

Page intentionally blank

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Licence Application Form

NATURAL ENGLAND

Mitigation Licensing - Dormice

- Please complete this application form using dark ink and BLOCK CAPITALS.
- Return the completed form to the address shown.
- All questions should be answered as appropriate. Questions marked with `*'
 are mandatory and failing to complete these may result in delays to your
 application.
- If there is insufficient space for completing answers on this form, please attach a separate sheet.
- Natural England will aim to determine the outcome of a completed licence application within its published service standards.
 - If you experience any problems completing this application please contact Wildlife Licensing.
 - This can be downloaded from our website or you can ask Wildlife Licensing to send you a copy.

Wildlife Licensing
Natural England
Horizon House
Deanery Road
Bristol, BS1 5AH.
020 802 61089
EPS.Mitigation@natural
england.org.uk

For	Office	Use	Only
Ref	No:		

1. Applicant Details

Please enter the details of the person or company who will become the licensee

(a) Customer Details

Please note: If you are the agent/named ecologist registering on behalf of the applicant you will need to provide their full authorisation with this application

*Email address	john.bevan@r	nationalgrid.co	om		
*Title (please tick as appropriate)		✓ Mr	Mrs Mx	Other Please specify	
*Forenan	ne	Mide	dle name		*Surname
John				Beva	n
Professional Membership (e.g CIEEM, IEMA,	etc).				
House name/numbe	r: National G	rid House			
*Address Line1	Warwick Techr	nology Park			
*Address Line 2					

Address Line	3		
Town	Warwick	*County	Warwickshire
*Postcode	CV34 6DA	Country	UK
Either `Telephone N	lo.' or `Mobile No.' must be completed.		
Telephone No		Mobile No.	07807 519240
		Fax No.	
*Customer Typ	oe (eg Farmer, Householder, Ecologist,	etc.) Electricit	ty Owner and Maintainer
(b)If you are re	gistering on behalf of an organisation إ	olease complete t	his section.
*Position Ser	nior Project Manager		Albertie Bereite of Co.
*Organisation N		\ \ 	What is the size of your organisation?
Organisation	Turno (Table 1)		Micro (1 to 10 employees)
			Small (11 to 49 employees)
		[Medium (50 to 249 employees)
		[∠ Large (250 employees or more)
(eg. private limit	gal status of your organisation? ed company, registered charity, isation, Government agency, Local Authori		_imited Company
Companies Ho Charity Numbe	ouse Registration or Registered er:		
(c) Alternative Applic	cant Contact Details		
In the event that contact details of	t the <u>applicant</u> is unavailable to discus could be provided. By completing this s ct on behalf of the <u>applicant.</u>		
Name			
Telephone No			
Email address			

2. Named Ecologist Details

Please enter the details of the named ecologist. Please note a named ecologist is required for all development and mitigation applications

(a) Agent/ Named Ecologist Details Please note: If you are the applicant registering on behalf of the agent / named ecologist you will need to provide their full authorisation with this application. **TBC** *Email address *Title Other Mr Mrs Mx (please tick as appropriate) Please specify Middle name *Forename *Surname **TBC TBC** Professional Membership (eg, CIEEM, IEMA,etc). House name/number: *Address Line1 *Address Line 2 Address Line 3 Town *County *Postcode Country Either `Telephone No.' or `Mobile No.' must be completed. Telephone No. Mobile No. Fax No. *Customer Type (eg Farmer, Householder, Ecologist, etc.)

(b) If you are	registering or	n behalf of an organisation please co	mplete this	s section.
*Positio	TBC			What is the size of your organisation?
*Organi	sation Name	Jacobs UK Ltd		Micro (1 to 10 employees)
				Small (11 to 49 employees)
				Medium (50 to 249 employees)
				✓ Large (250 employees or more)
(eg. priva	nte limited com	us of your organisation? pany, registered charity, Government agency, Local Authority)	Private	Limited Company
	nies House Re Number:	egistration or Registered		
(c) Alternative	e Named Eco	logist Contact Details		
alternati	ve contact de	named ecologist is unavailable to dise tails could be provided. By completin behalf of the <u>named ecologist.</u>		oplication, it would be helpful if ion you are confirming that this contact is
Name				
		Sarah Bevans		
Teleph	none No.	Sarah Bevans 077925 09355		
·	none No. address			
Email		077925 09355 sarah.bevans@jacobs.com		
Email : 3. Comm	address nunication F indicate who	077925 09355 sarah.bevans@jacobs.com		is application:
Email : 3. Comm	address nunication F indicate who	077925 09355 sarah.bevans@jacobs.com Preferences should be contacted if we need to		is application:
3. Common Please (please reason Application)	address nunication F indicate who note more than	077925 09355 sarah.bevans@jacobs.com Preferences should be contacted if we need to one option can be selected for each que	estion)	

Applicant Preferences:	Email	v	Post		Telephone	
	If `Yes' f	or teleph	one, please	e provide a	contact no.	
Named Ecologist Preferences:	Email	•	Post		Telephone	
	If `Yes' f	or teleph	one, please	e provide a	contact no.	
4. Previous Application	าร					
(a) * To your knowledg decisions concerr			any previou	ıs applicati	ons orlicence	Yes No 🗸
If `No' please move to qu	uestion 4(g).	If `Yes' to	o (a), please	complete th	e following.	
(b) *Date of most rece	ent applicati	on:				
(c) *Which species wa	as the subje	ect of the	previousa	oplications	?	
(d) *What was the app	olication or	licence r	eference nu	ımber?		
(e) *What was the outcome of the previous application? (Please select one of the following)						
Granted	Not Granted	d 🗌	Advice On	lly 🗌	Deferred	Not Yet known
(f) To your knowledge, does this application relate to any previously licensed `mitigation' work on the site being applied for?						
If 'Yes' to (f) Please provide reference numbers, species details.						
(g) To your knowledge, is the site being applied for subject to any recent, concurrent, pending or future applications for licences for the same or other European protected species or other protected species?						
If 'Yes' to (g) Please provide reference numbers and spe			<i>خ</i>		and badger se bmitted for this	tt closure licence will project.

For applications which are part of the Pre-Submission Screening Services

More information on Natural England's Pre-Submission Screening Service can be found here.

Is this a first draft application?	Is this a subsequent draft? Yes No
Are you aware if your case has been seen or reviewed	d by Natural England? Yes 🔽 No 🗌 Not sure
	DAS advice 16955/375747 Sam Kench - Lead Advisor / Emma Hurrell
Any further information you would like to provide:	
Is this a formal application?	Yes No
Please provide any earlier reference numbers	
For applications which are part of Nationally Significant Infr	astructure Projects
Is this a first draft application? Yes No Is this a formal application? Yes No	Is this a subsequent draft? Yes No
Please provide any earlier reference numbers	
5. Purpose	
(a) Brief Description of Proposal (Eg, Construction of a new road, construction of five flats with access road and car parking area, installation of an underground utilities cable).	Construction of a new 400kV electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km to include underground cable sections
(b) * Please tell us why you need a licence. (Eg, Woodland used for breeding and hedgerows used for dormice dispersal will be damaged during construction works).	Woodland, scrub and hedgerows used by dormice for breeding and dispersal will be removed during construction works

(c) * Please confirm the purpose of the application (Plea	se select one of the following):			
Imperative reasons of overriding public interest in beneficial consequences of primary importance to	ncluding those of a social or economic nature and for the environment under section 55(2)(e)			
Preserving public health or public safety, under section 55(2)(e)				
Preventing the spread of disease, under section	55(2)(f)			
Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodsture fisheries or inland waters, or any other form of preserving the serious damage to livestock, foodsture form of preserving the serious damage to livestock, foodsture form of preserving the serious damage to livestock, foodsture for the serious damage to livestock foodsture for the serious damage to livestock foodsture for the serious damage to livestock for the serious damage to livestock for the serious damage to livestock for the serious damage to live for the serious damage for the serious	ffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber, roperty under section 55(2)(g)			
A purpose not specified in Regulation 55(2) that Directive, under section 55(4)	is consistent with Article 16(1)(e) of the Habitats			
(d) * Please confirm the category most appropriate to y following):	our proposed work (Please select one of the			
Agriculture/Farming/Fishing/Forestry/Nature conservation	Housing (non-householder) (eg, residential development, repairs/maintenance, non-householders)			
Archaeological investigation	Industrial/Manufacturing			
Barn conversion	Mineral extraction/Quarrying			
Commercial - eg, office, retail	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects			
Communications	Places of worship			
Energy generation/Energy supply	Public buildings and land (eg, schools, universities, hospitals, care facilities, military, prisons)			
Flood and coastal defences	Tourism/leisure eg, golf courses, country parks, holiday camps			
Health and safety	Transport/Highways			
Heritage/Historical (eg, National Trust, listed building, scheduled monument)	Waste management			
Householder home improvement (eg, loft conversion, extension, garage, conservatory, repairs)	Water supply and treatment/water environment			
(e) * Is the proposed work part of a phased or a multi-p	olot development? Yes No 🗸			
	er plan and Habitat Management and Maintenance Plan e on what should be included in a master plan can be found			

If `Yes' to (e): You must submit a species specific master plan and Habitat Management and Maintenance Plan with this application, as a separate document. Guidance on what should be included in a master plan can be found at - http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/WML-G11 tcm6-9930.pdf.

*Is the address for the site to be licensed different to the applicant's address? Yes If 'Yes' ... For the Site / Location to be licensed, please complete all of the following details: If 'No' ... Please complete Site / Location Name and OS Grid Reference boxes only. (For linear projects, please add the start and end points separately) Site Details Bramford to I winstead Reinforcement *Site / Location Name: N/A House No: N/A Address Line 1: N/A Address Line 2: Address Line 3: N/A N/A Town: Sutfolk and Essex *County: N/A Postcode *OS Grid Reference (In format XX123456): **Conservation Considerations** 7. (a) *Will any part of the proposed activity fall in and/or adjacent to a Designated Site? Yes No If 'Yes' to (a) please complete the table below. If 'No', please go to the next section. Type of Designated Site Please indicate whether Eg, National Nature Reserve (NNR), Site of the activity will fall on Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special and/or adjacent to a Designated Site Name Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar Site, Ancient designated site: Monument, Marine Nature Reserve (MNR), Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Hintlesham Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest On Adjacent to Hadleigh Railway Walk Local Nature Reserve / County On Adjacent to Wildlife Site (CWS) Ansell's Grove/Ash Ground Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) On Adjacent to⊺ V Alphamstone Complex, **CWS** The Dollops On Adjacent to Valley Farm Wood On Adjacent to On Adjacent to

Site Details

6.

	consultations or the reason why you have not consulted us. Please provide any relevant correspondence and the name of the local		Statutory consultation resp Kench at NE on 21/03/22 a 14/12/21 (DAS/16955/375 also ongoing and a SLA is	and DAS advice on 746). Consultation is
8.	Authorisation			
	(a) * Is the applicant the ow	ner / occupier of the land	? Ye	s No V N/A
	If `Yes' to (a) please go	to the next section. If `No' to	o (a) please answer (b).	
	(b) Have you received the c	owner / occupier's permis	sion to apply?	Yes 🗸 No 🗌
	Please note that it is your responsions.	onsibility as the applicant to	obtain the owner or occupier's per	missions to act under
	You may be asked to provide d contact you if this is necessary	ocumentation which confirn	ns that you have owner or occupier	's permissions and we will
9.	Application Details			
	(a) Please add details for all Application Subject Species	Licensable Action Dormice Hazel Dormice Capture Disturb Transport Damage breeding sit Destroy breeding sit Destroy resting place Damage resting place By hand Next box/Nest tube Hand search Two stage habitat reserving single stage habitat	te e e	Two stage habitat removal
	If Other method, please specify	Other		
	Please enter the proposed licensable action, not necess		w . Please note this refers to the date to the date of the date o	ate of the first
	*Proposed Date from:	September 2024		

(b) Have you consulted with Natural England for advice on the implications

of the application on the designated site?

Not

known

No

	Please note: You must send survey data and habitat assessment data to your Local Records Centre (LRC). It is a condition of survey licences that records are sent to LRCs annually or to other organisations as specified on a particular survey licence (eg, People's Trust for Endangered Species).		
10.	Experience		
	Please note: For guidance in completing this section please refer to the Experience in Great Crested Newt Mitigation document at http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/wmlg05_tcm6-4115.pdf . (a) * Has the named ecologist associated with this application held or been named on a licence in the past three years for the same species and in relation to a project of similar scale, methodology and mitigation?		
If `Yes' to (a)	(b) * Please provide the name of the issuing authority, the licence reference number and date of issue for licences held:	TBC - named ecologist will be suitably experienced and licenced	
If `No'	to (a) please complete the following section. I (c) * Does the named ecologist currently hold survey licence or are they registered to licence for the same species? (d) *What is/are the survey licence reference	If `Yes' complete all of the following. No If `Yes' complete all of the following. If `Yes' complete all of the following.	
	(e) * Please give brief details of the named ecologist's current science, education or conservation licence or any other licences issued to the ecologist in the last three years relevant to the species relating to this application:		
	(f) * Please give brief details of the named ecologist's experience on mitigation projects relevant to the species relating to this application, including in what capacity they acted. State the site names and reference numbers of licences and the type of mitigation involved		
Pleas	(g) * Please provide details of the named ecologist's Qualifications, including any Continual Professional Development (CPD) training relevant to the species relating to this application:	the last three years you will need to provide written references from	

(b) Have you received the owner / occupier's permission to apply?

Please note: If you have not held a mitigation licence in the last three years you will need to provide written references from two people who are familiar with the named ecologist's work. Please attach these references with your application. References provided in support of your licence application should:

- Vouch for the named ecologist's suitability and competence to prepare and deliver mitigation projects;
- state how long referees have known the named ecologist and in what capacity;
- provide details of the named ecologist's mitigation experience with the relevant species or a related species; and
- provide details of the referees' own mitigation experience and mitigation licence held (if appropriate): at least one referee must have held a mitigation licence within the last 3 years.

	(h) * Are you providing references?	Yes No		
If `Yes to (i):	Please provide details of the referees, we may need to contact these referees to verify their states			
	1st Referee:			
	2nd Referee:			
4.4				
11.	Consent Status			
	(a) * Is any consent required for your pr	oposed project and the subject of this licence application?		
	1. Planning-related consent required (eg, Planning permission, listed building consent, etc).			
	2. Demolition consent (under Building Act 1984) including prior notice to demolish.			
	3. Other type of consent required (eg, Minerals consents, Highway Act consents, Secretary of State Decision Letter, Compulsory Purchase Order, Environment Agency Consent, etc.)			
	4. Permitted Development (under consent required.	Town and Country Planning Act 1990) - no specific		
	5. No consent required (eg, Public	Health and safety issues)		
if '3' is selected	(b) * Please provide details of these consents	Development Consent Order - examination period begins in 2023		
if '5' is selecte	(c) * Please explain why no consent is require			
If `1', `2 or `3' is selecte	proposed activity to be commenced			
	 If `No' to (d), please complete `Consent N If `Yes' to (d), please complete `Consent O 			

Consent Not Obtained

Please explain why you are applying in advance of the granting of consent that would allow the development to commence and what the circumstances are (eg, Site investigation work which is required to inform the planning consent decision and where, after avoidance measures, the risk of affecting a European Protected Species is high). Please note that your application is unlikely to be processed until this issue has been resolved.

outstanding consents to be obtained and the likely timescales for their determination/issue.			
(f) *Other - Householder Planning Permission. Please insert `HHPP' in the text box			
Pre-Submission Screening Service:			
We will provide advice on draft applications, prior application being submitted through this charges rather than trying to pursue a licence under Exceptional about financial implications resulting from delays Please see our website for further advice about	able servic eptional Ci s in obtaini	e. We strongly advise customers to usercumstances, particularly where there ar	e this service re concerns
Consent Obtained			
(g) Please confirm details of all the consent and this licence application.	ts that hav	ve been granted relevant to the prop	osed activity
Full Planning Permission		Outline Planning Permission	
Demolition consent (under Building Act 1984) including prior notice to demolish		Conservation Area Consent	
Listed Building Consent		Tree Preservation Order	
Highways Act Consent		Utilities Consent	
Mineral Consent		Other consent type	
Other Consent Type			
(h) Please provide consent reference number(s)			
Please submit copies of the consents (or extracts) that if applicable.	t are releva	ant to the proposed activity and this licen	ce application,
(i) For all consents that have been granted, conditions or Reserved Matters relating species and habitat issues (which are in be and are capable of being discharged development begins) been discharged?	to wildlife tended to	Yes	s No No
, 3 /		If `No' to (i), please answer a If `Yes' to (i), please skip (j).	ll of the following

(e) *Please provide details of the

	(j) Please give details of those conditions that are still to be discharged and explain why they have not been discharged.	N/A
	(k) Is the site subject to any commitment that affects the protected species named in this application?	
	For example a Section 106 Agreement (Town and Co- Public Inquiry or in an Environmental Statement.	untry Planning act 1990) or other commitments made at a
	. ,	Yes No
If `Yes' to 'k'	Has the commitment been met? Please also explain what has been done.	
If `Yes' to 'k'	What work is outstanding and when will it be completed?	
	(I) Is the site subject to any such commitment the Protected Species or other protected species (Town and Country Planning Act 1990) or other continuity or in an Environmental Statement.	? Eg, a Section 106 Agreement Yes No
lf `Yes' to 'l'	Has this been met?	
If `Yes' to 'I'	When will this be complete?	
Reaso	ned Statement & Supporting Documents	

Please note: If it is not possible or not intended for the conditions to be discharged before development

commences then please complete the questions below.

A Reasoned Statement and supporting documents may be required in support of this application.

Copies of the latest version of the Reasoned Statement template which sets out when a Reasoned Statement is required and further guidance to help are available on our website.

Please tick this box to confirm that you have read and understood the Reasoned Statement template and advicenote/guidance						
(m) * Doe	(m) * Does your application require a Reasoned Statement? Yes Ves No					
If `No' to (m): * Please confirm the exception that applies (specify species and scenario eg, home improvements or small scale housing developments)						
12. Consentir	ng Authority					
Please provide the Local Planning Authority/Authorities that have granted consent for the proposed project and the subject of this licence application. Please then provide contact details for the responsible officer. If consent is granted by another body (eg, Secretary of State, Natural England, Environment Agency, Utilities Consent, Highways Consent, etc) then please provide details for it as appropriate. If no consent is required (eg, Public health and safety issues) then please leave the remaining fields blank.						
*Title	iting Authority Name *Forename	*Surname	*Position			
Email Address	Email Address					
Telephone Nu	Telephone Number					
Address						
13. Method S	tatement					

A Method Statement must be provided to support this application along with other supporting documents, which may include some or all of the following:

- Maps
- Figures
- · Habitat management and maintenance plans
- Master plans
- Appended survey results
- · A work schedule

Please note: the Method Statement should be prepared by a consultant ecologist or another suitably qualified person because compiling the content requires specific species and site-related knowledge.

Further Advice: Copies of the latest versions of templates for all species and further guidance to help you complete them are available on our website.

4.	Supplementary Information
	Please provide any additional information you may have to support your application.
5.	Charge Screening
.	15a. Applicant screening
	Natural England will use this form to assess whether you need to pay for your licence.
	Remember to save your changes before you submit your application form. If you do not complete your form correctly, your request might take longer.
	Charge screening relating to modifications to a wildlife licence granted before 22 April 2019 only
	Enter your licence reference number
	Declaration
	I have read and understood the terms and conditions for payment in respect of an existing wildlife licence and agree to pay relevant charges.

Your answers must be the same as question 5 and question 11 on this form.					
Tick the relevant purpose for your licence application:					
C	To prevent the spread of disease				
C) To prevent serious damage to property				
C	To preserve public health or public safety - but not for imperative reasons of overriding public interest of a social or economic nature				
	nolder home improvement project (such as an extension, garage, l or fence) to a single home for which you				
0	have received planning consent through a householder planning application				
0	do not need planning consent (permitted development)				
For the conser	vation of a:				
0	scheduled monument				
\bigcirc	listed building				
\bigcirc	registered place of worship				
\bigcirc	farm building in a countryside stewardship agreement				
If you have ticked any of the purposes above, you may be exempt from licence charges. You do not need to complete the rest of this of section 15.					
Send this form with your licence application form to: eps.mitigation@naturalengland.org.uk					
If the pu	If the purpose of your application is:				
0	a purpose not specified in Regulation 55(2) that is consistent with Article 16(1)(e) of the Habitats Directive, under Section 55(4)				
you should email eps.mitigation@naturalengland.org.uk to discuss your choice and whether a charge applies.					

15c. Invoice Details
Complete this section if your licence is chargeable. You will need to pay before you start your project.
Contact details are the same as applicant details
Company name
National Grid
Address including postcode
National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick CV34 6DA
Telephone number
Mobile number
07514 726455
Email address for invoices
Sally.Rotherham@nationalgrid.com
Contact name for invoices
Sally Rotherham - Lead Consent Officer
Email address (if different from invoice email address)
Do you use a purchase number for company invoices?
Yes
No
If yes, enter the purchase order number

15d. Licence Cost

The cost of the A35 licence is either:

- a fixed price of £690
- a variable price depending on the time taken to assess it.

Can I pay a fixed price for my licence?

Your answers must be supported by evidence in your licence application (questions 5, 6 and 9) and method statement.

Tick the options that apply to your project.

To be eligible for the fixed price, the project must:

be located in: Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Sussex, Kent or Surrey

not be a phased or multi-plot development

use mitigation or compensation techniques and timings as stated in the Dormouse

Conservation Handbook 2nd Edition, by Bright, Morris and Mitchell-Jones, published in 2006 by English Nature.

If the project is a housing or transport project, it must be:

a housing project with 9 or fewer houses

a transport project that will damage or destroy less than 1 hectare of dormouse habitat (before mitigation or compensation)

If you can tick all the relevant options above, you can pay the fixed price for your licence. Send this form with your licence application to eps.mitigation@naturalengland.org.uk

If your licence is not eligible for the fixed price, you will need to pay a variable price.

Variably priced licences

The variable price is calculated to the nearest quarter of an hour, based on an hourly rate of £101 plus a £183 compliance check. Likely costs are:

- new licences between £500 and £2000
- modifications between £100 and £1000
- resubmissions between £500 and £800

Complex cases are likely to cost more, such as:

- proposals that fragment habitat and isolate populations
- clearing habitat at times that are not recommended in the Dormouse Conservation Handbook
 2nd Edition
- projects that affect dormouse outside of their core range
- projects using unusual, new or contentious methods
- applications or project plans that have incomplete or inaccurate details
- applications or project plans with unnecessary additional information
- issues with ecologist experience or poor references
- surveys that do not follow guidance or are limited or constrained
- phased or multi-plot developments
- use of licensing policies
- applications where compliance issues have been identified or have previous police involvement
- applications without relevant planning permissions (or other consents) in place; that do not have conditions or reserved matters fully discharged; or that propose the use of exceptional circumstances
- · applications that affect a protected site

Save and send this completed charge screening form with your A35 licence application form to: eps.mitigation@naturalengland.org.uk

16. **Using and Sharing Your Information**

How we use your personal information is set out in the Wildlife Licensing privacy notice which can be found here

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-privacy-notices

Important Advice:

- If your application is made under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), any person who in order to obtain a licence knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution. Any person found guilty of such an offence is liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both. Regarding other wildlife legislation, we will look to provisions in the Fraud Act 2006 (as amended) in respect of applicants making any false representations.
- Natural England or the Secretary of State can modify or revoke at any time any licence that is
 issued, but this will not be done unless there is good reason for doing so. Any licence that is
 issued is likely to be revoked immediately if it discovered that false information has been
 provided that resulted in the issue of a licence.

17a.	Convictions				
	Have you or any person listed in the application vildlife-related or animal welfare offence?	been convicted c	ofany	Yes	No 🗸
If `Yes' please provide details	Please provide details of the convictions: (including dates)				
Countrys Regulati Mamma do not ha Offendel	nces we are referring to relate to persons convicted of ide Act 1981, the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c. ons 2017 (as amended), the Protection of Badgers Act (Protection) Act 1996, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 ave to declare conviction if the person concerned is: (as Act 1974 and their conviction is treated as spent; of them absolutely.) Regulations 1994 of 1992, the Deer A and the Protectior 1) a rehabilitated p	t, the Conservation of Act 1991, the Hunting of Animals Act 1911 person for the purpose	f Habitats and Act 2004, the (all as amend es of the Reha	Species Wild led). You bilitation of
17b.	Applicant Declarations				
	 I have read and understood the privacy notes. Where required, I undertake to obtain permis licence resulting from this application, and to to monitor or inspect the work described in the context. 	ssion from landov allow any emplo			
	 I have read and understood the guidance provided in the application form and on the Wildlife Licensing Internet guidance pages. 				
	I declare the particulars given are correct to licence in accordance with the information I have a second or contact.		nowledge and belie	f, and I apply	for a
	 I confirm that there is no satisfactory alternate application. 	ive to meet the n	need/resolve the pro	oblem detaile	d in this
	I have read and understood the <u>Terms and Q</u> Applications and agree to pay all the relevant		yment in respect of	Wildlife Licer	nce
	I agree to the declaration above.				
	Signature of Applicant				
	For electronic applications, please insert an confirm with the declaration.	electronic signatu	ure above or tick thi	s box to	
	Name: (In BLOCK letters)		Date		

17.

Declaration

· · · ·			
I have read and understood the privacy notice above.			
I confirm that I have visited the site(s).			
I have designed and inputted into the licence proposal.			
 I confirm that there is no satisfactory alternative to meet the need/resolve the problem detailed in this application. 			
I am satisfied that the proposal will result in no adverse impact on the species concerned.			
 I declare the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and the applicant may apply for a licence in accordance with information I have provided. 			
 I have documentary evidence that I am authorised to act on behalf of the applicant that I will supply to Natural England on request. 			
I agree to the declaration above.			
Signature of Ecologist			
For electronic applications, please insert an electronic signature above or tick this box to confirm with the declaration.			
Name: (In BLOCK letters) Date			

18

Applicant

17c.

Ecologist Declaration

The applicant is the person submitting the application (usually the landowner or occupier) who, if the licence was granted, would become the licensee. The applicant may appoint agents to produce the application pack and act on their behalf. A person with specific skills and knowledge of the species concerned, such as a consultant ecologist, must be appointed to assist in the preparation and the delivery of the proposals that ensure the species protection requirements can be met.

Licensee

The "Licensee" named on the licence is responsible for ensuring that all activities carried out on site in relation to the licence comply with the terms and conditions of the licence. However, all persons authorised to act under the licence must comply with the licence and its conditions (see Regulation 60(1) of the 2017 Regulations). This means that all authorised persons have a responsibility for ensuring that the licence terms and conditions, including any annex special conditions, are understood and complied with. Failure to do so could lead to prosecution.

Consultant/Named Ecologist

The "Named Ecologist" is a professional ecological consultant who has satisfied Natural England that they have the relevant skills, knowledge and experience of the species concerned and is responsible for undertaking and/or overseeing the work undertaken in respect of the licensed species. The `Named Ecologist' has a responsibility for ensuring that the licence is complied with. They are responsible for advising the licensee on the suitability and competence of any Accredited Agents or Assistants employed on site to undertake the required duties and may include the direct supervision of Assistants where appropriate. More information about the experience required to become a named ecologist can be found at:

https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/lmages/ wmlg05 tcm6-4115.pdf.

Accredited Agent

An "Accredited Agent" is a suitably trained and experienced person who is able to carry out work under a licence without the personal supervision of the Named Ecologist. Any Accredited Agent must be appointed by the Licensee and be in possession of a letter signed by the Licensee confirming their appointment. Agents shall carry a copy of the said letter when acting under the licence and shall produce it to any police or Natural England officer on request.

Assistants

An "Assistant" is a person assisting a Named Ecologist or Accredited Agent. Assistants are only authorised to act under this licence whilst they are under the direct supervision of either the Named Ecologist or an Accredited Agent.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

European Protected Species Mitigation Licensing Reasoned Statement for the purpose of Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)

- The information provided in this form will be used by Natural England to determine whether the proposed activity affecting the European Protected Species meets the requirements of Regulation 55(2)(e) and 55(9)(a) within The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), and Section 16(3)(j) and 16(3B)(a) in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These are known as the 'purpose' and 'no satisfactory alternatives' tests.
- This form should only be used for licence applications for the purpose of Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest.
- In some circumstances you do not need to complete a reasoned statement. Read the guidance on GOV.UK for more detail on when you do or do not need a reasoned statement Protected species licences: when to include a reasoned statement.
- If your application is for the purpose of preserving public health and safety (PHS), you must use the separate PHS reasoned statement form.

Important Note: Detailed information on the proposal is required to demonstrate that it will meet the tests set out under the legislation. If you encounter difficulty answering the questions or providing the evidence required, it may suggest that your proposal is insufficiently advanced to satisfy the licensing tests. In that case, you should consider delaying your application until this information is available.

Please read the following and complete:

• Section A: Purpose test

"Imperative reasons of overriding public interest" (IROPI) including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment"; "overriding public interest"

• Section B: No Satisfactory Alternative test

The tests are applied proportionately, so the strength of the evidence required to meet each will need to be sufficient to justify the impact upon the protected species. You need to provide clear, concise information for us to be able to meet the licensing tests.

When providing **supporting evidence** please provide clear referencing, such as page numbers and paragraphs of specific documents, so these can easily be cross-referenced. Please only provide the relevant extracts that help to demonstrate your reasoning rather than including lengthy documents in their entirety. Please do not provide website links to separate documentation, unless you identify where exactly in the linked document or web page the evidence referred to is located. Please note that it may take longer to determine your application if the evidence is submitted as individual documents in their entirety or website links.

Section A: Purpose Test

A1 Please select against all of the following below which apply to your proposal. You are asked to indicate against those that apply whether the projected benefits are primary or secondary or not applicable to your proposal.

Please note: A primary benefit is considered to be the key social, economic or environmental benefit brought about from the proposal. A secondary benefit is considered to be an additional benefit, but not the main reason for the proposal. There may be more than one secondary benefit but supporting evidence should be provided in Section A3 where applicable, for each benefit selected.

Does your proposal:				
Provide housing in an area where shortfalls have been clearly identified?	☐ Primary benefit	☐ Secondary benefit	⊠ N/A	
Create, repair or enhance essential infrastructure at a local, regional or national level?	□ Primary benefit	☐ Secondary benefit	□ N/A	
Provide care facilities or another essential public service in an area where it is known to be required?	☐ Primary benefit	☐ Secondary benefit	⊠ N/A	
Address another clearly identified social, religious or cultural need?	☐ Primary benefit	☐ Secondary benefit	⊠ N/A	
Create long term employment opportunities in an area of high unemployment?	☐ Primary benefit	☐ Secondary benefit	⊠ N/A	
Deliver other economic benefits or otherwise contribute in some way to the wider economy?	☐ Primary benefit	Secondary benefit ■ Secondary benefit Secondary benefit	□ N/A	
Contribute to addressing problems associated with climate change or promote sustainable energy use	□ Primary benefit	☐ Secondary benefit	□ N/A	
Conserve a place of environmental interest?	☐ Primary benefit	☐ Secondary benefit	⊠ N/A	
Provide alternative sources of energy?	□ Primary benefit	☐ Secondary benefit	□ N/A	
Deliver other benefits from those specified above?	☐ Primary benefit	☐ Secondary benefit	⊠ N/A	
If 'Other benefits' is selected, please provide details here:				

A2 In relation to the primary and secondary benefits identified in A1, to help demonstrate the need for the proposal, please provide the evidence and details for all the benefits ticked above.

Important note: Reference the supporting evidence upon which your reasoning is based and include the relevant extracts. This evidence must link back to the tick boxes selected above. Failure to do so will lead to us having to come back to you for further information.

Supporting evidence can usefully include some or more of the following: Local planning polices and plans, planning permission, policy documents, specialist reports, feasibility studies, extracts from relevant legislation, photographs, media articles or related correspondence. Where applicable, please ensure that planning officer or committee reports, and design and access statements are included as supporting evidence.

A2 (i) Please provide full details of the proposal in the box below.

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (here on referred to as National Grid) intends to submit an application for an order granting development consent to reinforce the electricity transmission network between the existing Bramford Substation in Suffolk, and Twinstead Tee in Essex. This would be achieved by the construction and operation of a new 400 kilovolt (kV) or above electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km.

The reinforcement would comprise approximately 18km of overhead line (consisting of approximately 50 new pylons, and conductors) and 11km of underground cable system (consisting of 21 cables with associated joint bays and above ground link pillars).

Four Cable Sealing End (CSE) Compounds would be required to facilitate the transition between the overhead and underground cable technology. The CSE would be within a fenced compound, and contain electrical equipment, support structures, a small control building and a permanent access track.

It is proposed that approximately 27km of existing overhead line and associated pylons would be removed as part of the proposals (25km of existing 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and 2km of the existing 400kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee) so that the alignment can be used by the proposed new 400kV overhead line to reduce impacts.

To facilitate the overhead line removal, a new grid supply point (GSP) substation is required at Butler's Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex. The GSP substation would include associated works, including replacement pylons, a single circuit sealing end compound and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400kV and 132kV networks.

Some aspects of the project, such as the underground sections and the GSP substation, constitute 'associated development' under the Planning Act 2008. Other ancillary activities would be required to facilitate construction and operation of the project, including (but not limited to):

- Modifications to, and realignment of sections of the existing 400kV overhead line.
- Temporary land to facilitate construction activities including temporary amendments to the public highway, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and access.
- Temporary infrastructure to facilitate construction activities such as amendments to the highway
 including bellmouths for site access, pylons and overhead line diversions, scaffolding to safeguard
 existing crossings, watercourse crossings and diversions of Public Rights of Way.
- Diversion of third-party assets and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint.

• Land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment as a result of the environmental assessment process, and National Grid's commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain.

The reinforcement and Order Limits are broken down in seven separate sections and a brief description of each is provided.

- Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham (overhead line)
- Section C: Brett Valley (overhead line)
- Section D: Polstead (overhead line and underground cables)
- Section E: Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (underground cable)
- Section F: Leavenheath/Assington (overhead line)
- Section G: Stour Valley (overhead line and underground cables)
- Section H: GSP substation

A2 (ii) (a) Explain why your proposal is considered to be imperative (essential).

For example, if your development proposal is for a housing development reference the local housing need as set out in the area plan and explain how your proposal contributes to meeting this need, or how the requirement for the proposed new public service, care facility or infrastructure project was identified.

The UK has set a world-leading target to tackle climate change, which includes an ambition to deliver 50 gigawatt (GW) of offshore wind farms connected to the electricity transmission network by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. This has led to a shift towards offshore renewable generation of power (60% of which is expected to come ashore along the East Coast) away from coal powered generation in the north and the Midlands. The UK is also transporting more power with countries across the North Sea, using interconnectors. These factors have driven a change in the energy landscape across the UK and in particular, East Anglia where reinforcement of the transmission network is required to deliver this change.

The existing electricity transmission network in East Anglia was developed in the 1960s and has historically been able to meet demand. However, due to the changes noted above in terms of delivering net zero emissions, the existing network in East Anglia does not have the capability to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected by 2030, whilst operating to the standards it is required to.

There are a limited number of physical routes for power to flow in and out of the region which limits the amount of additional generation that can currently be accommodated. There are three existing electricity transmission lines feeding into the existing Bramford Substation from the north and east, carrying power from the existing Sizewell B nuclear power station and offshore wind farms, whereas west of Bramford, out to Twinstead Tee, there is currently only one electricity transmission line taking that power out to the wider network. This creates a bottleneck which significantly constrains the amount of power that can currently be carried westward on the network from Bramford.

Reinforcing the network between Bramford and Twinstead would create two independent double circuit transmission routes west of Bramford – one from Bramford to Pelham, and one from Bramford to Braintree to Rayleigh to Tilbury. While additional network reinforcement will be needed elsewhere in East Anglia, it is essential that the network between Bramford and Twinstead Tee is reinforced to provide the vital capacity needed. Other reinforcements will not take away the need to add capacity to this part of the network.

The network is currently capable of transferring 3.5GW of power out of the region. By 2030, around 24.5GW of generation is contracted to connect from offshore wind farms, new nuclear and interconnectors with countries across the North Sea. This means that there needs to be up to 17.9GW of transfer capability out of the region by 2030. Upgrading the existing network by adding power control devices, uprating and rewiring existing lines, only increases the transfer capability of the existing network to around 6GW. Adding to the network is therefore necessary to deliver the capability needed to carry cleaner greener energy on to homes and businesses across the country. The network reinforcement between Bramford and Twinstead Tee is critical in all future energy scenarios and it needs to be in place by 2028.

The network reinforcement would also provide greater security to the network in the region and reduce the risk of outages (a period of interruption to electricity supply) from limited network availability. If the network is not reinforced, outages could result in a greater risk of widespread supply interruptions. The transmission network needs to be able to maintain a minimum level of security of supply, as defined within the National Electricity Transmission System Security and Quality of Supply Standards (NETS SQSS). The principle underlying the NETS SQSS is that the network should have sufficient spare capability or 'redundancy' such that credible planned or unplanned outage conditions do not result in widespread supply interruptions.

There is a clear need for the project, driven by the change in energy generation across the region in order to meet Government net zero targets. In addition, the reinforcement of the network would reduce the risk of outages, which could result in widespread disruptions. This will maintain NETS SQSS compliance and provide a secure supply of energy into the future.

A2 (ii) (b) Please provide details of supporting evidence. See guidance on page 1 and above in A2

Which of the following are you providing to support the statement you have made above?

Trimon or the reme tring	Trinon of the following are you providing to support the statement you have made above.				
Relevant extracts from specific documents	Reference the document name/s, relevant page/paragraph number/s and insert extracts here: Section 1: Preliminary Environmental Information Report				
Individual documents in their entirety	List the document name/s attached to your application and provide the relevant page/paragraph number/s here:				
Insert website links here and specify where exactly in the linked document or web page the evidence referred to is located:					
A2 (ii) (c) If you have not inserted the relevant extracts in the table above, please confirm the above cited supporting evidence is attached to your application.					
A3 There must be a Public Interest. You need to demonstrate that your proposal will deliver a public benefit rather than a solely private interest. Note: Planning consent (or its equivalent) is considered evidence of public interest so please ensure to reference here but only include details in the application form.					
A3 (a) Indicate the scale of these benefits: Local □ Regional □ National □					

A3 (b) Where possible, explain the scale of the primary and secondary benefits that will be achieved from your proposal, in quantifiable terms, as indicated above.

For example, this could be the number of new houses provided in proportion to the identified need (including the number of affordable units) at a local and regional scale; the number of long term employment opportunities that will be created at a local level; the level of reduced Co2 emissions at an 'X' level and any other economic benefits for the local area.

The project will provide essential electricity transmission network infrastructure in East Anglia. The network reinforcement would also provide greater security to the network in the region and reduce the risk of outages (a period of interruption to electricity supply) from limited network availability.

Offshore renewable generation is expected to grow in East Anglia and more interconnectors will be commissioned in the south coast and East Anglia. Combined with the increase in renewable generation in other parts of the country, we expect that the main driver of constraints in the long term will be the north-to south flows through the region, as well as the flows through and across the East Anglia area. A new double circuit in East Anglia, supports the export of power out of the area and reinforces the south-east area. The reinforcement continues to be 'critical' in all scenarios due to high exports from East Anglia.

A3 (c) Please provide details of supporting evidence. See guidance on page 1 and above in A2

Which of the following are you providing to support the statement you have made above?				
	Relevant extracts from specific documents	Reference the document name/s, relevant page/paragraph nuextracts here: Section 1: Preliminary Environmental Information Report	umber/s and insert	
	Individual documents in their entirety	List the document name/s attached to your application and provide the relevant page/paragraph number/s here:		
Insert website links here and specify where exactly in the linked document or web page the evidence referred to is located:				
A3 (d) If you have not inserted the relevant extracts in the table above, please confirm the above cited supporting evidence is attached to your application.				

A4 (a) Explain why the benefits of your proposal (as detailed above in A3) <u>override</u> any harm to the protected species.

The benefit/s arising from the proposal must outweigh the harm (or risk of harm) to the protected species. Generally, this means long-term public benefits rather than short term benefits (i.e. creation of permanent employment opportunities rather than temporary employment or creation of infrastructure that helps to provide long-term solutions to clearly identified national problems associated with energy demands). Please ensure you reference the species concerned i.e. the population size or common/rare species of bat and if the proposed mitigation/compensation will ensure the work is not detrimental to their population and will maintain or increase the favourable conservation status (FCS) of the species impacted by works.

The existing network in East Anglia does not have the capability to reliably and securely transport all the electricity produced by energy generating stations that will be connected to the transmission network by 2030, whilst operating to the standards it is required to. There are therefore long term public benefits in terms of this reinforcement providing a long-term solution to energy demands.

Mitigation and good practice measures undertaken would protect hazel dormouse from harm and not compromise Favourable Conservation Status of the species. Coppicing rather than complete habitat removal would be undertaken in the main, maintaining habitat connectivity in the wider area. Hedgerow fragmentation would be temporary and dead hedging would be used for the underground cable section (where up to 60m wide lengths of each hedgerow will require full removal) to maintain habitat connectivity while new planting establishes. It is therefore considered that the FCS will be maintained and may be increased in those areas where planting for mitigation creates new links between retained areas of woodland and hedgerows.

A4 (b) Please provide details of supporting evidence to verify the above, (this can be documents you are providing in relation to the FCS and Population Status tests). See guidance on page 1 and above in A2

Wh	Which of the following are you providing to support the statement you have made above?			
	Relevant extracts from specific documents	Reference the document name/s, relevant page/paragraph nuextracts here: Section 1: Preliminary Environmental Information Report	ımber/s and insert	
	Individual documents in their entirety	List the document name/s attached to your application and pr page/paragraph number/s here:	ovide the relevant	
 Insert website links here and specify where exactly in the linked document or web page the evidence referred to is located: 				
•	, •	serted the relevant extracts in the table above, please	Yes ⊠ N/A □	

SECTION B: No Satisfactory Alternative Test (NSA)

Please explain why there is no satisfactory alternative to your proposal.

A "satisfactory alternative" is a different way of achieving the objective of the activity (i.e. meeting your need) which has a *less negative impact on the protected species*. If there is a less damaging satisfactory alternative available that is feasible, then legally, a licence <u>cannot</u> be granted.

You are expected to have considered all reasonable alternative solutions when developing your proposal(s) and to have suitable grounds (and evidence) for discounting each against the proposed solution to meet the need. There are technical and non-technical elements to consider for this test and this part of your application will consider the non-technical elements – focussing on delivering the need. Alternatives can include different locations, routes, designs and construction methods. The Method Statement focusses on the technical elements of this test – i.e. reducing the impact on the species (see 'Important Note' below).

<u>Important Note:</u> Alternative mitigation (including timing of licensable works) and compensation solutions are considered as part of the FCS and Population Status tests and should be included in the relevant species Method Statement submitted with your application and not here.

B1 (a) Firstly, please explain why the current situation (i.e. the status quo) isn't acceptable or feasible, e.g. The consequences of doing nothing.

The consequence of doing nothing would be a breach of National Grid's licence obligation to provide electricity connections. The existing network in East Anglia does not have the capability to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected by 2030, whilst operating to the standards it is required to.

B1 (b) Please provide details of supporting evidence. See guidance on page 1 and above in A2.

Which of the following are you providing to support the statement you have made above?					
Relevant extracts from specific documents	Reference the document name/s, relevant page/paragraph number/s and insert extracts here: Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement: Project Development Options Report				
Individual documents in their entirety	List the document name/s attached to your application and provide the releval page/paragraph number/s here:				
 Insert website links here and specify where exactly in the linked document or web page the evidence referred to is located: 					
· , •	nserted the relevant extracts in the table above, please I supporting evidence is attached to your application				

Please use the tables below to describe each alternative considered.

Please use a separate line for each and tick the relevant reason(s) why it was dismissed. It is important to explain why each alternative was judged to be unsatisfactory or unfeasible to meet the need for the proposal put forward in your application and to provide concise supporting evidence as appropriate (*Please insert additional rows as required*). All three sections (B2, B3 & B4) need to be completed even if you think that the alternative is not applicable; you must provide an explanation as to why an alternative is not applicable and provide supporting evidence.

B2 (a) Set out <u>what</u> alternative locations and/or routes (for linear schemes) were considered and indicate how and why they were not acceptable.					
☐ 'Not applicable to situation'					
If you have ticked 'Not applicable to situation', please explain why here and include supporting evidence in B2 (b):					
Otherwise please complete this table as appropriate Won't deliver need Not feasible Greater impact of species					
Location or route 1: PSO 1 Do nothing					
Describe the location or route considered	I DAYMANTS TO CANALIST TO TACHE TACHE TO TACHE TACHE TO TACHE TO TACHE TO TACHE TACH				
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	This would be expensive and would make it difficult to meet the Government's legislated target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050				
Location or route 2: PSO4		\boxtimes			
Describe the location or route considered	Uprating 275kV lines to operate at 400kV				
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	There are no 275kV lines within the region				
Location or route 3: PS05 and PSO6		\boxtimes			
Describe the location or route considered	Uprating existing 400kV lines to operate at 800kV				
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	The UK does not currently have equipment approved for use to operate at this voltage. This would also require new pylons, substations and other equipment designed to operate at the higher voltage				
Location or route 4: PSO7		\boxtimes			
Describe the location or route considered	Replace the conductors to the highest rated system				
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	This is already a commitment in accordance with National Grid's commitment to maximise the capability of existing routes before building new ones and does not alone generate enough capacity				
Location or route 5: PSO8					
Describe the location or route considered Add further circuits to transmission pylons			ns		

Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	Whilst four circuit pylons have been built elsewhere in the world, no such pylons are approved for use in the UK. This option would also fail to address planning standards, which require that the network is designed to withstand the loss of a transmission route.			
Location or route 6: PS09	\boxtimes			
Describe the location or route considered	New connection from the Bramford to Norwich Main Overhead Line.			
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	This does not provide any additional circuits from Bramford and therefore would not resolve the current technical constraints on the network.			
Location or route 7: PSO10		\boxtimes		
Describe the location or route considered	New double circuit connection from Bramford to Burwell Main.			
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	The new connection would be approximately 60km in length and would require additional work to the network from Burwell Main. This would result in high capital costs and potential high environmental effects			
Location or route 8: PSO11		\boxtimes		
Describe the location or route considered	Southwards extension of the double circuit connection from Bramford to Rayleigh Main.			
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	This new connection would be approximately 80km in length and would require additional work to the network between Rayleigh and Tilbury. This would result in high capital costs and potential high environmental effects			
Location or route 9: PSO12	\boxtimes			
Describe the location or route considered	Connect to Rayleigh Main via Bradwell.			
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	This is associated with a likely requirement for a tunnel under the River Blackwell and would still require work to be completed between Bramford to Twinstead. This would result in high capital costs and potential high environmental effects			
Location or route 10: PSO13 and PSO14		\boxtimes		
Describe the location or route considered	Connection at Tilbury			
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	This new connection would be approximately 90km in length and would require a tunnel beneath the River Blackwater. This would result in high capital costs and potential high environmental effects			

Location or route 11: PSO15 – PSO17		\boxtimes		
Describe the location or route considered	PSO 15 to PSO 17 all sought to bypass Bramford and connect sources to locations beyond Bramford.			
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	These new connections would range between 45-70km in length and would require additional reinforcement works to maintain the network. This would result in high capital costs and potential high environmental effects			
Location or route 12: PSO18	\boxtimes			
Describe the location or route considered	Providing an additional single circuit from Bramford to Twinstead Tee.			
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	A single circuit does not increase boundary capability sufficiently enough to avoid overloads from Bramford under fault conditions.			
Location or route 14: PSO20 and PSO21		\boxtimes		
Describe the location or route considered	Providing an additional double circuit between Bramford and Pelham (PSO 20) and Braintree (PSO 21) substations.			
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	Both would require the same infrastructure as PSO 19 but require additional infrastructure at a higher cost and with additional environmental effects			
Location or route 15: PSO22				
Describe the location or route considered	Providing an additional connection between Bramford and Twinstead Tee that is fully undergrounded.			
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	Although an underground option is more expensive, this could have lower visual effects that an overhead line. This was discounted due to cost and technical grounds as well as greater ecological and archaeological impacts			
Location or route 16: PSO22		\boxtimes	\boxtimes	
Describe the location or route considered	Providing a new connection between Bramford and Waltham Cross.			
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	This new connection would be approximately 85km in length and work to substations in urban areas. This would result in high capital costs and potential high environmental effects.			
Location or route 17: Route Corridor 1				

Describe the location or route		the existing 400kV and			
considered	between Bramford an	d Twinstead approxima	ately 26km in length		
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	Identified as the lowest cost option but the introduction of a third overhead line through Dedham Vale AONB was considered to weigh significantly against the option.				
Location or route 18: Route Corridor 3					
Describe the location or route considered	New Route Corridor (approximately 26.5km	direct option to the nort in length	h of Hadleigh)		
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	This corridor was considered in response to seeking to avoid impacts on Dedham Vale AONB. However, it would introduce a new overhead line into an area regarded locally as high quality landscape, where there is presently no existing electricity infrastructure, and would involve a longer overhead line than the chosen route. The review concluded that although the route corridor avoid the AONB, it was not unconstrained in terms of planning policy and environmental sensitivities and this resulted in several of the statutory consultees and members of the public raising clear objections to this route corridor.				
Location or route 19: Route Corridor 4					
Describe the location or route considered	New Route Corridor (length	northerly option) approx	ximately 30km in		
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	This corridor was considered in response to seeking to avoid impacts on Dedham Vale AONB. However, it would introduce a new overhead line into an area regarded locally as high quality landscape, where there is presently no existing electricity infrastructure, and would involve a longer overhead line than the chosen route. The review concluded that although the route corridor avoid the AONB, it was not unconstrained in terms of planning policy and environmental sensitivities and this resulted in several of the statutory consultees and members of the public raising clear objections to this route corridor.				

^{*}Please note: you can add more rows to the table: Right click in the bottom row > Choose Insert > Insert rows below.

B2 (b) Please provide details of supporting evidence. See guidance on page 1 and above in A2.

Which of the following are you providing to support the statement you have made above?						
⊠ fro	elevant extracts om specific ocuments	Reference the document name/s, relevant page/paragraph number/s and insert extracts here: Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement: Project Development Options Report (Sections 4.1 – 4.2)				
☐ do	ndividual ocuments in their ntirety	List the document name/s attached to your application and provide the relevant page/paragraph number/s here:				

☐ Website links	Insert website links here and specify where exactly in the linked document or web page the evidence referred to is located:								
B2 (c) If you have not ins confirm the above cited s					Yes ⊠ N/A □				
B3 (a) Set out which alternative development scales or designs were considered for the chosen plot or route.									
Important note: If new infrexisting infrastructure.	astructure is	to be created explain	why the need cann	ot be m	net by expanding				
☐ 'Not applicable to sit	uation'								
If you have ticked 'Not a evidence in B3 (b):	pplicable to	situation', please ex	plain why here ar	nd inclu	ide supporting				
Otherwise please compl table as appropriate	ete this	Won't deliver need	Not feasible	Greate	er impact on species				
Development scale or Des	sign 1:				\boxtimes				
Describe the development design considered.	t scale or	Project entirely underground							
Clearly explain how and w different development sca design considered was dis	le or	Although this option of an overhead line it and duties placed up it would also have fur that on ecology and a	was discounted in on National Grid to ther/ different envir	terms of	of National Policy nomic and efficient,				
Development scale or Des	sign 2:				\boxtimes				
Describe the developmendesign considered.	t scale or	All underground sec construction methods	•	thout th	ne use of trenchless				
Clearly explain how and w different development sca design considered was dis	le or	This was dismissed as woodland to the seconds.							
Development scale or Des	sign 3:				\boxtimes				
Describe the development design considered.	t scale or	Standard open cut techniques (non-ducted) for underground cable sections.							
Clearly explain how and w different development sca design considered was dis	le or	This was dismissed as the cable trenches would be open for a longer duration during construction than a ducted solution, with longer duration of effects on habitats and species.							
Development scale or Des	sign 4:								
Describe the developmendesign considered.	t scale or	An alternative has been considered at Hintlesham Woods SSSI (Option 2). The proposed 400kV line would parallel the existing 400kV overhead line to the south, with pylons located outside of the woodland.							

Clearly explain how and why the different development scale or design considered was discounted.

This was dismissed due to the impact on a SSSI, its interest features and a barbastelle maternity roost.

B3 (b) Please provide details of supporting evidence. See guidance on page 1 and above in A2.

Which of the following are you providing to support the statement you have made above?

	the document name/s, relevant page/paragraph number/s and insertere:						
Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement: Project Development Options Report (Section 5)							
List the document name/s attached to your application and provide the relevant							
Insert website links here and specify where exactly in the linked document or web page the evidence referred to is located:							
B3 (c) If you have not inserted the relevant extracts in the table above, please confirm the above cited supporting evidence is attached to your application. Yes ⋈ N/A □							
			nsidered which would				
ıation'							
oplicable to	situation', please ex	cplain why here ar	nd include supporting				
ete this	Won't deliver need	Not feasible	Greater impact on species				
s or	or 🗆 🖂 🗆						
•	Avoiding the clearance of hedgerow, scrub and woodland in areas proposed to avoid impact of loss of habitat.						
ernative	Discounted as vegetation clearance is essential to create easement to facilitate the construction works.						
s or							
ctivity,	Undertaking some construction works by hand as opposed to by heavy plant to limit disturbance						
	Extracts here Bramford to (Section 5) List the doc page/parage Insert webs web page to extend the re upporting exting of lice are to be contained are to be contained are extended to be contained as or extended to be contained are to be contained are extended to be contained are to be contained are extended to be contained are to be contained are extended to be contained as or	Bramford to Twinstead Reinforce (Section 5) List the document name/s attache page/paragraph number/s here: Insert website links here and speeweb page the evidence referred to enter the temporting evidence is attached activities, processes or constructed the impact upon the special are to be considered within the formation? Insert website links here and speeweb page the evidence referred to enter the impact upon the special are to be considered within the formation. Insert website links here and speeweb page the evidence is attached attached attached activities, processes or constructed are to be considered within the formation. Insert website links here and speeweb page the evidence is attached attached attached attached attached activities, processes or constructed are to be considered within the formation. Insert website links here and speeweb page the evidence is attached attached attached are to be considered within the formation. Insert website links here and speeweb page to evidence is attached attached attached are to be considered within the formation. Insert website links here and speeweb page to evidence is attached attached attached are to be considered within the formation. Insert website links here and speeweb page web page to evidence is attached	Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement: Project Deve (Section 5) List the document name/s attached to your application page/paragraph number/s here: Insert website links here and specify where exactly it web page the evidence referred to is located: Perted the relevant extracts in the table above, pleasupporting evidence is attached to your application and activities, processes or construction methods considered the impact upon the species Jamings of licensable works, alternative mitigation and are to be considered within the Method Statement and are to be considered within the Method Statement and place this Won't deliver need Not feasible Sor Discounted as vegetation clearance is expressed to facilitate the construction works.				

^{*}Please note: you can add more rows to the table: Right click in the bottom row > Choose Insert > Insert rows below

Clearly explain why this alternative was discounted.	Due to the large scale of construction works required on this project this method using hand-held machinery would not be feasible and this alternative method was discounted.					
Alternative activity, process or method 3:						
Describe the alternative activity, process or method considered.	Translocation of vegetation proposed to be removed to reduce impact of loss of habitat.					
Clearly explain why this alternative discounted.	Vegetation clearance would be mostly coppicing, giving the opportunity for reestablishment.					
Alternative activity, process or methods 4:						
Describe the alternative activity, process or method considered.						
Clearly explain why this alternative was discounted						
*Please note: you can add more rows to th	e table: Right click in the	e bottom row > Choos	se Insert > Insert rows below			

b4 (b) Flease provide details of supporting evidence. See guidance on page 1 and above in A2							
Which of the following are you providing to support the statement you have made above?							
	Reference the document name/s, relevant page/paragraph number/s and insert extracts here:						
	List the document name/s attached to your application and provide the relevant page/paragraph number/s here:						
☐ Website links	Insert website links here and specify where exactly in the linked document or web page the evidence referred to is located:						
B4 (c) If you have not inserted the relevant extracts in the table above, please confirm the above cited supporting evidence is attached to your application.							

WML-A35a-E5a&b – WORK SCHEDULE FOR HAZEL DORMOUSE LICENCE



Site name and address (as stated on the application form and/or licence): Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Please ensure that this work schedule is S.M.A.R.T and appropriate timescales are provided for each activity, to fit with order of events.

Complete these schedules to show timings for all major categories of work (mitigation and compensation measures), and to show the main construction period. The most common activities are listed here, and you can add up to 6 more if needed. Leave blank if not applicable. Enter timing by stating **start and end dates, to nearest month and year** (see first line for example). Enter comments if you need to clarify timings. For very complex schemes (e.g. high impact or phased development schemes) if additional lines are needed please do add in. This work schedule will form part of any annexed licence.

E5a

PLEASE INCLUDE DATE OF SUBMISSION (e.g. 1 January 2016). This will be	referenced in the licence	April 2023
Activity	Timing	Comments
Activity (state completed and fit for purpose before licensed works due to comme	ence if appropriate)	
Example: Capture by nest box / nest tube followed by release	May 2015	Release into suitable habitat within hours of capture
New habitat creation / planting - scrub, woodland	November 2027 to March 2029 (timing dependent on construction phasing)	Woodland and scrub
New habitat planting of hedgerow	N/A	
Habitat enhancement (e.g. thinning and infill planting, etc)	November to March 2029 (timing dependent on construction phasing)	Hedgerow gap planting
Hedgerow translocation	N/A	
Coppice stool translocation	N/A	
Installation of dormouse nest boxes (pre-works)	Summer 2024 (subject to landowner approval if prior to consent)	Boxes will be installed in advance of vegetation removal commencing and left in place post construction

WML-A35a-E5a&b (06/2022) Page 1

Installation of dormous	se nest boxes (post construction)	N/A	
Construction of conne	ctivity or linking structure (state what this is)	Dead hedging will remain in situ until hedgerow reinstatement has become established	
	emoval – active season (with finger tip search)	September/October 2024	
Single stage habitat re	emoval – hibernation season (with finger tip search)	November 2024 - March 2025	
Hand searches includi	ng capture by hand	N/A	
Two stage habitat removal (above ground vegetation 15-30cm)		November 2024 - March 2025	
	Stage 2 – habitat removal (removal of root balls)	April-May 2025	Weather dependent
Capture by nest box /	nest tube, followed by immediate release	N/A	
Construction period (s	tart and end dates)	Autumn 2024 - Autumn 2028	
Site checks & mainten	ance during construction	Autumn 2024 - Autumn 2028	
Habitat reinstatement	(for temporary impact schemes only) – e.g. restoration	Autumn 2027 - Spring 2029	
Post construction mitig	gation/compensation on dev't site or other (provide details)	N/A	

WML-A35a-E5a&b (06/2022) Page 2

E5b) Post-development works - type a "Y" where each activity will occur for a given year (unless otherwise stated) and leave blank for no activity.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Population monitoring												
Connectivity or linking structure monitoring (e.g. bridge)												
Habitat management (e.g. thinning, coppicing, hedges etc)												
Site maintenance (clear out boxes, check establishment of new planting, maintenance of bridges etc)									Y	Υ	Υ	Υ

Year	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039
Population monitoring	Υ	Υ	Υ									
Connectivity or linking structure monitoring (e.g. bridge)												
Habitat management (e.g. thinning, coppicing, hedges etc)												
Site maintenance (clear out boxes, check establishment of new planting, maintenance of bridges etc)		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						

WML-A35a-E5a&b (06/2022) Page 3

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Hazel Dormice – Method Statement template to support a licence application

The Method Statement will be used to determine the impact of the proposal on the favourable conservation status (FCS) and population survival of the species concerned (Regulation 55(9)(b)) and Section 16(3B)(b)). Horizon House You are strongly advised to refer to the Dormouse Conservation Handbook. Deanery Road Bristol Please use recent photographs to support your application.



Wildlife Licensing Natural England BS1 5AH. T. 020802 61089

Important advice:

The format below must be used. Please enter text below each heading keeping information as concise as possible.

All maps/figures that will become part of any dormouse licence granted must be submitted as separate documents (with the site name and date included on the map/figure. See section I for list – all others may be included within the Method Statement document (e.g. survey maps/figures) if preferred).

A separate Work Schedule must also be submitted on form WML-A35a-E5a&b to accompany the Method Statement.

A Executive summary

Provide an overview (no more than 1 side of A4) of what works are proposed and how the impacts identified will be addressed in order to ensure no detriment to the maintenance of the population at a favourable conservation status.

This is a draft dormouse licence application submitted in support of the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement. This document is provided to Natural England to agree the approach to dormouse licence mitigation and support the issue of a Letter of No Impediment (LONI).

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (here on referred to as National Grid) is proposing to reinforce the transmission network between the existing Bramford Substation in Suffolk, and Twinstead Tee in Essex. This would be achieved by the construction and operation of a new electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km comprising of overhead lines, underground cables and grid supply point (GSP) substation. It also includes the removal of 25km of the existing distribution network and various ancillary works.

The project is located within a largely rural landscape passing through farmland, with hedgerows and belts of trees bisecting the fields which provide good connectivity for dormice to pass through. Scattered areas of woodland and scrub are present in adjacent habitats along the length of the project.

Data provided by the local records centres in 2022 showed that there are 183 dormouse records within 1km of the project. Dormouse field surveys were undertaken at 20 sites across the project in 2012, prior to the project being paused. Seven sites returned positive results for dormice and two returned inconclusive results i.e. unconfirmed dormouse nests found in survey tubes. In total, five dormice, 36 dormouse nests and two dormouse-chewed nuts were recorded. The 2022 dormouse field surveys of ten areas across the project recorded dormouse presence at five of the survey areas (Areas 1, 4, 6, 9 and 10).

As dormice have been recorded during either the 2012 or 2022 surveys (after the project recommenced) across all sections of the project apart from Section H: Grid Supply Point (GSP) Substation, and due to the abundance of suitable dormouse habitat across the project and connectivity to suitable habitat in the wider landscape, a precautionary approach is being taken in this draft application whereby if suitable dormouse habitat is present, it is assumed that dormice could be present.

It is anticipated that the removal of hedgerow, lines of trees, scrub and woodland will commence in autumn 2024 (subject to development consent) in order for construction works to commence. These habitats are considered suitable for dormice. As such, all vegetation removal works will be supervised by a licensed ecologist and will follow the methodology described below:

- Dormouse nest boxes will be installed in summer 2024 in areas of suitable habitat outside of the
 proposed works area, subject to landowner approval. Boxes will be installed in advance of vegetation
 removal commencing.
- The clearance will take place as follows: mid-September October 2024 the
 hedgerows/scrub/woodland will be removed in a single stage (including stumps and/or root balls for
 those area where complete clearance is required rather than coppicing) under the continued supervision
 of a dormouse licensed ecologist.
- If it is not possible to complete all vegetation clearance by the end of October 2024 as described above, a two-stage habitat removal process will take place as follows for woodland and scrub: Late November 2024 March 2025 the hedgerows/scrub/woodland will be cut to a height of approximately 15-30cm, under the continued supervision of a dormouse licensed ecologist. The stumps and root balls will not be disturbed. The stumps and root balls will be removed (where required) in April/May 2025 (weather dependent) under ecological supervision;
- For hedgerows, single stage winter clearance (late November to March) would only occur if it were unable to be completed earlier in the year.
- An experienced dormouse licensed ecologist will undertake a fingertip search of the sections of vegetation to be removed prior to works commencing;
- If an active dormouse is found it will be relocated to a dormouse nest box (*installed prior to works commencing*) in an area of suitable habitat outside of the works area or relocated to suitable retained hedgerow/woodland habitat; and,
- In the unlikely event that a hibernating dormouse is found in an active works area and it cannot be left, it
 will be placed into a cloth bag to prevent it warming up and relocated to an area of similar suitable
 habitat outside of the works area, if necessary, moss and leaves will be collected to ensure the
 dormouse is properly covered.

Hedgerows removed during construction will be reinstated on completion of construction. Where vegetation is lost and trees cannot be replaced in situ due to the planting restrictions associated with operational and/ or safety requirements, replacement trees will be planted as close by as practicable.

Where the underground cables need to cross a wooded tree belt the 60m wide working width would be replanted with scrub habitat consisting of low rooting species or left to naturally regenerate once the cables are installed. Trees would be unable to be planted over the top of the cables due to operational restrictions.

The Order Limits also include additional areas for new woodland and scrub planting, to mitigate for habitat lost. This planting will link to existing retained habitats. Hedgerow reinforcement will also take place to fill gaps in existing retained hedgerows. Natural regeneration of woodland is also proposed immediately adjacent to the south of Hintlesham Woods.

Landscape mitigation planting will be monitored and maintained for five years following project completion as part of the reinstatement and establishment and as set out in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). Remedial actions will be taken for any planting that fails within that period.

Dormouse nest boxes implemented by the project will be monitored for two years post construction. Three checks of the dormouse nest boxes will be undertaken each year; one in May (pre-breeding), one in October (pre-hibernation) and one check between these two times in either July or August to capture the breeding period. A maintenance check of the nest boxes will be undertaken annually where nest boxes will be cleaned or replaced, as necessary, during winter months. Data will be submitted to the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme.

B Introduction

B1 Background to activity/development:

Include a brief summary of:

 Why the activity and a licence are necessary (e.g. site preparation for a new housing development will remove hedgerows which dormice are known to nest in; the installation of an underground pipeline will require the removal of sections of hedgerow used by dormice; blocks of woodland inhabited by dormice will be removed for construction of the proposed road scheme).

The works described in this method statement are based on the Proposed Alignment that would be submitted as part of the application for development consent. This initial draft document is provided to Natural England in advance of submission of a final draft to agree the approach to dormouse licence mitigation and support the issue of a LONI. As the project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), National Grid is applying for Order Limits and Limits of Deviation within which the final alignment would lie. For the purposes of this draft licence, the Proposed Alignment has been assumed. If consent was granted, the final licence would reflect the

final alignment that would be built.

The Project

The project is located in the east of England. The project involves the reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Bramford Substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex. This would be achieved by the construction and operation of a new electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km.

The reinforcement would comprise approximately 18km of overhead line (consisting of approximately 50 new pylons, and conductors) and 11km of underground cable system (with associated joint bays and above ground link pillars).

The project crosses a county administrative boundary defined by the River Stour, with Suffolk County to the east of the river and Essex County to the west. The project lies within three local planning authority areas: the eastern part of the project lies in Mid Suffolk District (Suffolk); the central parts of the project lie in Babergh District (Suffolk); and the western part of the project lies in Braintree District (Essex). Please see Figure C5a.

Four cable sealing end (CSE) compounds would be required to facilitate the transition between the overhead and underground cable technology, one at the end of each underground cable section, i.e. Dedham Vale East, Dedham Vale West, Stour Valley East and Stour Valley West. The CSE would be within a fenced compound, and contain electrical equipment, support structures, control building and a permanent access track.

There is an existing 400kV overhead line operated by National Grid between Bramford and Twinstead Tee, where the circuits split and one continues to Pelham and the other continues to Braintree and Rayleigh. There is also an existing 132kV overhead line that is operated by the Distribution Network Operator, which is UK Power Networks (UKPN) in the east of England. UKPN distributes electricity at lower voltages to industrial, commercial and domestic users.

Approximately 27km of existing overhead line and associated pylons would be removed as part of the proposals (25km of existing 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and 2km of the existing 400kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee). To facilitate the overhead line removal, a new GSP substation is required at Butler's Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex. The GSP substation would include associated works, including replacement pylons, a single circuit sealing end compound and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400kV and 132kV networks.

Other ancillary activities would be required to facilitate construction and operation of the project, including (but not limited to):

- Modifications to, and realignment of sections of existing overhead lines, including pylons;
- Temporary land to facilitate construction activities including temporary amendments to the public highway, public rights of way, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and access;
- Temporary infrastructure to facilitate construction activities such as amendments to the highway, pylons and overhead line diversions, scaffolding to safeguard existing crossings and watercourse crossings;
- Diversion of third-party assets and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint; and
- Land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment as a result of the environmental assessment process, and National Grid's commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain.

Testing would occur once the project was constructed and prior to operation. Land would be reinstated as soon as reasonably practicable and mitigation planting may continue beyond the construction phase, based on seasonal constraints.

The Order Limits are broken down into seven separate sections.

- Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham (overhead line)
- Section C: Brett Valley (overhead line)
- Section D: Polstead (overhead line and underground cables)
- Section E: Dedham Vale AONB (underground cable)
- Section F: Leavenheath/Assington (overhead line)
- Section G: Stour Valley (overhead line and underground cables)
- Section H: GSP substation

The works associated with the project may result in the risk of direct harm, disturbance and loss of dormouse habitat. The project proposes vegetation clearance in autumn 2024 through to May 2025.

- Include the site/project name and provide an OS grid reference to 8 figures (e.g. format AB 12345678).

 Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement TM102461 (Bramford substation, Bullen Lane, Bramford, Suffolk eastern end of the project) to TL820369 (Broad Road, Wickham St Paul, Essex western end of the project).
 - Include current status of planning permission (if applicable) e.g. full planning permission with all relevant wildlife conditions discharged; permitted development; demolition with prior notification of demolition issues resolved.

N/A - NSIP (DCO)

B2 Relationship with other nearby development and cumulative impacts

B2.1 Is the current application part of a larger development project? For example, is it part of a phased or multi-plot housing development that will require more than one dormouse licence? Enter Yes, No or N/A in the text box below. If yes, note a separate *master plan* document will be required.

No

Important Advice: If yes to the above, please note that sections in <u>this</u> Method Statement on impact assessment and mitigation measures must explicitly relate *only* to impacts from the works currently proposed.

A project-wide master plan must detail the overall impact assessment and mitigation and explain where, and why, each of the dormouse licences will be required. The master plan must be included as a separate document to this application. The separate master plan is expected to take due regard of the overall project to ensure that in-combination effects are considered, and mitigation and compensation measures are both sufficient and coherent.

If the current development is part of a larger development project, summarise very briefly here how the current application relates to the larger project and how the in-combination effects are considered and mitigation/compensation is sufficient.

N/A

Important Advice: to accompany this Method Statement also include Figure. B2.1 for a Master plan overview - and see section I "Map checklist" at the end of this document.

B2.2 Apart from any mention in B2.1, please inform us of any past or future development or other projects (in the last 5 years or next 5 years) in the vicinity which may have significantly impacted or are likely to significantly impact on the same population/s of dormice as this application. You must make reasonable efforts to establish this, including discussions with your client and the Local Planning Authority – stating below what you undertook. A brief summary of the project/s should be provided including the site name and location, dates and if known the licence reference number(s).

Please note we are not expecting details of every licence/planning permission issued within the vicinity of the site – we are only concerned with projects that have the potential to significantly impact or have impacted on same population of dormice. Note: Natural England is aiming to make available licensing records from the last 5 years publically available.

A search of the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website for granted European Protected Species (EPS) licences within 2km of the project was made in May 2022. No issued licences with reference to dormice were identified.

Additionally, a review of planning applications from the local planning authority websites and other NSIP has been undertaken as part of the production of Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment. None of the applications or projects were considered likely to have significantly impacted or are likely to significantly impact on the same populations of dormice as this application.

Important Advice: locations of other dormice mitigation sites in relation to this proposal must be shown on Figure B2.2.

- C Survey and site assessment (also see section 3 of the Dormouse Conservation Handbook)
 - C1 Pre-existing information on dormice at the survey site:

Please undertake a historical data search within a 1km search radius and provide a summary of the results of this search. For example, records from local environmental records centres, local dormice/wildlife groups and previous survey work undertaken at the site is all relevant.

- Should no historical records be found from your search please state this and specify what searches you undertook.
- Note that you must not include records from National Biodiversity Network (NBN) without first obtaining written permission from the relevant Data Provider.

A desk study was undertaken to obtain historical records of dormice present within the study area. Data requests for dormice were made to the following record centres:

- Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS)
- Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
- Essex Field Club

The data requests in 2022 returned a total of 183 dormouse records within 1km of the project. Essex Field Club returned three records, Essex Wildlife Trust returned 17 records and SBIS returned 163 records.

Further to this, searches were carried out using MAGIC for other granted dormouse mitigation licence (within 2km of the Order Limits). There were no granted dormouse licences within 2km of the project.

Dormouse surveys were undertaken at 20 sites across the project in 2012. Seven returned positive results for dormice and three with inconclusive results but had likely dormouse presence (unconfirmed dormouse nests found in survey tubes). In total five dormice, 36 dormouse nests and two dormouse chewed nuts were recorded. The 2012 surveys concluded that:

- It was highly likely that dormice were present throughout the Hadleigh Railway Walk, Loshes Meadows and Sparrows Farm area in low numbers and that hedgerows provide important corridors in these locations;
- Evidence of dormouse (nests and individual animals) was found within the area to the east of Ansell's Grove. Dormice were considered highly likely to be present throughout the valley, where there is scrub and woodland habitat; and
- Layham Grove, Layham Quarry and Valley Farm Woodland areas provided a good mosaic of interconnected habitat with strong evidence of dormouse presence throughout.

ES Appendix 7.8: Dormouse Survey Report (Interim) provides further details of the 2012 survey locations and results.

C2 Status of the dormouse population: Briefly detail conservation status at the local, county and regional levels. Please complete the following table, justifying your assessment. If the status is unknown then please enter 'unknown'.

Conservation status assessment								
Local	County	Regional						
The local area is known to support hazel dormouse populations. Hazel dormouse presence has been confirmed within survey area and are considered to be present within all suitable habitats.	Dormice are present throughout Suffolk and Essex, with both counties within the regional southern stronghold of the species.	The south of England is known to support hazel dormouse and is located well within their UK range.						

C3 Survey summary: Please provide a brief summary of the survey undertaken. If standard survey effort was not undertaken please justify why.

Survey objectives were to undertake presence / absence surveys in relation to dormice, as well as to determine the use of the site by the local dormouse population across a range of habitats including woodland, scrub and boundary habitats such as hedgerows. The results of the survey were used to provide a population estimate for the site.

C4 Site/habitat description: Please provide:

- A brief description of the site including:
 - Total size of the development site (ha) (most often within the red line planning boundary)
 - A breakdown of the different habitat types the site is comprised of (ha of each habitat type present) – i.e. regardless of their value to dormice

 An indication of the habitat types on site with potential value to dormice (e.g. 4 ha habitat of ancient woodland, 400m of coppiced hedgerow; 1ha of scrub, etc), differentiating between those surveyed and not surveyed, with an explanation why.

Ensure habitat types are referenced and consistently indicated on relevant figures and tables.

The location of the site and the survey areas are shown on **Figure C5a** and **Figure C5b** respectively.

Habitat types found within the survey areas are displayed on **Figure C5b** and the habitats to be affected are shown on **Figure D**.

The total size of the development site within the Order Limits is approximately 647ha. This is comprised of the habitats listed in Table C1.

Table C1. Habitats present within the Order Limits

Habitat Type	Approximate area (ha) / length (km)
Arable	410.2
Wetland	1.35
Grassland	143.3
Scrub	9.34
Rivers and lakes	2.87
Urban	40.3
Woodland	34.0
Hedgerow	60.8
Line of trees	6.7

Of the habitat types listed in Table C1, the woodland, scrub, hedgerow and line of trees are considered to be potentially suitable for dormice depending on their location. Details of the type of species that comprise these habitats are detailed in the table below where habitat descriptions are provided for the survey areas.

 A description of adjacent areas/offsite habitats, specifying any relevance to dormice, including descriptions of habitat/s relevant to dormice connectivity to and from the site.

The project passes through a predominantly arable landscape and the habitats outside the Order Limits are similar to those within it (see **Figure C5b** for details). The project is located within a largely rural landscape passing through farmland, with hedgerows and belts of trees bisecting the fields providing good connectivity for dormice to pass through. Scattered areas of woodland are present in adjacent habitats along the length of the project. Dormice are fairly common within Sussex and Essex and are considered likely to be present within all suitable habitats (i.e. woodland, scrub and boundary features) with well-established connectivity to the wider landscape.

The boundary features are of importance to dormice as they connect dormouse populations present within wider woodland blocks, whilst also providing a variety of food and nesting opportunities.

 Please also include annotated (cross reference the habitats) and dated photographs as these are very useful as an assessment aid. These can be inserted below or submitted as a separate (referenced) document.

Survey Area Name (2022)	Photograph (taken in May 2022)	Habitat description
Area 1	Photograph 1.	Broad-leaved woodland with species such as white poplar, ash, English oak, elder, alder, blackthorn, field maple, hawthorn, willow and rose present. With ground flora comprising of wild garlic, ground ivy, dog's mercury, common nettle, clematis, honeysuckle, hedge woundwort, bramble, creeping thistle, hogweed, cleavers, lords and ladies and garlic mustard.

Area 2	Photograph 2	An area of ancient woodland. Abundant oak and ash trees, frequent field maple and occasional downy birch were present. Understory predominantly hazel, spindle and holly. Ground flora included dog's mercury, bluebell, wood anemone, wild garlic, wood speedwell, yellow archangel, wood forget-me-not, creeping buttercup, lords and ladies, primrose, lesser celandine, wood millet, early male orchid, Yorkshire fog, barren strawberry, wood spurge, common dog violet, early dog violet, creeping soft grass, broad buckler fern, bugle, remote sedge, wild strawberry, meadow sweet, pendulous sedge, hairy wood rush, wood avens, tufted hair grass, ground ivy, yellow pimpernel, wood sorrel, common figwort and cuckoo flower.
Area 3	Photograph 3	Oak dominated broadleaved woodland with blackthorn, elm and hawthorn understorey. Scrub ground flora with 25% bare earth. Along with a species rich hedgerow with trees. Species present in the hedgerow included hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and oak with ground flora species including moschatel, dog's mercury, garlic mustard, cleavers, red dead nettle, common nettle, lesser celandine, lords and ladies, cow parsley and ivy.
Area 4a	Photograph 4	A species rich hedgerow with trees adjacent to grassland. Species present included willow, hazel, elder, blackthorn, hawthorn, birch and bramble. With a ground story of cleavers, elm, dog's mercury, lords and ladies, ground ivy, thistle, hazel, stitchwort, oak, ivy, bluebell, germander speedwell, dandelion, nettle, dead nettle, common hogweed, elder, ivy and fern sp.
Area 4b	Photograph 5	Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land. Scattered scrub present with potential to support dormice. Species include <i>Salix</i> spp., silver birch and bramble.

Area 4c	Photograph 6	An area of broadleaved woodland dominated by silver birch and no understory. Ground flora included ground ivy, sparse brambles, cleavers, wood forget me not, selfheal, male fern, red campion, veronica sp., creeping soft grass. At the eastern extent a mound was present with a line of hawthorn separating wider habitats to the east.
Area 5	Photograph 7	An area of lowland mixed deciduous woodland. With canopy species including English oak, wild cherry, silver birch and Salix spp. Hazel, elder and hawthorn made up the understory. Ground flora species included common nettle, wood speedwell, bluebells, wood avens, cleavers, common sorrel, dog's mercury, common ivy, ground ivy, Rumex sp., (including wood dock). There were areas of bare ground/ leaf litter and common feather moss. Southern boundary included species such as blackthorn and snapping bonnet mushroom
Area 6abc	Photograph 8	6a – Native hedgerow with species including hawthorn, ash, blackthorn, holly and oak with ground flora species including cleavers, nettles, hedgerow cranesbill, cow parsley, false oat grass, cock's foot, barren brome and black bryony. 6b – Species rich hedgerow with one tree, in between arable fields. Species present included field maple, hawthorn, hazel, wych elm, elder, old man's beard and oak sp. 6c – Native species rich hedgerow with trees along west side of road and grassland. Some trees recently planted. Species included oak, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, crab apple, bramble, rose, hazel, apple, ash, old man's beard. Hedgerow to the south of area 6c heavily/recently flailed. Bordering two arable fields. Ground flora species included cow parsley, nettle, dead nettle, dandelion, ground ivy, cleavers, lords and ladies, dog's mercury. Tree and shrub species included hawthorn, field maple, English ivy, oak and holly.

Area 6d	Photograph 9	Large unmanaged native species rich hedgerow with tress bordering arable fields and grassland habitat possibly expanding into woodland habitat. Large number of fallen trees. Bordered by arable fields and grassland habitat. Number of trees present is approximate, large number of saplings and fallen trees not counted. Ground flora species included cleavers, creeping thistle, common nettle, cow parsley, cock's foot, cow parsley, garlic mustard, dog's mercury, common hogweed, creeping thistle and dock sp. Shrub and tree species included cherry, holly, hawthorn, blackthorn, elm sp, poplar sp., bramble and ivy.
Area 6e	Photograph 10	A native species rich hedgerow alongside a ditch, bordering an arable field. Tree and shrub species included oak, hornbeam, elder, field maple, holly, cherry hawthorn and blackthorn. Ground flora included nettle, bramble and dog's mercury
Area 6f	Photograph 11	A native hedgerow with trees, bordering arable land containing species such as field maple, blackthorn, wych elm, large leaved lime, rose, honeysuckle, holly, blackthorn, One oak tree by pylon. Ground flora included cleavers, dandelion, bramble, garlic mustard, wood avens.
Area 7a	Photograph 12	Line of trees bordering watercourse, dominated by willow.

Area 7b	Photograph 13	Historic hedgerow boundary feature (now defunct) dominated by blackthorn.
Area 7c	Photograph 14	Two sections of hedgerow present in area 7c, bordering grassland. The northern section is a species rich hedgerow with trees including hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, ash, oak, willow and field maple, with ground flora species such as common nettle, bracken, cow parsley, rose, cock's foot, ivy, dock, ground ivy, garlic mustard. The hedgerow runs along dry ditch. The southern section is a species rich hedgerow with tree species including blackthorn, hawthorn, field maple, pedunculate oak, plum tree, field maple, ash, elm and hazel. With ground species including bracken, elm, ivy, common nettle, cow parsley, common hogweed, plum tree, and red dead nettle.
Area 8	Photograph 15	An area of broadleaved woodland plantation of uniform age. On a bank that rises up to the south by 1m every 3m. Log piles were also present. Tree species included sweet chestnut, silver birch, ash, hawthorn, blackthorn, English oak and holly. Some limited ground flora included common nettle, cock's foot, common bent, bramble, false brome, wood avens and ground ivy.
Area 9	Photograph 16	An area of lowland mixed deciduous woodland, heavily used for game bird rearing. Native tree species include field maple, hornbeam and oak. Significant disturbance of herb layer with large tracts of bare ground in upper drier areas. Invasive bracken in lower areas with abundant <i>Salix</i> spp. Other tree species included dogwood, cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, dog rose and ash. Ground flora was mainly bare but did contain common nettle, common bracken, creeping thistle, dog's mercury, giant horsetail, wood dock, bramble, meadow vetchling, false oat grass, false brome, perennial ryegrass and creeping bent.

Area 10a	Photograph 17	Hedgerow present along old, barbed wire fence, along an earth track. English elm was dominant along the line of hedgerow for 250 m to 300m, some elder and holly was present along with English oak, spindle, blackthorn and hazel.
Area 10b	Photograph 18	Line of mature elm trees adjacent to road.
Area 10c	Photograph 19	A mosaic of willow plantation, native alder and drier oak dominated, open woodland with willow to 25m high, planted in lines and non-native. An area of alder to 15m running the length of the 1m wide shallow stream, approximately 50 years old with some larger fallen trees. The openness of the canopy allows a tall sward to 1.75 metres, variously dominated by giant horsetail and nettle. Occasional patches of lesser pond sedge. Some small isolated drier areas showing signs of ancient woodland with oak and hazel coppice and four herbaceous ancient woodland indicators. Species include Salix sp., elder, hazel, ash, alder, ground flora species including greater stitchwort water figwort, red campion, common bracken, wood speedwell, great horsetail, common nettle, field bindweed, hemp agrimony, hedge woundwort, creeping thistle, false oat grass, water mint and great willowherb.
Area 10d	Photograph 20	An overgrown shrubby hedgerow with trees on a deep ditch bank system. Some semi-mature oak with abundant hazel and elm. Significant bracken along upper side of bank. Other species included blackthorn, field maple, ash, dogwood and elder. Ground flora species included wood avens, dog's mercury, false brome and giant fescue. To the south-west of the hedgerow is an area of alder woodland with an understory of variously elder, blackthorn, hazel. Occasional dead standing trees, ground cover dominated by nettle, fern and dog's mercury but common nettle most abundant. There were frequent, small glades to the south-east of the stream which were much wetter, with deep

	organic soils. Dominated by willow with open stands of lesser pond sedge and frequent giant horsetail. Evidence of deer grazing and green woodpecker. Other species included brook lime, greater bitter crest and liverwort Jungermannia sp., present by stream. Enchanter's night shade, opposite leaved golden saxifrage, red currant, storks bill and field madder were also present.
--	--

C5 Field survey(s): See requirement for location map (C5a) and survey area (C5b) in Checklist I.

Please complete the following tables and add additional lines where necessary. Please enter 'N/A' if the table is not applicable to your survey:

Dates survey undertaken	Survey method	
(e.g. format 01/06/13 to 15/10/13)	(e.g. tubes/nest boxes; nut searches; other – please specify)	
,		
21/02/22 - 31/03/22	Nest tube installation	
Area 1: 60 tubes		
Area 2: 108 tubes		
Area 3: 115 tubes		
Area 4a: 30 tubes		
Area 4b: 20 tubes		
Area 4c: 65 tubes		
Area 5: 65 tubes		
Area 6a: 18 tubes		
Area 6b: 48 tubes		
Area 6c: 28 tubes		
Area 6d: 28 tubes		
Area 6e: 8 tubes		
Area 6f: 4 tubes		
Area 7a: 22 tubes		
Area 7b: 8 tubes		
Area 7c: 40 tubes		
Area 8: 149 tubes		
Area 9: 150 tubes		
Area 10a: 33 tubes		
Area 10b: 33 tubes		
Area 10c: 66 tubes		
Area 10d: 90 tubes		
w/c 09/05/22	Nest tube checks	
Comments:		
Areas 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5, 6a, 6		
w/c 16/05/22	Nest tube checks	
Comments:		
Areas 7a, 7b, 7c, 8, 9, 10a, 10b,		
w/c 20/06/22	Nest tube checks	
Comments:		
Areas 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 6b, 6	e and 6f	
20/07/22 – 27/07/22	Nest tube checks	
Comments:		
Areas 7a, 7b, 7c, 8, 9, 10a, 10b,		
w/c 15/08/22	Nest tube checks	
Comments:		
Areas 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5, 6a, 6		
12/09/22 - 22/09/22	Nest tube checks and tube collection	
Comments : Areas 7a, 7b, 7c, 8, 9, 10a, 10b, 10c and 10d		

04/10/22 – 12/10/22 Nest tube checks and tube collection

Comments: Areas 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e and 6f

Please provide surveyors names (including Class Licence registration number if applicable).

Courtney Hooper (2020-45818-CLS-CLS)
Ben Griffin (2021-52255-CLS-CLS)
Matt Owen
Frankie Hart
Eliza Eakin
Liam Maries
Ellis Watts
Evie James

Please explain any constraints on the survey/s undertaken (time of year, cold weather, refused access, safety issues preventing access etc – justify as necessary and include evidence where required). If access was refused please provide evidence (letter/email) to demonstrate this.

All surveys were undertaken in suitable conditions; no surveys were undertaken in rain or severe cold weather, when disturbing hazel dormouse could cause mortality. Surveys were undertaken within appropriate survey months during the active season. Undertaking a check of the tubes every other month is considered appropriate as per guidance set out by Natural England (2011) Interim Natural England Guidance Note: Dormouse Surveys for Mitigation Licencing – Best practice and common misconceptions. WML-G37 (12/11).

The following access constraints were encountered and are also described in ES Appendix 7.8: Dormouse Survey Report (Interim):

- It was not possible to access Area 6f during the May survey visit due to the presence of crops in the field adjacent to the hedge where the tubes were installed.
- It was not possible to check 21 tubes in area 8 and 70 tubes in area 10d in the month of May.
- Due to overgrown vegetation, tubes in Area 4c could not be accessed in the June survey
- One hedgerow in Area 3 could not be accessed in the months of June, August and October due to the installation of an electric fence surrounding a field with horses
- A hot weather warning resulted in it not being possible for surveyors to check the tubes in 6c and 6d during the June survey visit
- In July, 6 tubes in Area 10a could not be accessed due to an electric fence being installed around a field with horses
- In August it was not possible to check 6 tubes in Area 4a due to land access constraints.
- In September it was not possible to check and collect in 79 tubes in Area 8 as land access was denied

However, these constraints do not affect the overall conclusion to the results, in that desk study, field survey from 2012 and from 2022 has confirmed dormouse presence in all but one section of the project.

Please confirm (Yes, No, N/A) that a walk over survey/check has been carried out within 3 months *prior* to application submission to ensure that conditions have not changed since the most recent survey was undertaken. If 'yes' – provide the date/s undertaken and details of any changes to conditions and habitats on site since the surveys were undertaken. If no walk-over survey/check has been undertaken please explain why.

Yes - Dormouse surveys being undertaken April to October 2022.

For the final application, another walkover would be undertaken within three months prior to submission.

C6 Survey results: Summarise your findings in the tables below and cross reference to **Figure C6** (which must also include locations of positive field signs – see Checklist I). If you did not undertake a specific survey type please add N/A to the relevant table/s.

When completing "Findings" include reference to direct observations, presence of field signs, etc.

Nest tubes & nest box check results

Date (e.g. format 01/06/14 to 15/10/14)	Evidence (Yes / No)
w/c 09/05/22	No
Findings:	
w/c 16/05/22	No
Findings:	

w/c 20/06/22	Yes	
Findings: Two juvenile dorm	ice found in a tube in Area 4a	
20/07/22 - 27/07/22	No	
Findings:		
w/c 15/08/22	Yes	
Findings: One dormouse ne	st in Area 4c, one dormouse nest in Area 6d	
12/09/22 - 22/09/22		
Findings: One dormouse ne	st in Area 9, five dormouse nests and one adult dormouse seen in Area 10d	
04/10/22 - 12/10/22		
Findings: One dormouse nest in Area 1, three dormouse nests and one dormouse seen in Area 4a, one		
dormouse nest in Area 4b, four dormouse nests in Area 4c, one dormouse nest in Area 6c, five dormouse nests		
and two dormice seen in Area 6d		

Provide further (brief) comments/explanation if required:

Nut	SASI	rch	racı	ılte

Date (e.g. format 01/06/14)	Quadrat site
12/09/22 – 22/09/22	
	opened by dormice): No dormouse chewed nuts
04/10/22 - 12/10/22	
Findings: Dormouse chew opened by dormice in each are	yed nuts found in Area 9 and Area 10c. Approximately 5% of nuts checked were ea.
Findings:	

Provide further (brief) comments/explanation if required:

A nut search was undertaken in September/October 2022 for any of the 10 survey areas where evidence of dormice had not been recorded during the nest tube surveys between May and August.

C7 Interpretation/evaluation of survey results:

Guidance: Natural England advises that caution is taken when interpreting the results of dormice nest tube surveys; a common misconception is that nest tube surveys provide accurate dormice distribution data. However, usage of nest tubes by dormice is patchy and depends on a whole range of site specific factors, such as the presence of suitable locations for natural nests. Natural England considers that once dormice are detected they should be assumed to be present in all suitable habitats on site, unless there are effective barriers to movement.

Please provide the following:

A best estimate of dormouse numbers based on data collected, available habitat and published data

The results of the desk study and field surveys from 2012 and 2022 have confirmed the presence of dormice within and adjacent to the Order Limits. During the 2012 surveys five dormice, 36 dormouse nests and two dormouse chewed nuts were recorded. The 2022 surveys recorded dormice in five of the 10 survey areas, with 6 dormice and 23 dormouse nests being recorded. Dormouse chewed nuts were also found in two of the survey areas.

The scale of the project has meant that it is not proportionate to undertake a survey of all suitable dormouse habitat across the Order Limits, therefore a sampling approach was used. As dormice have been recorded during either the 2012 or 2022 surveys across all sections of the project apart from Section H: GSP Substation, and due to the abundance of suitable dormouse habitat across the project and connectivity to suitable habitat in the wider landscape a precautionary approach is being taken in this draft application whereby if suitable dormouse habitat is present dormice could use it.

As nest tube surveys are intended to detect the presence of hazel dormouse and do not enable an accurate assessment of numbers to be made, estimations of the population across the scheme have been calculated using guidance from The Dormouse Conservation Handbook (Bright et al, 2006). This states that optimal habitat (diverse deciduous woodland with abundant scrub and vigorous understorey) is estimated to support 4-10 adult individuals per hectare, oak dominated woodland with hazel is estimated to support two adults and hedgerows are estimated to support 1.3 adults per hectare.

As not all woodland within the Order Limits can be deemed to fall into the optimal habitat category and hedgerows support a lower number of dormice per hectare the average of three adults per hectare has been used to establish the best estimate of the number of dormice affected by the project, based on the amount of vegetation to be lost. With 8.8ha of suitable dormouse habitat potentially impacted by the project (based on the assumption that hedgerows are 1m wide to convert metres length to area in ha), this equates to 26 dormice.

Status and significance of the population

Suffolk and Essex are strongholds for dormice; however, the species is nationally rare and vulnerable to extinction. Dormouse populations continue to decline in number and range, with the threat to their survival primarily owing to the loss and degradation of suitable habitat.

• An assessment of the importance of the site for dormice in the context of the wider landscape, consider the site's location within the geographic range for dormice; dispersal corridors; connectivity to offsite woodland habitat, quality of habitats on site etc

On the whole, the hedgerows, lines of trees, scrub and woodland on site are considered to be good for dormice as they contain a variety of species beneficial to dormice. Although some of the hedgerows are more species rich than others, in the context of the area all hedgerows provide an important feature for dormice to use. There is also good connectivity to woodland habitat and hedgerows in the wider area.

Provide further (brief) comments / explanation if required:

Important Advice:

Survey maps that must be included in this section of the Method Statement, or as separate documents if preferred, are listed in section I "Map checklist" at the end of this document.

- **D** Impact assessment in absence of mitigation or compensation (also see section 5 of the Dormouse Conservation Handbook). Where appropriate you must take into consideration cumulative impacts of your proposals on the dormouse population/s identified in your survey in each section.
 - **D1 Short-term impacts:** The impact/s of activities undertaken on site pre-development and during works must be considered and explained. **Consider disturbance** (such as human presence, noise, vibration, use of machinery for site preparation works etc), **temporary damage and temporary loss of habitats and injuring/killing.**

Temporary and permanent habitat loss would result from the project within the Order Limits. However, most habitats would be reinstated post works, with the permanent habitat loss restricted to relatively minor areas associated with the pylon bases and hedgerow removal for permanent access tracks.

Dormice in habitats affected by the works could be disturbed, killed or injured during vegetation clearance if sensitive working methods are not in place. Individual dormice could be temporarily disturbed during the works by machinery movements and vibration. Dormouse habitat (used for breeding, hibernation and foraging) would be temporarily damaged or destroyed during vegetation removal, topsoil stripping or machinery movements. The removal of boundary features could also temporarily fragment dormouse habitat.

Overhead line removal

There will be limited vegetation removal required as part of the removal of the 132kV and 400kV overhead lines. This is because the works would be undertaken within the existing operational swathe of the overhead lines, which is already maintained to avoid vegetation from interfering with the existing overhead lines .i.e. reduced tree canopy height. Where the overhead line crosses a hedgerow, it is assumed that a 5m gap would be required to allow access through the hedgerow by construction vehicles.

Where there is a hedgerow present, the conductors will be carefully lowered to avoid damage to the hedgerow. There will be limited hedgerow lost underneath the current overhead line and this would be replaced following construction on an equivalent basis.

It is anticipated that there would be limited woodland lost as a result of the removal of the 132kV overhead line as this would lie within the existing operational swathe which is already maintained to trim the height of the trees. For the purposes of the licence the worst-case scenario is assumed i.e. woodland coppice will occur within the working width. For the removal of the 400kV overhead line, it has been assumed that a 20m working area would be required where trees would be cut to ground level (no below ground works). As this is within the existing easement, the area is currently regularly maintained to trim the height of the trees. The exception is at Dollops Wood where commitments have been made to protect the trees.

Woodland areas and hedgerows that previously were below the 132kV overhead line and would not lie beneath the new 400kV overhead line would be replanted with vegetation as close by as practicable to the surrounding vegetation or unless otherwise stated within the LEMP (for example a request for natural regeneration).

New 400kV overhead line (including CSE compounds)

Where existing hedgerows are crossed by the new overhead line a 20m working width will be coppiced to ground level. Additionally, a 5m gap will be coppiced to ground level (although existing hedgerow gaps would be used where available) to allow a temporary access route through the hedgerow with matting placed over the soil to protect the roots.

Woodland areas crossed by the new overhead line would have a 20m working width felled to ground level (no removal of roots) to facilitate construction activities. The trees would be graduated cut for an additional 12.5m on either side of the 20m working width to accommodate construction activities and conductor swing.

The working area within Hintlesham Woods along the route of the existing 400kV overhead line would be 20m wide with a graduated cut for an additional 12.5m on either side. This would lie within the operational swathe of the existing 400kV overhead line. During operation, this would be maintained at a reduced canopy height to avoid vegetation interfering with the overhead lines (as per the existing maintenance regime for the existing line).

Vegetation would be reinstated where removed for the temporary works. Hedgerow gaps created for construction of the temporary access route would be replanted or allowed to naturally regenerate following construction along with reinforcement planting along the surrounding hedgerow. Where vegetation is lost and hedgerows and trees cannot be replaced in situ due to the restrictions associated with operational requirements of planting near the line and/ or safety requirements, replacement vegetation will be planted as close by as practicable.

<u>Installation of underground cables</u>

There is only one location where the underground cables need to cross an area of woodland, this is in Section G: Stour Valley, north of Henny Back Road. At this location a 60m working width would be felled and the roots excavated to allow construction of the cable trenches and the temporary access route. Once the cables are installed, the working width would be replanted with scrub habitat consisting of low rooting species or left to naturally regenerate. Trees would be unable to be planted over the top of the cables as the roots can interfere and affect the cable rating. However, replacement trees will be planted as close as practicable as the original location.

Where the proposed cables would cross a hedgerow, it is assumed that the working area would be 60m to undertake the works. The hedgerow would be coppiced to ground level and would also have the roots removed to allow cable installation. The hedgerow would be reinstated following construction with low rooted varieties.

Figure D (impact plan) shows the areas and extent of suitable dormouse habitat that will be affected across the length of the project. The habitats to be affected are broken down into three categories: complete removal, coppiced, and pruned. This is summarised in Table D1.

Table D1. Suitable dormouse habitat affected by the project

Habitat suitable to support dormice	Complete removal of habitat (ha/m)	Coppiced habitat (ha/m)	Pruned habitat (ha/m)	Total habitat affected (ha/m)
Hedgerow/line of trees	1494m	5008m	2809m	9311m
Woodland	0.86ha	5.99ha	1.04ha	7.89ha

Minimal scrub removal will also be required across the project and the extents will be discussed in the final version of the licence.

D2 Long-term impacts: habitat loss or modification Consider and explain the impacts of the proposed works on the dormouse population at a site, local, regional, and national level.

E.g. Removal of Xha scrub habitat for railway embankment stabilisation scheme – Medium negative impact on a site level; medium negative impact at a regional level; low level impact at a national level.

Potential loss of woodland, scrub, hedgerows and line of trees may cause resident dormice to alter normal behaviours, potentially increasing their exposure to predation, increasing energy expenditure that cannot easily be replaced and so reducing their chances of survival though the winter. Habitats may also become temporarily unsuitable for foraging or nesting dormice.

Of the total land within the Order Limits (647ha), approximately 8ha of suitable dormouse habitat would be temporarily impacted by the project (based on the assumption that hedgerows are 1m wide to convert metres length to area in ha). This temporary loss is spread across the length of the project. The proposed works would be buried or installed as overhead lines. Unmitigated limited habitat loss would be permanent (0.83ha of woodland for the pylon bases and a 5m section of hedgerow for a permanent access track at the GSP substation). The majority of habitat loss would be temporary as removed vegetation would be reinstated or eventually regenerate naturally over time.

Due to the localised, temporary and reversable nature of the impact, a moderate negative impact is predicted at the local level. A negligible impact is predicted at the regional and national level.

D3 Fragmentation and isolation: Will the proposed works result in these types of impacts? *E.g. loss of linear features such as hedges, tree lines, severance of dispersal routes by roads/rail lines, loss of connectivity between existing wooded or hedgerow habitats as a result of the proposal, etc. Please explain.*

Installation of overhead lines

A 20m wide section of woodland would be coppiced to ground level where the overhead lines cross the Order Limits (no removal of roots) to facilitate construction activities. The trees would be graduated cut for an additional 12.5m on either side of the 20m wide area. This habitat severance would reduce connectivity. However, dormice are known to cross gaps of over 100m (Mortelliti et. al. 2013. Long distance field crossings by hazel dormice in fragmented landscapes. Mammalian Biology, 78, 4, 309-312). Also, scrub regeneration will be allowed under the overhead lines, but not trees which can interfere with the conductors. This would reduce impacts as it will provide suitable commuting, nesting and hibernation habitat.

Where existing hedgerows are crossed by the new overhead line a 20m working width would be coppiced to ground level. Additionally, a 5m gap would be coppiced to ground level (although existing hedgerow gaps would be used where available) to allow a temporary access route through the hedgerow with matting placed over the soil to protect the roots. However, hedgerows would be re-instated once construction is complete. Therefore, no long-term fragmentation caused by hedgerow loss is anticipated.

Installation of underground cables

Temporary fragmentation of commuting and foraging routes will occur from the works involved with the installation of underground cabling. Although the Order Limits are typically 100m wide, the construction working width would be 80m wide with the additional 20m to allow flexibility for any unforeseen circumstances.

A 60m wide working width will be felled through one area of woodland and roots of trees excavated to allow the construction of the temporary access route and cable trenches. This area would be allowed to regenerate naturally after the works, however it would be managed to keep as scrub habitat so that the tree roots do not interfere with the underground cables. Although this scrub habitat is unlikely to provide the same value to dormice as the woodland habitat lost, it will still provide suitable commuting, nesting and foraging habitat and therefore reduce the potential fragmentation impacts.

Hedgerow gaps for cable installation would be limited to 60m. Full reinstatement and replanting of hedgerow over the cable would not be possible but instead replanting with shallow rooting hedgerow species. Therefore, reducing the long-term fragmentation impacts caused by the severance of hedgerows.

Operation

The project would not create permanent dispersal barriers during operation that could otherwise contribute towards habitat or species fragmentation.

- **D4 Post-development interference impacts:** e.g. human activity as a result of new housing development, by new motorway, increased risk of predation from domestic cats, etc. Please also consider other direct or indirect post development impacts which may include disturbance/ injuring/killing.
 - E.g. Occupancy of proposed 200 unit housing development will result in an increased recreational use of retained woodland 'dormouse' areas leading to a likely increase in disturbance and possible increase in predation risk (by cats, dogs etc). Moderate to high negative impact at a site and local level.

It is considered that during operation there will be negligible post-development interference impacts as a result of

the project.

D5 Impact Summary

D5.1 Summary of dormouse habitat types to be damaged or destroyed as a result of the proposal: Please complete the following table.

Dormouse habitat type (ha) e.g. hedgerow, woodland, scrub	Total quantity of habitat to be Damaged (ha)	Total quantity of habitat to be Destroyed (ha)
Hedgerow/line of trees	2809m pruned vegetation (approx. 0.28ha)	6502m (approx. 0.65ha)
Woodland	1.04ha (pruned vegetation)	6.85ha
Scrub	TBC	TBC
Total quantity	1.32ha	7.5ha

Please ensure consistency with figures provided with section C4.

D5.2 Predicted scale of impact of this development/activity on species status: Please complete the following table to explain what impacts are likely to be at the site, local/county and regional levels.

Estimated #s of dormice likely to be affected by		scale of imp dium, High in below)		Notes (include impact on population)	
proposal	Site	County	Regional		
Approximately 26 dormice	Moderate	Negligible	Negligible	Very few dormice are anticipated to be located within habitats directly impacted by the project as they are mostly narrow widths up to approximately 20m. There are only a limited number of areas where clearance widths will be 60m associated with the underground cable installation. The majority of the habitat impacts are temporary and reversable and are not anticipated to undermine the favourable conservation status of dormice at the local, county or regional levels.	

Provide further comments/explanation as required, particularly should cumulative impacts be incurred (this information helps develop an understanding of how the impacts will be mitigated or compensated when assessing information provided in Section E):

N/A

Important Advice:

Please ensure that a separate 'Impact map' is provided (**Figure D**) which must indicate all areas and habitat types (clearly referenced) that will be disturbed, damaged and / or destroyed (please specify the level of impact on the figure). Also see section I "Map checklist" at the end of this document.

E Mitigation and Compensation (please also see section 4 & 5 of the Dormouse Conservation Handbook)

E1 The mitigation solution being proposed in the method statement should be the one that delivers the 'need' with the least impact on the dormouse population.

Please explain why this <u>design</u> was chosen over other potential solutions – clearly set out what other designs were considered and why they were not feasible (e.g. if the proposal for a road scheme will directly impact on a small section of woodland inhabited by dormice, explain why it is not possible to retain that section of woodland and to avoid the impact; if timings to undertake the works are at a time of year when dormice are breeding explain why the works cannot be timed to avoid this most sensitive period, etc).

Where design measures have been incorporated into the project to avoid or reduce impacts, they are termed 'embedded measures'. A summary of those with relevance to dormice is provided below:

- The new 400kV overhead line would reuse the existing pylons at Hintlesham Woods and the existing 400kV overhead line would be re-routed outside of Hintlesham Woods on new pylons
- For the 132kV overhead line removal at Dollops Woods the construction works would be confined to the existing maintenance swathe which is currently maintained so that there are operational safety clearances between vegetation and the existing overhead lines by maintaining a reduced tree canopy height. This will limit the impacts on dormice.
- The working area for the GSP substation has been adjusted to avoid impacts to the woodland present to the north and south.
- No trees are anticipated to be removed at Alder Carr although trees may require some pruning of overhanging branches to avoid damage from construction vehicles.
- Existing hedgerow gaps and existing maintenance swathes through woodland will be used where available.
- Limited vegetation removal will be required for the removal of the existing 132kV and 400kV overhead lines as the works will be undertaken within the existing maintenance swathe, which is already maintained to avoid vegetation from interfering with the overhead lines by maintaining a reduced tree canopy height.
- Hedgerows that are crossed by the new overhead lines will be coppiced to ground level and matting will be
 placed over the soil to protect the roots. The gaps will be 5m wide to allow a temporary access route through
 the hedgerow during these temporary works.
- Four trenchless crossings are proposed at the River Box, River Stour, Sudbury Branch Railway Line and to the south of Ansell's Grove.

E2 Methodology

E2.1 Search and clearance of dormouse habitat: Please provide details on the areas involved in search and clearance of habitat (this detail must be in line with impacts **Figure D**). If not applicable to your proposals please state 'N/A' in the relevant text boxes. Also note requirement for **Figure E2**.

Single-stage habitat clearance	
Details of dormice habitat to be cleared following the sing Dormouse Conservation Handbook)	le-stage clearance technique (as defined in the
Quantity of habitat to be cleared	7.89ha woodland, scrub TBC and 9311m hedgerow
Description of the habitat types to be cleared	Hedgerows, woodland and scrub
Clearance to be undertaken within best practice timing of April – May (inclusive) and/or mid-September – October (inclusive)	☐ Yes ☒ No If No, please provide details of proposed timing and justification Where hedgeow clerance is incomplete by October, winter clearance would be undertaken under supervision following finger tip searching. Any occupied hibernation nests would be relocated to a safe location in an area of similar suitable habitat outside of the works area.
Confirm that a maximum of 0.25ha is to be cleared per day, on successive days	☐ Yes ☒ No Estimated number of days TBC If No, please provide details and justification Given the size of the project it is proposed to clear 50m of hedgerow per day on multiple hedgerows across the site and a maxiumum of 0.25ha woodland and scrub per day in multiple areas on site. A persuasion technique will be employed to displace dormice into retained habitat with clearance taking place in a directional and progressive manner to direct dormice into optimal habitat. The location of the multiple clearance areas each day will be programmed so as to not remove the whole of a home range for the dormice in a particular area on site.
Tools to be used	Hand tools Yes No Other as specified: A combination of hand tools

	and machinery such as tree shears will be used
	as appropriate.
Measures to maintain connectivity to retained habitat (if applicable), i.e. dead hedging	Dead hedging will be used for the underground cable section of the project once the ducts are installed to temporarily maintain connectivity where 60m wide lengths of each hedgerow will require removal. The dead hedging will remain in place until reinstated vegetation is established.
Other:	
Two-stage habitat clearance	
Details of dormice habitat to be cleared following the two- Dormouse Conservation Handbook)	stage clearance technique (as defined in the
Quantity of habitat to be cleared	The quantity of habitat will be the remaining habitat that was not cleared via the single stage clearance as described above. Therefore the exact quantity of habitat to be cleared by this method is unknown but a worse case scenario would be that all dormouse habitat would be cleared via this method:
	7.89ha woodland, scrub TBC and 9311m hedgerow
Description of the habitat types to be cleared	Hedgerows, woodland and scrub
Clearance to be undertaken within best practice timing	⊠ Yes □ No
of stage one in November – March (inclusive) and stage	Estimated number of days/ weeks TBC
two in April – May (inclusive)	If No, please provide details and justification
Tools to be used	Hand tools ☐ Yes ⊠ No
	Other as specified: A combination of hand tools and machinery such as tree shears will be used as appropriate.
Measures to maintain connectivity to retained habitat (if applicable), i.e. dead hedging	Dead hedging will be used for the underground cable section of the project to maintain connectivity where 60m wide lengths of each hedgerow will require removal.
Other:	

E2.2 Capture and release (if applicable):

Please confirm that you agree to undertake the following procedures if a dormice is encountered during works:

Where active dormice are discovered during works and it is possible to allow them to move independently to safe habitats, outside high risk work areas, this will be the first course of action. Where this is not possible, either:

- In the active season, dormice that are active or torpid will be relocated in their existing nest to suitable habitat, or a specially erected dormice nest box (if applicable), within 100m of the 'capture' location.
- During hibernation, dormice found outside high risk areas, such as haul routes, must remain in situ. Where hibernating dormice need to be moved, the existing nest must be relocated, with surrounding material, to a location within 100m of this site similar in condition and aspect to the existing hibernation nest location. It must then be covered by suitable material, i.e. a log or clay tile for protection. In the unlikely event of the animal rousing from hibernation it should be taken into captivity until it can be released within 100m of its capture site at a suitable time.

Where a breeding nest is discovered, works must stop and provision be made for the nest to remain in situ, undisturbed and connected to contiguous habitat, until the young have been weaned and allowed to disperse naturally. Only following dispersal of all young from the nest shall licensable works in this location re-commence.

	Yes, I agree / No, I don't agree
Yes	

If NO, please provide justification below. Please use this text box to describe any additional information on protocols to be employed if dormice are found during works.

٠.		٠	,	
П	N	ı	/	Λ
ш	١,	M.	Ι.	_

Should your proposals include capture (taking) and release please see requirements for Figure E2 (in Checklist I) and specify below:

• Numbers of dormice that are likely to be affected <u>at the time the works are to be undertaken</u>. Note: this may be different to the maximum number of dormice estimated during survey as timings for works should be at a time when dormice are least likely to be directly impacted.

26 dormice

E3 Dormouse compensation: Please detail how all impacts to dormice (as identified in section D) will be compensated. If not applicable to your proposals please state 'N/A' in the relevant boxes (also note requirement for **Figure E3 and E4** below).

E3.1 Enhancement and / or restoration of dormouse habitat – Provide details of all works including:

Enhancement measure Select 'yes' or 'N/A' if not applicable to this application	Quantity	Details of location (must also be clearly shown on Figure E3)	Additional details i.e. species composition, size of whips (where applicable)
Hedgerow gap planting ☑ Yes □ N/A	Length (m) 1945	Seven areas across the project: Section AB:Bramford Substation/Hintlesham (3) Section D: Polstead (1) Section E: Dedham Vale AONB (1) Section F: Leavenheath/ Assington (1) Section G: Stour Valley (1).	Field maple (10%), hazel, (20%), hawthorn (20%), spindle (5%), holly (10%), blackthorn (20%), dog rose (5%), elder (10%)
Hedgerow translocation ☐ Yes ☑ N/A	Length (m)		
Coppice stool translocation ☐ Yes ☑ N/A	Area (ha) / length (m)		

Habitat re- instatement / restoration ☐ Yes ☐ N/A	Area (ha) / length (m) 6502m	All hedgerow removal sections will be reinstated on completion of construction.	ield maple (10%), hazel, (20%), hawthorn (20%), spindle (5%), holly (10%), blackthorn (20%), dog rose (5%), elder (10%)
Woodland thinning / coppicing	Area (ha)		
☐ Yes ⊠ N/A			
Woodland infill planting to increase species diversity	Area (ha)		
☐ Yes ⊠ N/A			
Other: Coppiced regrowth	7.7ha	Areas of woodland coppiced for overhead line installation/removal	N/A

E3.2 Creation of new habitat – Provide details of all works including:

Compensation measure Select 'yes' or 'N/A' if not applicable to this application	Quantity	Details of location (must also be clearly shown on Figure E3)	Additional details i.e. species composition, size of whips (where applicable)
New hedgerow planting ☐ Yes ⊠ N/A	Length (m)		
New scrub planting ☑ Yes ☐ N/A	Area (ha) 6.6ha	Several areas across the project: Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham Section D: Polstead Section F: Leavenheath/Assington	Hazel (20%), hawthorn (20%), holly (10%), privet (5%), blackthorn (15%), dog rose (10%), elder (20%)
New woodland planting Yes N/A	Area (ha) 8ha	Several areas across the project: Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham Section F: Leavenheath/Assington Section G: Stour Valley	Field maple (10%), silver birch (15%), hazel (10%), hawthorn (5%), holly (10%), privet (5%), blackthorn (5%), oak (25%), elder (5%), lime (10%)
Nest box installation	Number Approximately 10 at	7 indicative areas shown on Figure E3	Nest boxes will be installed within woodland areas during Summer

⊠ Yes □ N/A	seven locations		2024 (subject to landowner approval) and will be installed in advance of vegetation removal commencing.
Connectivity / linking structures (e.g. dead hedging) Yes N/A	Approximately 1440m	Dead hedging will be used for the underground cable section of the project to maintain connectivity where 60m wide lengths of each hedgerow will require removal.	Dead hedge to be constructed as soon as works in that area are complete and topsoil returned.
Other: Natural regeneration of woodland	1.9ha	One location immediately adjacent to the south of Hintlesham Woods	Existing cropland will be left to naturally regenerate into woodland.

E3.3 Summary of compensation – please summarise the total quantity of dormice habitat to be enhanced and / or provided as compensation.

Total quantity of dormice habitat enhanced / restored (total of Table E3.1) in ha / metres	8.54ha (includes 8447m hedgerow reinstatment and gap planting which equates to approx 0.84ha)	Total quantity of dormice habitat created (total of Table E3.2) in ha / metres	The total above does not include dead hedging
--	---	--	---

Provide further (brief) comments/explanation if required: Note that compensation measures are expected to result in <u>no net loss</u> of dormice habitat. If your proposals will result in an overall net loss of available dormice habitat please provide full justification on how the favourable conservation status of the population will be maintained.

Hedgerows removed during construction will be reinstated on completion of construction. Where the underground cables need to cross one wooded tree belt, once the cables are installed, the 65m wide construction working area would be replanted with scrub habitat consisting of low rooting species or left to naturally regenerate. Where trees are lost and cannot be replaced in situ due to the restrictions associated with operational and/ or safety requirements, replacement trees will be planted as close by as practicable to the original location.

The Order Limits also include additional areas for new woodland and scrub planting, to mitigate for habitat lost. This planting will link to existing retained habitats. Hedgerow reinforcement will also take place to fill gaps in existing retained hedgerows. Natural regeneration of woodland is also proposed immediately adjacent to Hintlesham Woods. Further details can be found in the LEMP.

Taken in combination, there would be no net loss of dormouse habitat.

If you are proposing **enhancement** of existing habitat, please provide details to justify that the existing habitat is in need of enhancement and / or has the potential to be enhanced.

NI/A		
I N/A		

E3.4 Bridges and other permanent linking structures *Note – creation of dormouse bridges to mitigate for fragmentation impacts for high impact cases must be protected in the long term.* Please provide details of:

- Planting
- Siting, including why and how area/location for creation was selected
- 8-figure grid reference on location
- Design (including length, width, height, installation details and materials to be used)
- Evidence (if necessary) to provide reassurance that such a design is used or will be used by dormice (also see requirement for **Figure E3** and the need for long term site safe guard, security and monitoring and maintenance of such a mitigation measure in section E4).

N/A

E3.5 Wider biodiversity gains:

Please indicate if enhancements, over and above what is necessary to mitigate the impact of the activity of the licence proposal, are being provided. Please indicate if enhancements are included to satisfy the requirement of a planning permission, and if so state the relevant planning condition, or other consents in your response below. Please also state if an applicant wishes to provide more than is typically required to mitigate for the impacts. Enter N/A if this is not applicable to your application.

Note: Any licence granted will only cover mitigation and compensation required to fulfill licensing requirements, but will acknowledge additional biodiversity enhancements to be provided.

National Grid has committed to delivering at least a 10% biodiversity net gain on this project. Wider biodiversity gains, not detailed here, would be detailed in the Environmental Gain Report. The project includes landscape planting which would result in a net increase in good quality dormouse habitat and will strengthen connectivity between reinstated and existing woodland and hedgerows, although this would not be realised as a resource for dormice until the operational phase of the project and once the landscaping is sufficiently established.

Important Advice:

Scaled maps/plans of mitigation/compensation must be provided as <u>separate</u> maps/figures (also **see section I** "Map checklist" at the end of this document for more detail). Please remember to date your maps/figures and include a relevant site name and / or grid reference.

- **Figure E2** to show search and clearance of dormouse habitat and indicate which areas will be subject to the different methodologies showing direction of displacement where applicable (ensure this is clearly labelled and consistent with other mandatory maps/figures).
- **Figure E3** to show specifications for mitigation / compensation to be provided, and or retained/enhanced habitats, and annotate where it will be provided. Indicative locations of dormouse boxes must also be shown. Should the scheme be large or complicated it may be necessary to submit more than one figure (note: this will be necessary should linking structures be required see Checklist I as the design detail must also be provided). For development schemes, include the final development layout.

NOTE: It must be possible to compare these with the survey results plan (Figure C6) and 'Impacts' Figure (D).

E4 Post-development site safeguard: Further guidance and explanation on post-development monitoring requirements are included within our 'How to get a licence' document: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/lmages/wml-g12_tcm6-4116.pdf.

E4.1 Habitat/site management and maintenance:

Is any specific post-development habitat management and site maintenance planned? If 'Yes' include the following:

- The period (years and months) for which habitat management and maintenance will take place. Ensure that this is consistent with the post development works detailed in section **E5b** of the **Work Schedule document, WML-A35a-E5a&b**.
- Detail <u>what</u> will be undertaken in terms of habitat management and site maintenance required to ensure long-term security of the dormouse population. Ensure this relates to **Figure E3**.

Habitat Management	Required?	What measures will be undertaken?	Timing i.e. first 5 years following completion of development
☐ No habitat management required			dovolopmoni
Hedge management	Yes ⊠ N/A □	Regular inspections to identify any significant deterioration in plant health. Replanting of dead/dying plants to ensure connectivity (ie. no gaps) and desired species-rich composition. Weed control, re-firming of stakes and shelters, formative pruning, fertiliser application. Periodic cutting to keep hedges dense and bushy.	Years 1-5 post works, during the five year maintenance contract.
Woodland management	Yes ⊠ N/A □	Regular inspections to identify any significant deterioration in plant health. Replanting of dead/dying plants to ensure desired species-rich composition and successful establishment. Weed control, re-firming of stakes and shelters, formative pruning, fertiliser application. Thinning and coppicing of plants as required to promote bushy, dense growth.	Years 1-5 post works, during the five year maintenance contract.
Scrub management	Yes ⊠ N/A □	Regular inspections to identify any significant deterioration in plant health. Replanting of dead/dying plants to ensure desired species-rich composition and successful establishment. Weed control, re-firming of stakes and shelters, formative pruning, fertiliser application. Thinning and coppicing of plants as required to promote bushy, dense growth.	Years 1-5 post works, during the five year maintenance contract.
Other as specified:	Yes ☐ N/A ⊠	,, ,, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Site Maintenance	Required?	What measures will be undertaken?	Timing i.e. first 5 years following completion of development
☐ No site maintenance required			
Check success of establishment of new planting and take remedial action if required	Yes ⊠ N/A □	ite inspections of the landscape and ecological maintenance works as part of the five years landscape maintenance set out within the LEMP. Maintenance actions will include: - removal of lables, tubes,	Years 1-5 post works, during the five year maintenance contract.

		canes, guards and ties - weed control - inpection and replacement of any missing, defective, diseased or dying plants - watering at the frequency required to ensure establishment and survival	
Maintain dormouse bridges / connecting structures in good condition	Yes ☐ N/A ⊠		
Clear material in nest boxes to maintain condition	Yes ⊠ N/A □	Annual winter maintenance visit afer deployment up to and including the first two years of the five year maintenance contract.	Annual winter maintenance visit afer deployment up to and including the first two years of the five year maintenance contract.
Other as specified:	Yes 🗌 N/A 🗌		
Provide further (brief) comments/explanation if required:			

Note – for phased or multi-plot developments a separate habitat management and maintenance plan is required, which must be submitted with the master plan: see guidance on phased developments.

Important Advice:

Please include **Figure E4** as a separate figure to show which structures and habitats will be managed, maintained and monitored post development as part of your proposal – also see section I "Map checklist" at the end of this document).

E4.2 Population monitoring, habitat usage etc: Where required, please include details of:

Timing – state the years and months post development monitoring or other will be undertaken.
 Ensure that is consistent with the post development works detailed in section E5b of the Work Schedule document WML-A35a-E5a&b.

The dormouse nest boxes (approximately 10 boxes installed at seven locations (see Figure E3)) will be monitored for two years post construction. Three checks of the dormouse nest boxes will be undertaken each year; one in May (pre-breeding), one in October (pre-hibernation) and one check between these two times in either July or August to capture the breeding period. A maintenance check of the nest boxes will be undertaken annually after deployment where nest boxes will be cleaned or replaced, as necessary, during winter months. This monitoring will commence in, the year following completion of the works and continue for two years. Data will be submitted to the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme.

 The type of monitoring which will be undertaken (e.g. nut searches, nest tube/nest box survey, hair tubes, camera traps, etc) – include survey methods and equipment to be used as necessary.

Dormouse nest box surveys.

 Specify which compensation/mitigation measures will be subject to monitoring (and ensure these are clearly referenced on Figure E4).
 Note: any bridges or linking structures deployed must be monitored.

The dormouse nest boxes deployed prior to works (approximately 10 boxes installed at seven locations (see Figure E3)) will be monitored each year (for two years post construction)

Please note that it will be a requirement of the licence to undertake remedial action should monitoring identify that further management/maintenance is required of any compensation/mitigation measure provided (e.g. dormouse nest boxes or bridges/linking structures) to ensure that they are working effectively and are fit for purpose.

Important advice: Please always consider whether any *post development* monitoring effort should be staggered over alternate years in cases where use of the compensation measures may not occur in the same year of provision.

E4.3 Mechanism for ensuring safeguard of mitigation/compensation and post-development management, maintenance and monitoring works:

Please explain what mechanism is in place to ensure safeguard of mitigation/compensation provisions (e.g. Restrictive Covenant, clause to relinquish future development rights in S106 agreement, NERC Act agreement, explicit recognition of site in local planning documents, designation as County Wildlife Site or similar.) The need for this, and the type of mechanism, will vary with the scheme and impact. For substantial impact schemes, some mechanism is always required. If you offer no specific mechanism, explain how you believe the population will be free of threats as far as can be reasonably determined (the expectation of the granting of a licence should not be used for this purpose).

All mitigation / compensation provisions will be secured through the Development Consent Order.

Explain how all post-development works (management, maintenance (including remedial action) and monitoring, as appropriate) will be ensured? Include a commitment that the monitoring, habitat management and maintenance work will be undertaken. Mechanism/s for ensuring delivery must be in place before applying for a licence (also see Section F).

National Grid will be responsible for all management, maintenance and monitoring of essential mitigation provided as part of the project for five years post construction at which point the maintenance of the planting would be handed back to the landowner, unless on land that National Grid has acquired for the permanent works.

E5 Timetable of works: Please complete the Work Schedule document WML-A35a-E5a&b found on the 'dormouse' application form web page and append to your application pack.

Important Advice: Please note that from July 2014 a separate Work Schedule is a mandatory requirement to support a <u>new</u> dormouse licence application when using this template.

F Declarations

If the mitigation/compensation area/s is/are not owned by the applicant, you must have consent from the relevant land owner(s). You must have also secured details of how any measures to maintain the population in the long term will be achieved (e.g. a legal agreement).

- F1 Declaration Statement(s) You must <u>include</u> the following declarations within your Method Statement and include the appropriate answer (Yes/No/Not applicable):
 - **F1.1 Re: section E1 -** I confirm that relevant landowner consent/s has/have been granted to accept dormice onto land outside the applicant's ownership:

Select

F2.2 Re: section E2 - I confirm that landownership consent/s has/have been granted to allow the creation of the proposed compensation on land outside the applicant's ownership

Select

F2.3 Re: section E3 - I confirm that consent/s has/have been granted by the relevant landowner/s for monitoring, management and maintenance purposes on land outside the applicant's ownership

Select

Comments if applicable:

Unsecured consents statement:

If you have been unable to secure consents for any of the three declarations please explain why and detail any plans you have in place to obtain the consent(s) or provide details of any right(s) or agreement(s) that will enable the lawful implementation of the proposed mitigation, compensation and monitoring. Failure to provide the appropriate landowner consents means that the Method Statement is unlikely to meet the requirements for the FCS test to be met. It is therefore in your interest to ensure that the appropriate consents have been secured *before* applying for a licence.

G References: List any references cited, and include credits for source information.

H Annexes (supporting documents please append to your application pack)

H1 Pre-existing survey reports;

H2 Raw survey data.

I Check list of figures to be submitted with each Dormouse Method Statement

With your Method Statement and supporting documents please submit the following maps/figures – see table below. Note that some can be included within the Method Statement itself (if preferred) and others must be submitted <u>individually</u> (i.e. separate documents).

Maps/Figures must include the title, site name as referenced on your application form, date and figure reference. If a grid reference is more applicable (e.g. a dormouse bridge is being provided please include this). Include a scale bar (appropriate to the situation e.g. 100m on site maps, 1km on location maps) and direction of North etc.

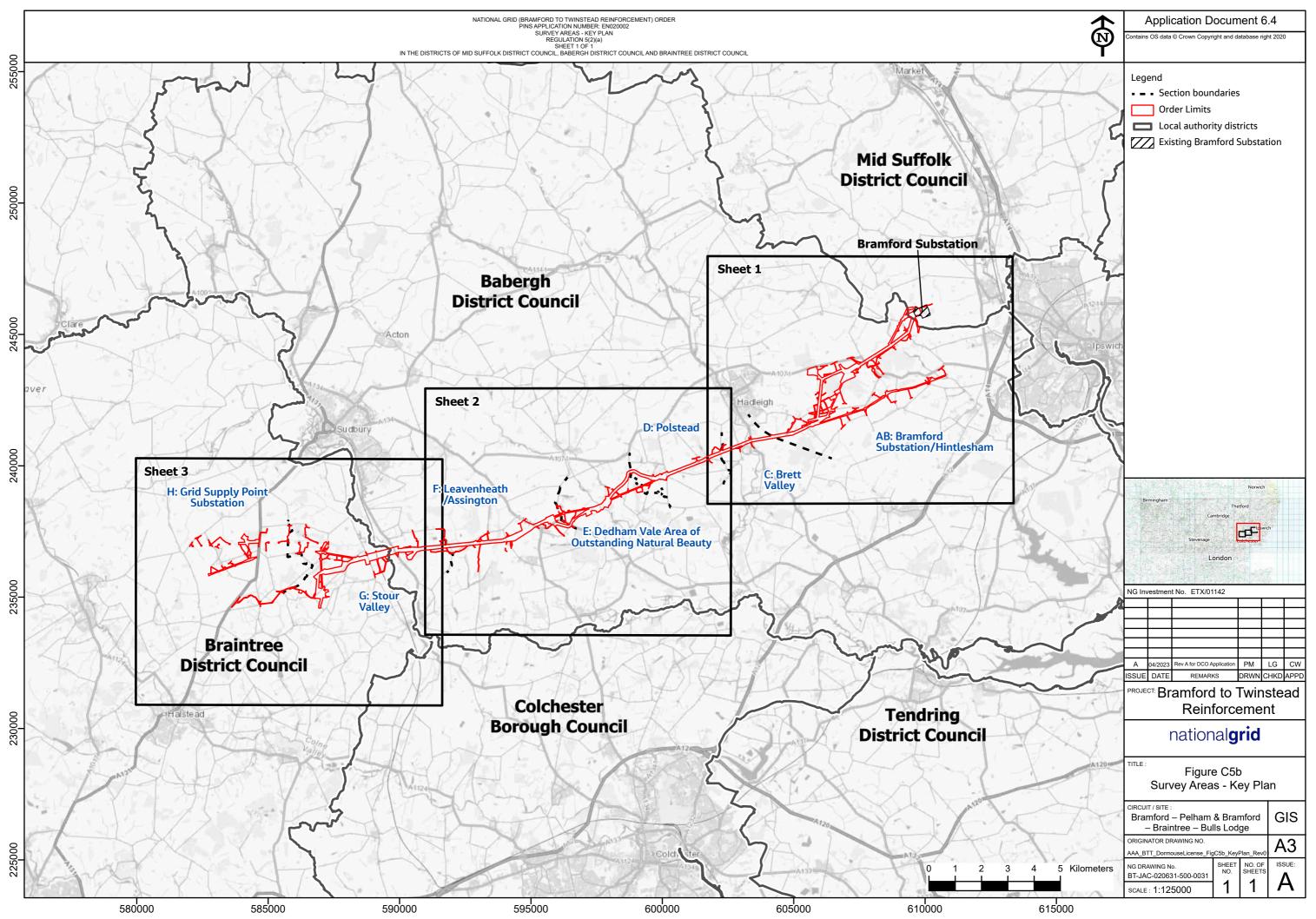
Additional maps, photographs or diagrams should be included where necessary to adequately explain the scheme.

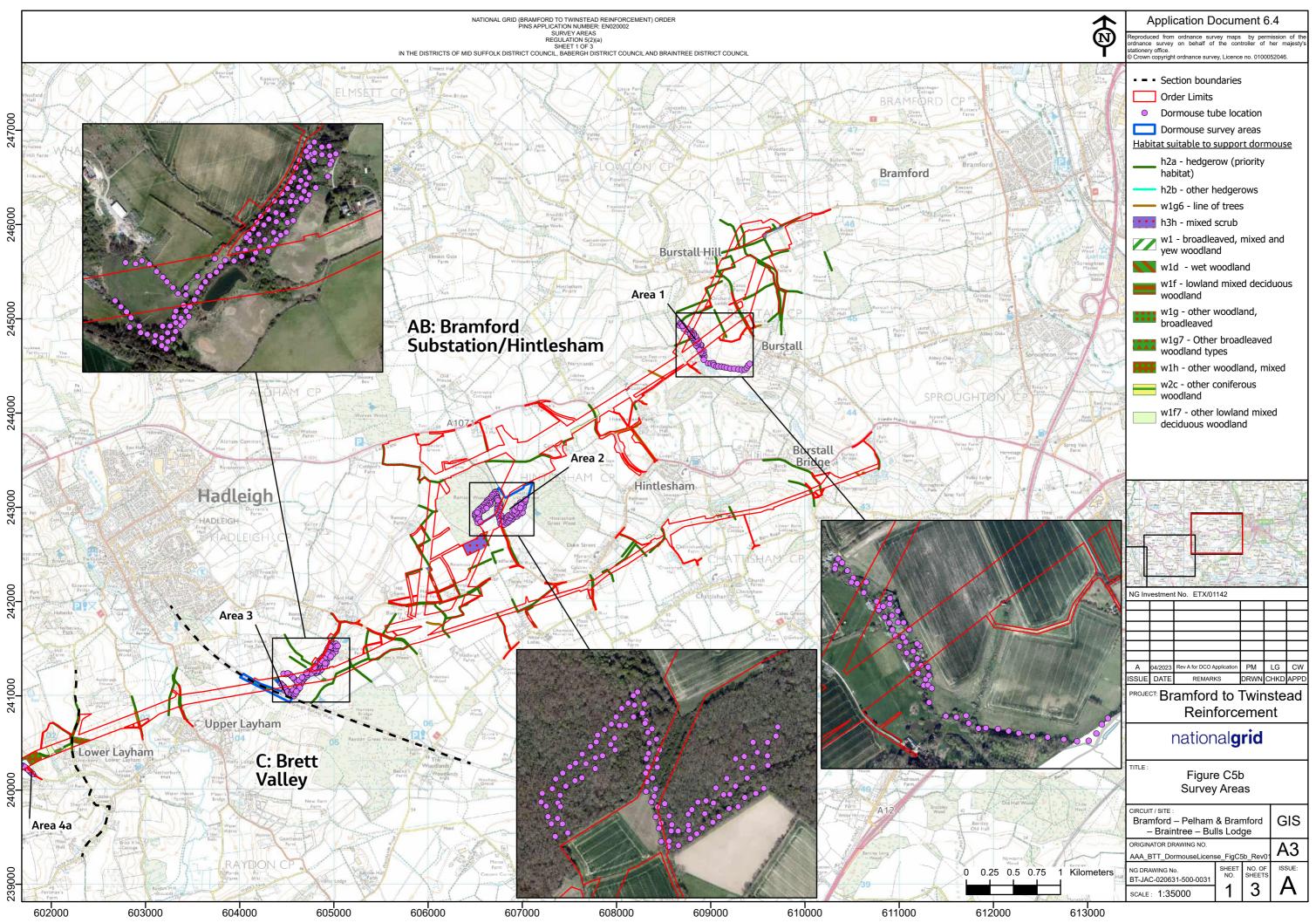
Figure reference	Mandatory as will be included in the dormouse licence, if applicable	Mandatory for assessment purpose only, but will not be included in the dormouse licence	What it must show (also see details above on site reference, dating and naming).
Figure B2.1	Yes, if the application is part of a phased or multi-plot development where more than 1 licence is required	-	Master plan overview- note – this is not the same as a master plan document, for which you should follow the guidance as stated in section B2.1.
Figure B2.2	-	Yes, if applicable	Locations of other nearby dormouse licensed sites, or sites which will be impacted on by future development.
Figure C5a	-	Yes	Location map at an appropriate scale for the application (often 1:50,000 or 1:25,000)
Figure C5b	-	Yes	Survey area showing all habitats that are within the survey area and distinguishing those that were surveyed and those that were not. Aerial photographs should be provided where possible (ensure you have permission to use copy righted maps). If boxes or tubes were used or transect/quadrat routes, ensure that these routes are indicated as appropriate.
Figure C6	-	Yes	Survey results - provide clear, annotated and cross- referenced maps/plans/photographs to show the

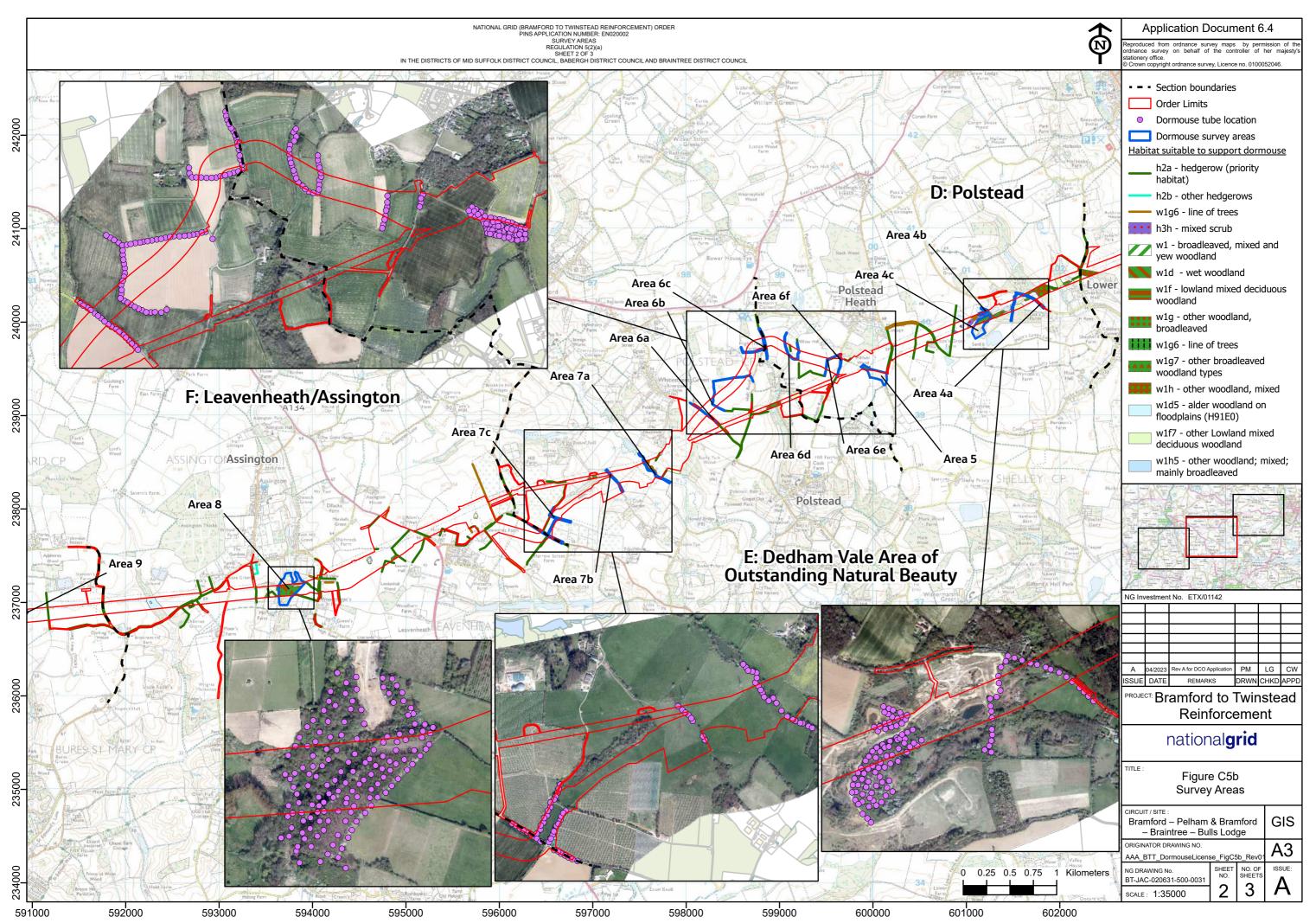
Figure D	Yes	-	survey results (location of nests/dormice, etc). Ensure Figure is at a suitable scale to show the results. Impacts plan – map/figure to show impacts and
rigule D	165		where licensable works will take place: clearly indicate areas of habitats and habitat types to be impacted by the works (specify whether damage, and temporary impacts, destruction or disturbance will occur).
Figure E2	Yes	-	Locations and habitats where all capture and exclusion activities will be undertaken (ensure this is clearly labelled and consistent with other mandatory maps/figures). Indicate direction of displacement with arrows.
Figure E3	Yes – depending on proposals more than one figure may be required – particularly if the proposal is large	-	Specifications for mitigation / compensation Mitigation / compensation figures must show all habitat creation, restoration/enhancement, indicate where boxes will be erected etc. For development projects, show the final development layout within the site.
	or complicated or linking structures are provided		Non-standard structures: Include design and dimensions for dormice bridges / other linking structures and materials to be used etc and provide an 8-figure grid reference for each structure.
Figure E4	Yes – when monitoring and maintenance will be included in the licence	-	Monitoring, management and maintenance map. Please indicate the specific structures and habitats that are to be managed, maintained and monitored as part of this licence proposal. Ensure that they are correctly referenced and are consistent with other parts of the Method Statement and figures.

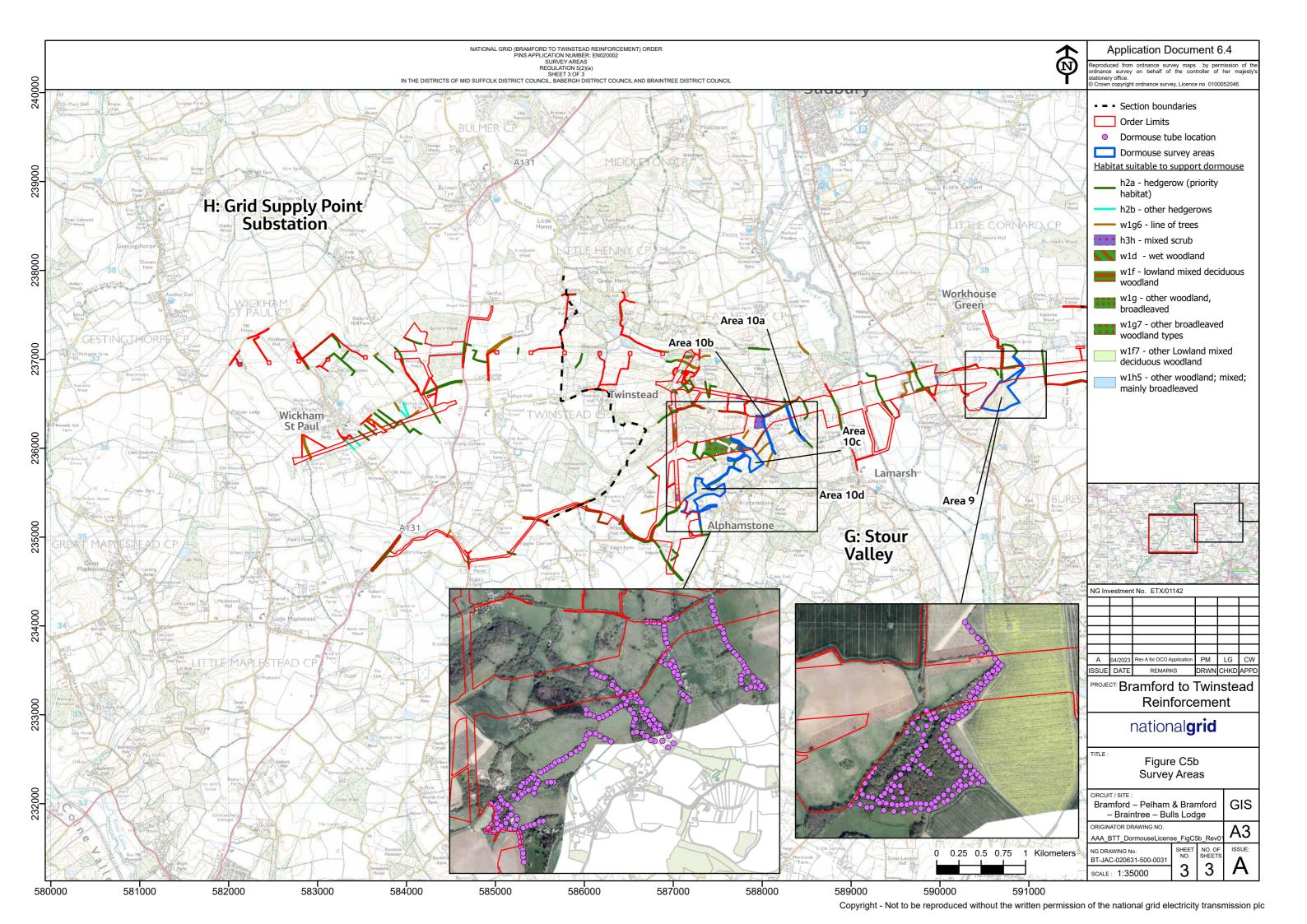
Figure C5a – Location Plan

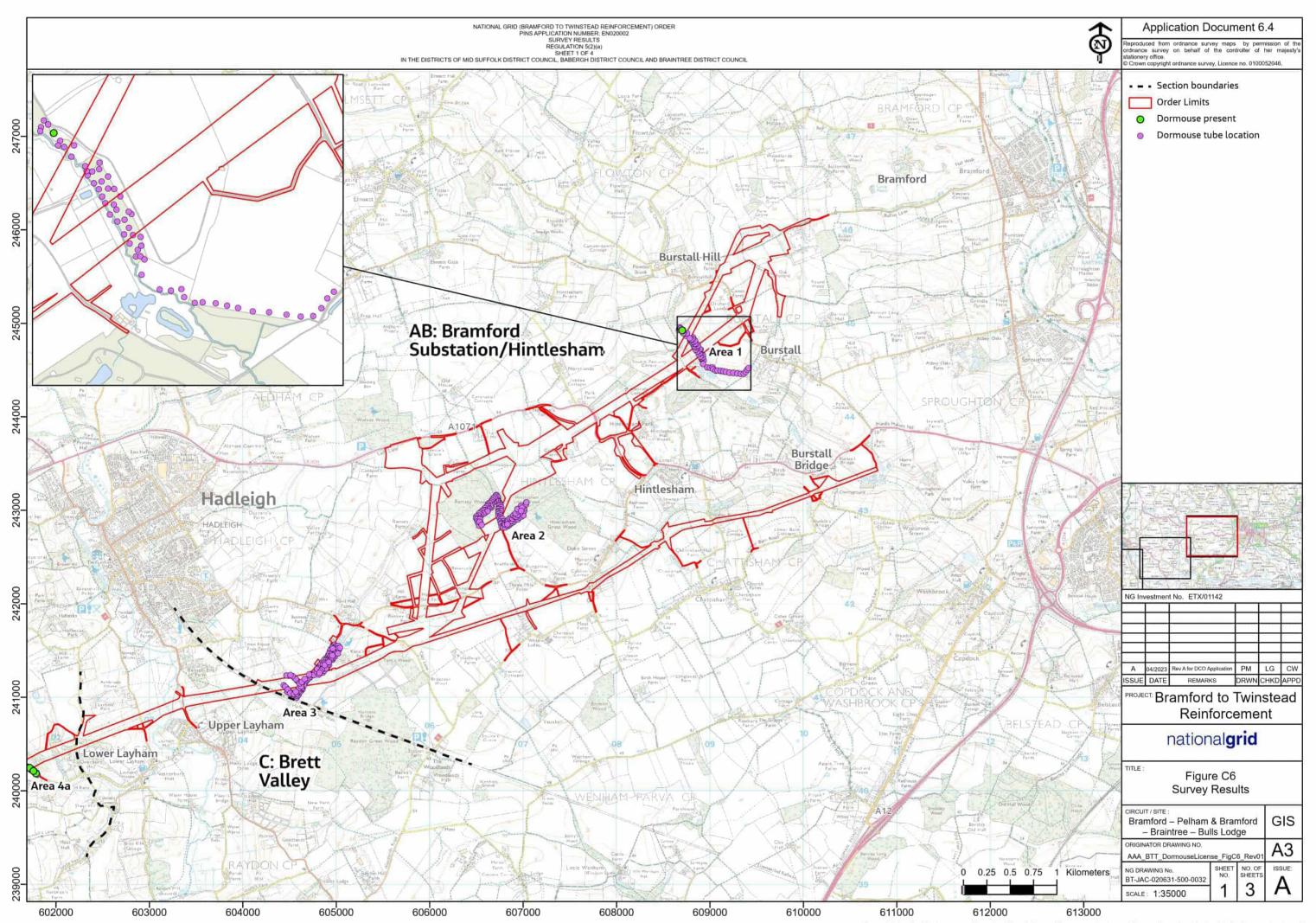
See Figure 4.1 (application document 6.4)

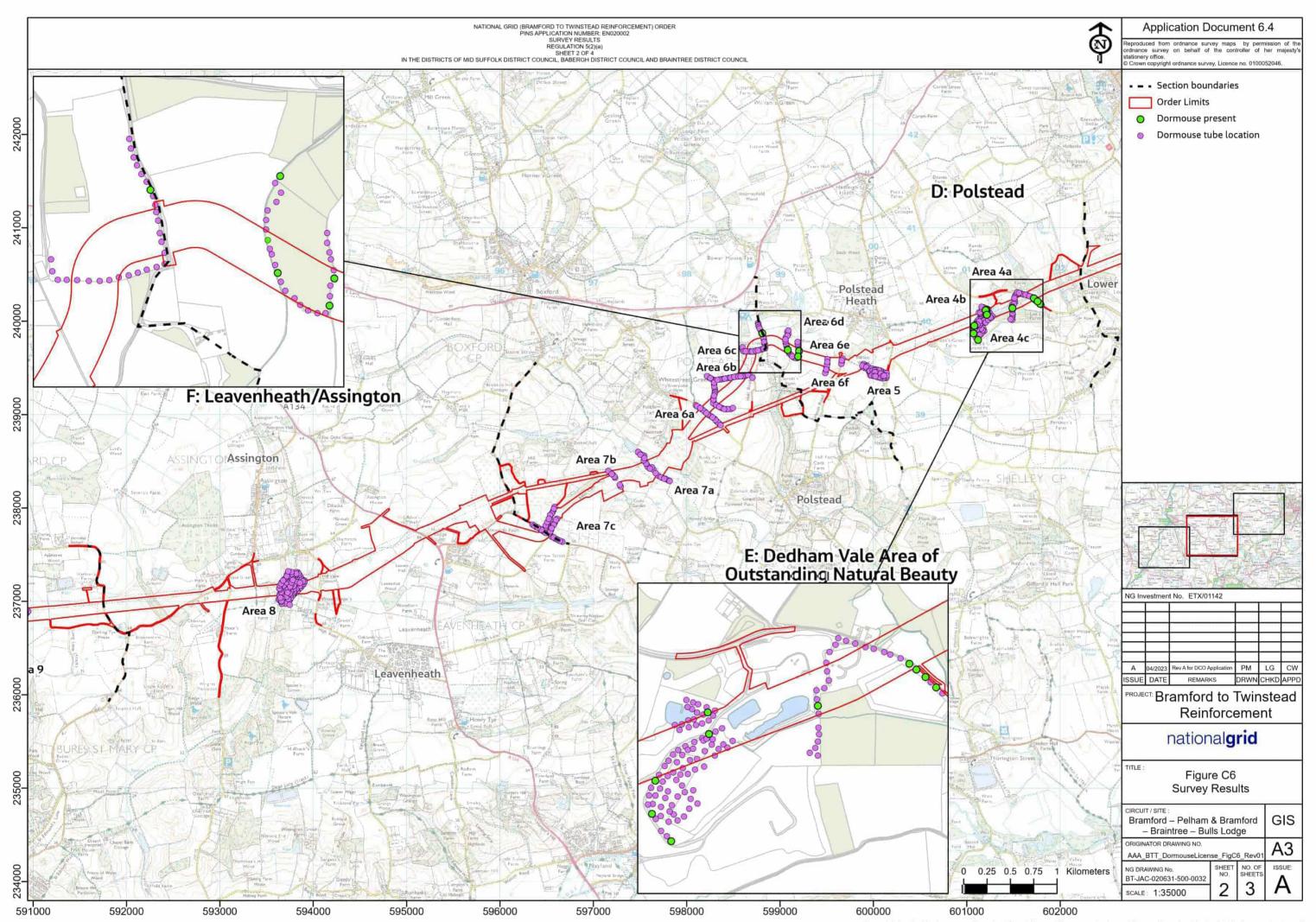


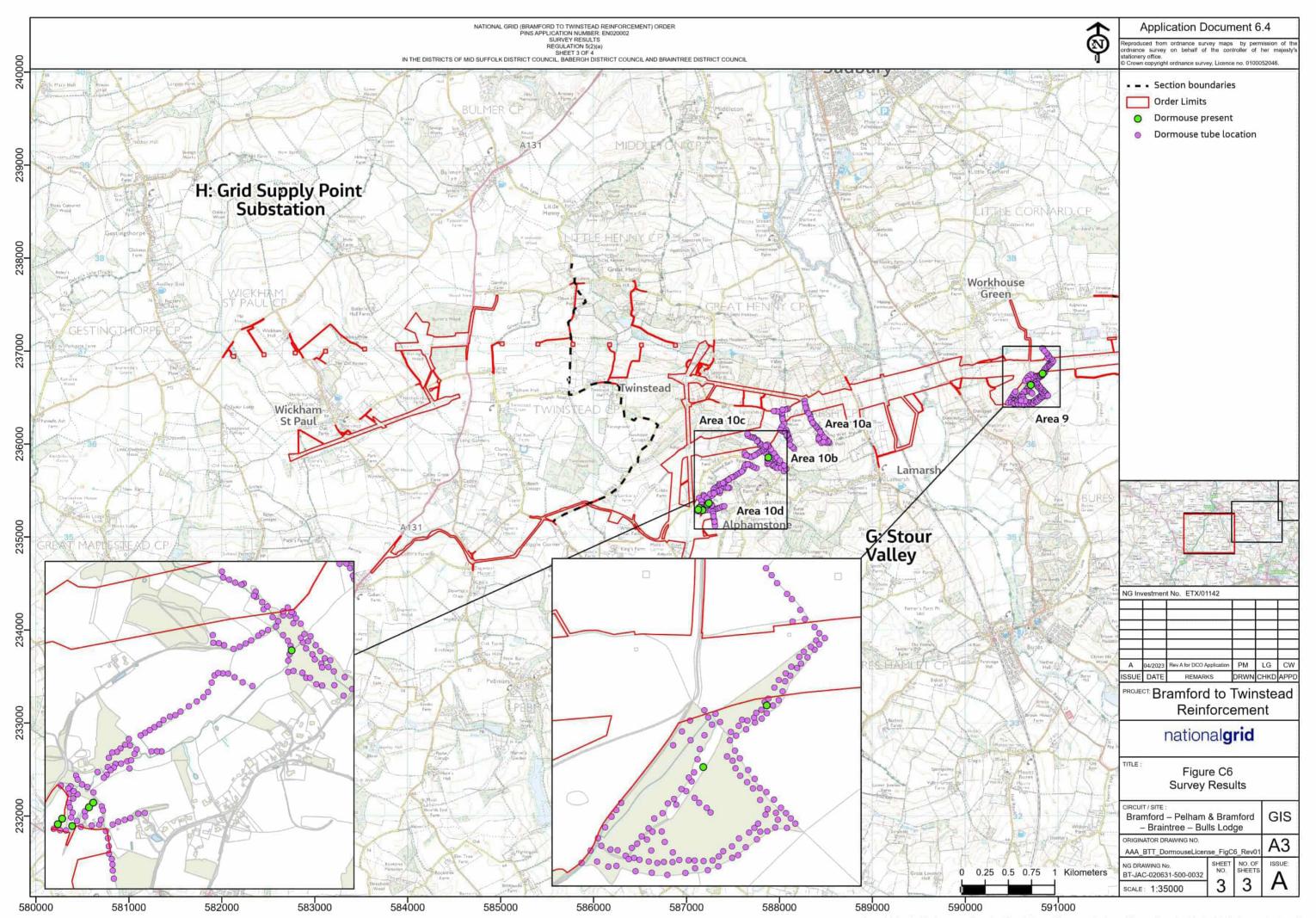


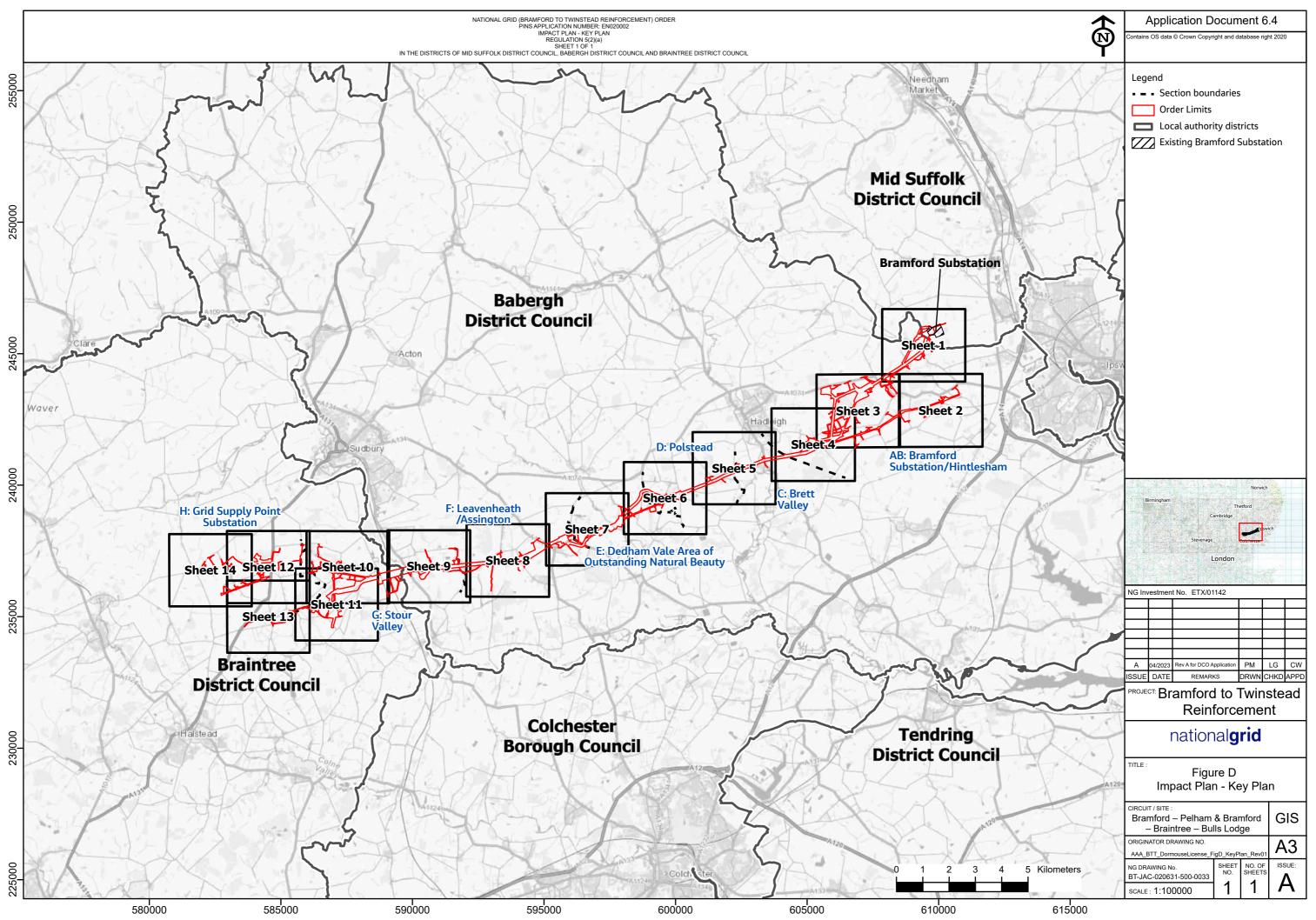


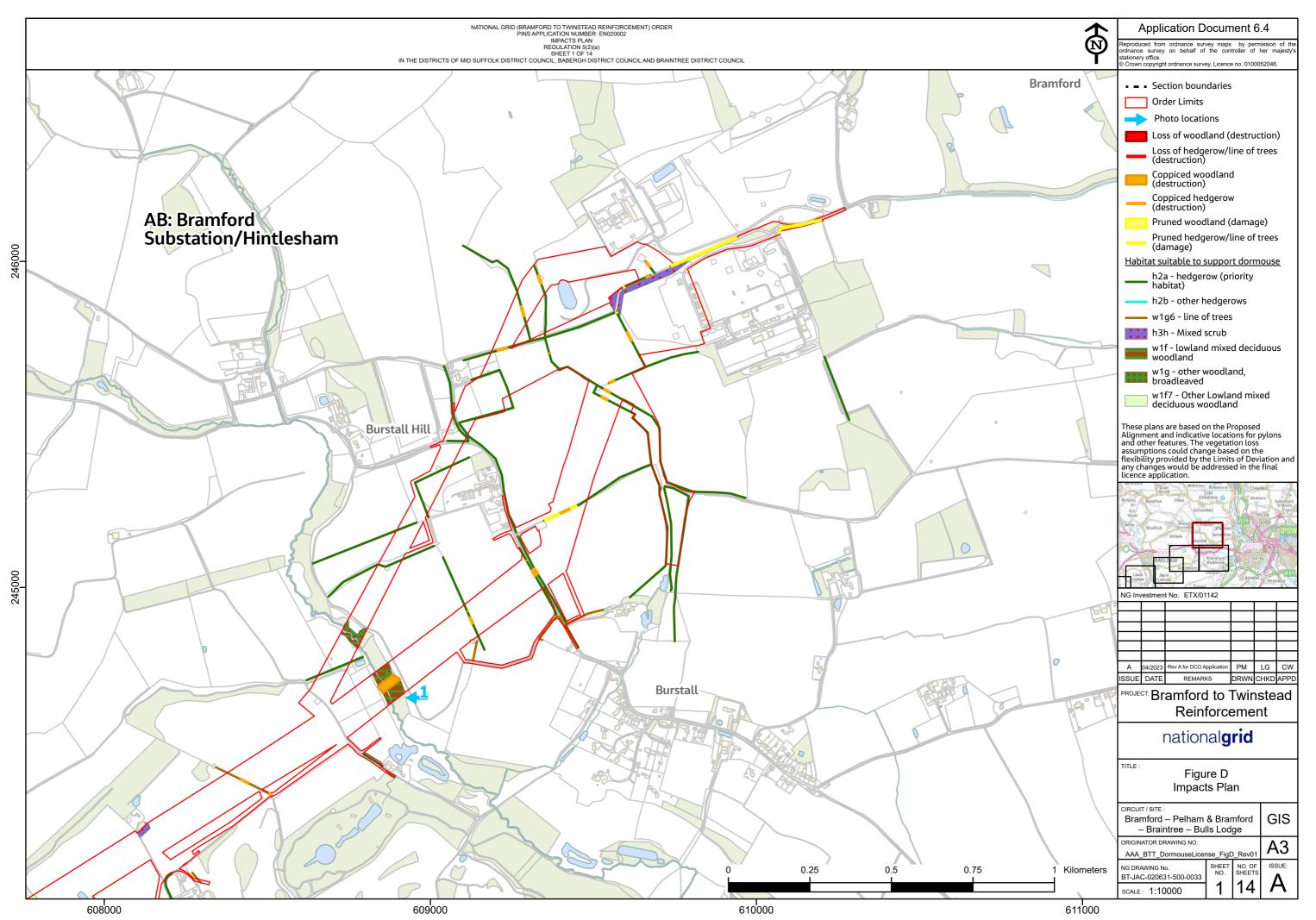


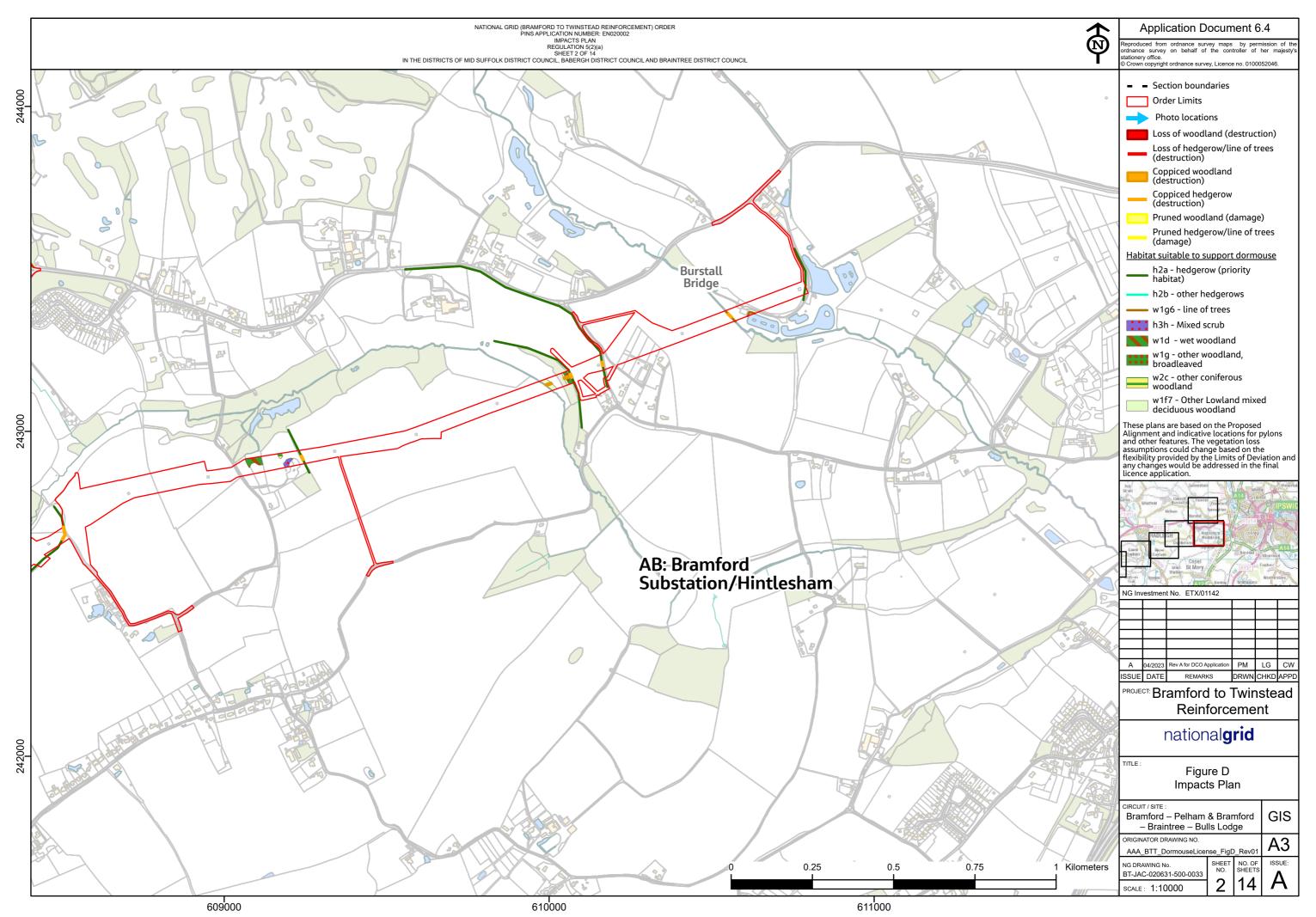


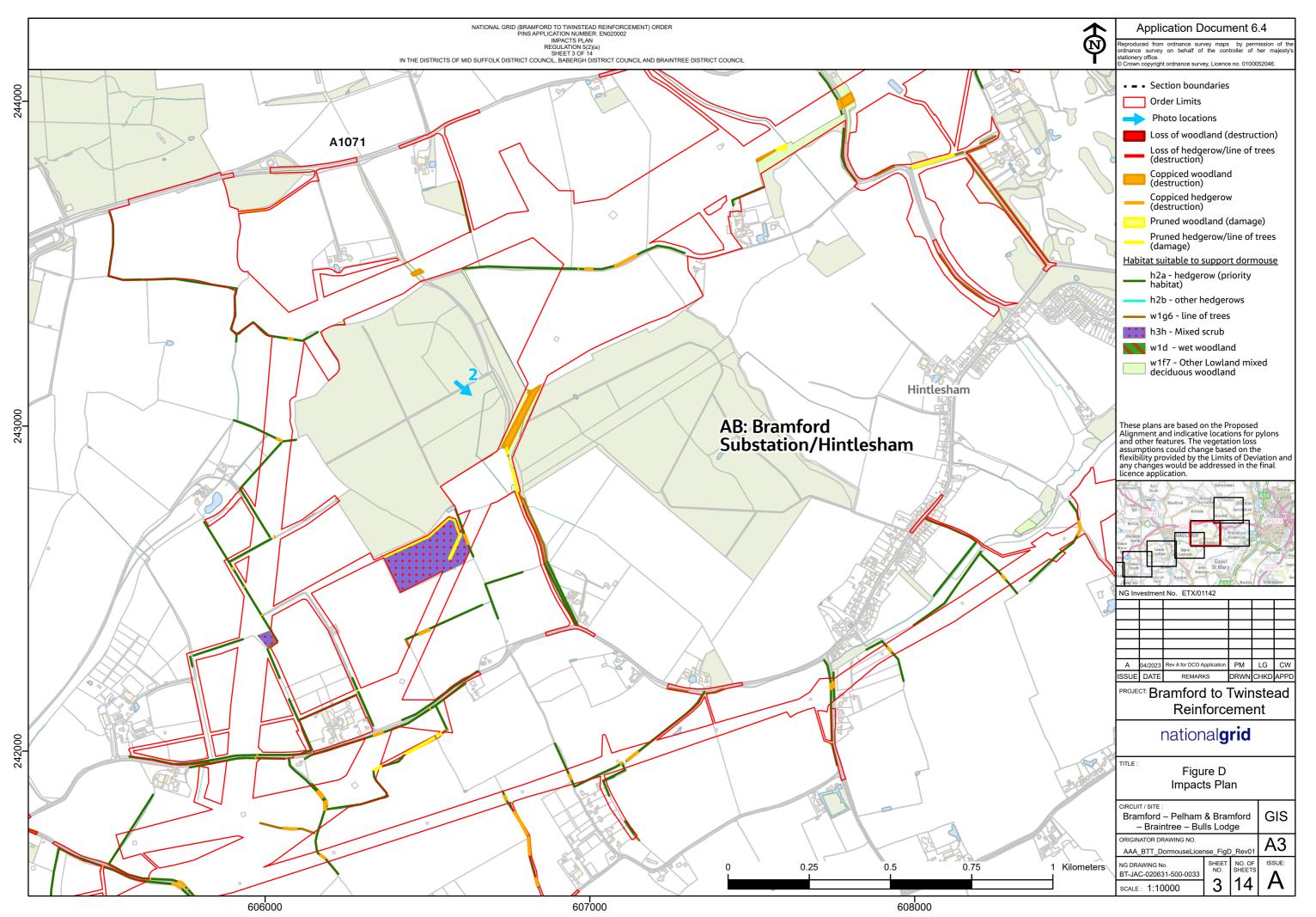


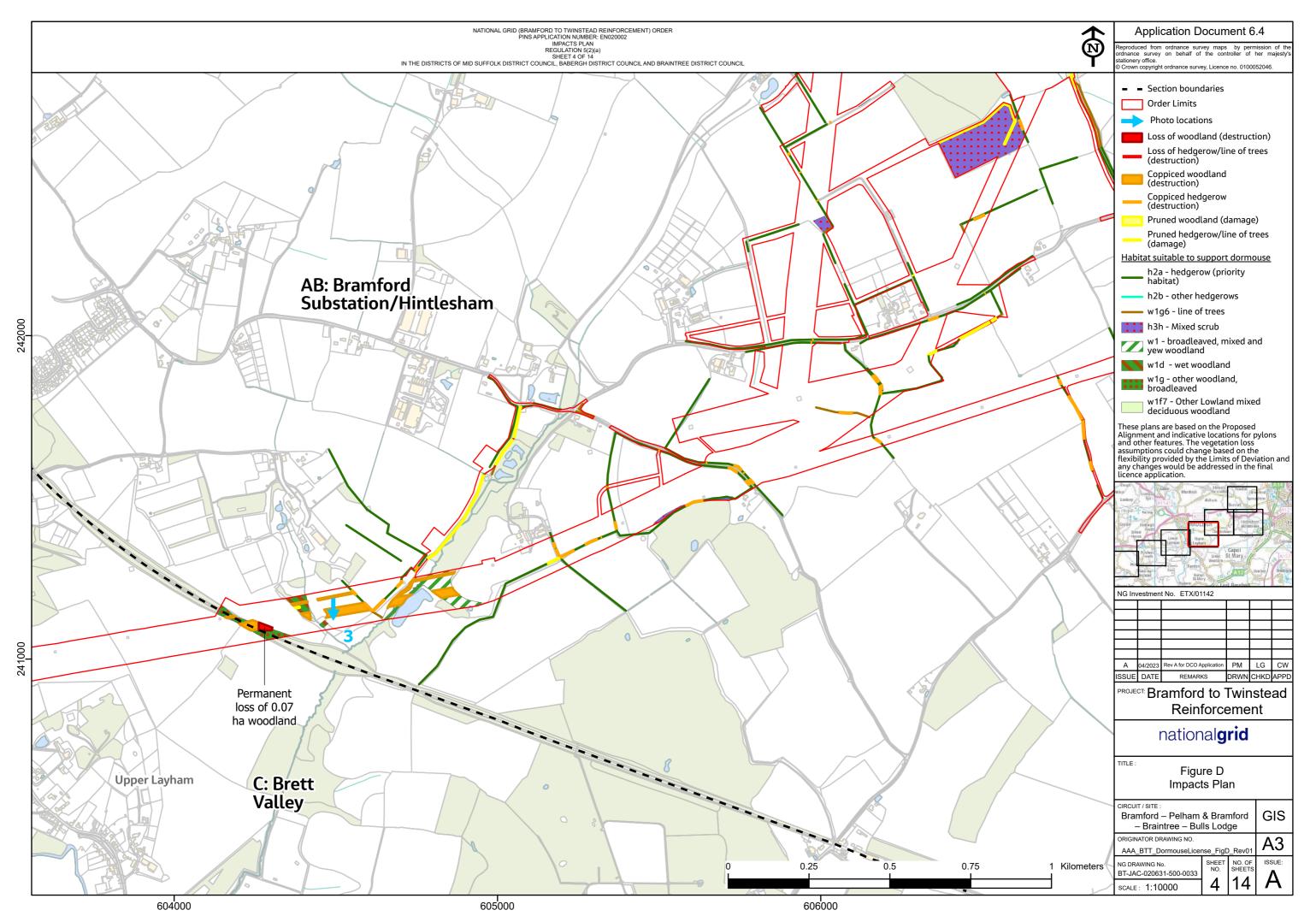


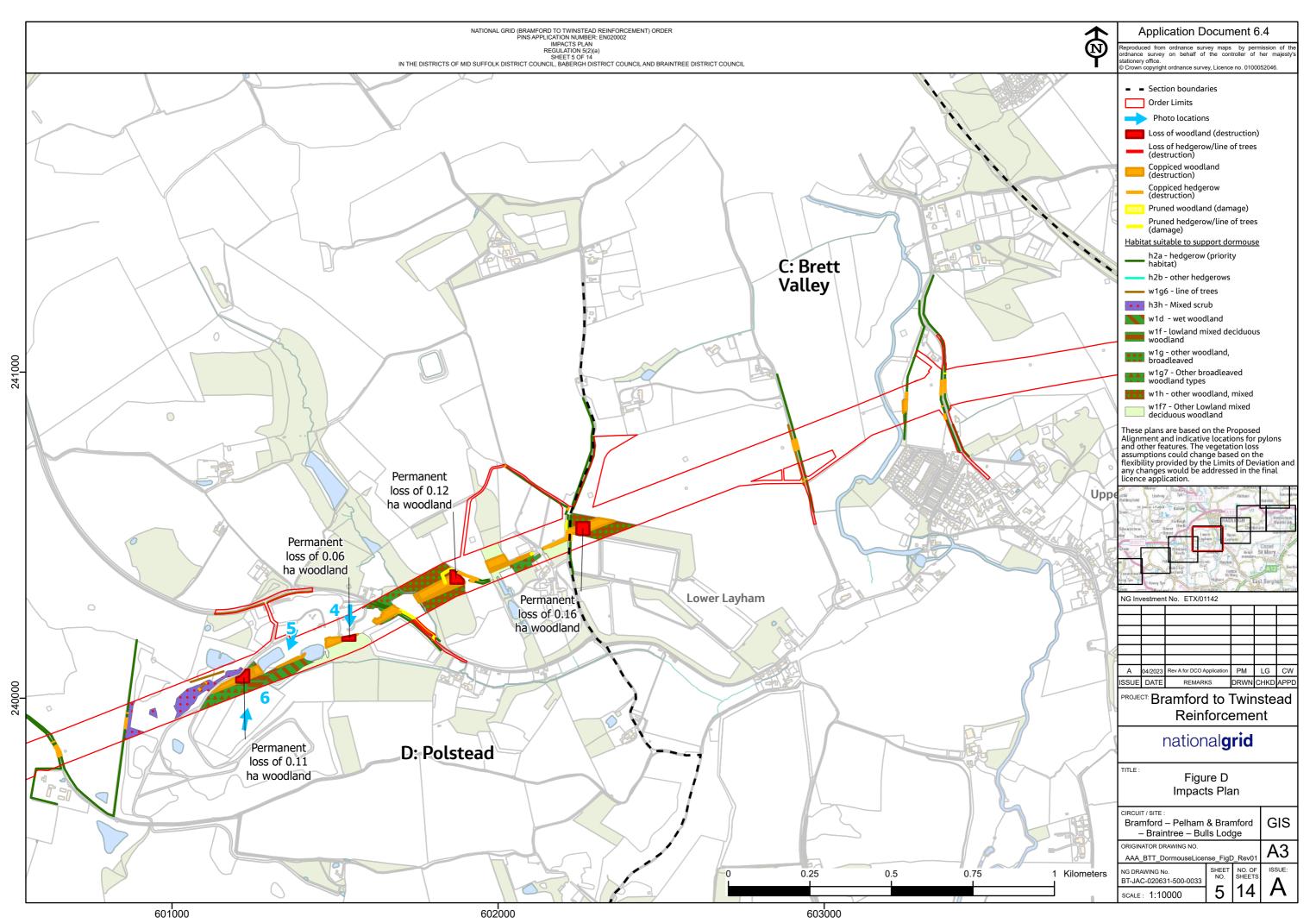


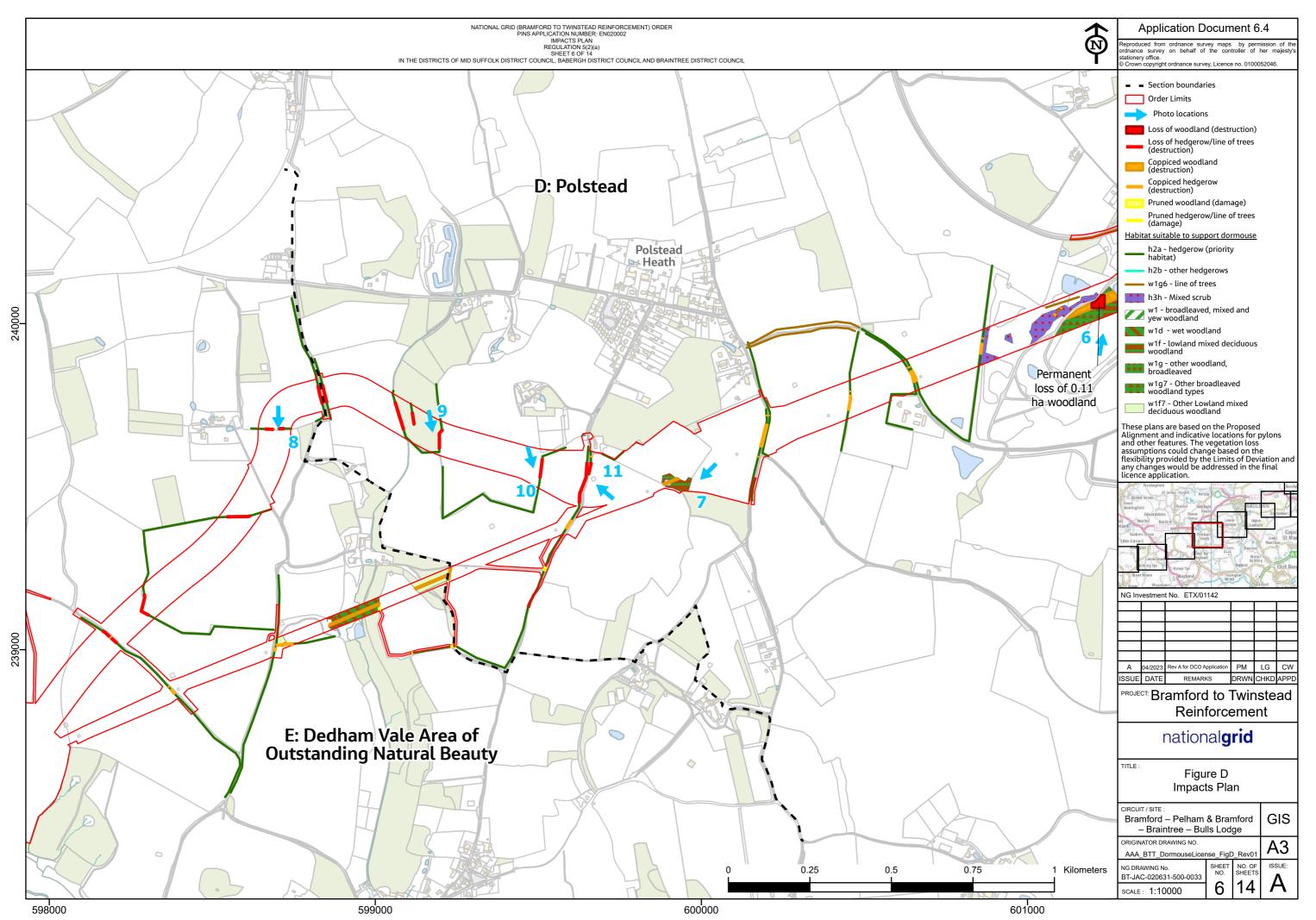


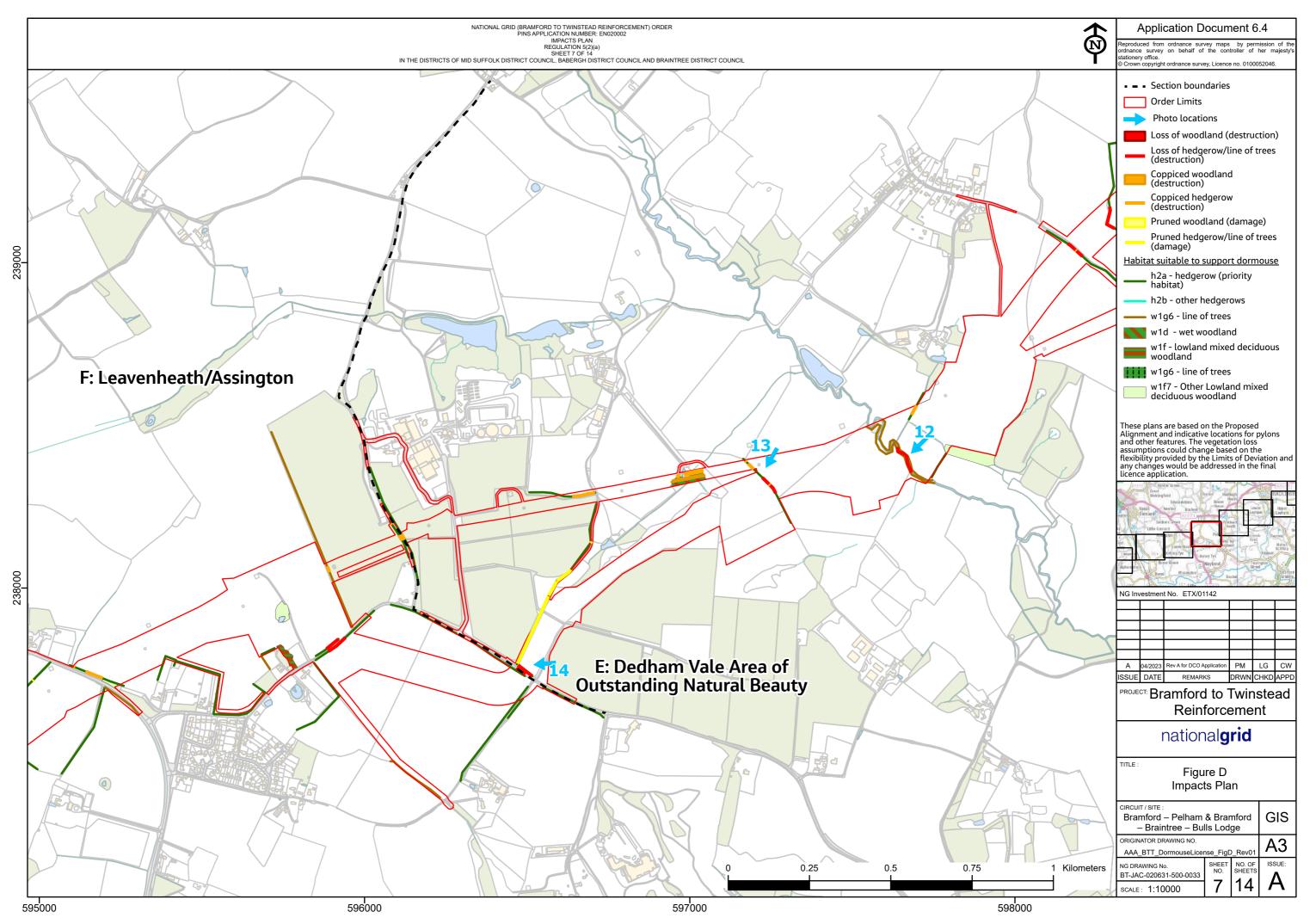


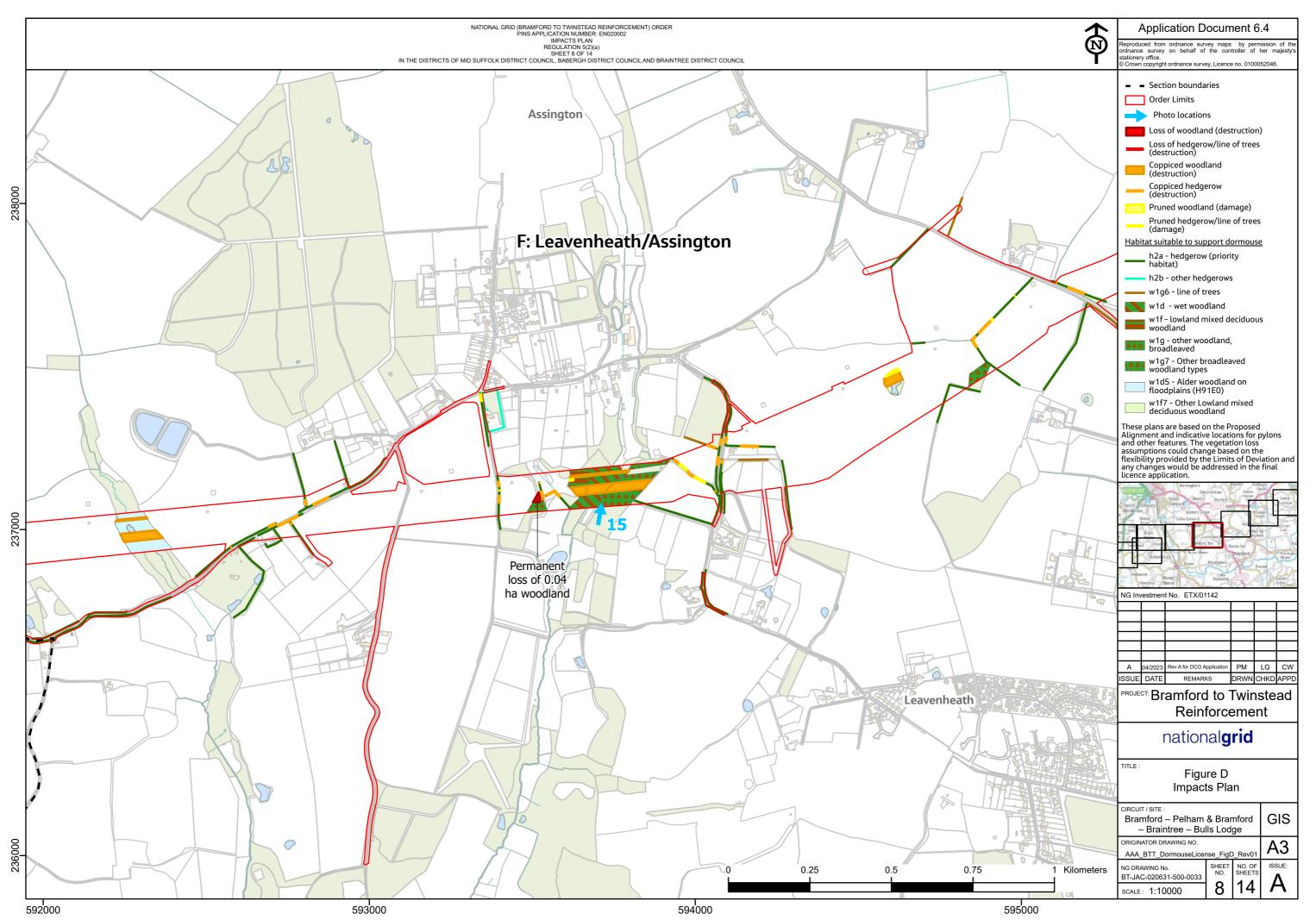


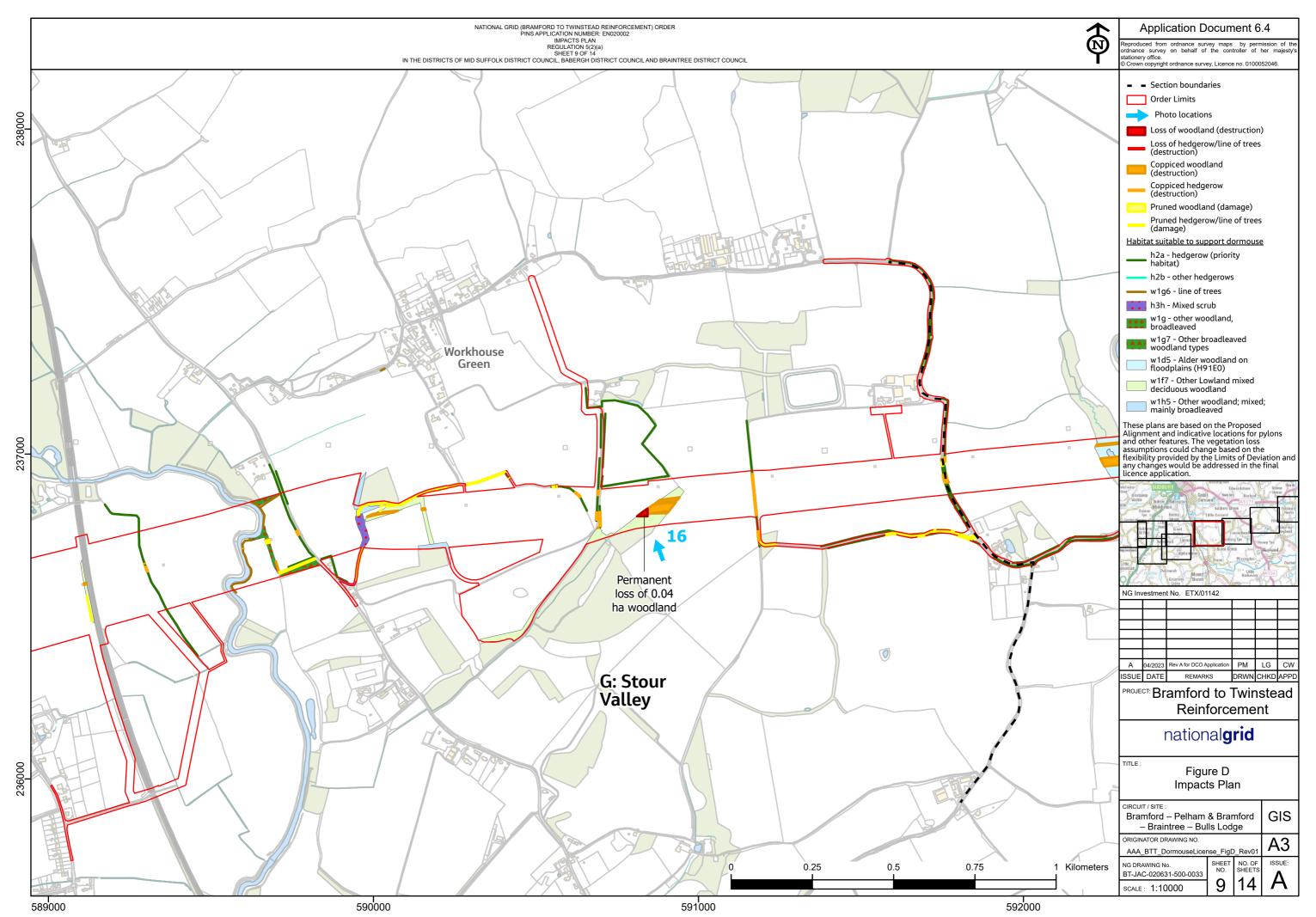


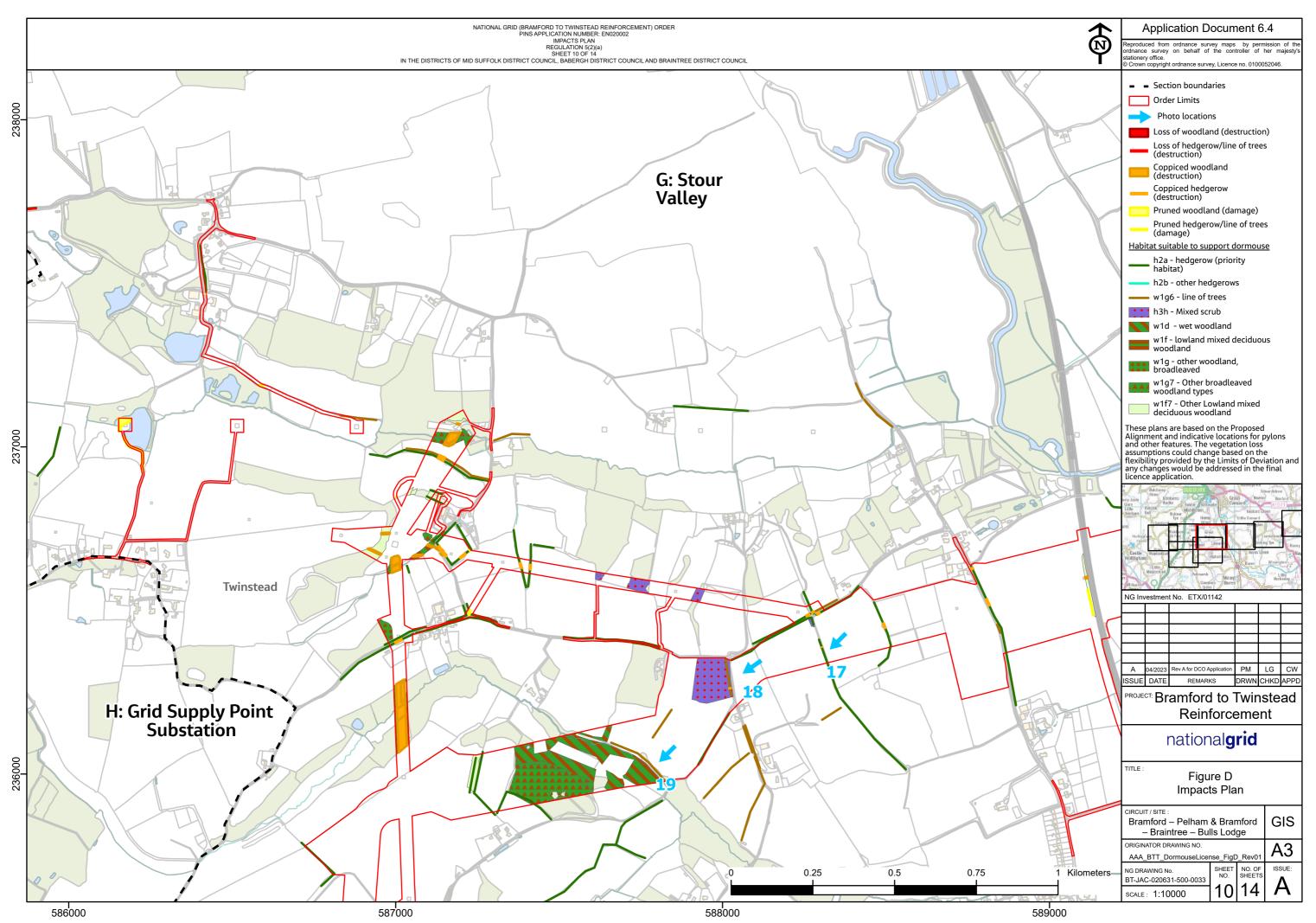


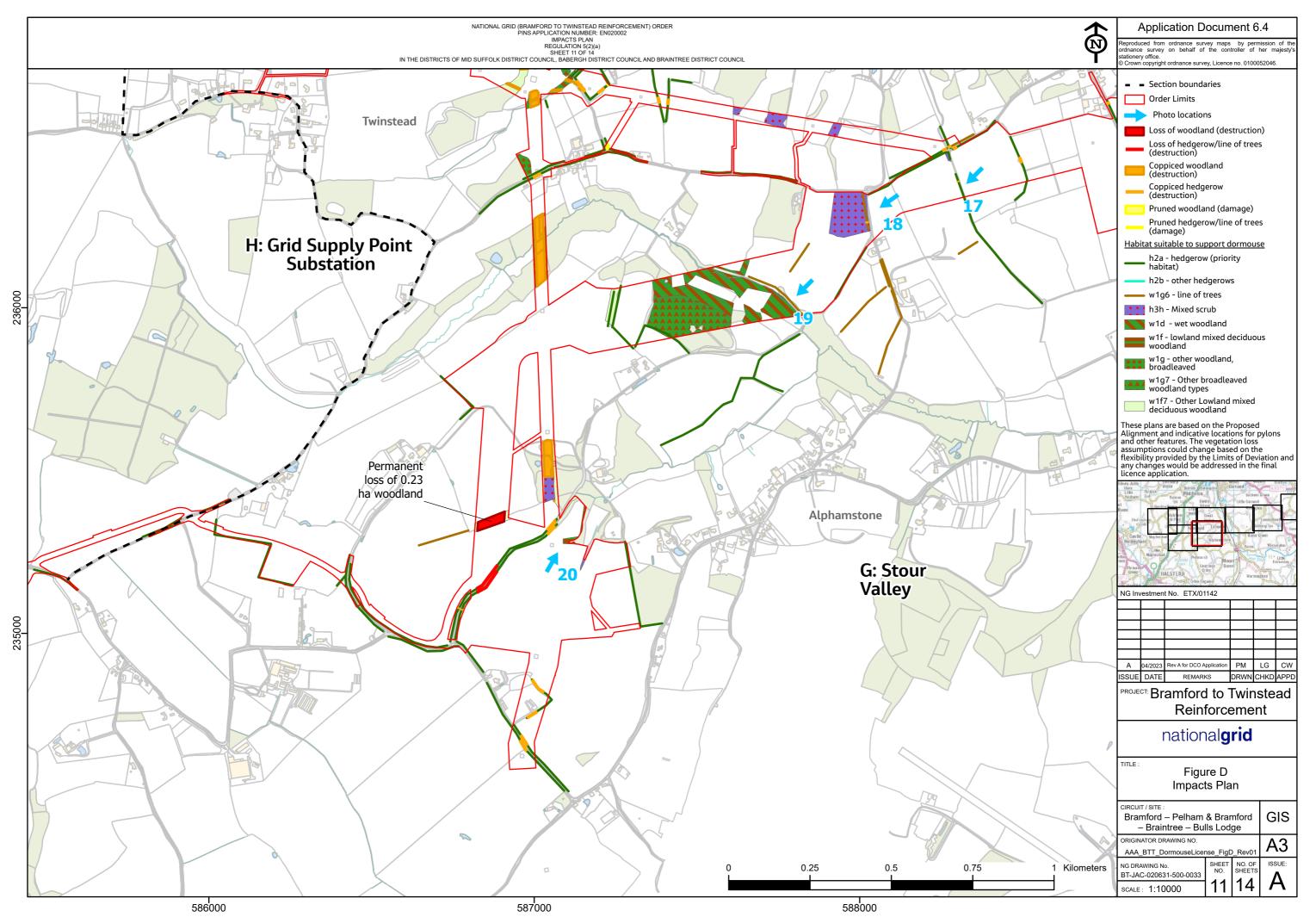


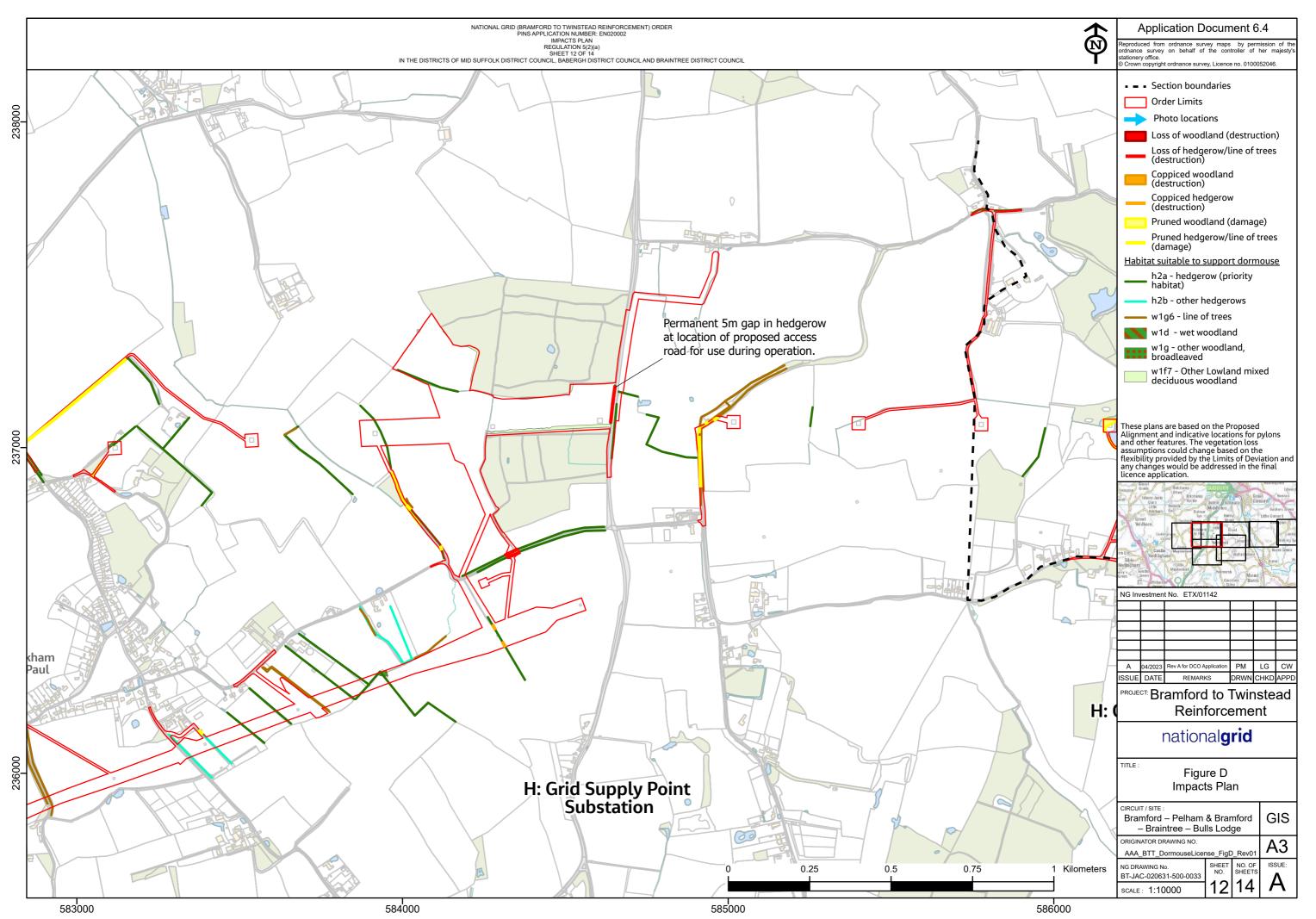


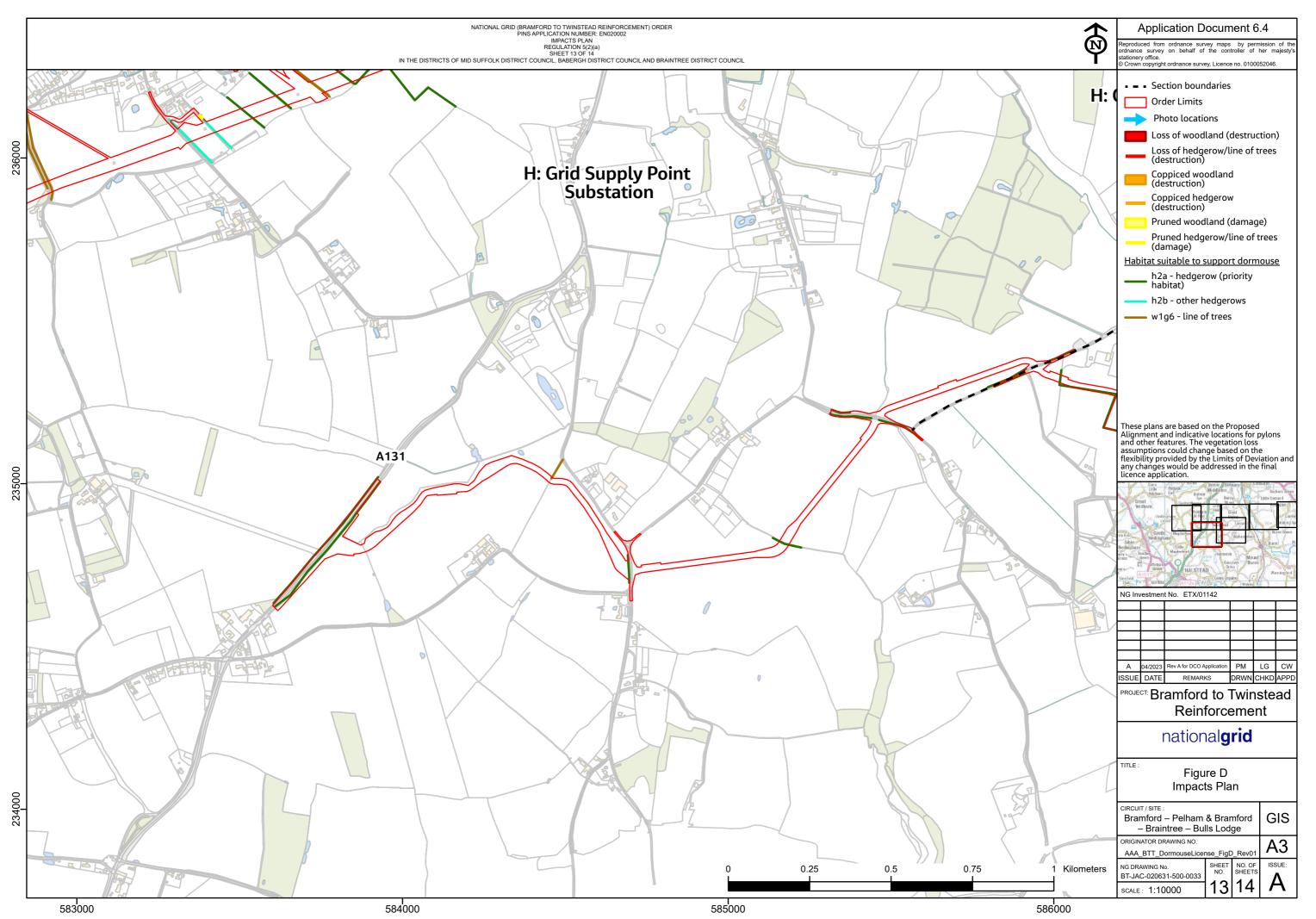


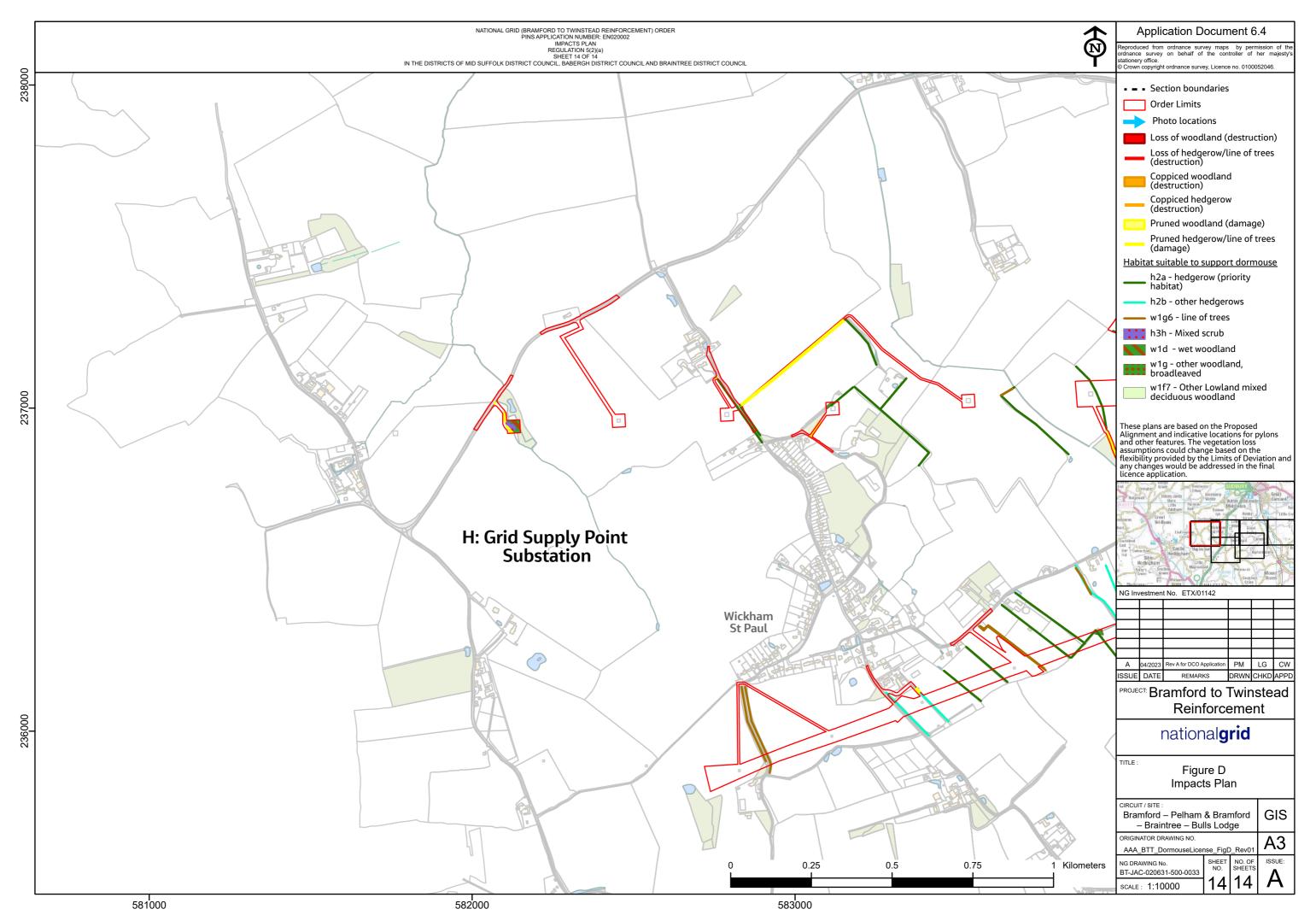


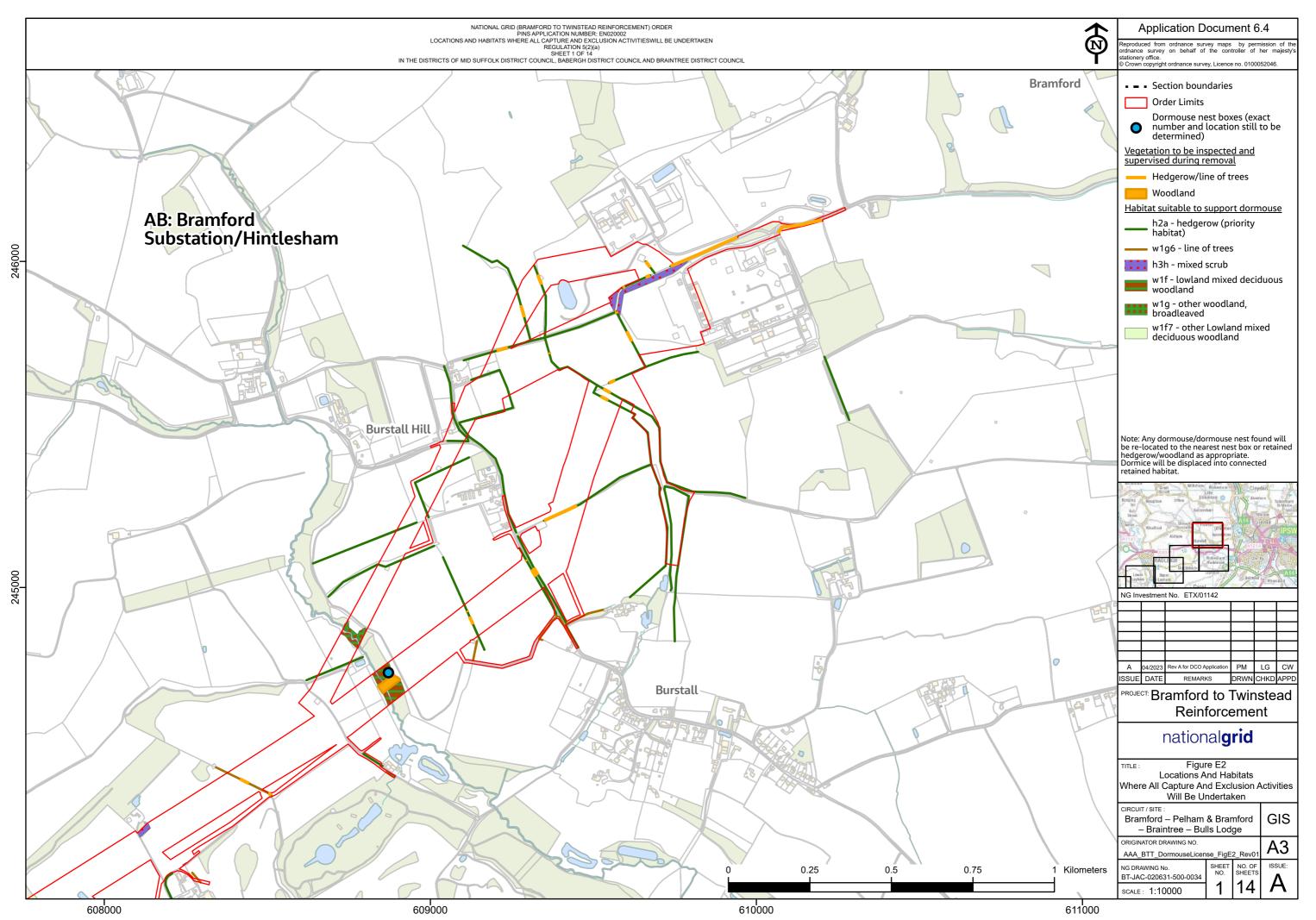


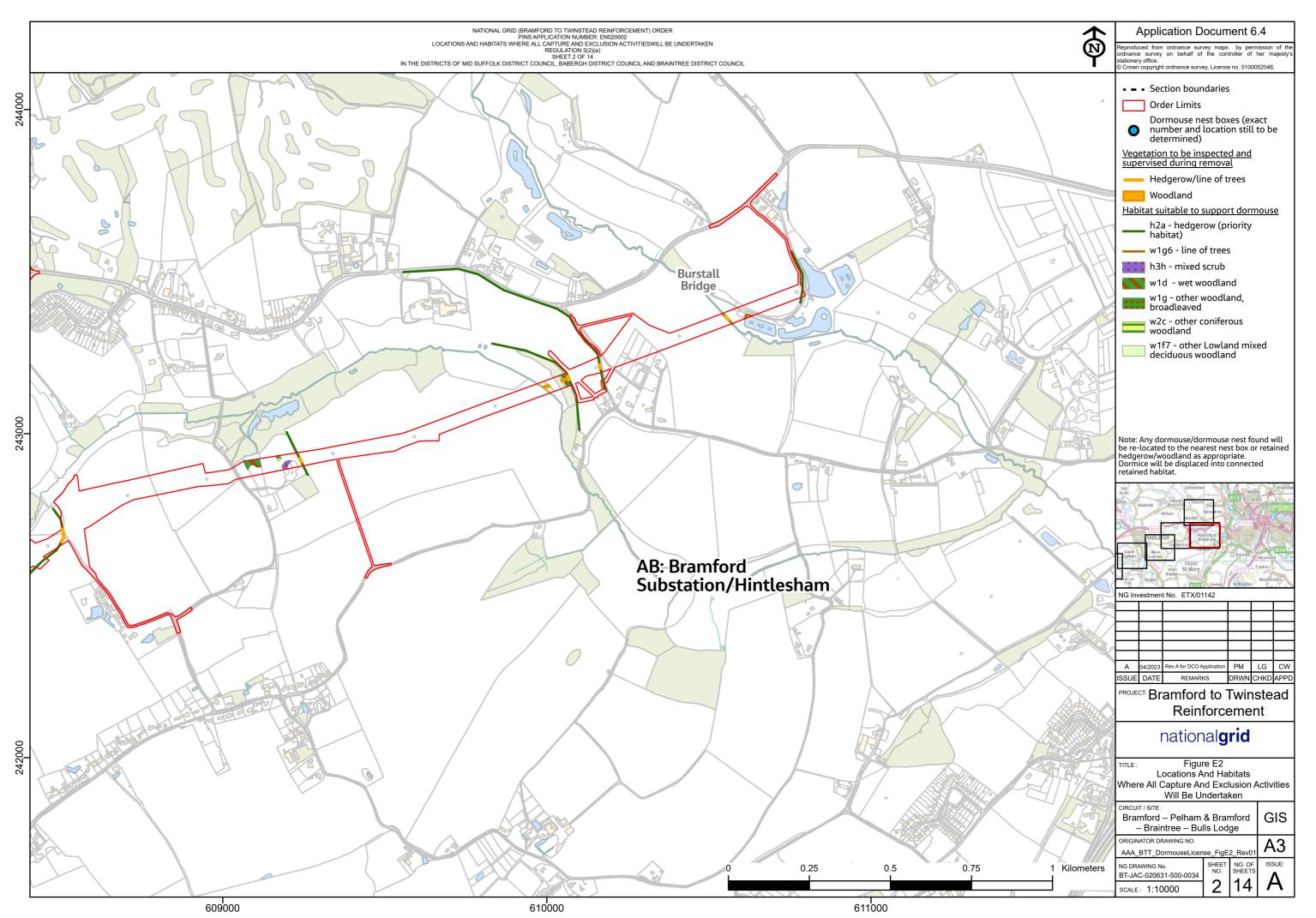


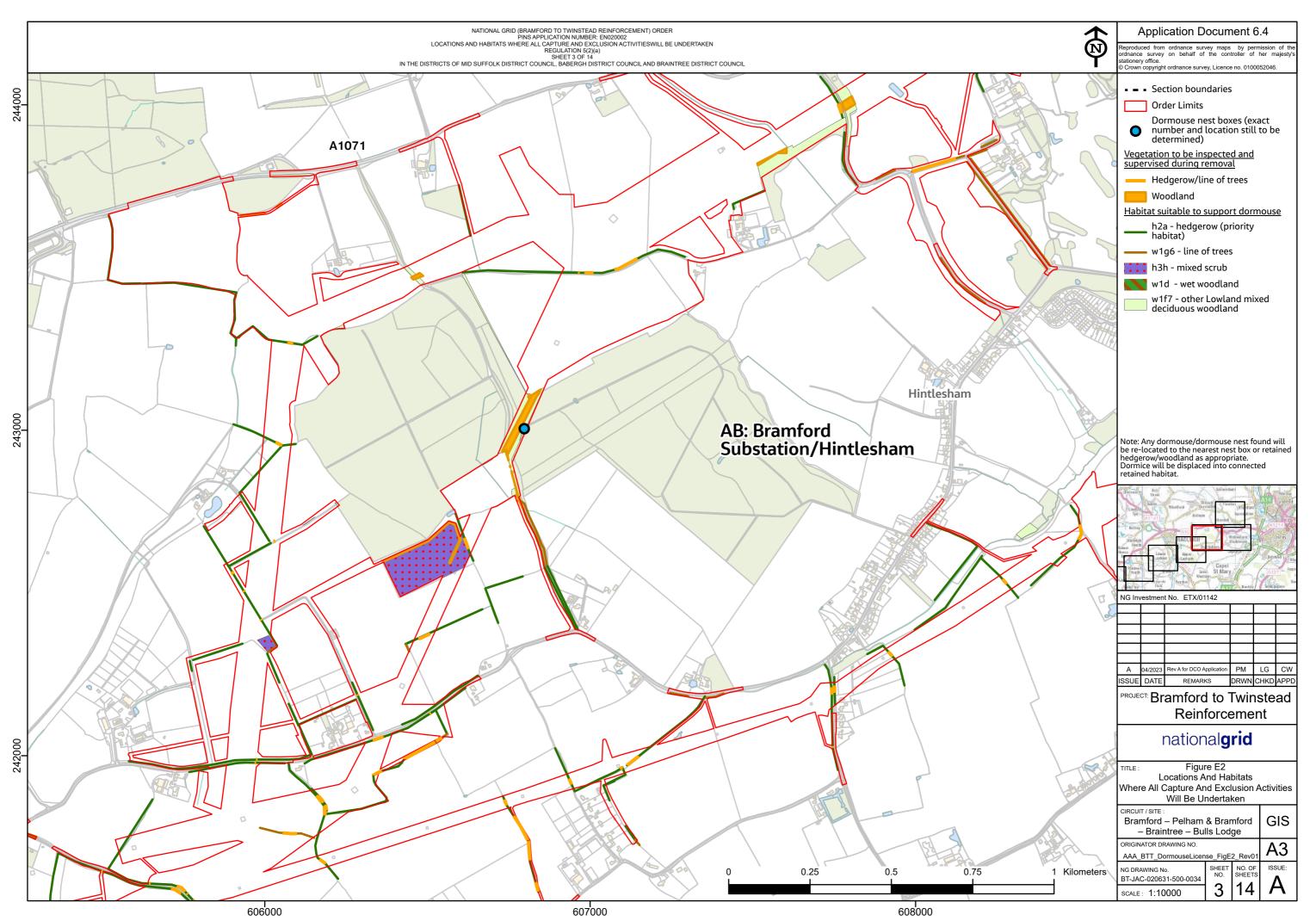


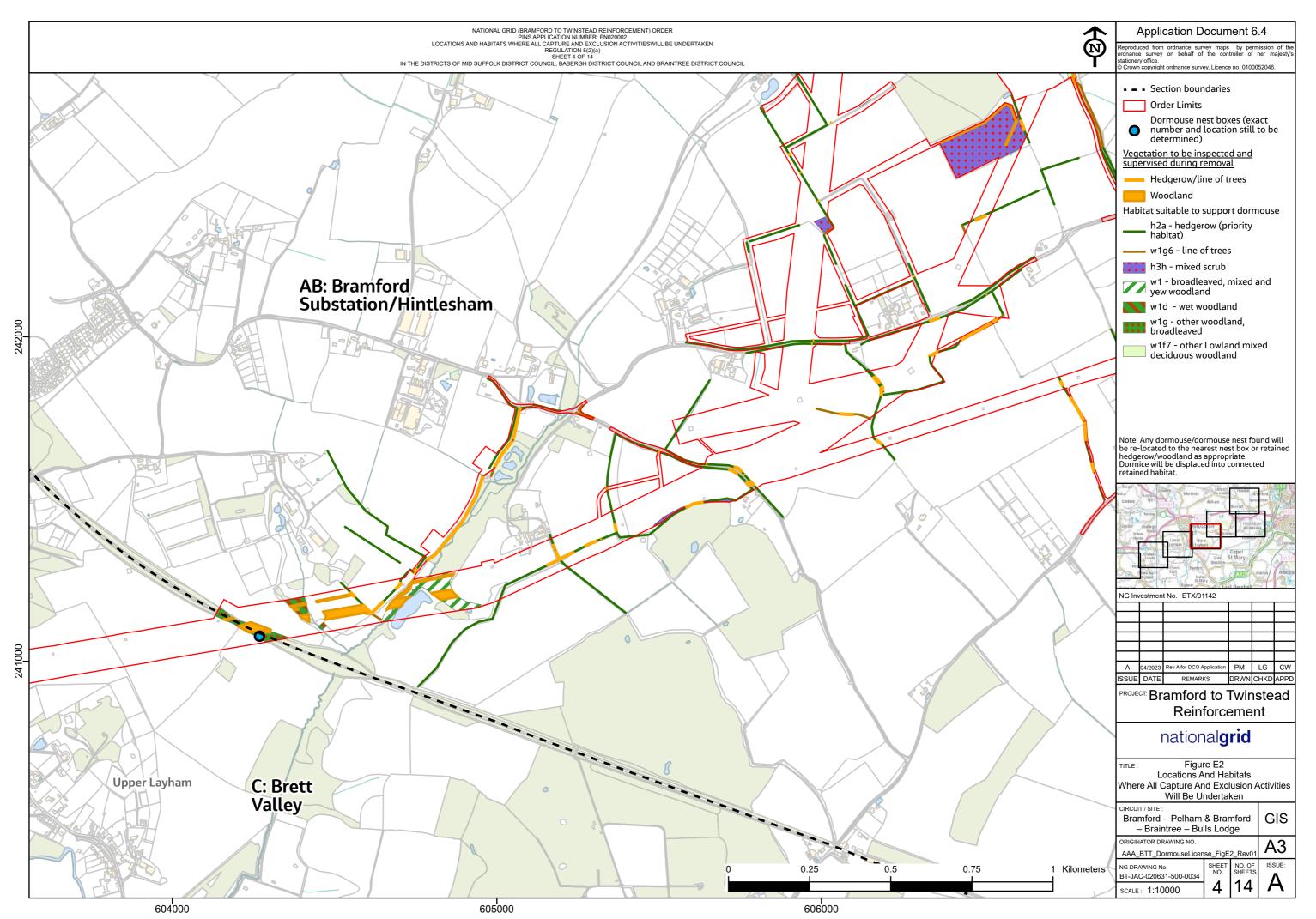


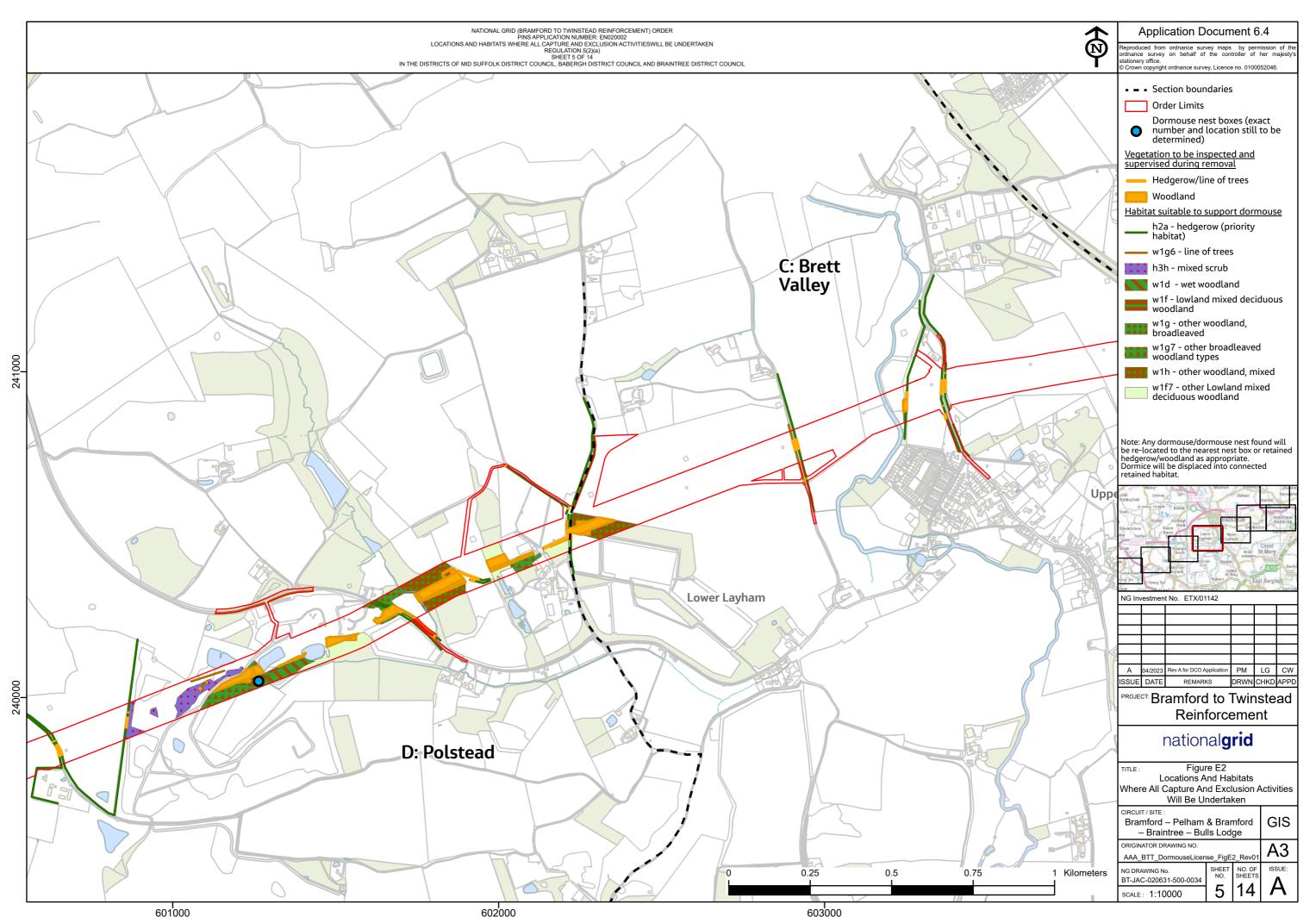


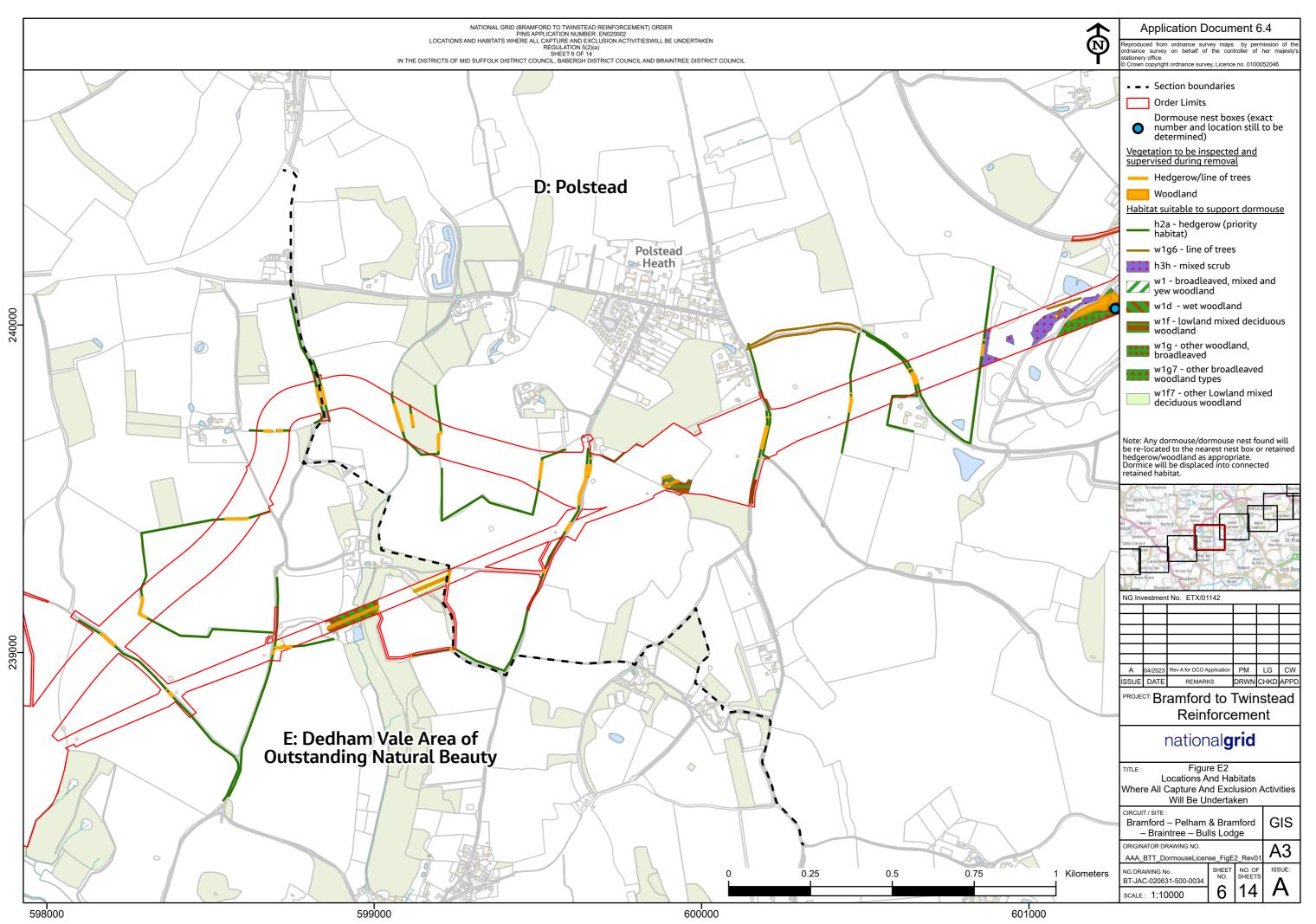


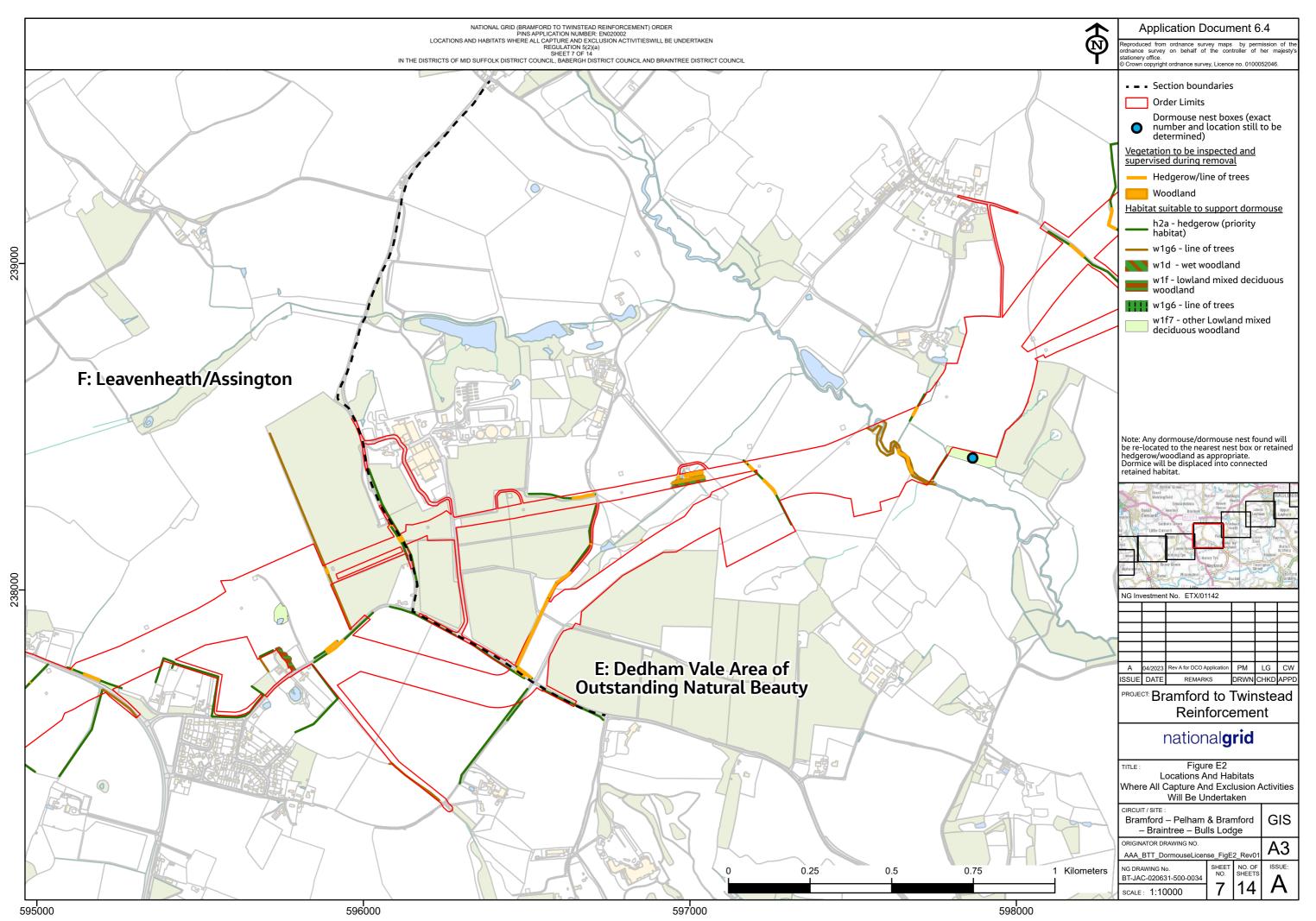


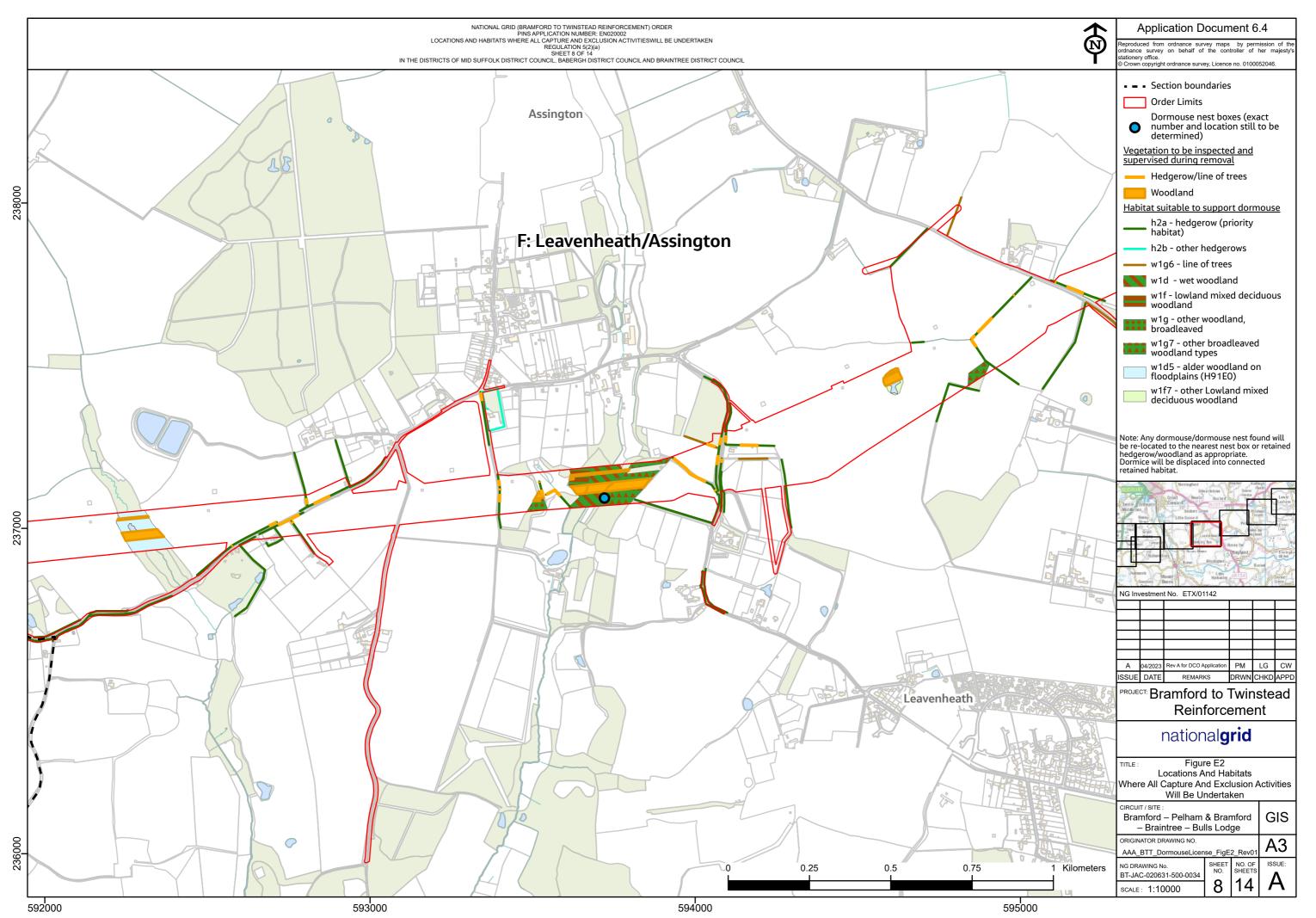


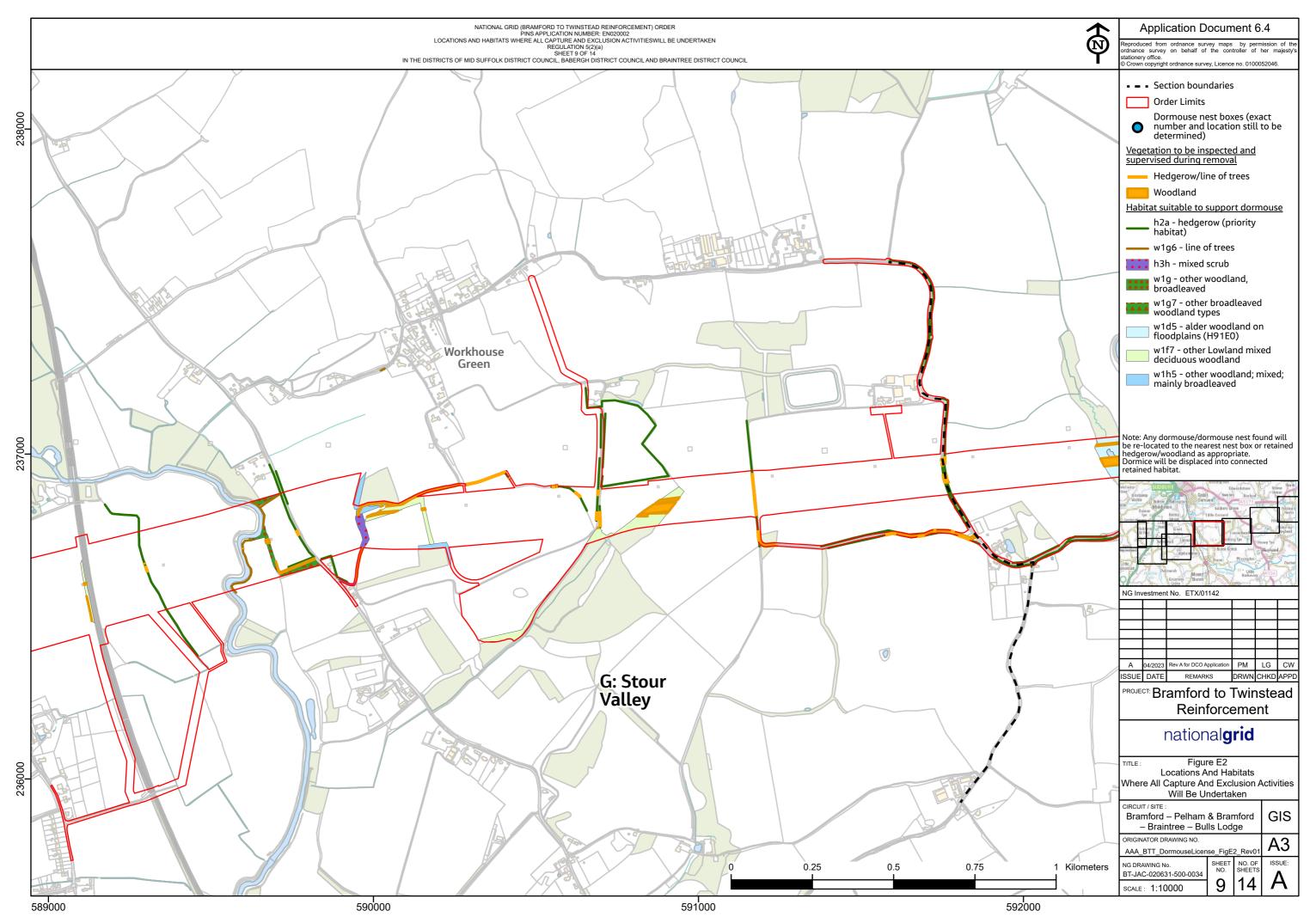


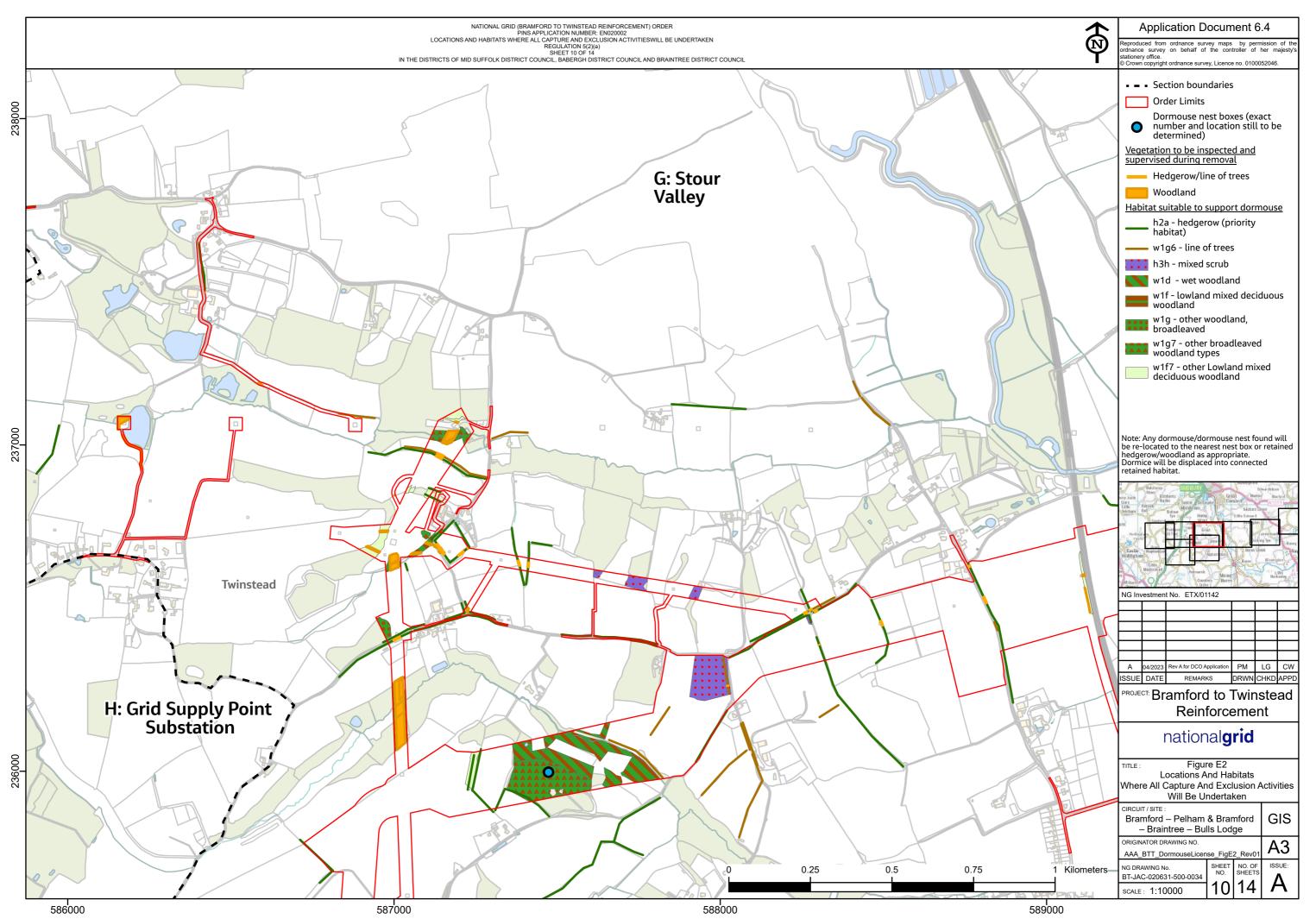


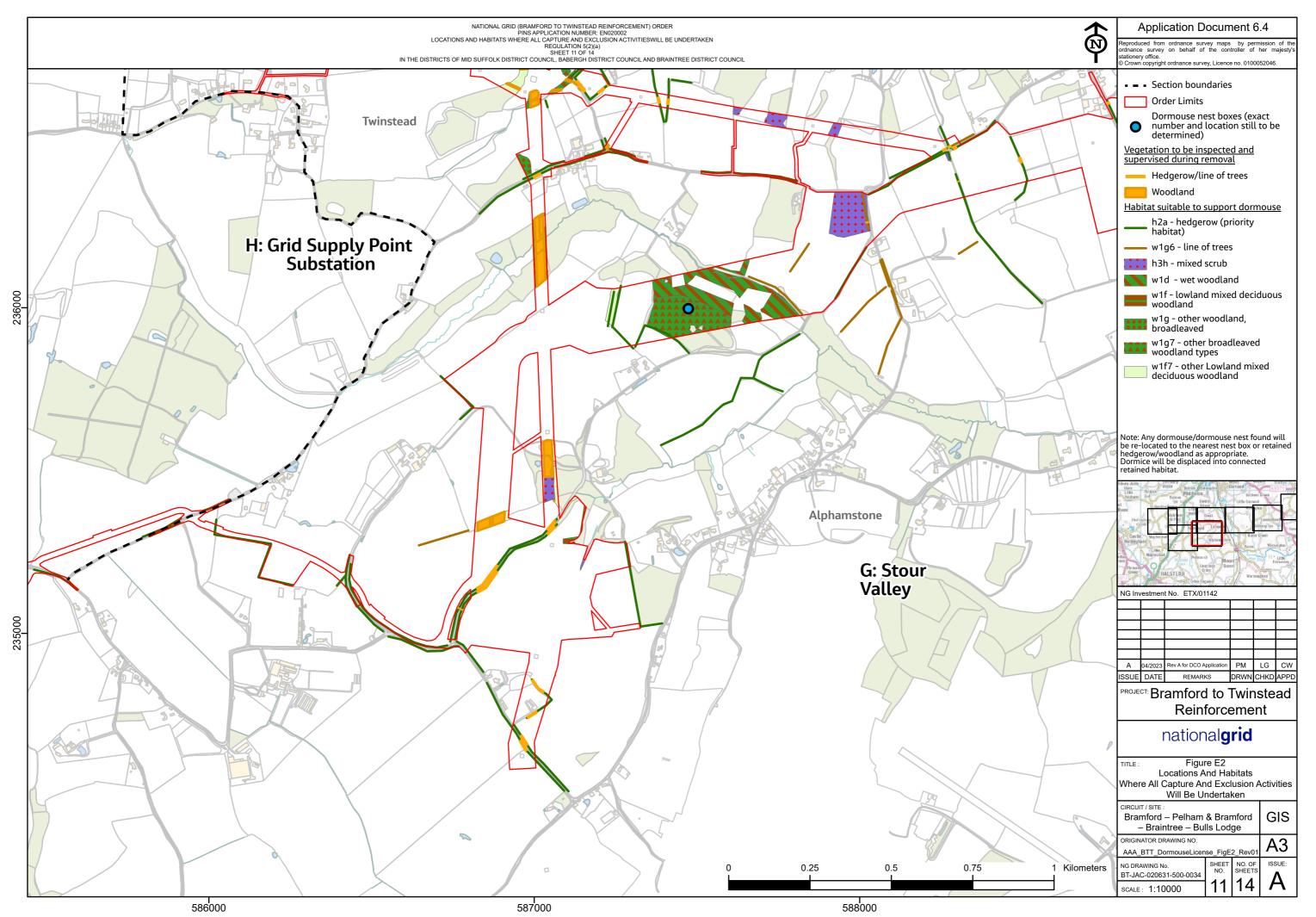


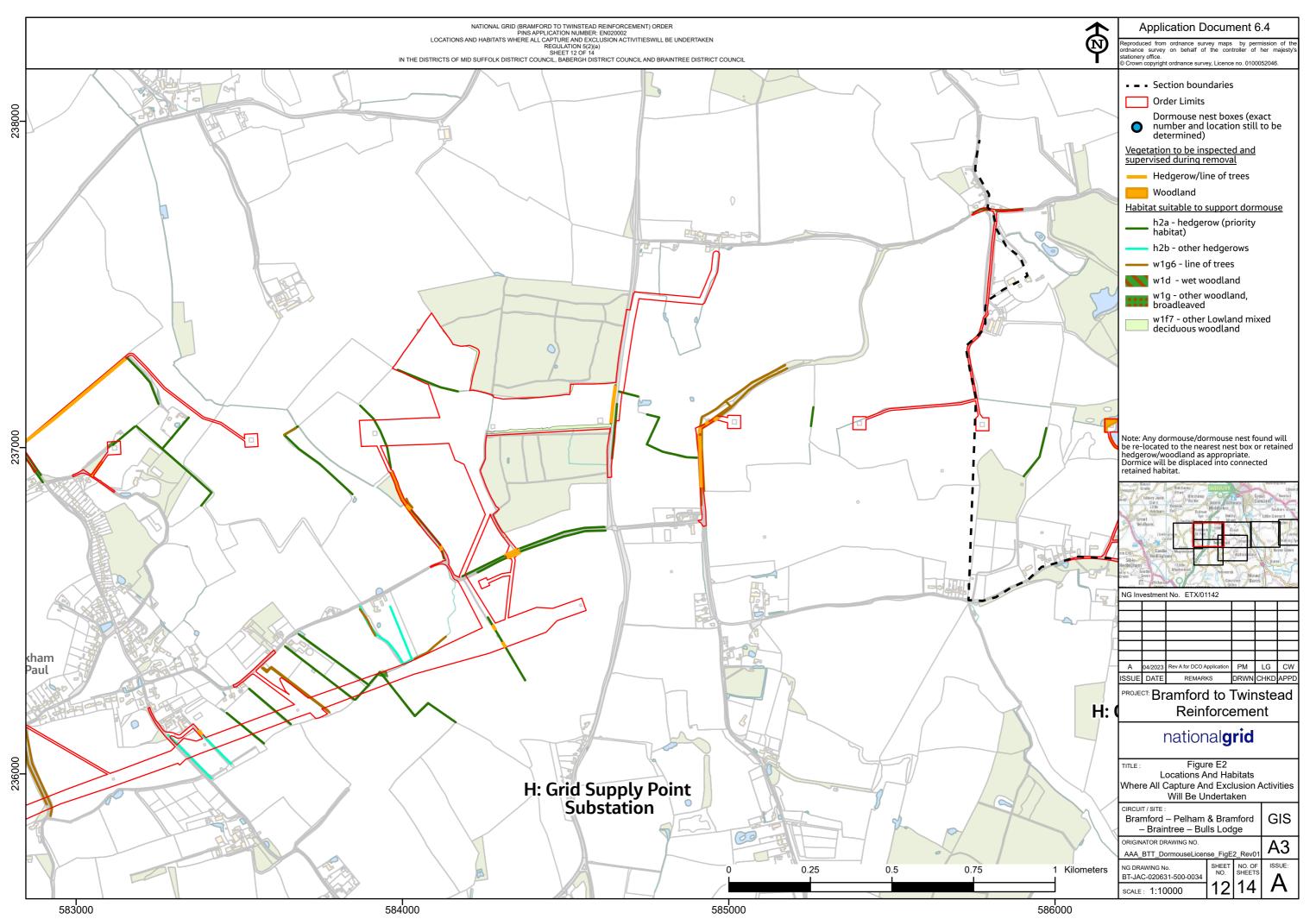


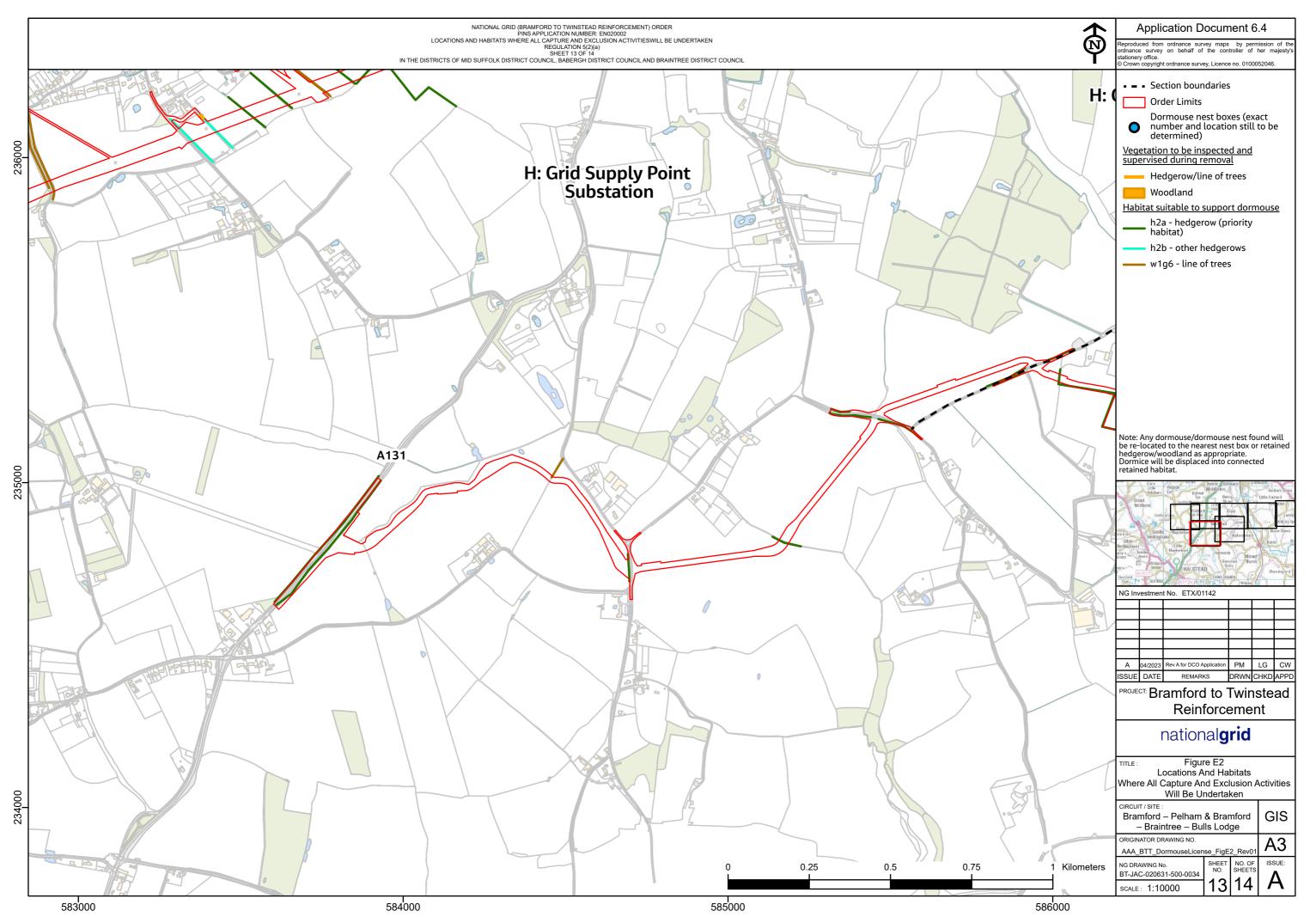


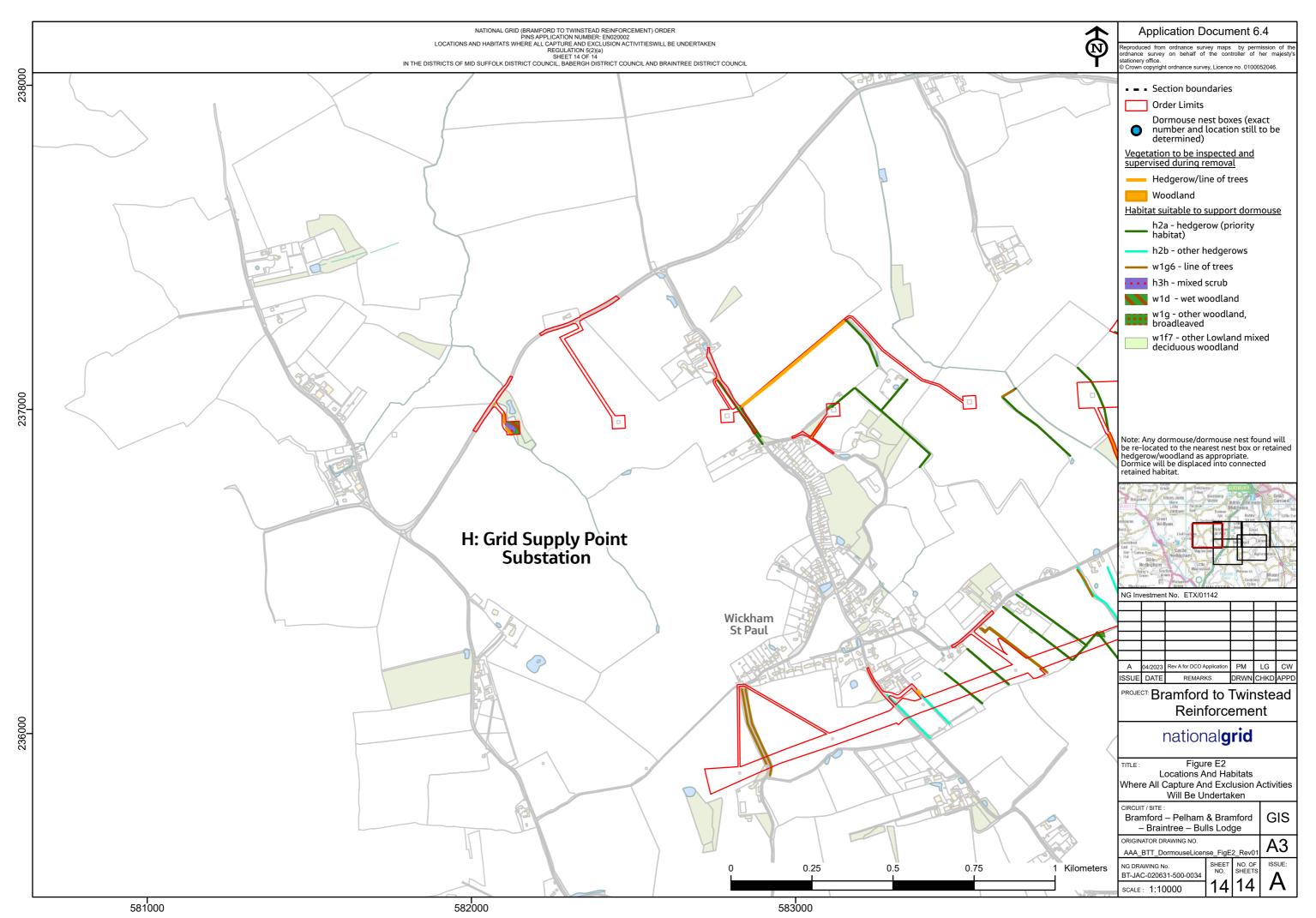


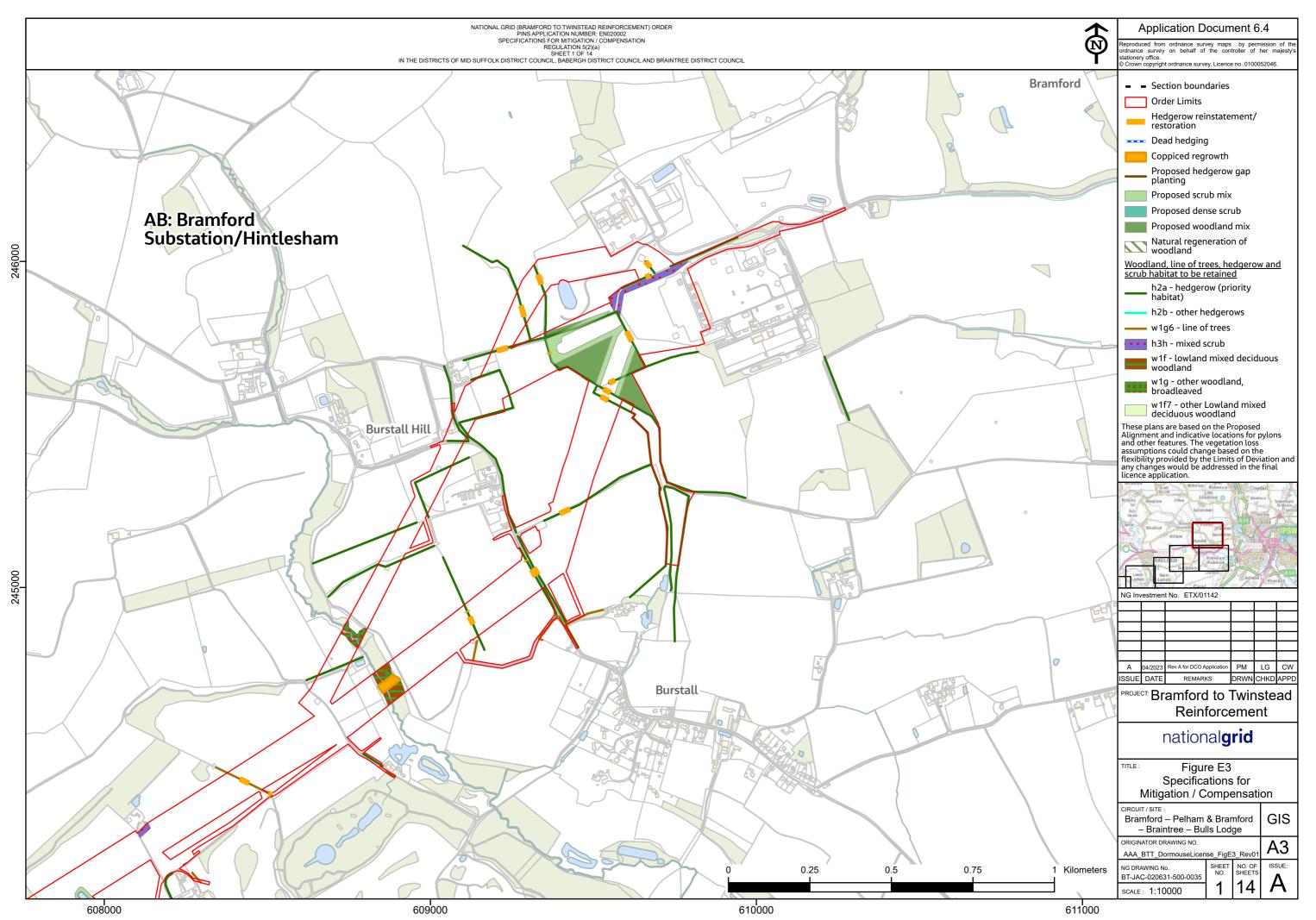


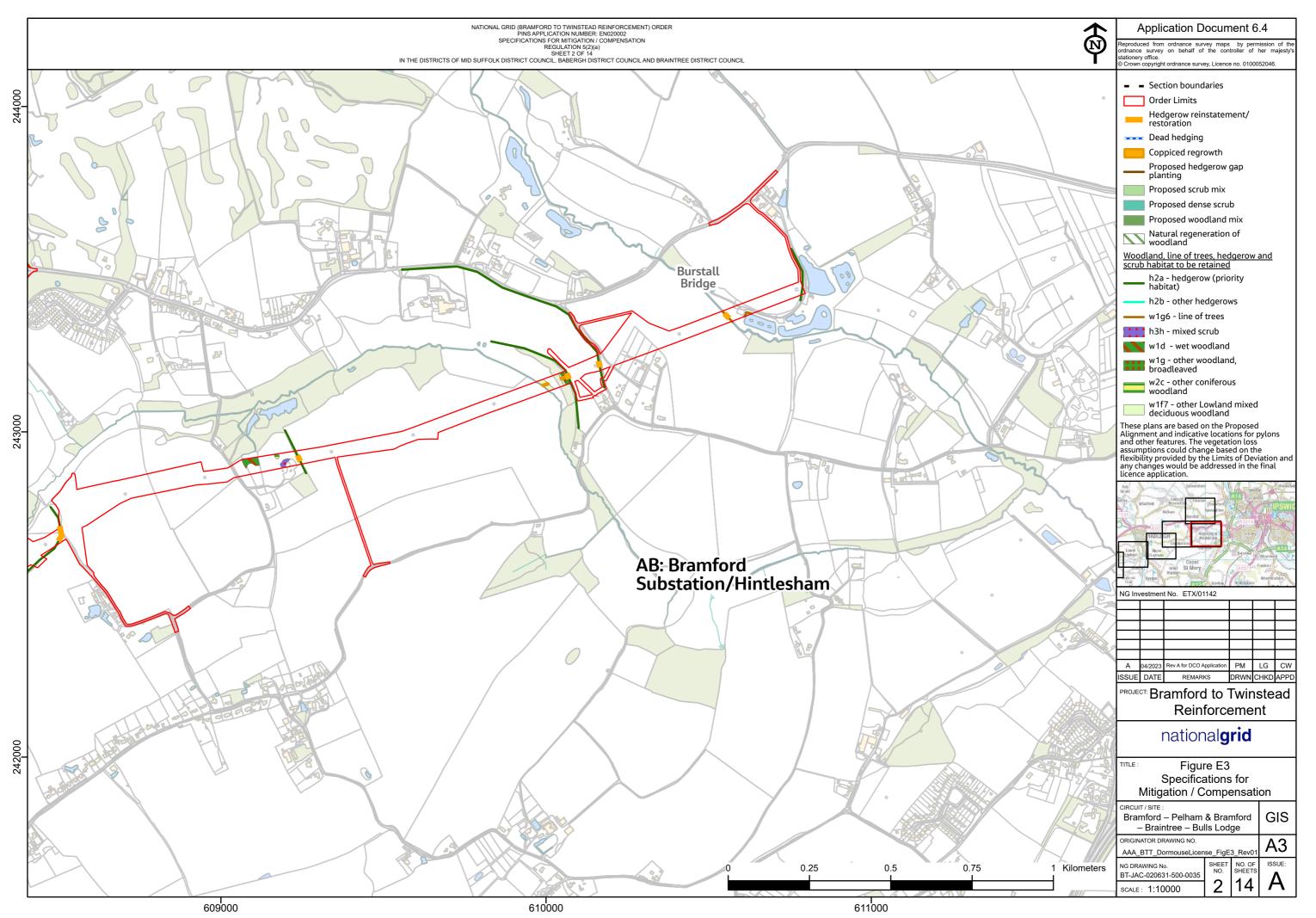


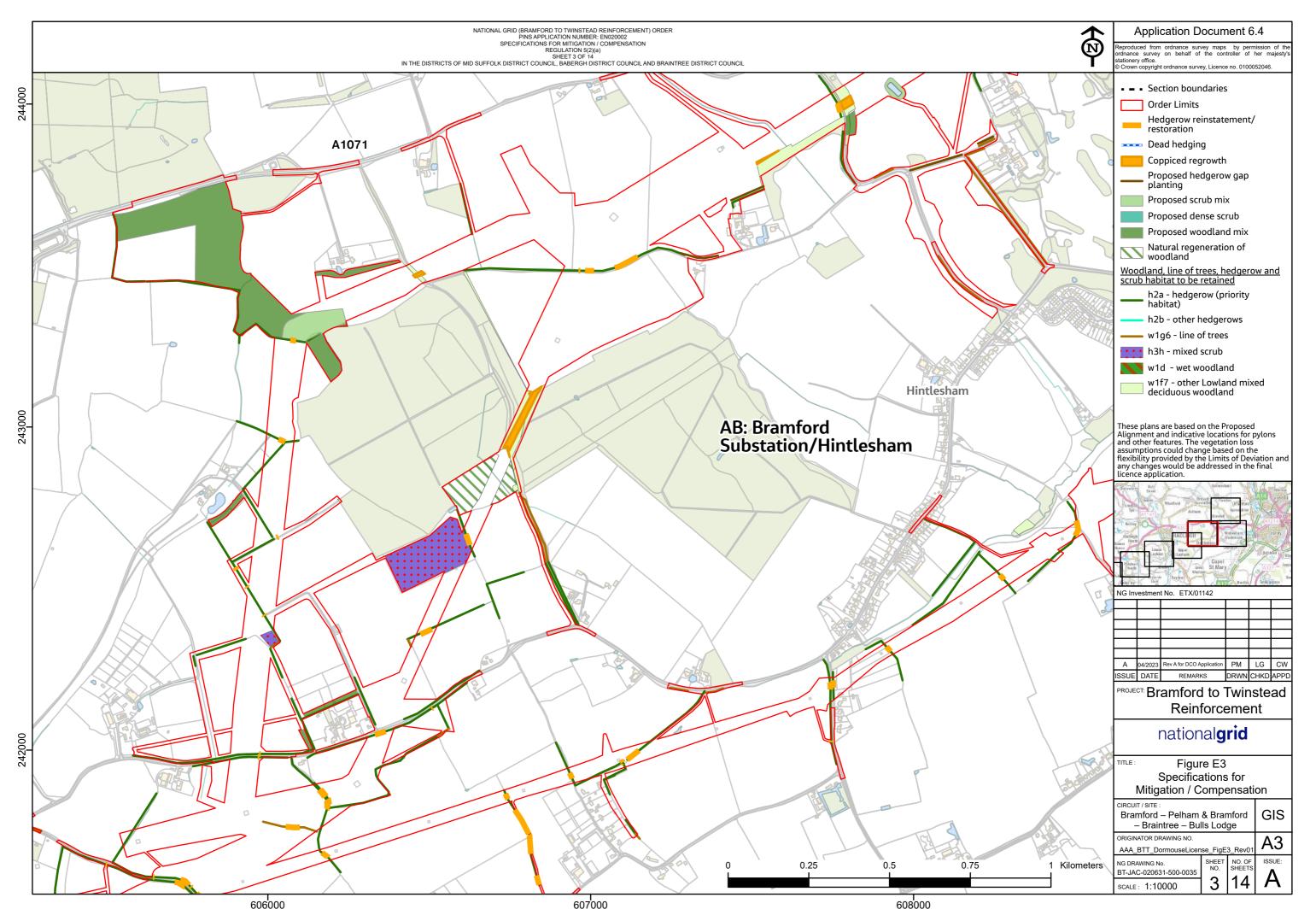


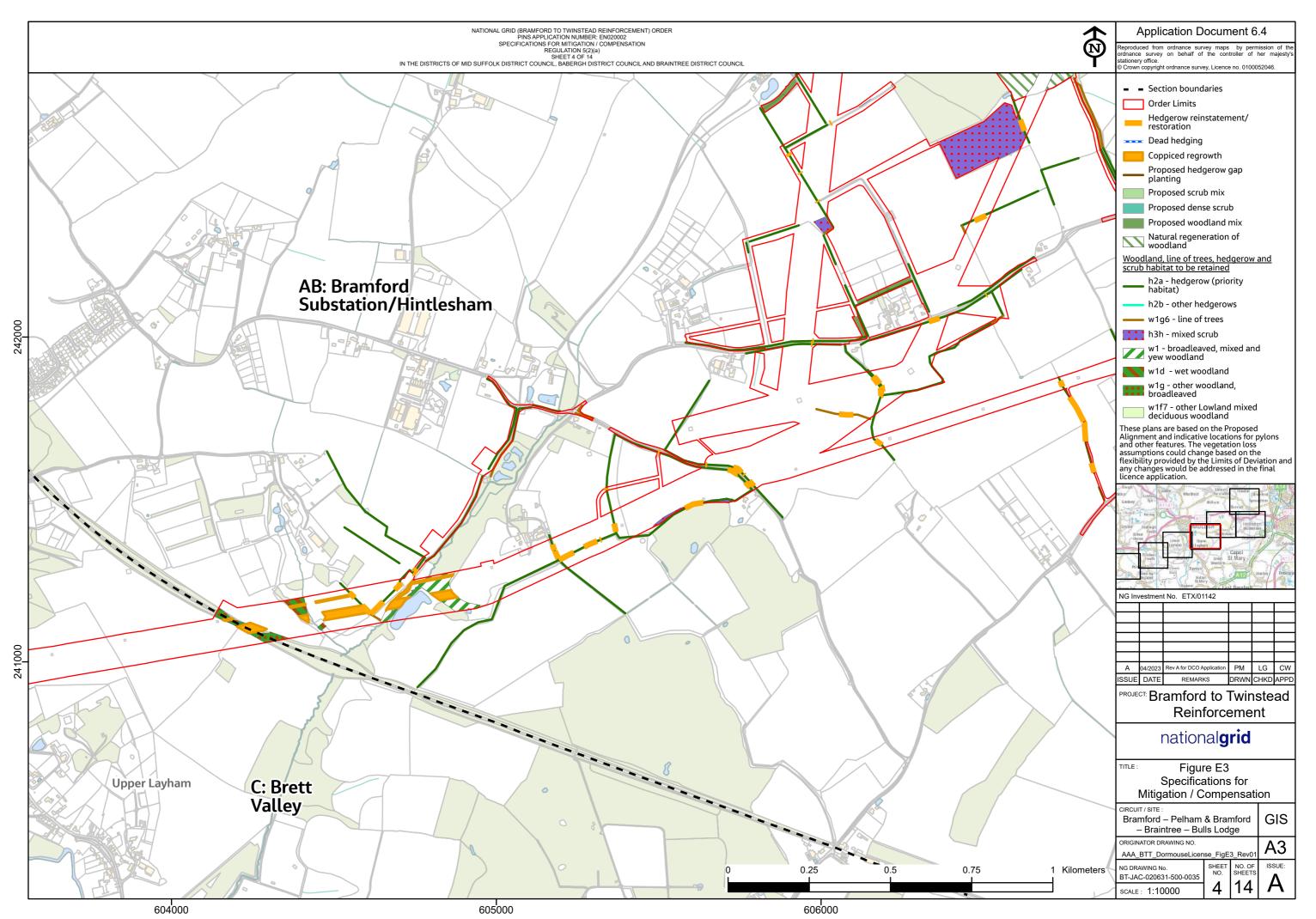


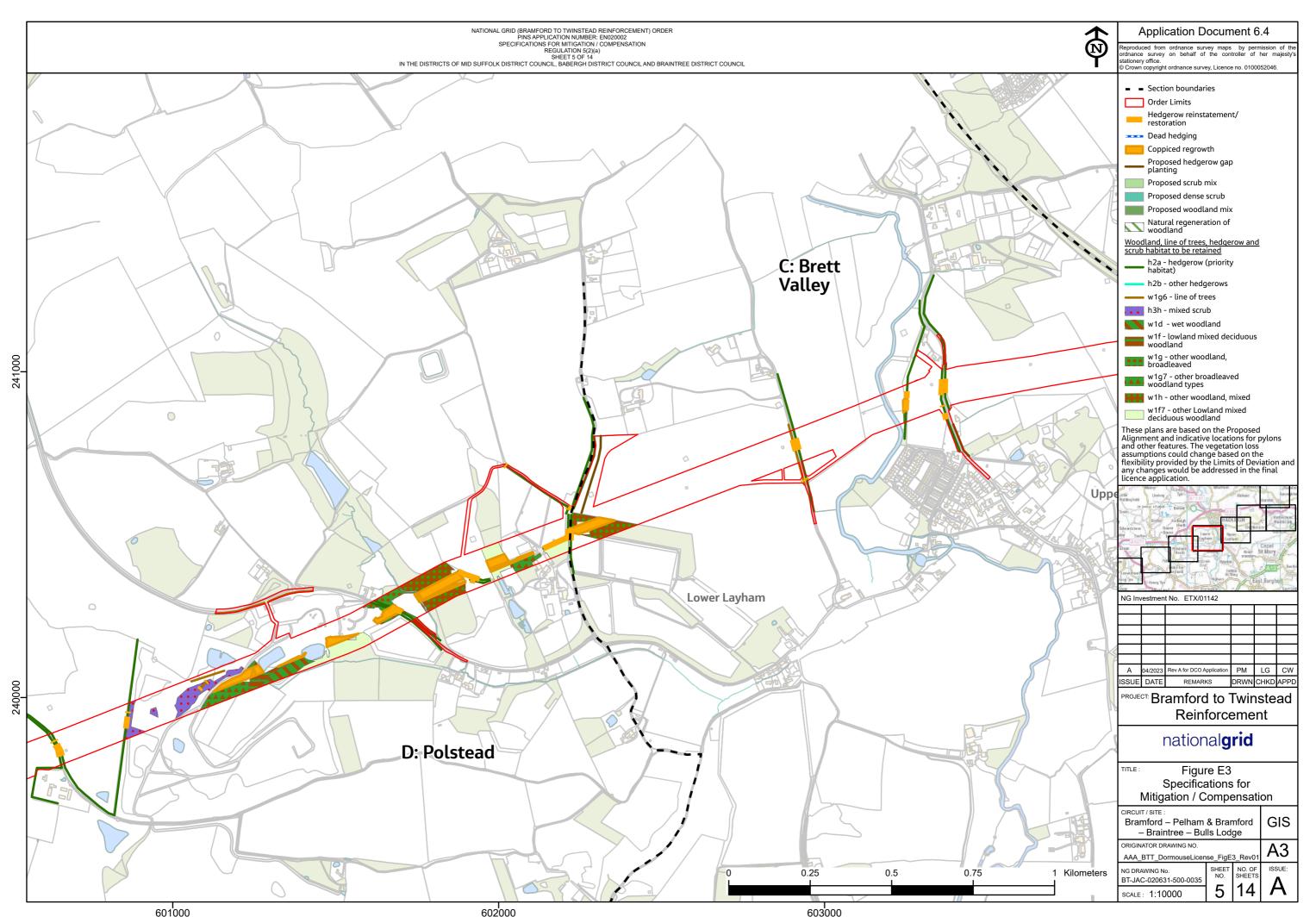


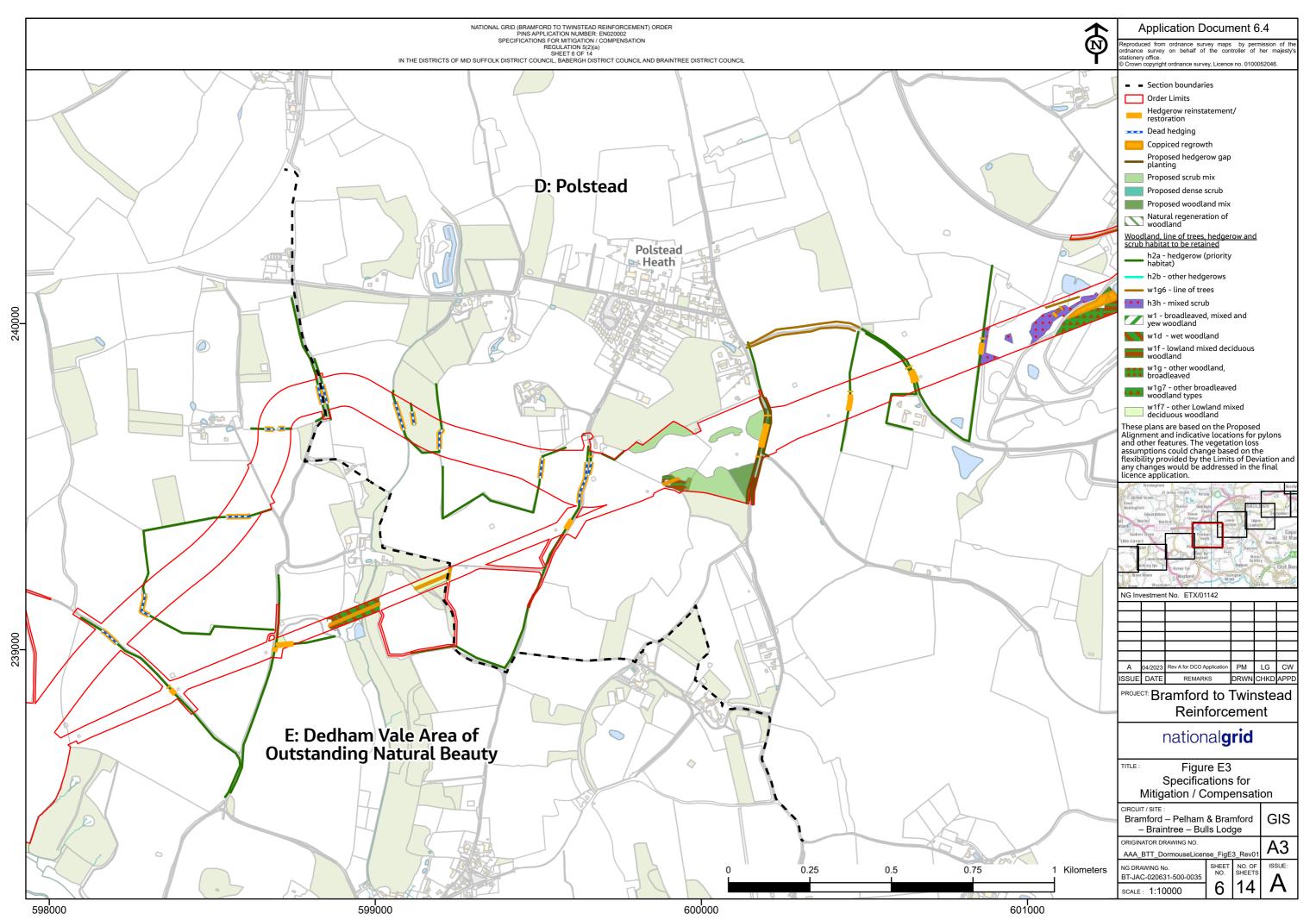


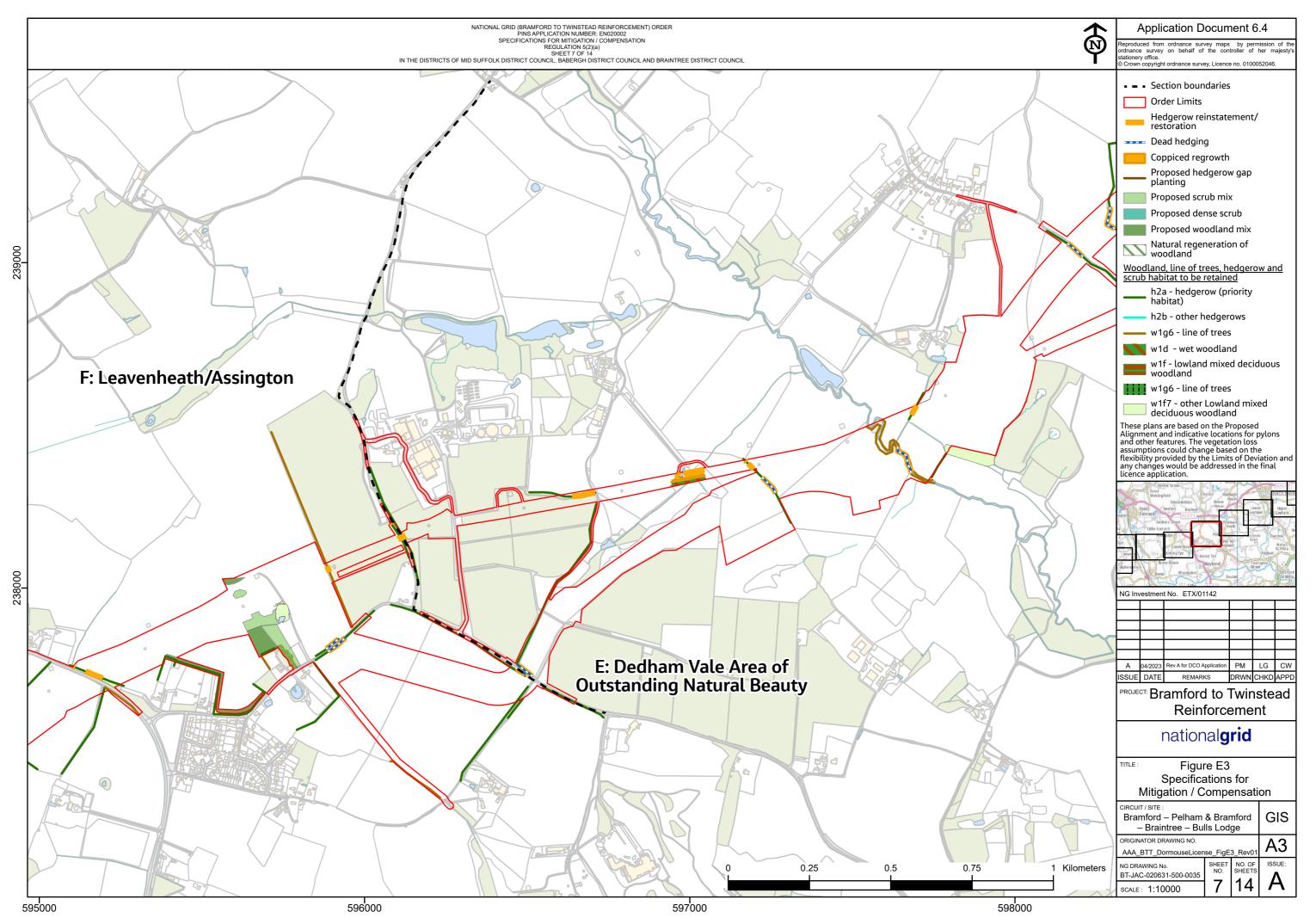


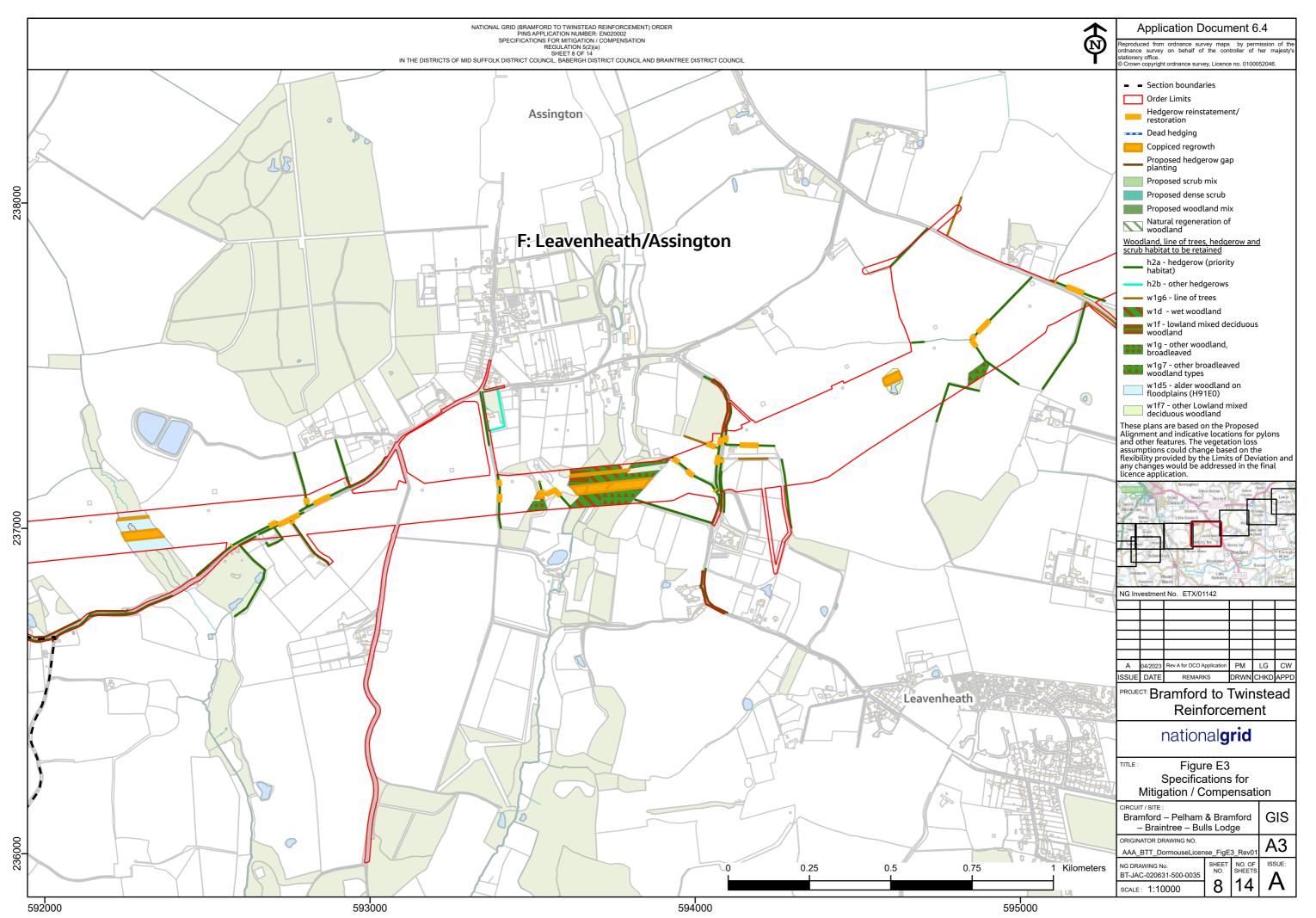


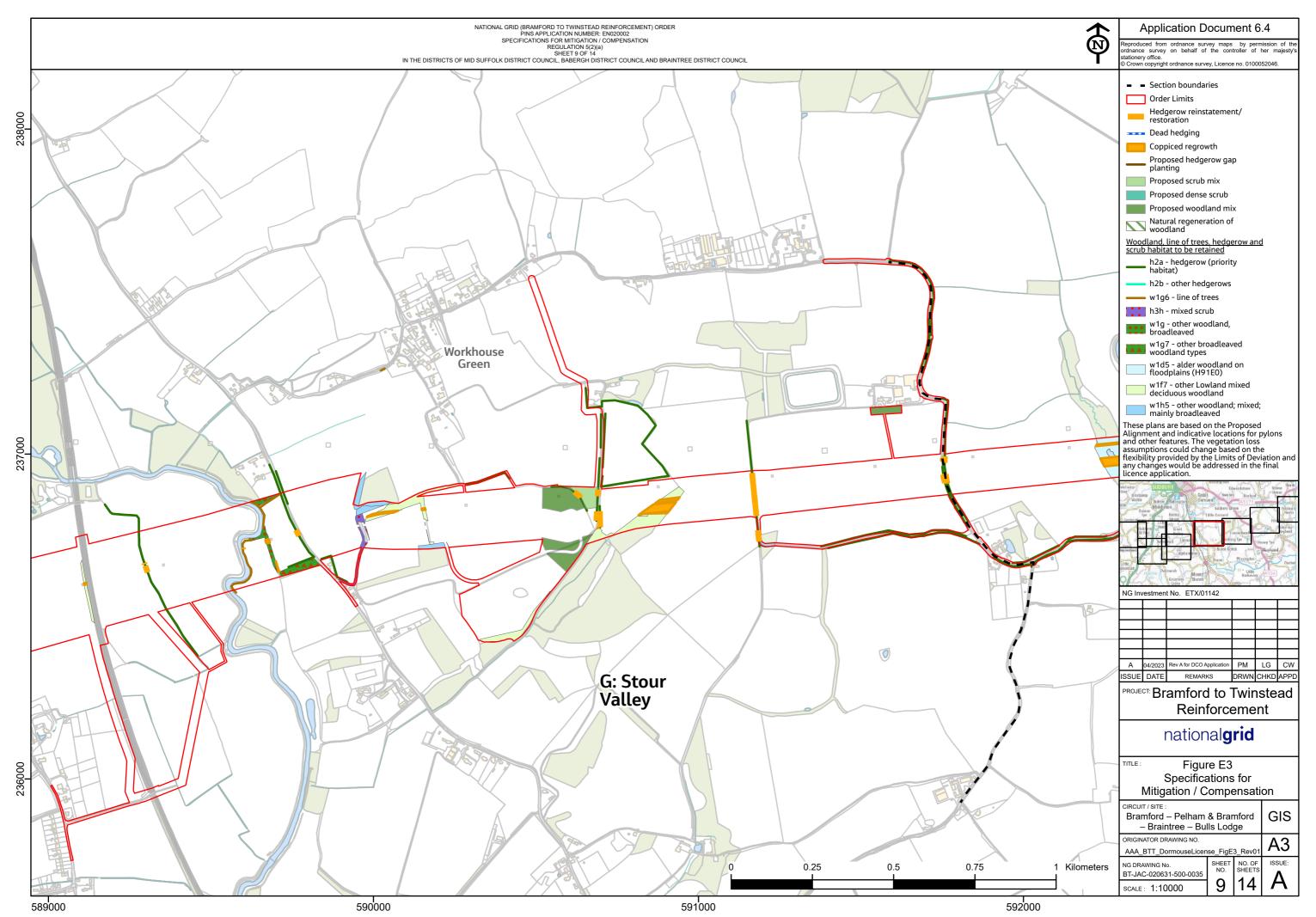


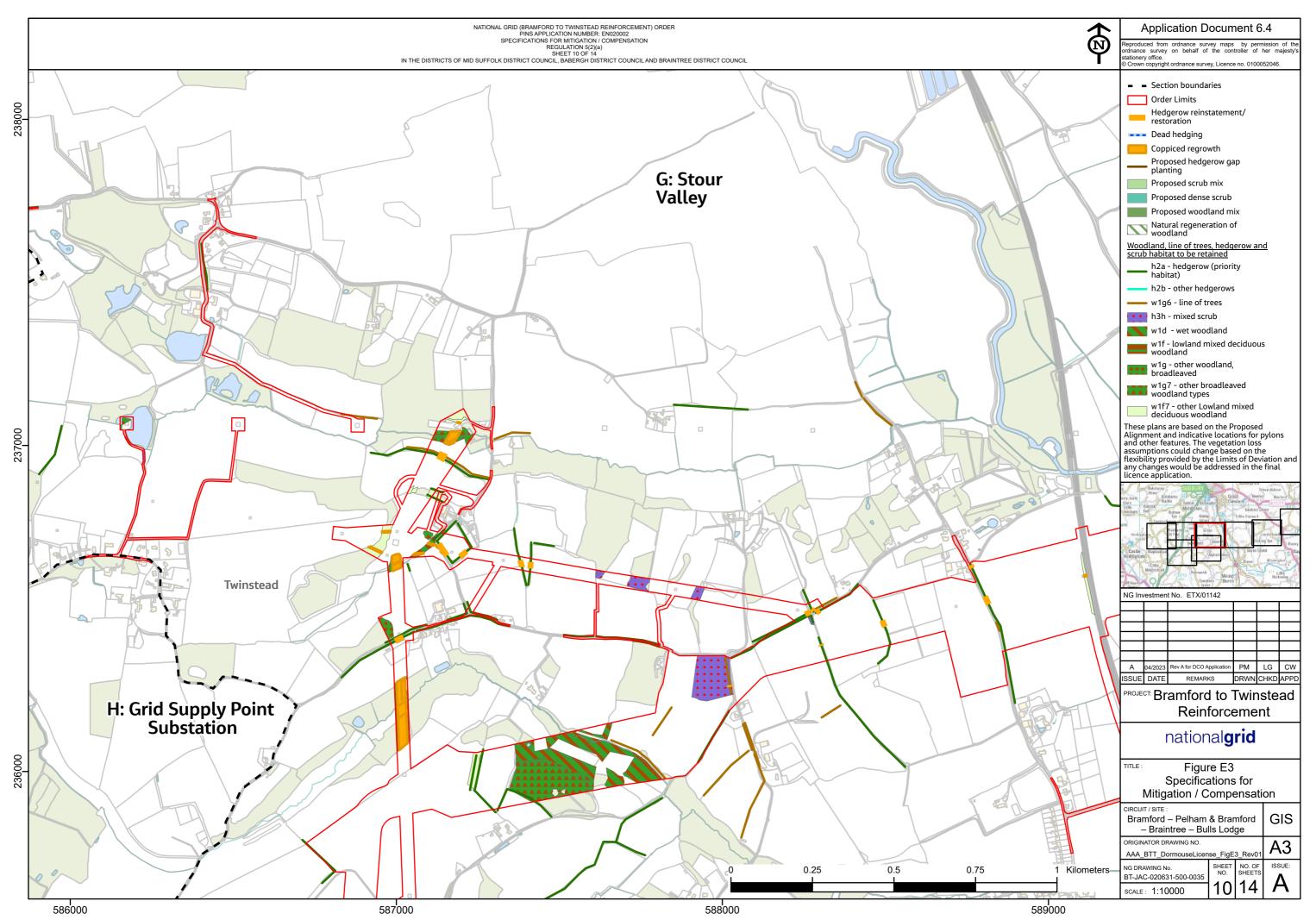


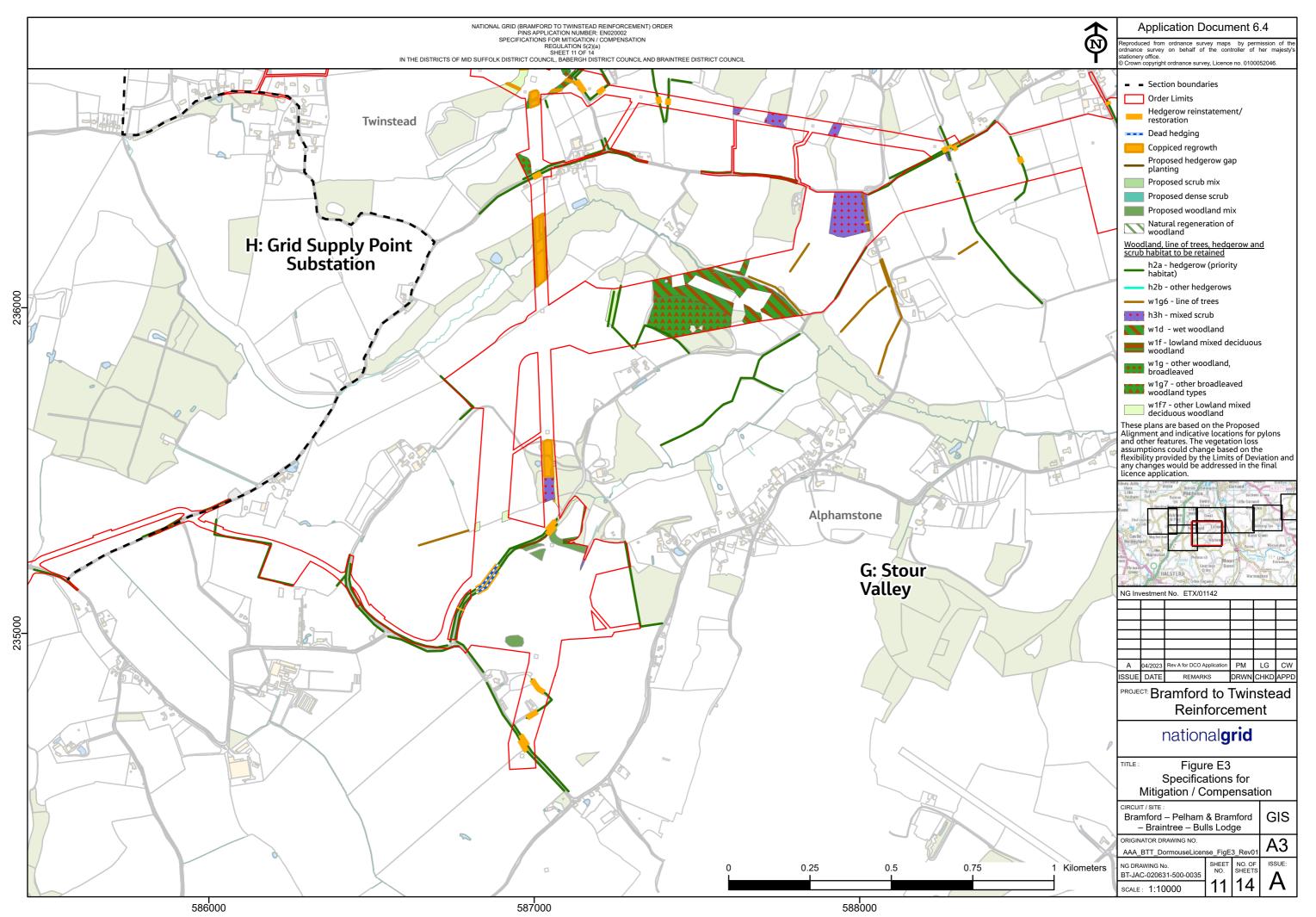


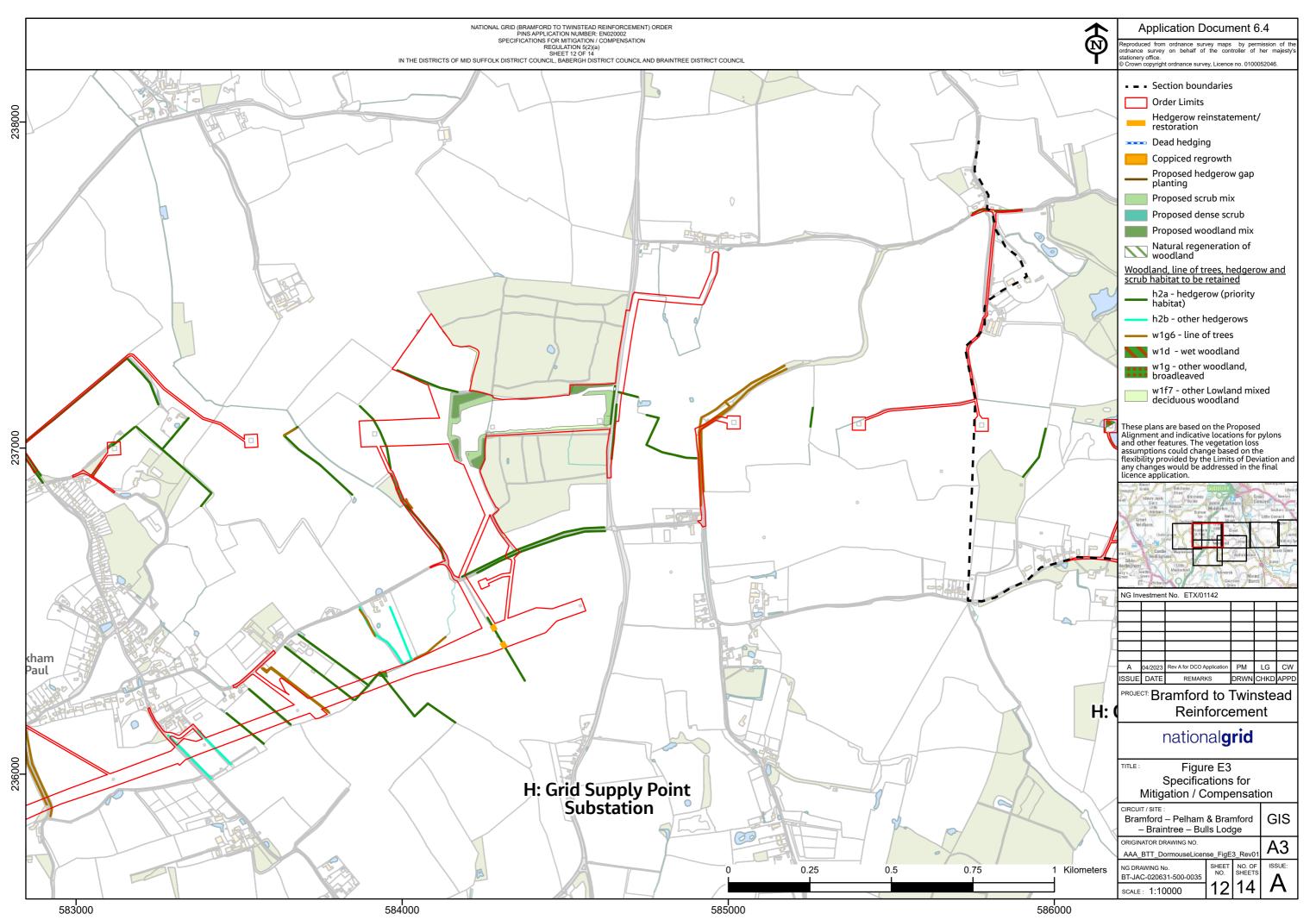


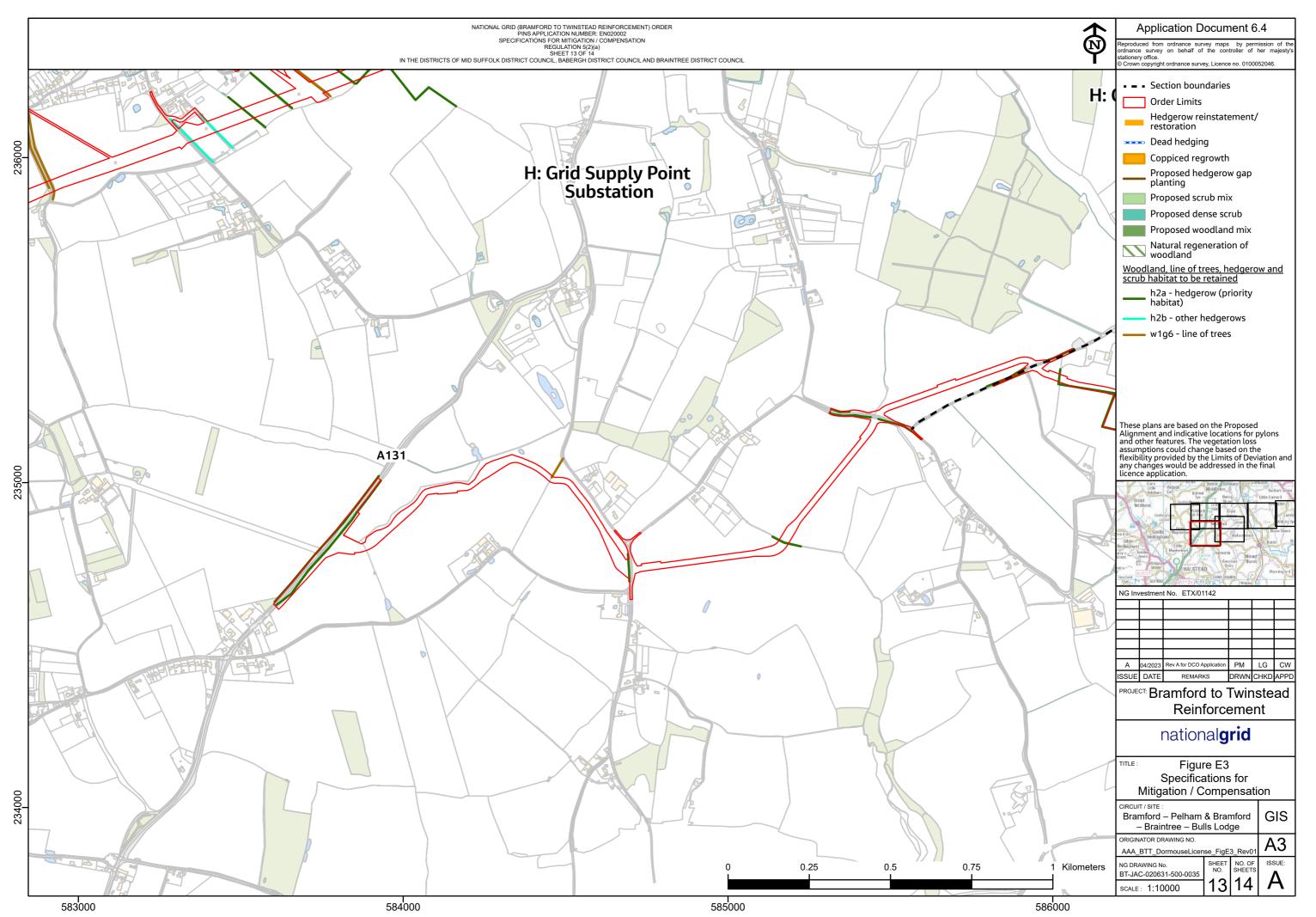


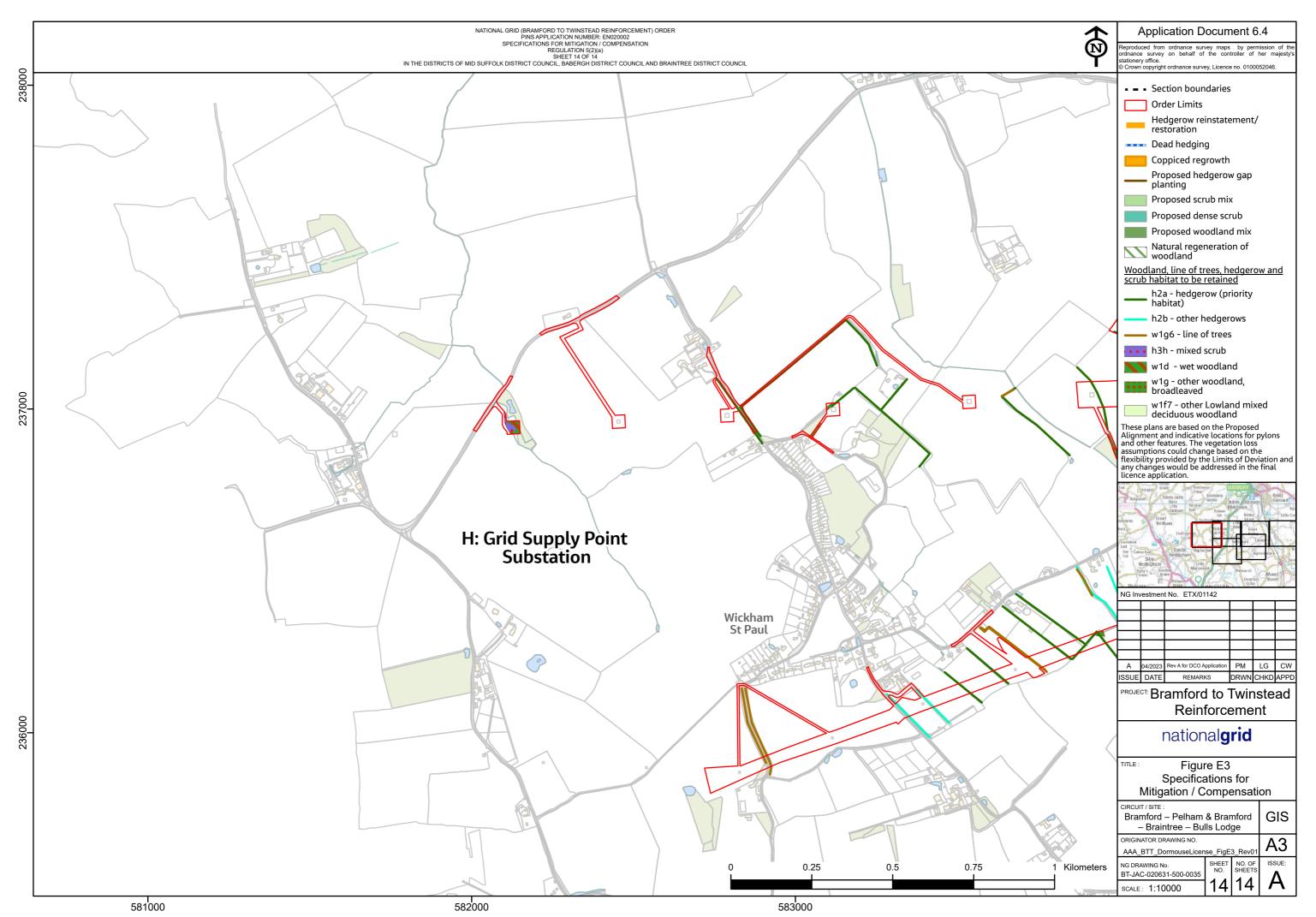


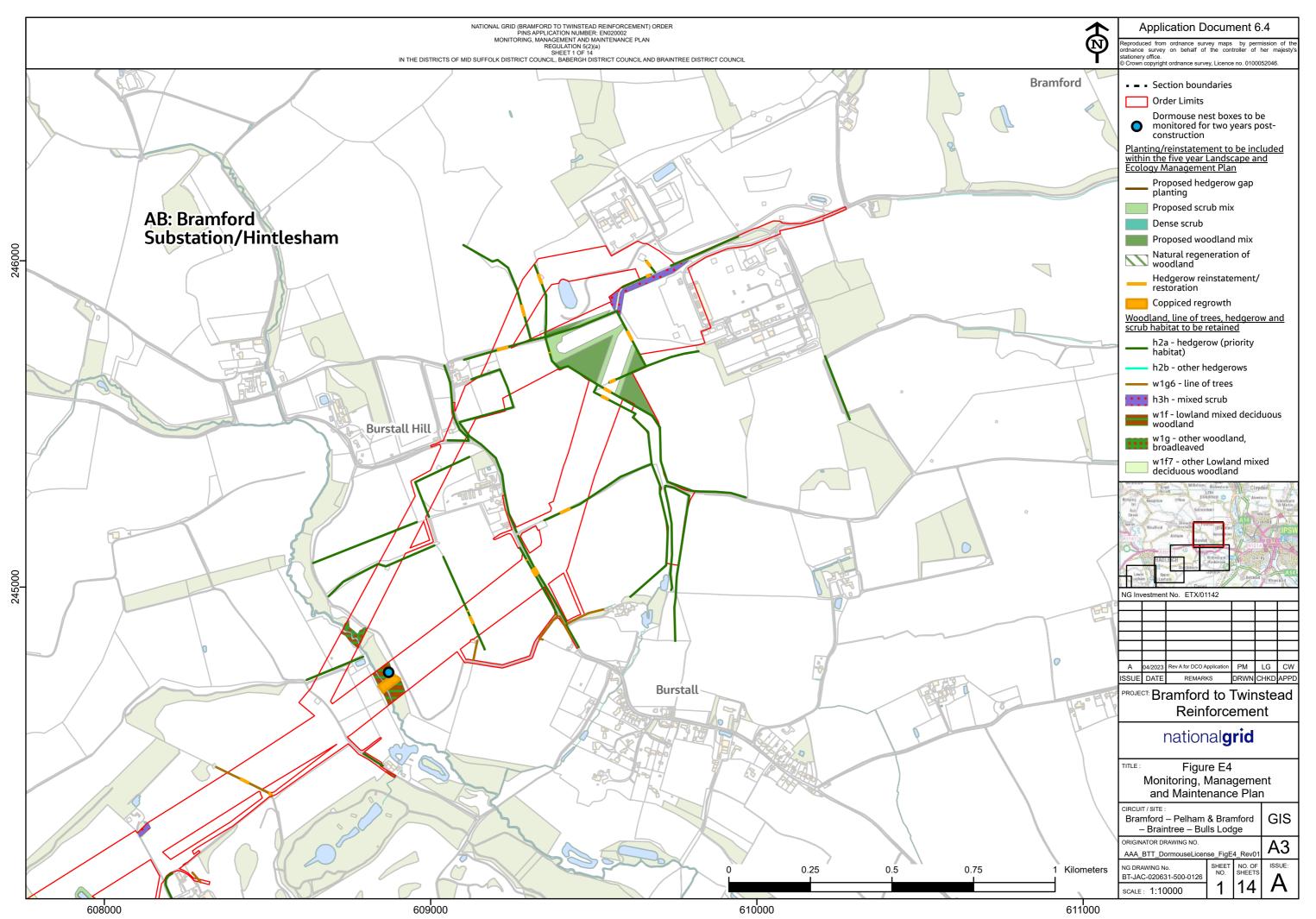


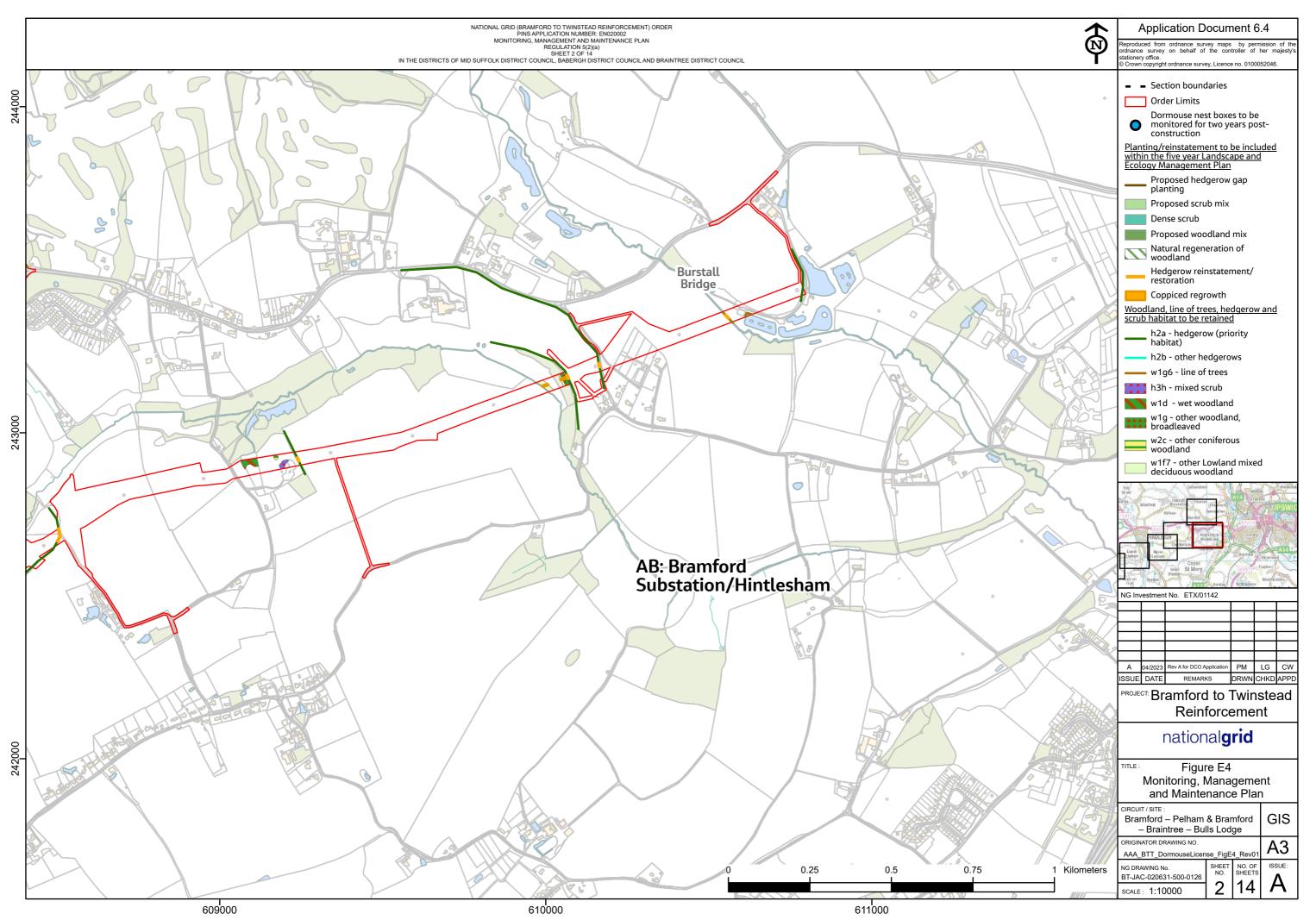


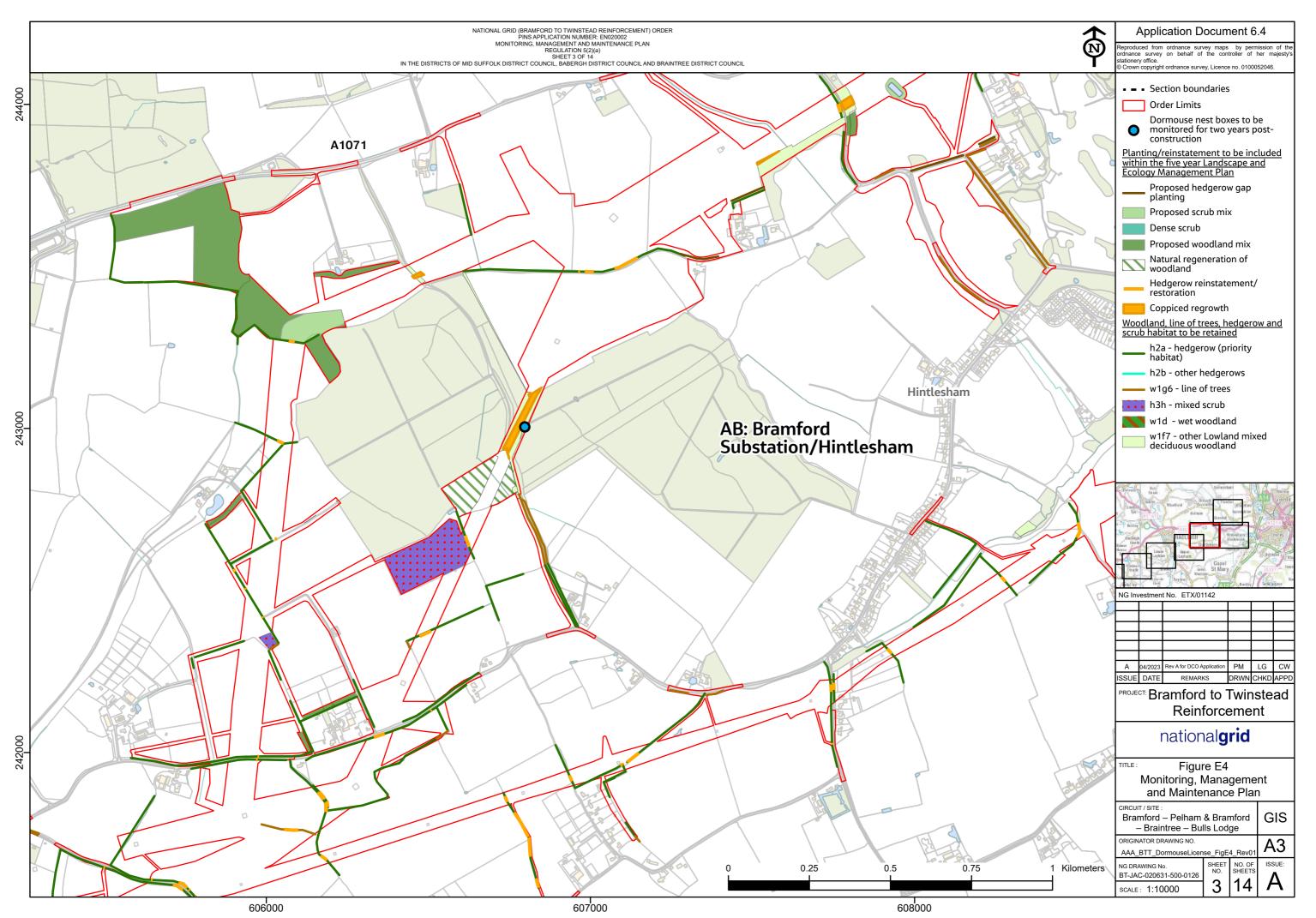


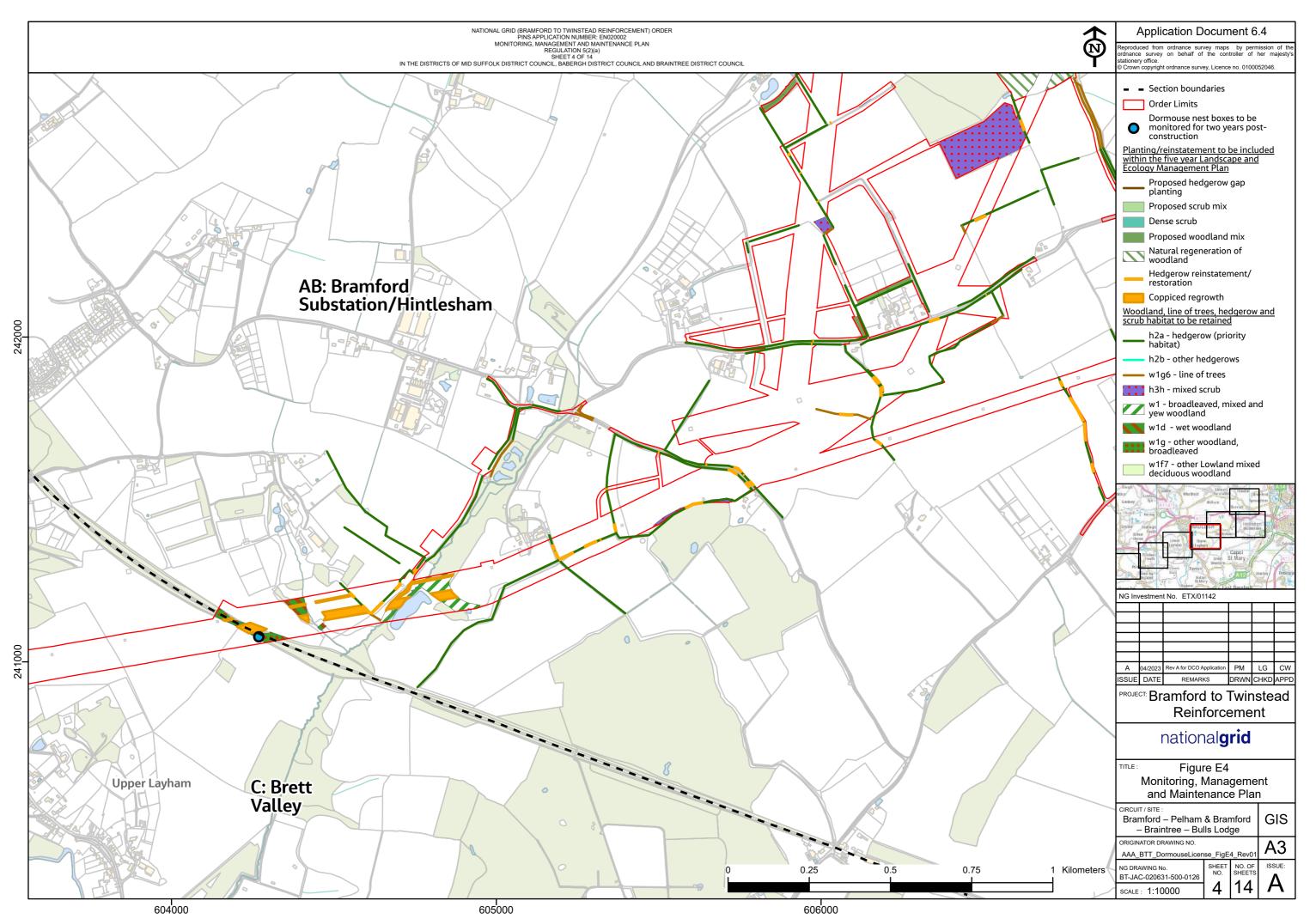


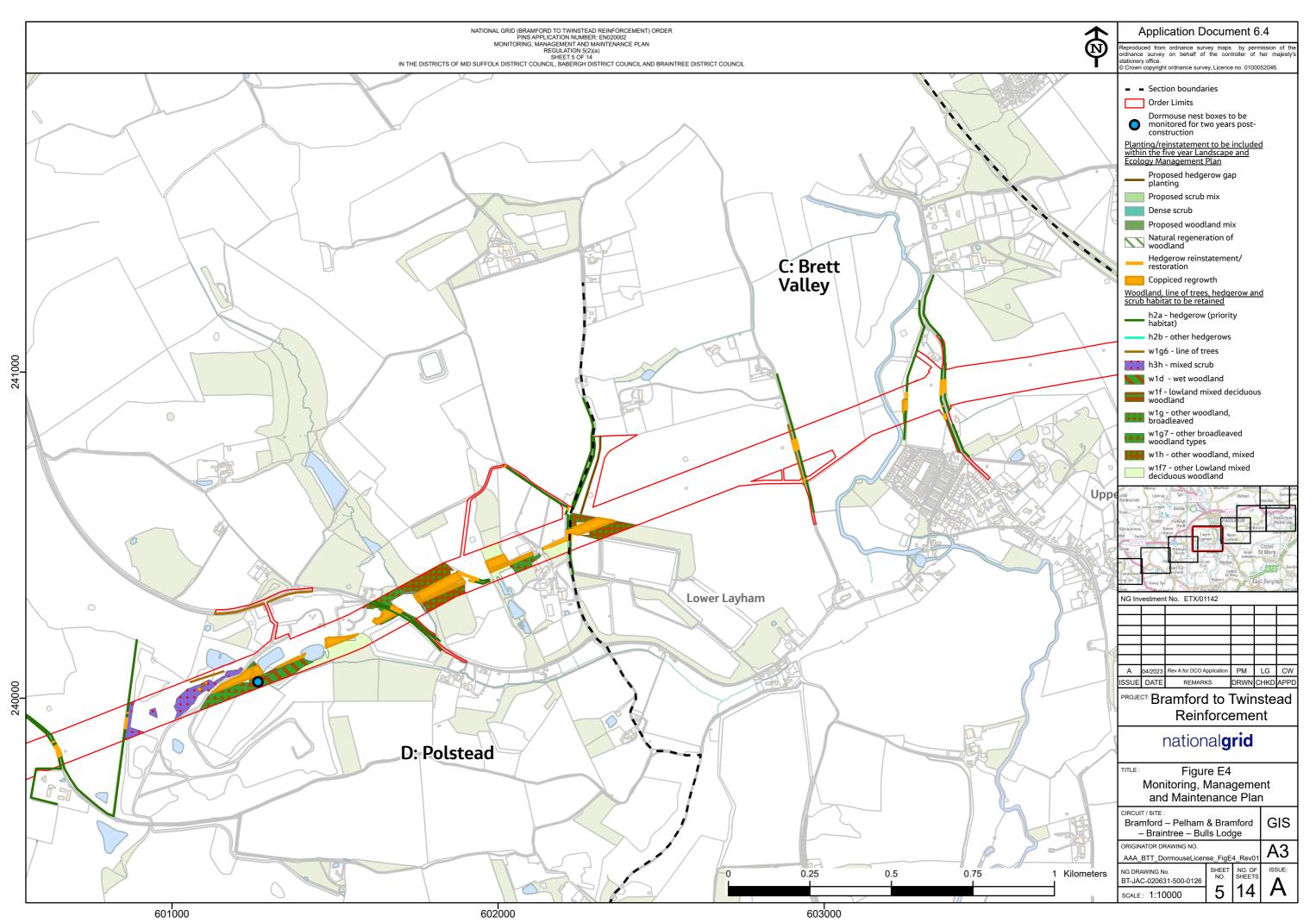


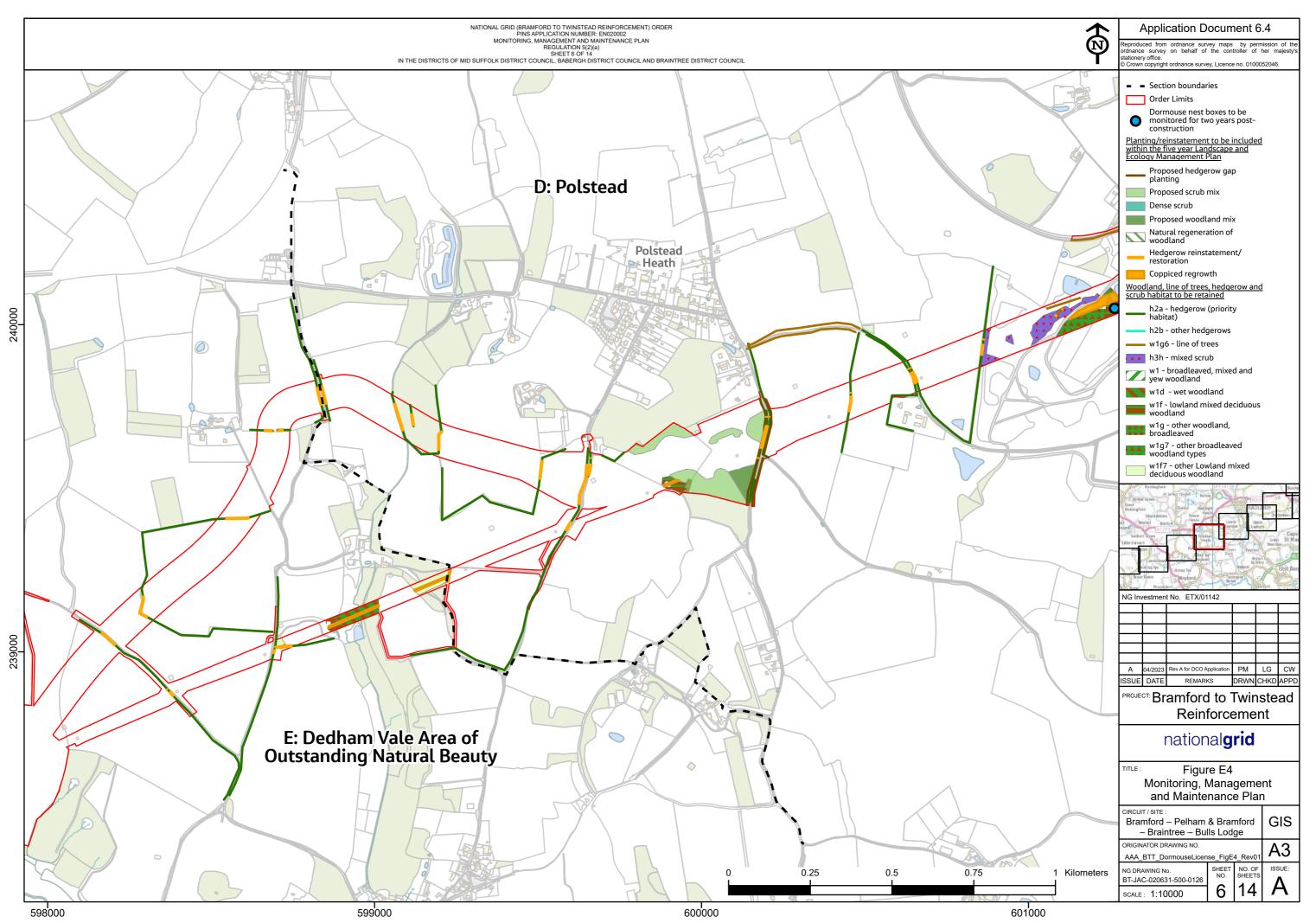


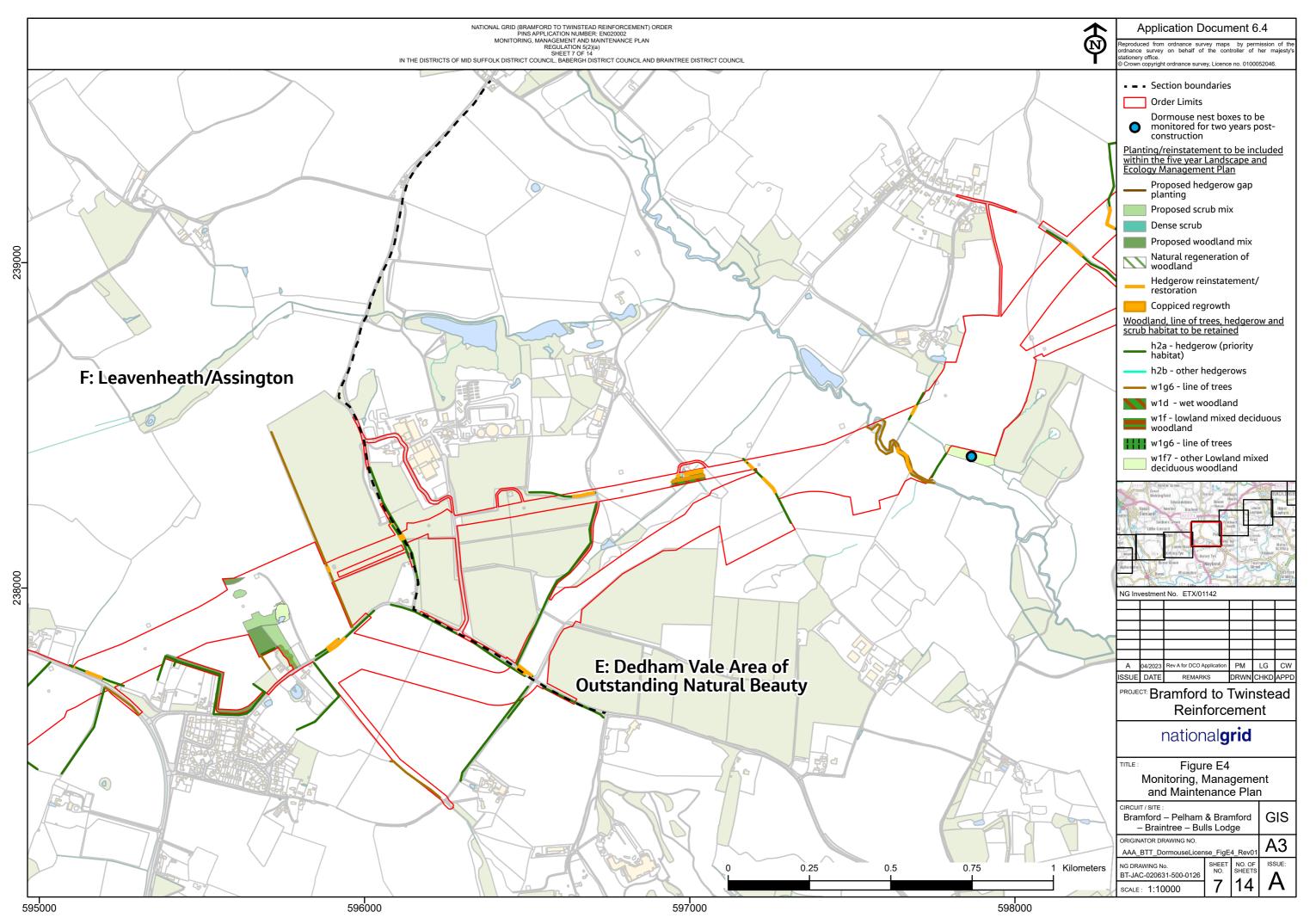


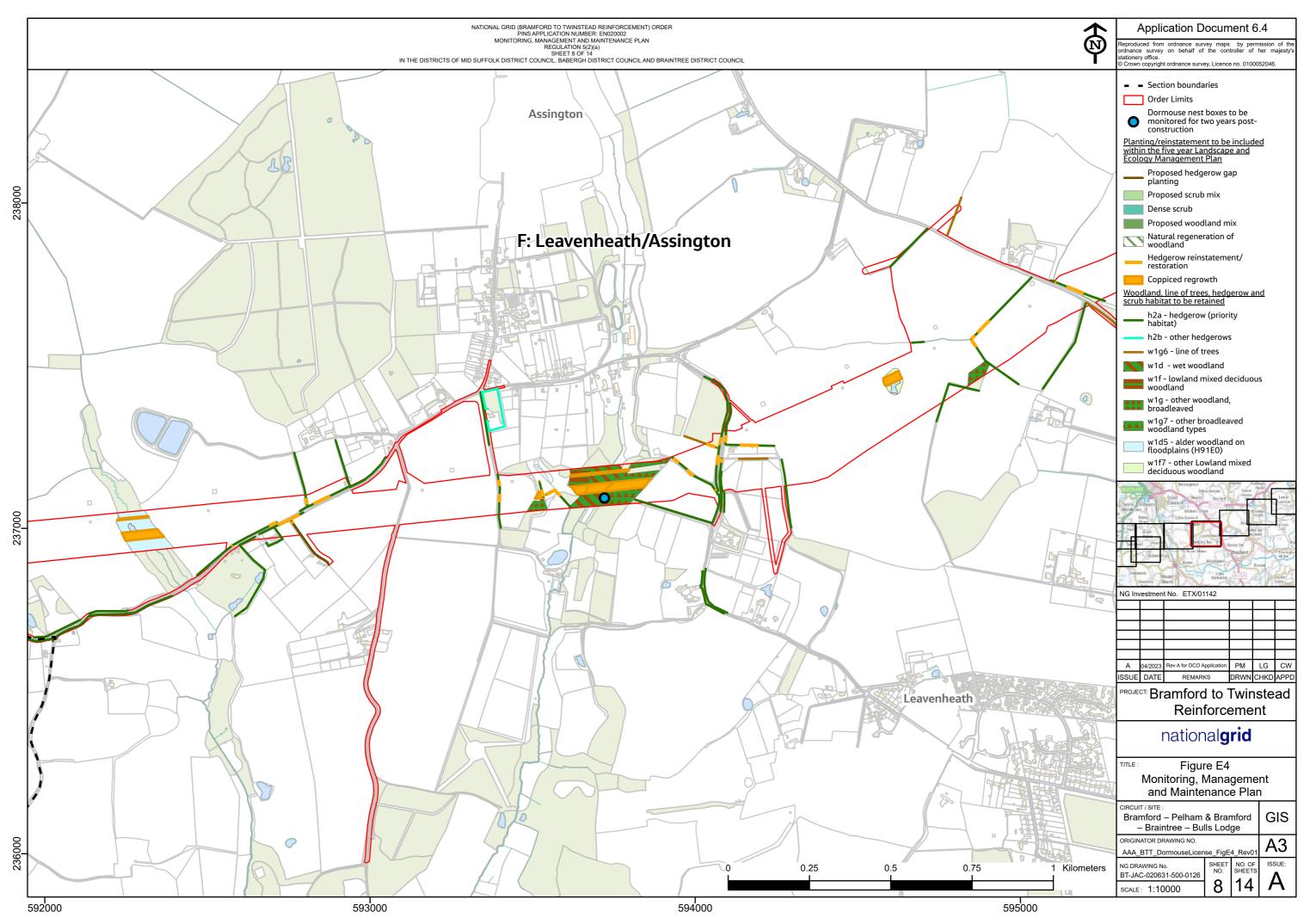


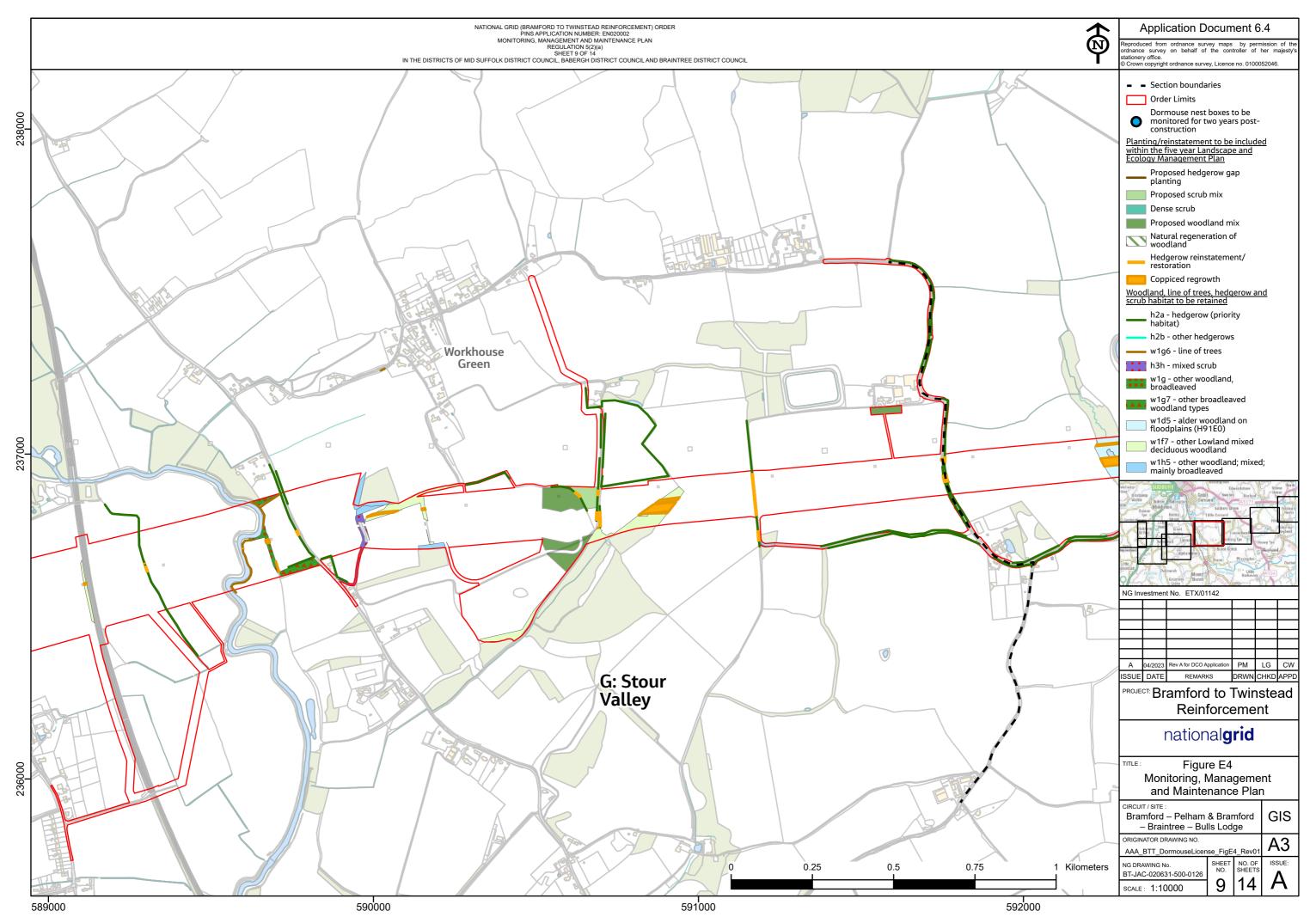


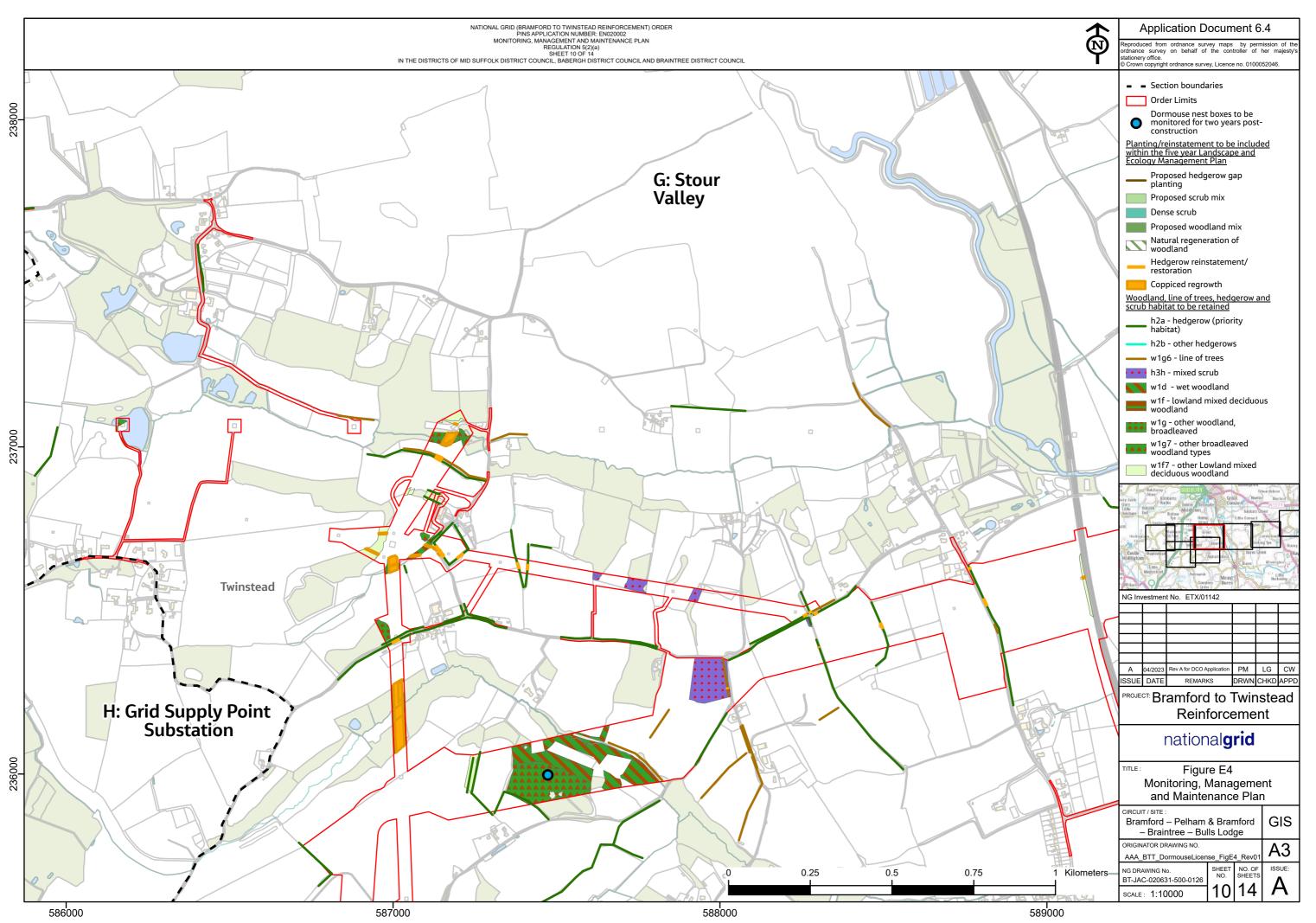


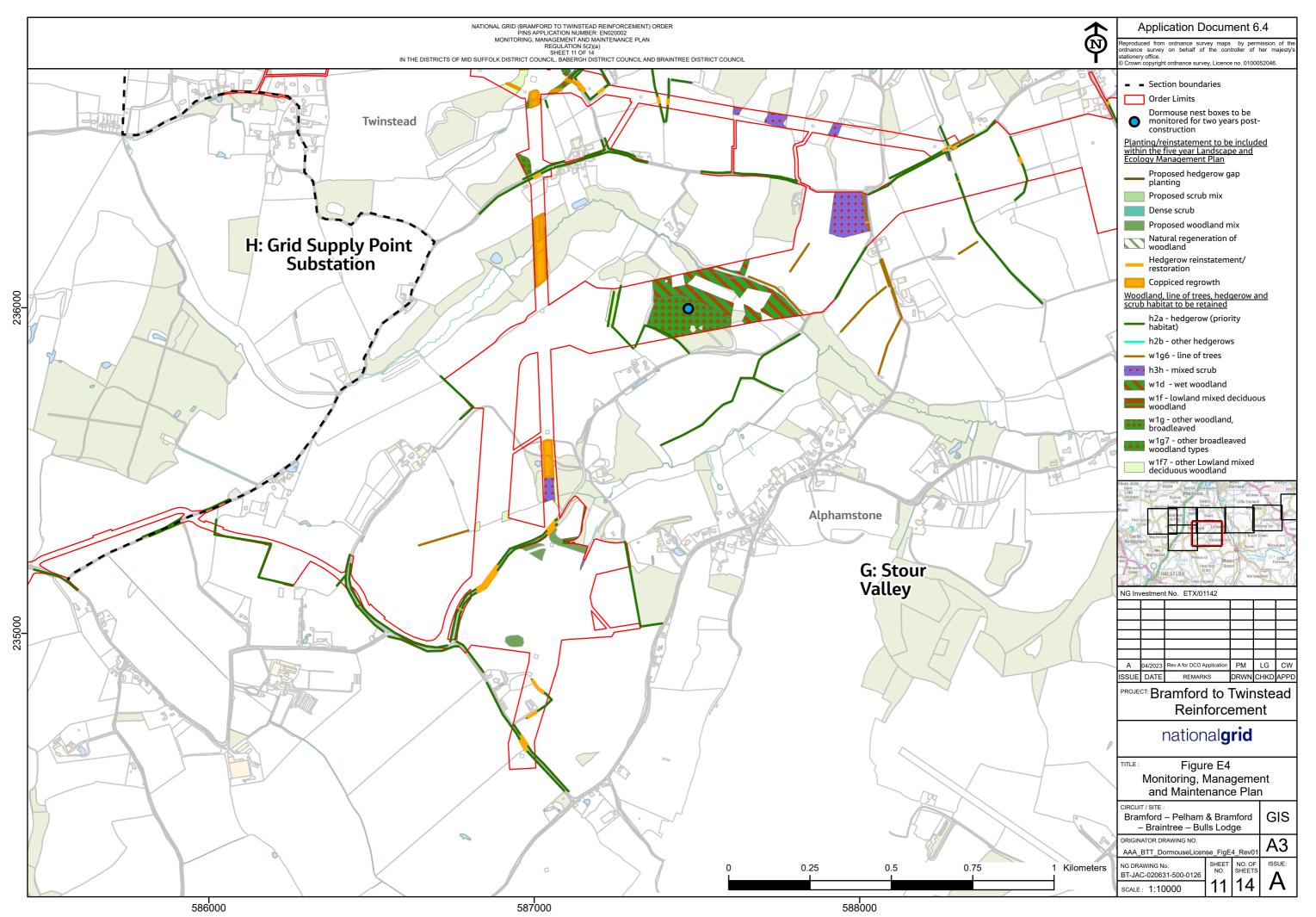


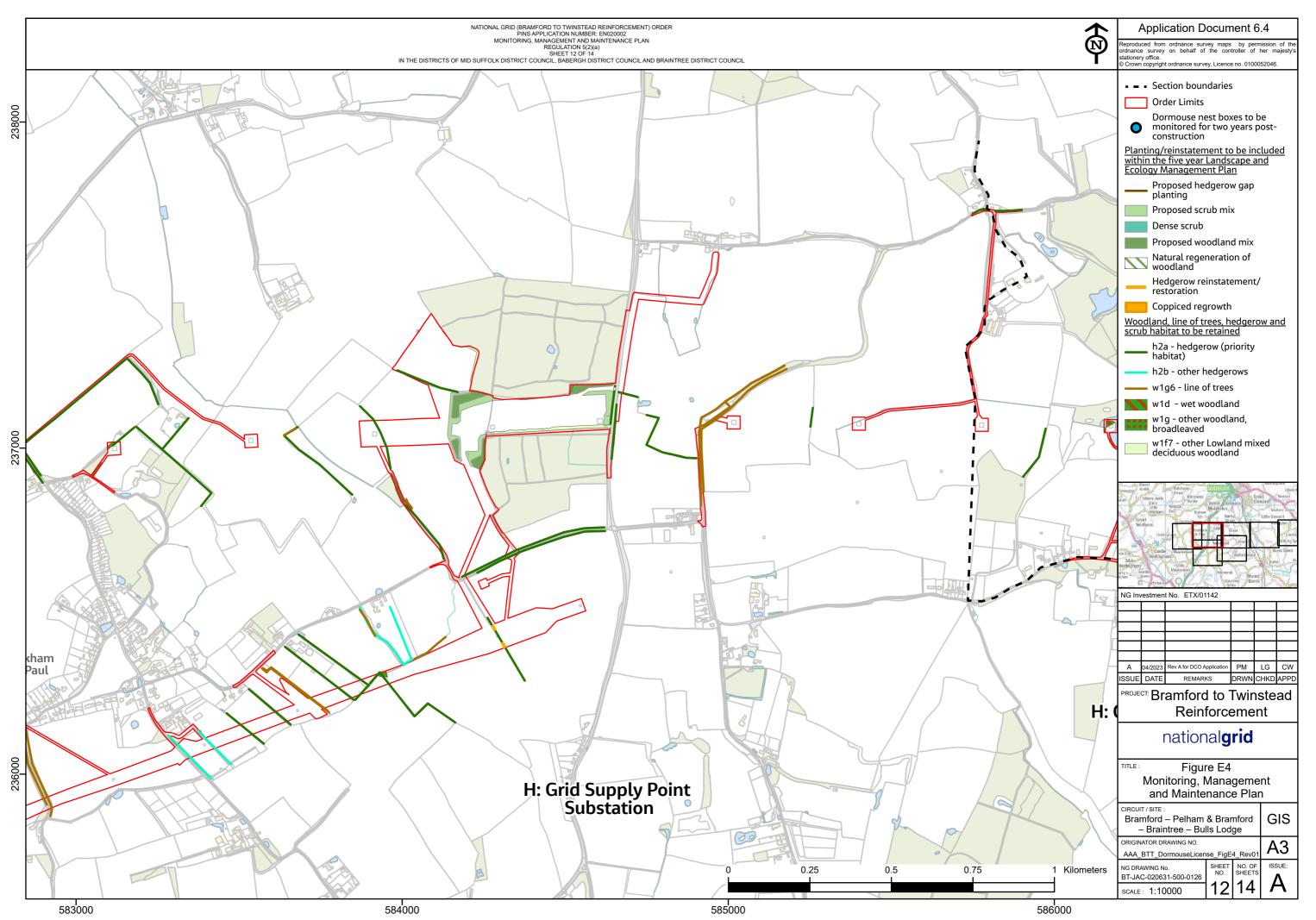


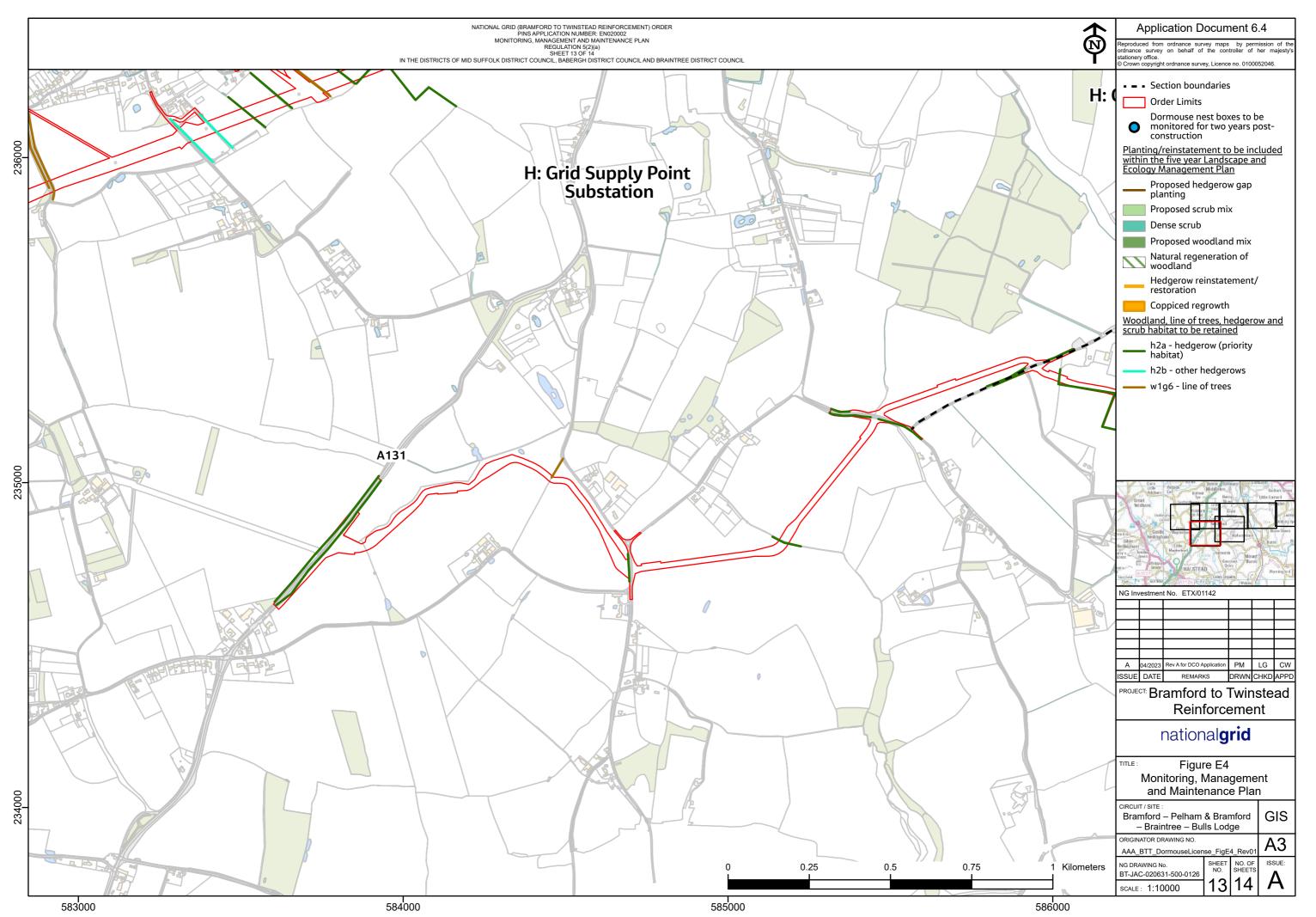


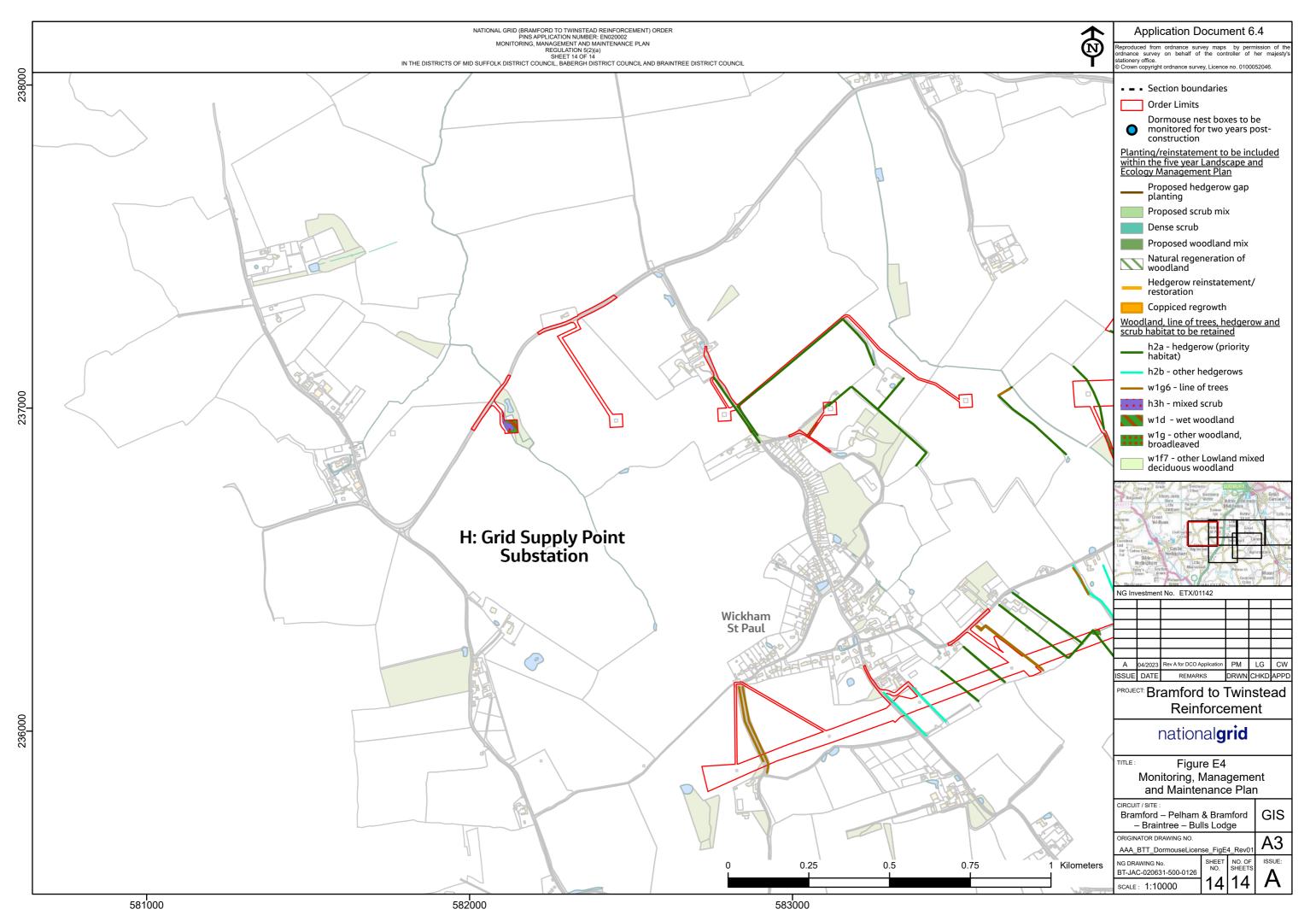












National Grid plc National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick. CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales No. 4031152 nationalgrid.com