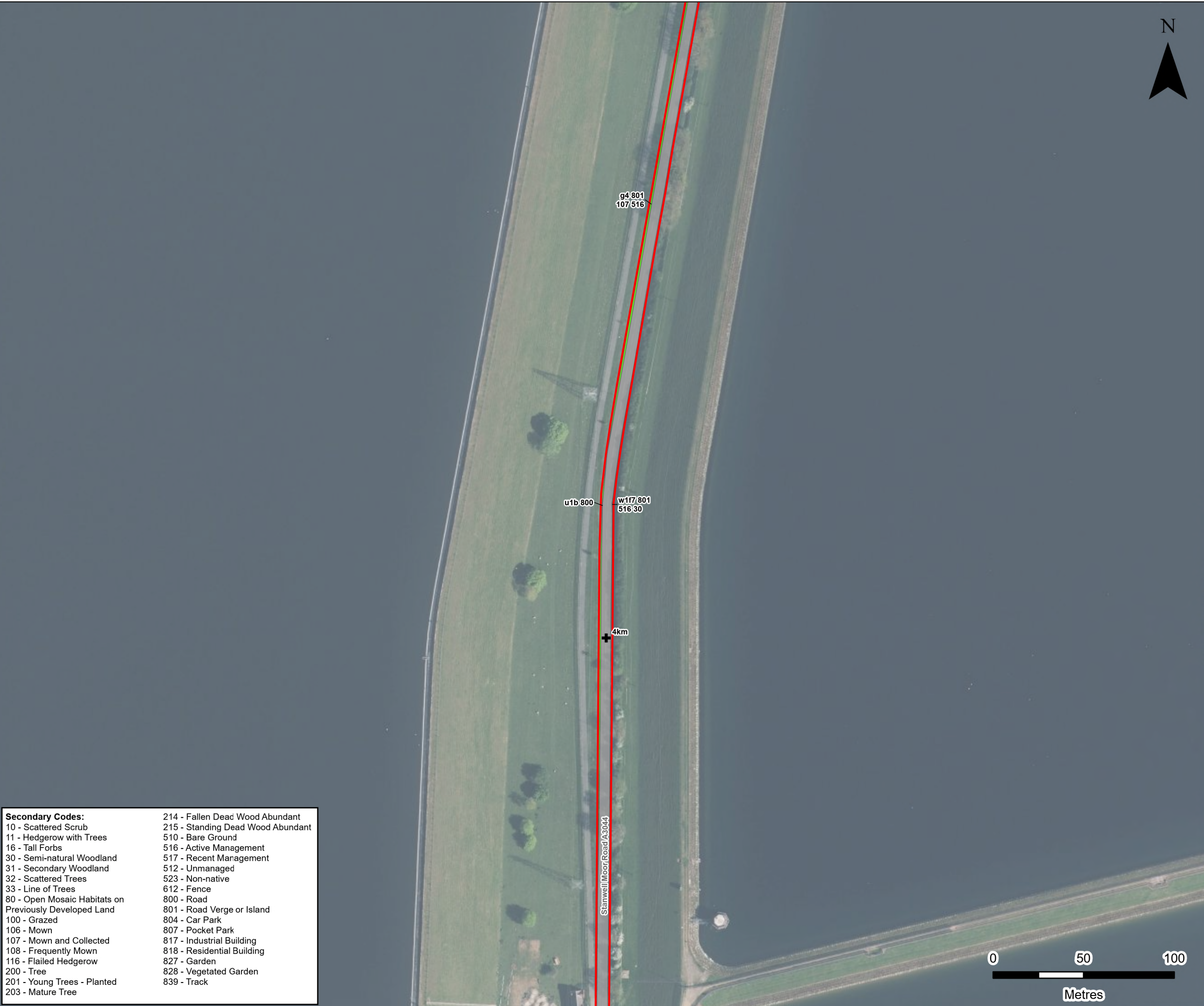
504500

504750

173500

173250

402.065673.00001.0020.0 UK Habitat Baseline



Secondary Codes:		
10 - Scattered Scrub	214 - Fallen Dead Wood Abundant	
11 - Hedgerow with Trees	215 - Standing Dead Wood Abundant	
16 - Tall Forbs	510 - Bare Ground	
30 - Semi-natural Woodland	516 - Active Management	
31 - Secondary Woodland	517 - Recent Management	
32 - Scattered Trees	512 - Unmanaged	
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100 - Grazed	800 - Road	
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107 - Mown and Collected	804 - Car Park	
108 - Frequently Mown	807 - Pocket Park	
116 - Flaield Hedgerow	817 - Industrial Building	
200 - Tree	818 - Residential Building	
201 - Young Trees - Planted	827 - Garden	
203 - Mature Tree	828 - Vegetated Garden	
	839 - Track	

LEGEND

132kV Site Boundary

+

2 km Route Marker

Grassland - Modified Grassland

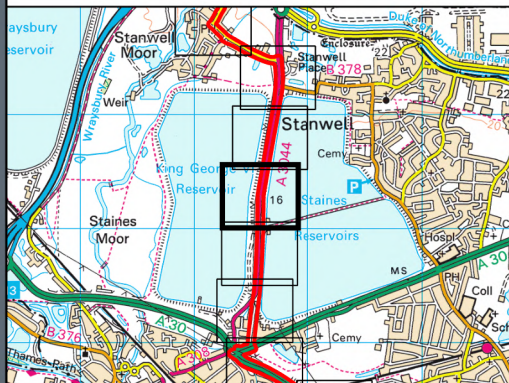
g4 - Modified Grassland

Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens

u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface

Woodland and Forest - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland

w1f7 - Other Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland



JUNIPER ENERGY LTD

MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

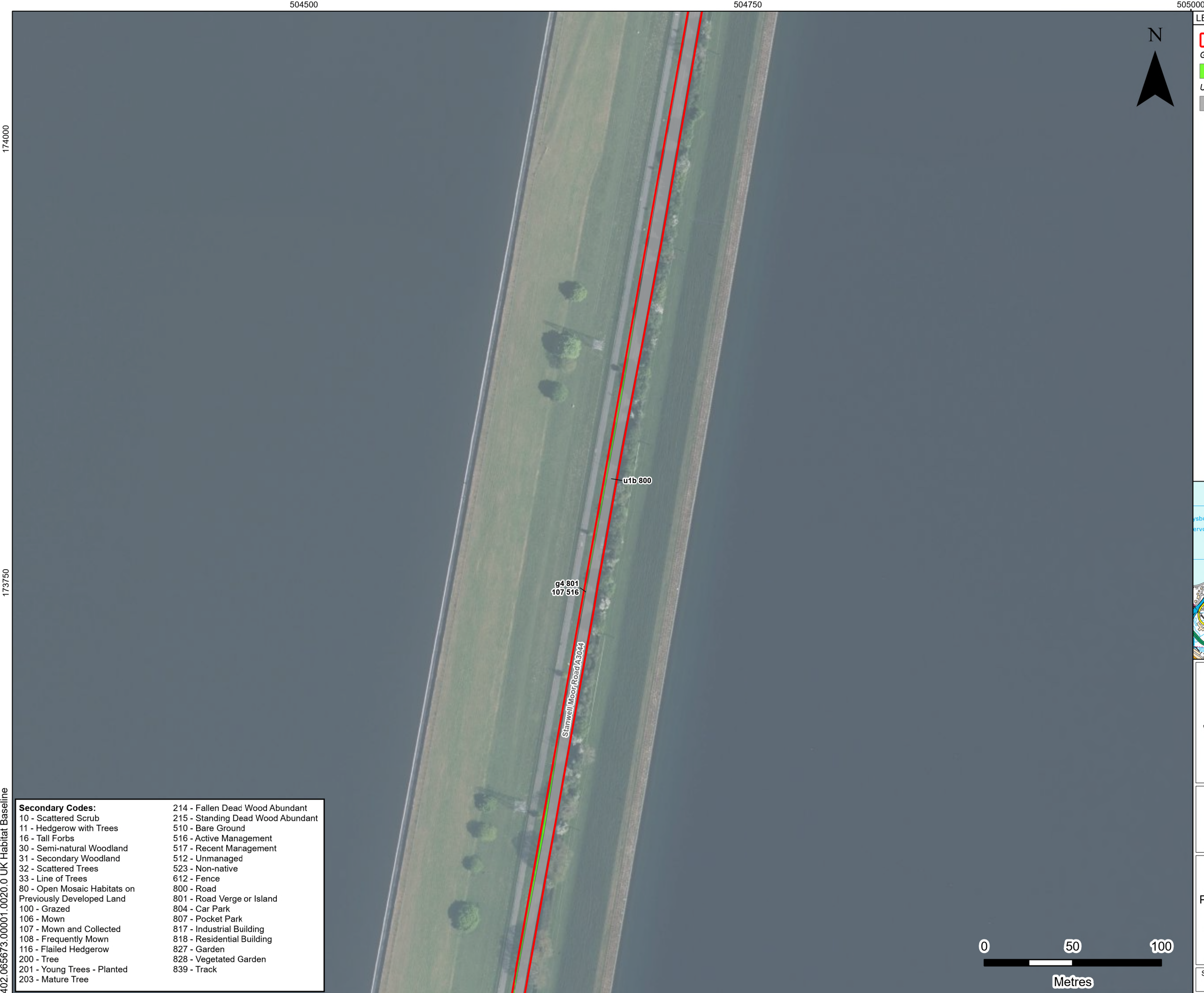
UK HABITAT BASELINE

FIGURE 1.7

Scale1:2,000 @ A3

DateSEPTEMBER 2025





LEGEND

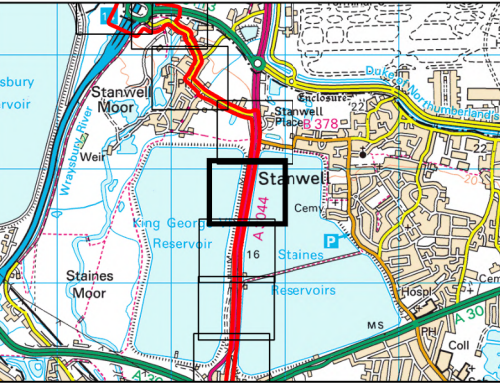
132kV Site Boundary

*Grassland - Modified Grassland*

g4 - Modified Grassland

*Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens*

u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface



JUNIPER ENERGY LTD



MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR  
PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL  
UK HABITAT BASELINE

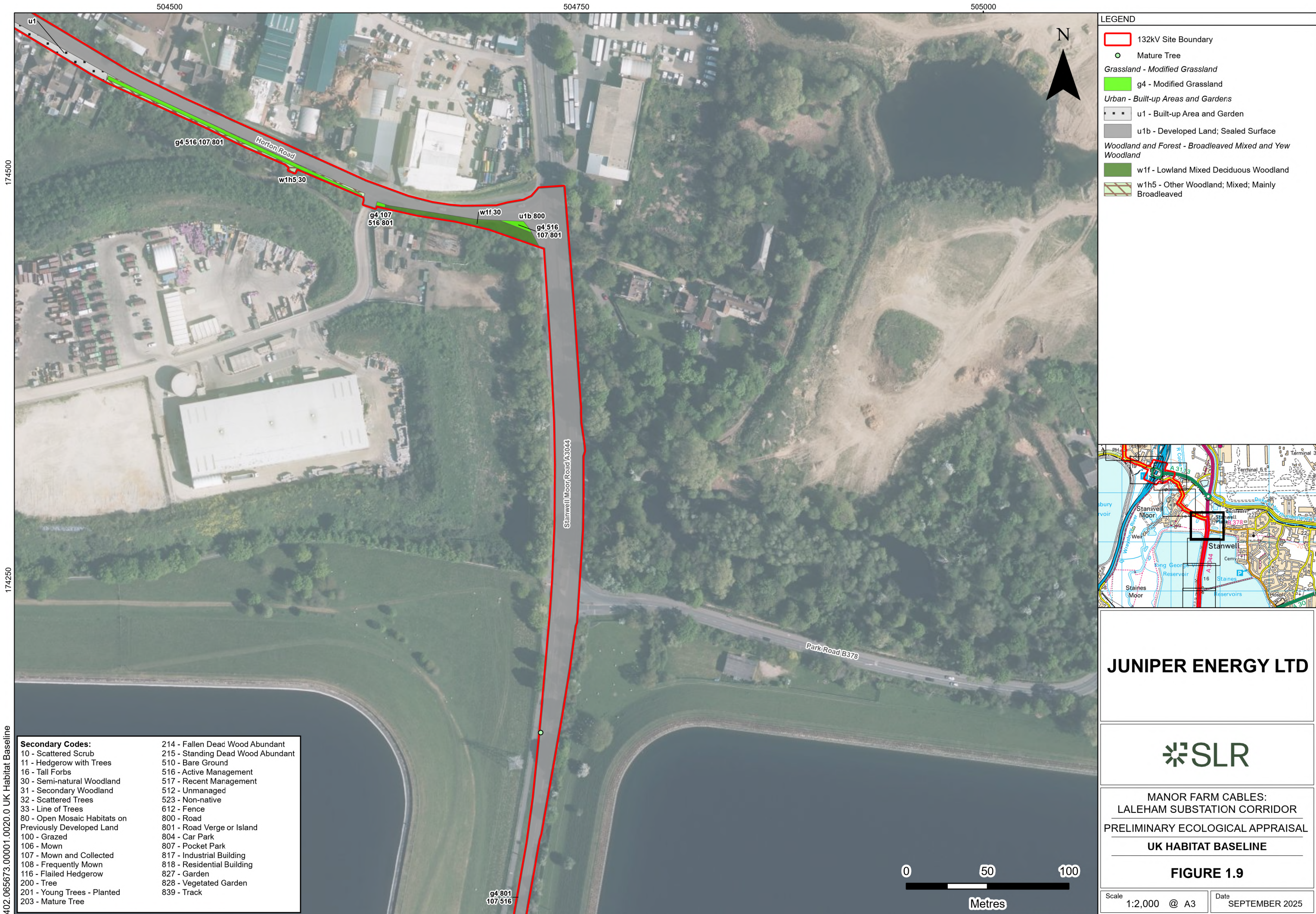
FIGURE 1.8

Scale 1:2,000 @ A3 Date SEPTEMBER 2025

402.065673.00001.0020.0 UK Habitat Baseline

<b>Secondary Codes:</b>	
10 - Scattered Scrub	214 - Fallen Dead Wood Abundant
11 - Hedgerow with Trees	215 - Standing Dead Wood Abundant
16 - Tall Forbs	510 - Bare Ground
30 - Semi-natural Woodland	516 - Active Management
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32 - Scattered Trees	512 - Unmanaged
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100 - Grazed	800 - Road
106 - Mown	801 - Road Verge or Island
107 - Mown and Collected	804 - Car Park
108 - Frequently Mown	807 - Pocket Park
116 - Flailed Hedgerow	817 - Industrial Building
200 - Tree	818 - Residential Building
201 - Young Trees - Planted	827 - Garden
203 - Mature Tree	828 - Vegetated Garden
	839 - Track







504000

504250

175000

174750

402.065673.00001.0020.0 UK Habitat Baseline

Secondary Codes:	
10 - Scattered Scrub	214 - Fallen Dead Wood Abundant
11 - Hedgerow with Trees	215 - Standing Dead Wood Abundant
16 - Tall Forbs	510 - Bare Ground
30 - Semi-natural Woodland	516 - Active Management
31 - Secondary Woodland	517 - Recent Management
32 - Scattered Trees	512 - Unmanaged
33 - Line of Trees	523 - Non-native
80 - Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land	612 - Fence
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108 - Frequently Mown	807 - Pocket Park
116 - Flailed Hedgerow	817 - Industrial Building
200 - Tree	818 - Residential Building
201 - Young Trees - Planted	827 - Garden
203 - Mature Tree	828 - Vegetated Garden
	839 - Track



LEGEND

132kV Site Boundary

2 km Route Marker

**Primary Habitat Classification**

*Heathland and Shrub - Hedgerows*

h2a6 - Other Native Hedgerow

*Grassland - Modified Grassland*

g4 - Modified Grassland

*Rivers and Lakes - Rivers and Streams*

r2 - Rivers and Streams

*Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens*

u1 - Built-up Area and Garden

u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface

u1b6 - Other Developed Land

*Woodland and Forest - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland*

w1h5 - Other Woodland; Mixed; Mainly Broadleaved

JUNIPER ENERGY LTD

MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

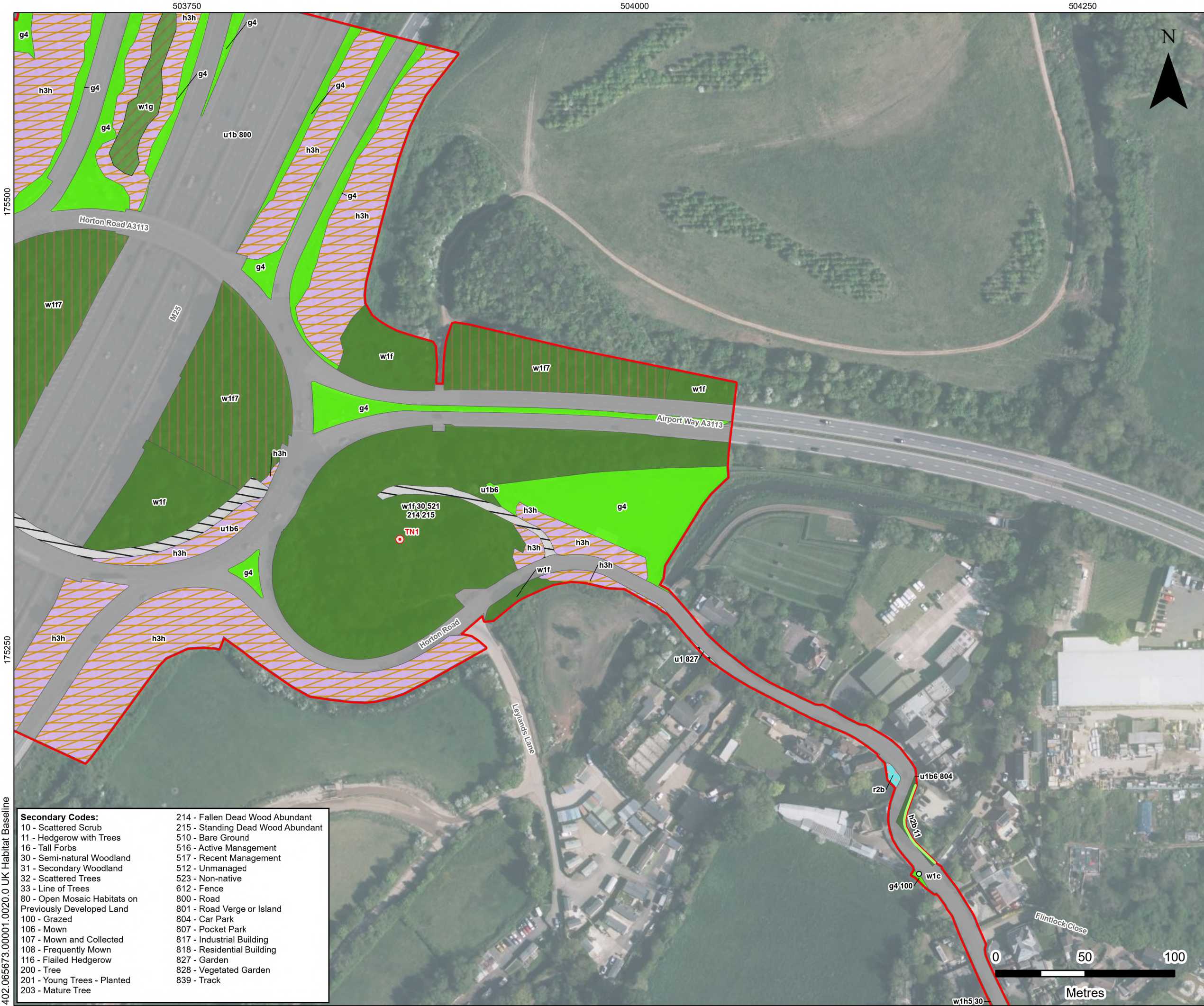
UK HABITAT BASELINE

FIGURE 1.10

Scale 1:2,000 @ A3

Date SEPTEMBER 2025





LEGEND

132kV Site Boundary

Target Note

Mature Tree

Primary Habitat Classification

Heathland and Shrub - Hedgerows

h2b - Non-native and Ornamental Hedgerow

Grassland - Modified Grassland

g4 - Modified Grassland

Heathland and Shrub - Dense Scrub

h3h - Mixed Scrub

Rivers and Lakes - Rivers and Streams

r2b - Other Rivers and Streams

Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens

u1 - Built-up Area and Garden

u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface

u1b6 - Other Developed Land

Woodland and Forest - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland

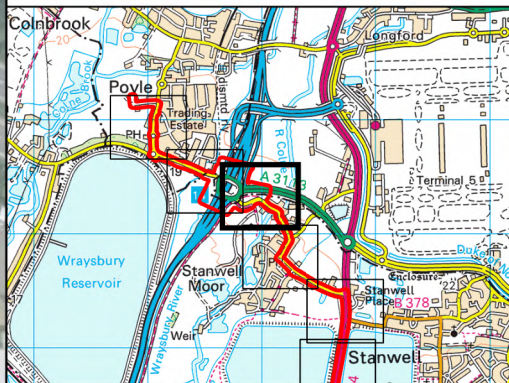
w1c - Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland

w1f - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

w1f7 - Other Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

w1g - Other Woodland; Broadleaved

w1h5 - Other Woodland; Mixed; Mainly Broadleaved



JUNIPER ENERGY LTD



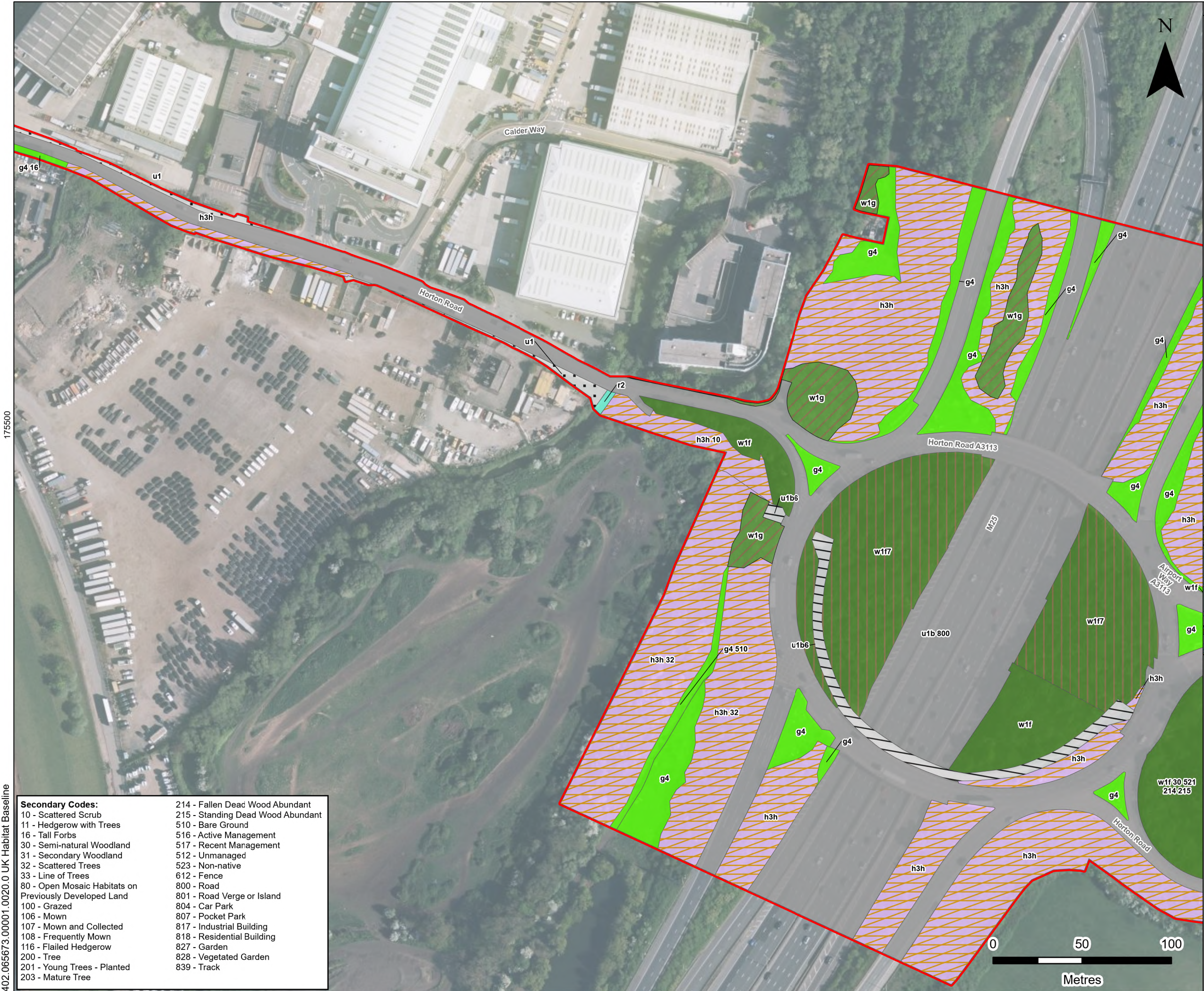
MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR  
PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL  
UK HABITAT BASELINE

FIGURE 1.11

Scale	1:2,000 @ A3	Date	SEPTEMBER 2025
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Secondary Codes:	
10 - Scattered Scrub	214 - Fallen Dead Wood Abundant
11 - Hedgerow with Trees	215 - Standing Dead Wood Abundant
16 - Tall Forbs	510 - Bare Ground
30 - Semi-natural Woodland	516 - Active Management
31 - Secondary Woodland	517 - Recent Management
32 - Scattered Trees	512 - Unmanaged
33 - Line of Trees	523 - Non-native
80 - Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land	612 - Fence
100 - Grazed	800 - Road
106 - Mown	801 - Road Verge or Island
107 - Mown and Collected	804 - Car Park
108 - Frequently Mown	807 - Pocket Park
116 - Flailed Hedgerow	817 - Industrial Building
200 - Tree	818 - Residential Building
201 - Young Trees - Planted	827 - Garden
203 - Mature Tree	828 - Vegetated Garden
	839 - Track





LEGEND

- 132kV Site Boundary
- Grassland - Modified Grassland
  - g4 - Modified Grassland
- Heathland and Shrub - Dense Scrub
  - h3h - Mixed Scrub
- Rivers and Lakes - Rivers and Streams
  - r2 - Rivers and Streams
- Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens
  - u1 - Built-up Area and Garden
  - u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface
  - u1b6 - Other Developed Land
- Woodland and Forest - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland
  - w1f - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
  - w1f7 - Other Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
  - w1g - Other Woodland; Broadleaved

**JUNIPER ENERGY LTD**

MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

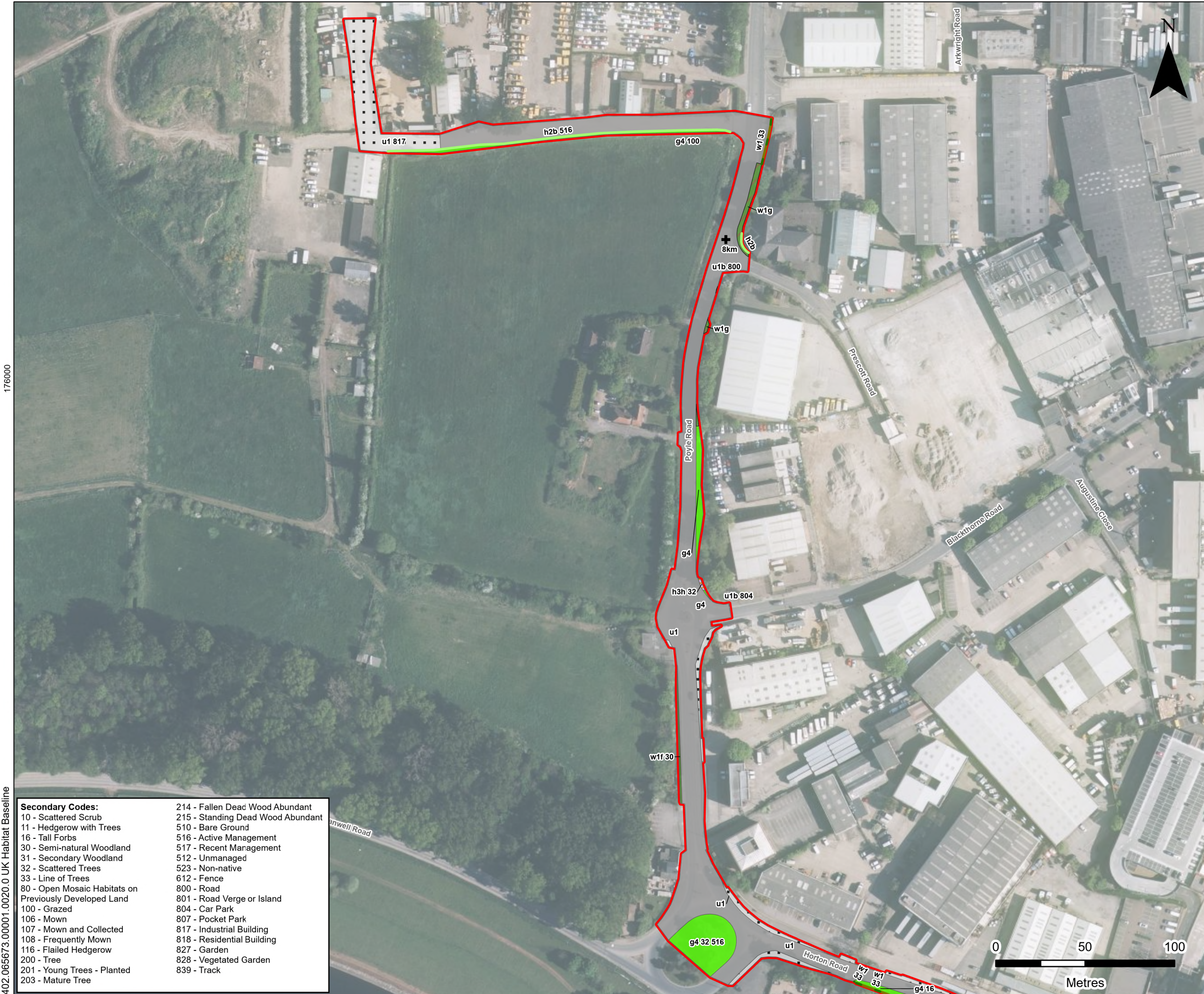
**UK HABITAT BASELINE**

**FIGURE 1.12**

Scale 1:2,000 @ A3

Date SEPTEMBER 2025





LEGEND

132kV Site Boundary

2 km Route Marker

**Primary Habitat Classification**

*Heathland and Shrub - Hedgerows*

h2b - Non-native and Ornamental Hedgerow

*Woodland and Forest*

w1 - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland

*Grassland - Modified Grassland*

g4 - Modified Grassland

*Heathland and Shrub - Dense Scrub*

h3h - Mixed Scrub

*Urban - Built-up Areas and Gardens*

u1 - Built-up Area and Garden

u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface

*Woodland and Forest - Broadleaved Mixed and Yew Woodland*

w1f - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

w1g - Other Woodland; Broadleaved

**JUNIPER ENERGY LTD**

**SLR**

MANOR FARM CABLES:  
LALEHAM SUBSTATION CORRIDOR

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

**UK HABITAT BASELINE**

**FIGURE 1.13**

Scale 1:2,000 @ A3

Date SEPTEMBER 2025



# Appendix B River Condition Assessment Report

Manor Farm Cables: Laleham Substation Corridor, Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Juniper Energy Limited

11<sup>th</sup> September 2025





# River Condition Assessment Report

## Manor Farm Cables: Laleham Substation Corridor

### Juniper Energy Limited

Prepared by:

#### **SLR Consulting Limited**

3rd Floor, Summit House, 12 Red Lion Square,  
London, WC1R 4QH

SLR Project No.: 402.065673.00001

11 September 2025

Revision: 01



## Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
01	11 September 2025	Katherine Jones	Jacob Ball	Andrea Wilcockson

## Basis of Report

This document has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) with reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescales and resources devoted to it by agreement with Juniper Energy Limited (the Client) as part or all of the services it has been appointed by the Client to carry out. It is subject to the terms and conditions of that appointment.

SLR shall not be liable for the use of or reliance on any information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this document for any purpose by any person other than the Client. Reliance may be granted to a third party only in the event that SLR and the third party have executed a reliance agreement or collateral warranty.

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1.3 Purpose of this Report.....	2
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## Appendices

### **Appendix A River Condition Indicators**

#### A.1 River Condition Indicators

### **Appendix B River Condition Assessment Results**

#### B.1 Watercourse 1 – River Ash

#### B.2 Watercourse 2 - Stanwell Moor Ditch

#### B.3 Watercourse 3 - Horton Road Drain

#### B.4 Watercourse 4 - River Colne

#### B.5 Watercourse 5 - Wraysbury River

### **Appendix C River Condition Indicator Results**

#### C.1 Watercourse 1 – River Ash

#### C.2 Watercourse 2 – Stanwell Moor Ditch

#### C.3 Watercourse 3 – Horton Road Drain

#### C.4 Watercourse 4 – River Colne

#### C.5 Watercourse 5 – Wraysbury River





## 1.0 Introduction

SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) was commissioned by Juniper Energy Limited (the client), to undertake a suite of River Condition Assessments (RCA's) in relation to a 8.4km cable route on land between Manor Farm, Slough and National Grid (NG) Land at Laleham, Surrey.

This report refers to the section of the cable from the approved Manor Farm Data Centre, Berkshire (centroid approximately NGR TQ 02935 76236) (planning ref: P/10076/013) to Laleham Substation, Surrey (centroid approximately NGR TQ 06448 70547), (hereafter refer to as "the Proposed Development").

### 1.1 Site Description

The Proposed Development generally follows the highway network, running from the proposed data centre/Battery Energy Storage Site (BESS), following the highway network bordered by an industrial estate, crossing the M25 motorway at junction 14, again following the highway network along minor roads before passing between Staines and King George VI reservoirs. It then runs southwards along the A308 and A3044 before entering the Laleham substation site.

Dominant habitat types along the route are sealed surfaces and hardstanding, modified grassland (verges and central reservation). Adjacent habitats include areas of woodland, hedgerows, scrub and mature trees. Various watercourses are crossed by the route, though all but one (the Wraysbury River at Horton Road) will be crossed using no-dig engineering techniques.

### 1.2 Details of the Proposed Development

It is proposed that the application seek permission for the installation of underground and overground electrical connection and communication cables extending between land at Manor Farm, Poyle Road, Slough and the Laleham Substation, with temporary construction compounds, and associated infrastructure and works.

The land at Manor Farm will support a data centre and BESS. The data centre/BESS site is located approximately 6.5km from Laleham substation linearly. The length of the cable route is approximately 8.4km. The cabling from the substation will provide the power required for the data centre to operate and a connection to the national grid for the BESS.

The cable installation works for the Laleham corridor will involve the following:

- The excavation of a temporary trench to accommodate the cabling infrastructure consisting of up to two 132 kV dual circuits, together with associated communications cabling – unless:
  - A trenchless solution is proposed, e.g. under the M25 J14 or under a watercourse; or
  - Open cut watercourse.
- Each 132 kV circuit will consist of two cables per phase, with each strand located in a separate duct (for reference this means six ducts incl. communications);
- The construction trench will be up to 1m wide and up to 3m deep, the depth is expected to vary due to existing buried services (specially designed trenchless solutions such as the M25 Junction 14 crossings may result in an increase in the installation depth).
- The construction trench will be infilled once the required cabling components have been laid; and





- At intervals along the grid connection route, it is necessary to install a junction box where lengths of the cable can be joined together. Each junction box would be below ground level and would measure c.500mm x 300mm.

The route between the substation and the data centre/BESS site is predominantly urban in nature, thereby limiting the potential available route options. As a result, a significant length of this route is along public highway.

The route between the substation and the data centre/BESS site is predominantly urban in nature, thereby limiting the potential available route options. As a result, a significant length of this route is along public highway.

It is intended that the cable laying operation will be undertaken on a phased basis with an identified section being excavated and reinstated prior to moving on to a new section. Typically, a linear trench section of approximately 25m will be excavated, with the cabling being laid and the trench being reinstated prior to progressing with further excavation works.

For areas of verge and unmade ground, the excavation and reinstatement will be carried out using existing excavated materials where possible. If the original 'turf' is unable to be re-laid or is of a poor quality, then new topsoil and grass seed will be used. Digging will be undertaken using mechanical aids except where trees or other obstructions exist when sensitive installation technique such as hand digging, vacuum excavation or horizontal directional drilling will be employed.

When installing cables within hard surfaced areas (such as roadway, footpaths or cycleways), these sections will be open cut using a floor saw and/or a mechanical pecker to break up the top surface. No percussive piling is proposed for the project.

Mechanical means would then be used to remove the subsurface and associated materials to the correct depths. Once the cable is installed, the original surface would then be reinstated to the relevant specifications for the type of surface in agreement with the council.

Machinery and materials will be kept at temporary laydown areas, the location of which will be agreed as part of a Construction Management Plan (CMP). Machinery may also be temporarily stored overnight at the location of the previous day's completed cable trench. In this instance, the machinery would be located behind secure fencing.

All construction methodology details will be agreed with the local authorities through the submission of a CMP.

### **1.3 Purpose of this Report**

This report is provided to outline the findings and results of RCAs for those rivers included within the proposed development area. The findings from the RCAs are used to support the baseline Biodiversity Net Gain assessment of the habitats within the proposed development area. This shall allow an accurate assessment of the Biodiversity Unit value for the development thus satisfying the BNG assessment and providing the minimum requirements for a planning application.

### **1.4 Evidence of Technical Competence**

Laura Lyons, who lead field surveys, is a Senior Field Ecologist at SLR with over six years of experience within ecological consultancy. Laura has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and a master's degree in Applied Ecology and is a Qualifying member of CIEEM. Laura is RCA trained and experienced with cartographer and MoRPh river assessments producing multiple assessments of this type previously. Laura is also experienced within protected species surveys and habitat surveys such as UKHabs and Phase 1.





Katherine Jones, who wrote this report, is a Senior Field Ecologist with over three years experience within professional consultancy. Katherine has a bachelor's degree in Ecology and is a qualifying member of CIEEM. Katherine has undergone RCA training and is experienced with cartographer and MoRPh river assessments.

Eva Booth, who assisted with field surveys, is a Graduate Ecologist who joined SLR in June 2025, just before graduating from her BSc Wildlife Conservation degree from Bangor University. During this degree, she gained experience in intertidal surveys, point count surveys, mammal ethograms, nocturnal surveys and reptile surveys. She also gained competence in RStudio and ArcGIS Pro.

Jacob Ball, BSc, MSc, qualifying member of CIEEM, who undertook first review of this report, is a Senior Ecologist at SLR. Jacob has over seven years' experience in ecological consultancy and conservation during which time he has undertaken numerous Biodiversity Net Gain assessments and assessments of this type.

Dr Andrea Wilcockson, BSc, MSc, PhD, CEnv, MCIEEM, who undertook final approvals for this report, is a Technical Director with SLR's Ecology & Biodiversity team who has over twenty-one years' experience in ecological consultancy. Andrea has led on medium to large scale development projects including for site re-development and has reviewed numerous Ecological Impact Assessments and Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. She has undertaken projects involving the assessment of Biodiversity Impact including watercourses, No Net Loss and Biodiversity Net Gain since 2013.





## 2.0 Methodology

An RCA survey was used to assess the type and condition of watercourse. The RCA survey involved a field survey element, referred to as the Modular River Physical (MoRPh)<sup>1</sup> Survey, and a desk study element<sup>2</sup>.

Following the completion of the MoRPh survey and the desk study element, the collected data was uploaded into the **Cartographer** platform ([www.cartographer.io](http://www.cartographer.io)), to calculate the preliminary and final condition score for the watercourse.

The RCA is being conducted to identify the baseline condition of the watercourse, which will in turn provide the information to assess the level of impact that is likely to occur as a result of the proposed development. This assessment can also be used to identify opportunities for enhancement relating to the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculations expected to be conducted for the project.

### 2.1 Field Survey –MoRPh Assessment

The MoRPh field surveys were conducted between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The surveys accounted for at least 20% of the total watercourse length within the development area which ensures a comprehensive representation of the watercourses condition. The width of each watercourse was measured, which was used to identify the length of each MoRPh module and thereafter the length of each sub-reach, in line with the MoRPh guidance as detailed below in Table 2-1.

**Table 2-1: Determining Module Length Based on River Width**

River Width (m)	Module Length (m)
<5m	10
5 to < 10	20
10 to < 20	30
20 to < 30	40
Large and navigable rivers and canals	50

A total of five modules are surveyed contiguously to complete a MoRPh sub-reach. Each survey module identifies all visible features relating to both channel bank faces, the channel bed, surface water flow and an extended survey area of 10m of the bank top on both sides of the channel.

The following equipment, but not limited to, was used to carry out the RCA survey as detailed above:

- GPS Device: For recording location of surveys points;
- Measuring Tape: For recording bank measurements (e.g. bank height); and

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<sup>1</sup> Modular River Survey (2019). *The MoRPh Survey: Field Guide*. Available at: <https://modularriversurvey.org/professional-help/> [Accessed: 20/11/2024]

<sup>2</sup> Modular River Survey (2022). *The MoRPh Survey: Technical Reference Manual 2022*. Available at: <https://modularriversurvey.org/>





- Binoculars: Used to observe riparian vegetation and distant features, providing supplemental data in areas with restricted access or views.

## 2.2 Desk Study – River Type and Condition Assessment

The desk study was completed on 12th August 2025, using the Cartographer online platform<sup>3</sup>, Google Earth and information from Environmental Agency's Catchment Data Explorer<sup>4</sup> and River Levels UK<sup>5</sup> to inform the RCA.

The study classified the watercourse into one of thirteen river types using 32 condition indicators extracted from the MoRPh field survey data<sup>6</sup>. These indicators are divided into positive and negative categories<sup>7</sup> which ultimately determine the final condition score of the watercourse. A full list of condition indicators is provided in Appendix A.

### RCA Terminology:

- **Reach:** *a section of river along which boundary conditions are sufficiently uniform that the river maintains a near consistent internal set of process–form interactions. The upstream point of this area is referred to as the Upper Reach, and the downstream the Lower Reach. This is shown on Figure 1.*
- **MoRPh Sub-reach:** *a short river reach with a length equal to five MoRPh modules (approximately ten channel widths in length). In this case, the sub-reach comprised 50m.*
- **Preliminary Condition Score:** *Calculated by summing the positive and negative indicator scores for each sub-reach.*
- **Final Condition Score:** *Based on the preliminary score and river type, ranging from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Good). The final score is adjusted based on the river's shape and ecological connectivity to the floodplain.*

## 2.3 Limitations

The field surveys were conducting during a period of low levels of rainfall and water levels, ensuring that all aspects of the river channel bed were visible. There were occurrences of inaccessibility in some areas of the field assessments for watercourses including:

There was limited access to all the locations by the presence of fencing and land ownership. Due to this the watercourses WC2 and WC5, is not a representative where most 'impacted' and 'natural' were selected. Resulting in bias characteristics, however this does not impact river type.

It was not possible to see both banks faces and channel bed at sub-reach 1 of the River Ash (WC1), Horton Road Drain (WC3), and Wraysbury River (WC5) due to the dense vegetation,

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<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://cartographer.io/>

<sup>4</sup> Available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning>

<sup>5</sup> Available at: <https://riverlevels.uk/levels>

<sup>6</sup> A.M. Gurnell, J. England, S.J. Scott, L.J. Shuker (2024) *A GUIDE TO ASSESSING RIVER CONDITION Part of the Rivers and Streams Component of the Biodiversity Net Gain Metric*. Available at: <https://modularriversurvey.org/professional-help/> [Accessed: 20/11/2024]

<sup>7</sup> Each indicator is assigned a score between 0 and +4 (for positive indicators) or 0 and -4 (for negative indicators). The Preliminary Condition Score for each sub-reach is calculated by averaging the scores of the positive and negative indicators. This score is then translated into a Final Condition Score ranging from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Good) based on the river type and other factors, such as the "shape" factor, which assesses the degree of hydrological or ecological connection to the floodplain. If the river is too deep relative to its width, the score is downgraded, to reflect reduced connectivity.





primarily with scrub and shrubs. The proposed design is expected to avoid any impacts on these rivers, furthermore, while full assessments of the banks and channel bed could not be made, sub-samples were possible to inform the likely characteristics of those modules that could not be sampled. As such this was not seen as a true limitation.





## 3.0 Results

A total of five streams/ivers located within the Manor Farm cable route - Laleham Substation project area were subject to an RCA. The final results of the RCA (field and desk-based combined) are summarised in Table 3-1 below, with full details provided in [Appendix B](#). results are displayed in order from the south of the cable route to the north. The results of the RCA are also illustrated in Drawing 1.

The preliminary scores were further refined through the River Type classification, with final condition classifications adjusted for factors such as over-deepening - either downgraded if over-deepening was present or maintained if not. All watercourses were categorised to be of the same River Type, Type K, a straight/sinuuous alluvial watercourse that has an average sediment size of silt and the coarsest sediment size of sand.

Two watercourses (WC2 & WC5) were assessed as being of Fairly Poor condition, one watercourse (WC3) was assessed as being of Poor condition and two watercourses (WC1 & WC4) were assessed as being of Moderate condition.

**Table 3-1: River Condition Assessment Summary**

Watercourse ID	Watercourse Name	Average Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	River Type	Average River Shape Score	Final Condition Score After Over-Deepening Conclusion
WC1	River Ash	0.317	Moderate	K	4.364	Moderate
WC2	Stanwell Moor Ditch	-0.126	Fairly Poor	K	4.485	Fairly Poor
WC3	Horton Road Drain	-1.117	Poor	K	2.250	Poor
WC4	River Colne	0.836	Moderate	K	4.621	Moderate
WC5	Wraysbury River	0.008	Fairly Poor	K	5.972	Fairly Poor





## 4.0 Conclusion

A total of five watercourses located within the proposed cable route project Site area meet the criteria for an RCA to inform BNG calculations. The MoRPh field surveys were conducted across the Site between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025, whilst the River Type and Condition Classification desk assessments were conducted on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

The field surveys provided a comprehensive evaluation of each watercourse, highlighting both positive indicators related to natural features and negative scores related to human-induced pressures. These findings contributed to the preliminary condition score for each watercourse. The results indicated that all watercourses on site are of 'Poor', 'Fairly Poor' or 'Moderate' condition. No watercourses were found to show signs of over deepening allowing conditions to be maintained.

In conclusion, the MoRPh surveys were conducted in accordance with the specified scope of works, providing detailed and accurate assessments of the physical and ecological conditions of the watercourses. The surveys met the scope by delivering the required baseline data for BNG calculations, consistent with the specified methodology and guidelines.

