



Great Harmeston Solar Farm Environmental Statement

Technical Appendix 7.2

UkHAB Habitat Survey and Results



Habitat Report



**Tyler
Grange**

**Great Harmeston Solar Farm
26th February 2026**

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Plans:

Plan 1: Baseline Habitat Features Plan



Section 1: Introduction

- 1.1. This report has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Ltd (TG) on behalf of ASUK HoldCo4 Ltd. (Arise Renewable Energy UK Ltd.) ("the applicant"), and relates to the Proposed Development at Great Harmeston Solar Farm, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3HL (the 'Site'). This report sets out the findings of the habitats surveys undertaken in 2024, 2025 and 2026 at the Site, see **Figure 1.1** for the finalised red line boundary.



Figure 1.1: Site Red Line Boundary (© Google Aerial Imagery)

- 1.2. The boundary of the Proposed Development extends to approximately 128ha across a number of land parcels and is segregated by two 'A' roads and a railway line. The Site primarily comprises arable and improved grassland fields, marshy grassland, neutral grassland, broadleaved woodland, ponds and boundary features including a watercourses, ditch, hedgerows and hedgerows with trees.

Quality Control

- 1.3. All ecologists at Tyler Grange Group Limited are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) or are working towards membership, and act under the direction of members and abide by the Institute's Code of Professional Conduct¹.

¹ CIEEM (2022) Code of Professional Conduct, CIEEM, Winchester



Section 2: Legislation

- A1.1. Specific habitats and species receive legal protection in the UK under various pieces of legislation, including:
- The Environment Act 2021;
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
 - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
 - The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000;
 - The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006;
 - The Hedgerows Regulations 1997; and
 - The Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
- A1.2. The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, 1992, often referred to as the 'Habitats Directive', provides for the protection of key habitats and species considered of European importance. Annexes II and IV of the Directive list all species considered of community interest. The legal framework to protect the species covered by the Habitats Directive has been enacted under UK law through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- A1.3. In Britain, the WCA 1981 (as amended) is the primary legislation protecting habitats and species. SSSIs, representing the best examples of our natural heritage, are notified under the WCA 1981 (as amended) by reason of their flora, fauna, geology or other features. All breeding birds, their nests, eggs and young are protected under the Act, which makes it illegal to knowingly destroy or disturb the nest site during nesting season. Schedules 1, 5 and 8 afford protection to individual birds, other animals and plants.
- A1.4. The CRoW Act 2000 strengthens the species enforcement provisions of the WCA 1981 (as amended) and makes it an offence to 'recklessly' disturb a protected animal whilst it is using a place of rest or shelter or breeding/nest site.
- A1.5. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provides the legislative framework for biodiversity conservation in Wales. Section 6 of the Act places a duty on public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems in the exercise of their functions. Section 7 of the Act identifies habitats and species of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales. These lists are used to inform planning decisions and ecological assessments and include habitats such as Purple moor-grass and rush pasture and species including skylark, bats and otter which are relevant to the Proposed Development.
- A1.6. The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), published by Natural Resources Wales under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, provides evidence on the condition of Wales' natural resources and informs the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystem resilience within planning and development decisions.



National Planning Policy

A1.7. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) was updated in February 2024 and sets out the Government's planning policies for Wales and how these should be applied. It includes provision for Net Benefits for Biodiversity.

A1.8. Section 6.4 of PPW considers biodiversity and ecological network and states that *"the planning system has a key role to play in helping to reverse the decline in biodiversity and increase the resilience of ecosystems, at various scales, by ensuring appropriate mechanisms are in place to both protect against loss and to secure enhancement.*

Addressing the consequences of climate change should be a central part of any measures to conserve biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. Information contained in SoNaRR, Area Statements, Local Nature Plans, Local Nature Recovery Action Plans, Local Biodiversity Action Plans and held by Local Environmental Record Centres should be taken into account. Development plan strategies, policies and development proposals must consider the need to:

- *support the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems;*
- *ensure action in Wales contributes to meeting international responsibilities and obligations for biodiversity and habitats, including the most recent targets set out in the 2022 UN Global Biodiversity Framework;*
- *ensure statutorily and non-statutorily designated sites and habitats are properly protected and managed and their role at the heart of resilient ecological networks is safeguarded;*
- *safeguard protected species and species of principal importance and existing biodiversity assets from direct, indirect or cumulative adverse impacts that affect their nature conservation interests and compromise the resilience of ecological networks and the components which underpin them, such as water, air and soil, including peat; and*
- *secure the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem resilience and resilient ecological networks by improving diversity, extent, condition, and connectivity."*

A1.9. The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty (Section 6 Duty) states that *"planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species (not including non native invasive species), locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity and improve, or enable the improvement, of the resilience of ecosystems. A net benefit for biodiversity is the concept that development should leave biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems in a significantly better state than before, through securing immediate and long-term, measurable and demonstrable benefit, primarily on or immediately adjacent to the site. The step-wise approach outlined below is the means of demonstrating the steps which have been taken towards securing a net benefit for biodiversity. In doing so, planning authorities must also take account of and promote the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following attributes, known as the DECCA Framework:*

- *diversity between and within ecosystems;*
- *the extent or scale of ecosystems;*



- the condition of ecosystems including their structure and functioning;
- the connections between and within ecosystems; and
- adaptability of ecosystems including their ability to adapt to, resist and recover from a range of pressures likely to be placed on them through climate change for example.

In fulfilling this duty, planning authorities must also have regard to:

- the list of habitats and species of principal importance for Wales, published under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
- the SoNaRR, published by NRW;
- any Area Statement, published by NRW, that covers all or part of the area in which the authority exercises its functions and NRW's Nature Network Maps¹²⁶; and
- guidance given to public authorities by Welsh Ministers under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act."

A1.10. Section 6.2 specifies the need for a green infrastructure statement:

"A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the case of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants. The green infrastructure statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi-functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site in question and must be used for demonstrating how the step-wise approach (Paragraph 6.4.15) has been applied."

A1.11. Section 6.4 strengthen protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest stating:

"There is a presumption against all other forms of development in a SSSI as a matter of principle and this presumption should be appropriately reflected in development plans and development management decisions. There is also a presumption against development not within a SSSI but likely to damage a SSSI. In such cases, proposals must be carefully assessed to ensure that effects on those nature conservation interests which the designation is intended to protect are clearly understood and development should be refused where there are adverse impacts on the features for which a site has been designated."

A1.12. Section 6.4 also specifies mitigation measures to be implemented for losses of trees:

"Permanent removal of trees, woodland and hedgerows will only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined public benefits. Where individual or groups of trees and hedgerows are removed as part of a proposed scheme, planning authorities must first follow the step-wise approach as set out in paragraph 6.4.15. Where loss is unavoidable developers will be required to provide compensatory planting (which is proportionate to the proposed loss as identified through an assessment of green infrastructure ¹³⁹ Further advice in relation to ancient woodland is available on NRW's website. value including biodiversity, landscape value and carbon capture). Replacement planting shall be at a ratio equivalent to the quality, environmental and ecological importance of the tree(s) lost and this must be preferably onsite, or immediately adjacent to the site, and at a minimum ratio of at least 3 trees of a similar type and compensatory



size planted for every 1 lost. Where a woodland or a shelterbelt area is lost as part of a proposed scheme, the compensation planting must be at a scale, design and species mix reflective of that area lost. In such circumstances, the planting rate must be at a minimum of 1600 trees per hectare for broadleaves, and 2500 trees per hectare for conifers."

Pembrokeshire County Council Local Development Plan

- 2.1. Pembrokeshire County Council Local Development Plan - Planning Pembrokeshire's Future was adopted on 28 February 2013 and provides the statutory development plan framework for the County.

Policy GN.31 - Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity

- 2.2. All development should demonstrate a positive approach to maintaining and, wherever possible, enhancing biodiversity.
- 2.3. Development that would disturb or otherwise harm protected species or their habitats, or the integrity of other habitats, sites or features of importance to wildlife and individual species, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where the effects are minimised or mitigated through careful design, work scheduling or other appropriate measures.



Section 3: Methodology

- 3.1. A UK Habs survey of the Site was undertaken by Hazel Murrells and Vicky King-Cline in October 2024 and by Danielle Fry in April 2025. All surveyors are experienced ecologists and members of CIEEM and meet the definition of suitably qualified ecologists. A further update walkover to ascertain whether there had been any significant changes to the habitats present was undertaken by Lucy Boulton, a suitably qualified ecologist in February 2026.
- 3.2. The methods used during the walkover survey broadly followed methods used in an 'extended' Phase I habitat survey² and entailed recording the main plant species and classifying and mapping habitat types with reference to the Habitat Definitions provided by the UK Habitat Classification Working Group³.
- 3.3. Additionally, the habitats identified were evaluated for their potential to support legally protected and notable fauna species. Where access allowed, adjacent habitats were also considered in order to assess the Site within the wider landscape and to provide information with which to assess possible impacts within the context of the Site boundary.
- 3.4. This assessment and the terminology used are consistent with the 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment' published by the CIEEM⁴.

Limitations

- 3.5. The habitat surveys of the site between 2024-2026 have been completed of all areas where access was possible. For some areas and in particular woodland on the boundary of the site, no direct access was possible and as such, assessments of these habitats have been completed from adjacent habitats.
- 3.6. For other habitats, survey access was significantly constrained by health and safety considerations. This includes the section of railway and adjacent embankments which crosses the site as well as the roadside verges which are associated with the public highway network within the site boundary. In addition, for some of the grassland fields, full and safe survey access was not possible owing to the presence of cattle.
- 3.7. Where no direct or safe access to any habitat areas has been possible, a precautionary approach to habitat assessment has been undertaken, informed by the assessment of adjacent accessible habitats wherever possible. This includes the assessment of highways road verges as other neutral grassland, which is considered to be a robust approach for a habitat which is typically species poor and subject to regular management.
- 3.8. Habitats assessed following this precautionary approach are anticipated to be fully retained and unaffected by the proposals and as such it is considered that a precautionary assessment is robust. In the unlikely event that any impacts to these areas would occur, update surveys may be required to confirm the status of habitats.

² Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit. JNCC, Peterborough.

³ UKHab Ltd. (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)

⁴ [Online] Available at: [Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment \(EclA\) | CIEEM](#)



- 3.9. Pond P1 was identified during surveys in 2024-2025 and is shown on Ordnance Survey Mapping. This feature could not be located during the most recent survey in 2026, and it is possible this feature may have been backfilled. As a precaution this pond is nonetheless recorded in the site baseline in accordance with its assessment at the time of the original surveys in 2024/2025.
- 3.10. No other significant habitat changes have been recorded between the survey visits in 2024-2026. Whilst some fields have been rotated between arable crops or pasture grassland, this is considered to be part of typical farming practices and as such, the status of all fields at the time of the most recent survey in 2026 has been recorded below.




Section 4: Results


- 4.1. The habitats present on site are summarised below in **Table 4.2**, along with a description of the composition of the main plant species present and an assessment of their ecological importance. The locations of habitats are shown on the Habitats Features **Plan 1**.
- 4.2. During surveys the site habitats, in particular hedgerows and fields, were all assigned reference numbers as shown in **Table 4.2** below and on **Plan 1**. Whilst some features included in the initial habitat survey in 2024 have been subsequently removed as part of site boundary revisions, the reference numbers have remained unchanged in order to avoid confusion. As such some features, such as fields F16-F27, which are now located outside of the site boundary, are not included in the below descriptions.
- 4.3. In addition, all ponds have been numbered in accordance with the identification completed as part of the GCN survey. As such, whilst 12 ponds were identified locally only 5 are present within the site boundary and therefore included below.




Table 2.2: Habitats and flora

Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
F3, F10, F12, F13, F14, F30, F31, F32, F33.	<p>Arable fields – cropland</p> <p><u>Primary code:</u> Cropland c1c and Non-cereal cropsc1d</p> <p><u>Secondary Codes:</u> Active management (516)</p>	<p>Within the site are a number of arable fields, some of which had recently been ploughed at the time of the UKHab surveys. At the time of the most recent survey in 2026, nine fields were classified as cropland.</p> <p>These fields are all subject to intensive agricultural management and some are in active rotation having been previously recorded as modified grassland in 2024/2025 (see Limitations).</p> <p>No significant field margins were recorded in any of the cropland fields with management occurring close to the margins.</p>	<p>Cropland habitat is common and widespread in the local area and given there was a distinct lack of field margins is considered to be of negligible ecological importance.</p>	



Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
F1, F2, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F10, F11, F15, F28, F29, F34, F36, F38, F39, F40, F41, F42.	Modified grassland <u>Primary code:</u> Modified grassland g4 <u>Secondary Codes:</u> Active management (516) Cattle grazed (101) Sheep grazed (102) Silage and haylage (110)	<p>The majority of the site comprises modified grassland fields with a total of 19 fields recorded as this habitat type during the most recent survey in 2026 (see Limitations).</p> <p>These fields are all subject to intensive management through grazing (cattle/sheep) or silage production.</p> <p>All fields are dominated by perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i> with cock's foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>, common bent <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>, false oatgrass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>, meadow grass <i>Poa</i> sp. and Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> also present in some fields. Other species present include broadleaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>, common bird's foot trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>, creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg., pendulous sedge <i>Carex pendula</i>, ragwort <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>, silverweed <i>Potentilla anserina</i> and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>.</p> <p>Overall, these fields which are all species poor and dominated by rye grass are classified as Modified grassland.</p>	<p>This habitat is formed of common and widespread species and is a common habitat in the immediate surrounding landscape, and in the UK overall. Consequently, this habitat is considered to be of negligible ecological importance.</p>	




Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
F35 F31	Other neural grassland <u>Primary code:</u> Other neural grassland (g3c) <u>Secondary Codes:</u> Tall or tussocky sward (128) Unmanaged (521)	One field (F35) is assessed as comprising Other neutral grassland based on a lower abundance of perennial rye grass and with a more diverse sward recorded overall. Species present include Yorkshire fog, cocks foot, perennial rye grass, broadleaved dock, white clover, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , black medick <i>Medicago lupulina</i> , timothy <i>Phleum pratense</i> and silverweed. A small extent of F31 is also classified as other neutral grassland comprising wet grassland dominated by Yorkshire fog along with silverweed and hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> . A watercourse issue is present within this grassland area. Both areas are not subject to regular management/grazing with a tall and tussocky sward present. Whilst more diverse than the modified grassland fields, overall this habitat is relatively species poor.	This field is more ecological diverse than the majority of fields within the Site and is therefore considered to be of up to local ecological importance .	 Field F35
N/A	Other neutral grassland <u>Primary code:</u> Other neural grassland (g3c) <u>Secondary Codes:</u>	In addition to the grassland within the agricultural/pasture fields, the site boundary includes extensive areas of grassed roadside verges. This habitat which has been assessed on a precautionary basis (see Limitations), is anticipated to comprise a species poor grassland which is subject to regular management.	Road verge grassland is a common and widespread habitat and as such is assessed as being of negligible ecological importance .	





Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
	Active management (516) Road verge (801)	Nonetheless this grassland been assigned as other neutral grassland.		
F37	Purple moor-grass and rush pastures <u>Primary code:</u> Purple moor-grass and rush pastures (f2b) <u>Secondary Codes:</u> Rushes dominant (15) Tall or tussocky sward (128)	Field F37 comprises a marshy grassland which was subject to low density sheep grazing. Areas of waterlogged ground were recorded during the most recent survey in 2026. Species recorded included abundant soft rush <i>Juncus sp.</i> , yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i> , thistle sp <i>Cirsium sp.</i> common sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i> , and silverweed as well as abundant grasses including perennial rye grass, bent and meadow grass. The northwestern part of this field is also shown as Lowland Fen on the DataMap Wales Data Catalogue for Priority Habitat⁵ however no lowland fen could be clearly delineated. Adjacent fields are shown on the above mapper as comprising Purple moor-grass and rush pasture. Based on the abundance of rushes and the ground conditions as well as offsite habitats overall this habitat was assessed as Purple moor-grass and rush pasture.	Purple moor-grass and rush pasture is considered Habitat of Principal Importance (HoPI) in Wales and as such is considered to be of county ecological importance.	

⁵ https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:gwc21_priority_habitat_high_sensitivity#download-metadata-section





Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
S1, S2, S3.	Scrub <u>Primary code:</u> Mixed scrub (h3h) Willow scrub (h3j) <u>Secondary Codes:</u> Unmanaged (521)	A small areas of dense mixed scrub was recorded to the east of the site. This scrub is dominated by blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> and hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> along with gorse <i>Ulex europeaus</i> , bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. and bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> . A small block of scrub is also present surrounding Pond P12 – this scrub is outgrown from the adjacent hedgerow H46. A small block of scrub dominated by willow <i>Salix</i> sp. with bramble is present in field F31. This scrub is found in association with wet grassland..	Mixed and willow scrub are common habitat locally and the small extent within the site considered to be of negligible ecological importance.	
N/A	Roads and Hardstanding <u>Primary code:</u> Developed land/ sealed surfaced (u1b) <u>Secondary code:</u> Road (800) Track (839)	The site boundary includes part of the local highways network as well as private driveways and farm access. These areas comprise tarmac hardstanding and are subject to regular and intensive use.	Hardstanding is of no inherent ecological importance.	





Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
N/A	<p>Unvegetated; unsealed surface</p> <p><u>Primary code:</u> Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface (u1c)</p> <p><u>Secondary code:</u> Track (839)</p>	<p>In addition to highways and tarmac access tracks, a number of private and farm access tracks are also within the site boundary.</p> <p>These features comprise compacted bare ground and gravel surfaces which are subject to intensive use and with only very limited vegetation present.</p>	<p>Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface is of no inherent ecological importance.</p>	
P1, P2, P3, P4, P12.	<p>Pond</p> <p><u>Primary code:</u> Other standing water r1g</p> <p><u>Secondary code:</u> Ponds - non-priority habitat 41</p>	<p>There were a total of five ponds on site, P1, P2, P3, P4 and P12. Seven additional ponds assessed as part of GCN surveys are located in the wider landscape.</p> <p>P1 – was previously identified as a small pond in 2024/2025 but in the walkover in February 2026, was found to no longer be present and may have been backfilled.</p> <p>P2 – comprises a large pond surrounded by woodland to the west with grassland to the east. The pond is connected to a watercourse. Banks vegetated with grasses, rushes and light scrub. Bramble patches interspersed with mature willow.</p> <p>P3 – comprises a small shallow woodland pond which predominantly comprises waterlogged grass. Pond is separated from adjacent</p>	<p>Ponds offer valuable habitat diversity and offer suitable habitat for a range of taxa which rely on pond habitats for a portion of, or the entirety of their life cycle. Given that this feature would be irreplaceable in the short to medium term, it is considered to be of at least local ecological importance.</p>	 <p>Pond 1 (in 2024)</p>




Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
		<p>watercourse by banking and is anticipated to dry on occasion.</p> <p>P4 – comprises a small muddy depression which was predominantly dry during surveys. This feature is surrounded by woodland with pond growth comprising grasses and bramble.</p> <p>P12 – located adjacent to a hedgerow and wet ditch this pond is surrounded by dense scrub.</p>		 <p>Pond 2</p>  <p>Pond 3</p>





Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
				 <p data-bbox="1487 592 1585 619">Pond 4</p>  <p data-bbox="1487 1031 1594 1058">Pond 12</p>




Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
W1, W2, W3a W3b, W4, W6, W7, W8.	Woodland <u>Primary code:</u> Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (w1f) <u>Secondary code:</u>	<p>Within the site are parcels of deciduous woodland, these are primarily located on the boundaries of the site extending offsite to the wider area.</p> <p>W1/W2/W4 –Area of woodland divided by watercourses but contiguous in character. Comprising willow with ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>, hawthorn, hazel and sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> also present. The understorey comprises common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, bramble and bracken.</p> <p>W3a – Comprises part of a larger woodland offsite to the west and north. Dominated by willow with understorey of bramble and gorse. Contains a watercourse and linked ponds.</p> <p>W3b – this woodland is separated the wider extent of W3a by a watercourse and primarily comprises younger woodland characteristic of outgrown scrub. This area is dominated by willow, hazel and gorse.</p> <p>W6 – broadleaved woodland dominated by willow and ash with oak <i>Quercus robur</i>, hawthorn, horse chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> and blackthorn. Understorey with gorse, bramble and bracken.</p> <p>W7 - Woodland dominated by hazel, willow, and blackthorn with predominantly open canopy. Limited understorey with bramble and bracken dominant.</p>	<p>The woodland parcels all feature native species of a mature vegetation structure, and provides connectivity to similar off-site habitat. These habitats are nonetheless common in the local landscape and, as such, this habitat is considered to be of local ecological importance.</p>	




Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
		W8- Mature hazel woodland with willow, hawthorn and silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> . Patchy scrub understory dominated by bramble.		
T84, T85, T122	Individual trees <u>Secondary code:</u> Veteran tree (204) Scattered trees (32)	The majority of trees within the site are found in association with woodland and hedgerow features and as such are not described or mapped separately. T122 - A single Mature ash tree is present within field F15, likely comprising part of a historic hedge. T84 and T85 – both assessed as Veteran Ash trees. These are included on the edge of woodland W1 and are identified due to their veteran status.	Trees have inherent ecological value, as they provide habitat opportunities for flora and fauna and connectivity with hedgerows and woodland habitat on-site and locally. T122 is assessed as being of local ecological importance . T84 and T85 are assessed as of county ecological importance .	
H2 H7 H8 H10 H11 H12 H13 H17 H18 H19 H20 H22 H23 H24 H48	Native hedgerows <u>Primary code:</u> Native hedgerow (h2a6)	The majority of hedgerows within and on the boundary of the site are species poor being dominated by blackthorn and hawthorn with other woody species present including ash, elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> and willow. Other species present within the hedgerows include bramble agg., common ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> , dog rose <i>Rosa canina</i> and honeysuckle <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> . The majority of hedges are small in size and lack standard trees.	All hedgerows consisting predominately (over 80% cover) of at least one woody UK native species are classified as a Habitat of Principal Importance (HoPI). As such, the species poor hedgerows are considered to be of local ecological importance .	




Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
H49 H50 H51 H58 H59 H60 H61 H62 H66 H67 H68 H71 H73 H74		<p>Whilst most hedges are on the ground H27 and 34 are associated with bank with H12 also associated with a ditch.</p> <p>Management of the hedgerow varies across the Site with some being subject to heavy management and others being largely unmanaged.</p>		
H3 H4 H5 H6 H14 H15 H16 H21 H28 H45 H46 H52 H54 H55 H56 H57 H64 H65 H70	<p>Native hedgerows</p> <p><u>Primary code:</u> Native hedgerow (h2a6)</p> <p><u>Secondary code:</u> Hedgerow with trees (11)</p>	<p>A number of species poor hedgerows with standard tree are present. These hedgerows are also dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn with other species including hazel, ash and sycamore with occasional gorse and apple <i>Malus</i> sp.</p> <p>The majority of hedges are subject to intensive management but some are unmanaged.</p>	<p>All hedgerows consisting predominately (over 80% cover) of at least one woody UK native species are classified as a Habitat of Principal Importance (HoPI). As such, the species poor hedgerows with trees are considered to be of local ecological importance.</p>	




Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
H9 H25 H26 H69 H72	Native hedgerows <u>Primary code:</u> Species rich-native hedgerow (h2a5) <u>Secondary code:</u> Hedgerow with trees (11)	A small number of species rich hedgerow with standard trees are also present. These hedgerows are most species rich with species including hawthorn, hazel, ash, blackthorn, field maple <i>Acer campestre</i> , sycamore, willow, elder and dogrose.	All hedgerows consisting predominately (over 80% cover) of at least one woody UK native species are classified as a Habitat of Principal Importance (HoPI). As such, the species rich hedgerows with trees are considered to be of local ecological importance .	
H63	Non-Native hedgerows <u>Primary code:</u> Non-native and ornamental hedgerow (h2b)	A single non-native hedgerow is present associated with an offsite garden. This hedge is dominated by dense Lawson's cypress <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	This hedgerow comprises a non-native species which is common locally. Whilst providing some habitat and connectivity for wildlife overall this hedge is of negligible ecological importance .	



Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
WC1, WC2, WC3	Running water <u>Primary code:</u> Other rivers and streams r2b	<p>There are an number of watercourses within and directly adjacent to the site. These are intersected at various points by tributaries and issues both within the site and offsite.</p> <p>Watercourse WC1 runs along the northern and western boundary of the site connecting to issues from WC1a, WC1b and WC1c. This watercourse also connects to Pond P2.</p> <p>Watercourse WC2 runs along part of the southern site boundary and is connected to WC1.</p> <p>Watercourse WC3 issues onsite and runs along part of the eastern boundary. This feature connects offsite with WC2.</p> <p>All watercourses are located within parcels of woodland and are heavily shaded and with vegetated embankments. The water depth is largely shallow (10-20cm).</p>	<p>The watercourses provide connectivity through and off site into the wider landscape so is considered to be of at least local ecological importance.</p>	
D1	Running water <u>Secondary code:</u> Ditch (50)	<p>A single ditch is present adjacent to hedgerow H46 and running within woodland W7 and W8 and connecting to WC2. This ditch is connected to Pond P12.</p> <p>This ditch is shallow and was recorded as dry during surveys in 2024/2025 being completely overgrown.</p>	<p>The ditch provides connectivity through and off site into the wider landscape so is considered to be of at least local ecological importance.</p>	



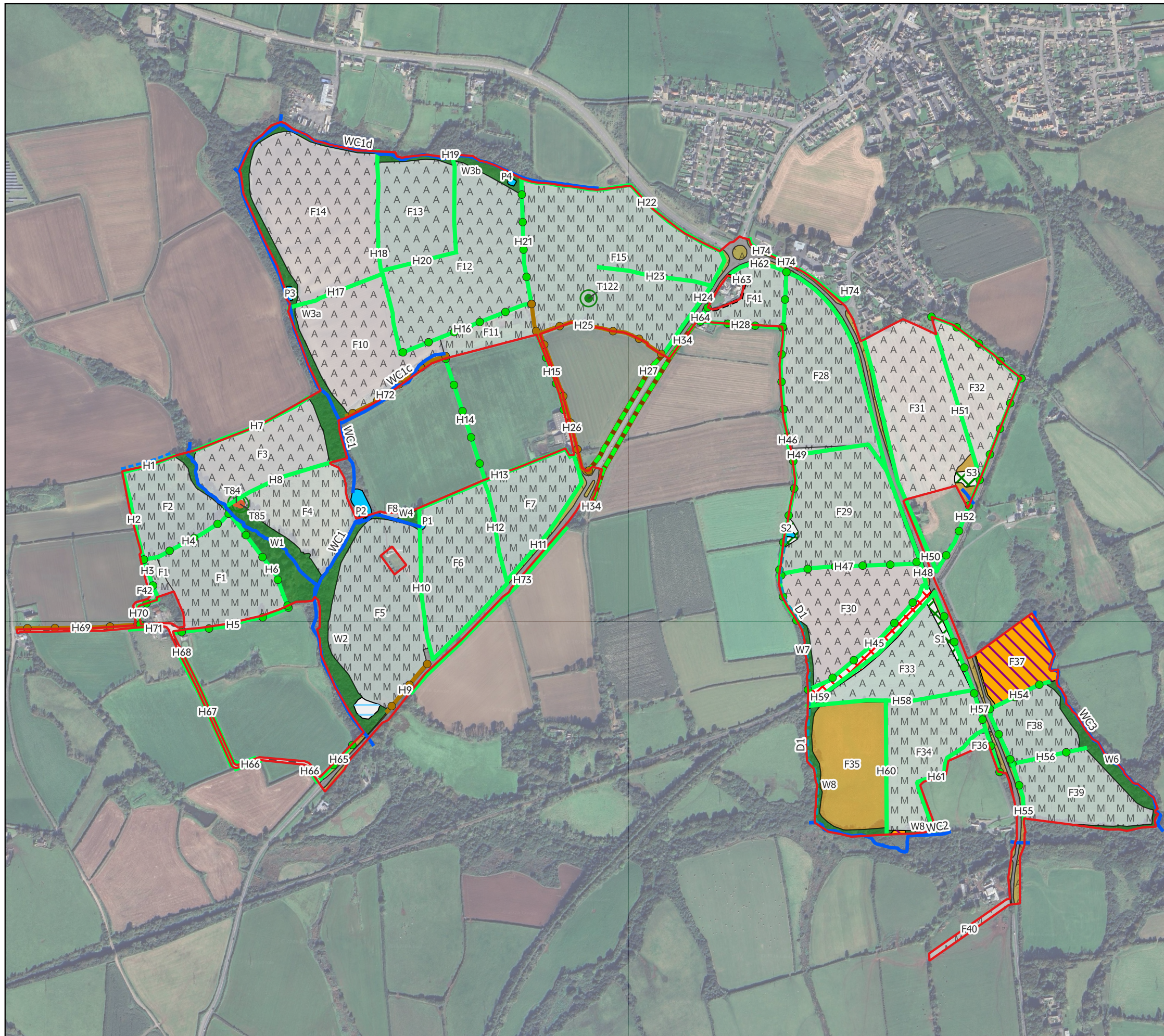
Ref.	Habitat	Description and Species	Ecological Importance	Photograph
H48	Invasive Species	Japanese knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> was recorded at multiple locations in H48.	Japanese knotweed is an invasive species on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It spreads rapidly and can cause significant ecological harm if left unmanaged and has no ecological importance.	



Plans:

Plan 1: Baseline Habitat Features Plan (16720_P08)





Legend

- Redline boundary
- A A Arable/Cropland
- Hardstanding
- Ponds
- M M Modified grassland
- Purple moor-grass and rush pastures
- Other neutral grassland
- Mixed and Willow Scrub
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- A A Other neutral grassland (Road verges)
- Unvegetated; unsealed surface
- X X Railway (Not surveyed)
- Veteran trees
- Individual trees
- Native hedgerow
- Native hedgerow with trees
- Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
- Native hedgerow with bank
- Native hedgerow with ditch
- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- Watercourse
- Ditch



Project	Great Harmeston Solar Farm
Drawing Title	Habitat Features Plan
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	16720/P08
Date	February 2026
Checked	HM/AH



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