

V	ers	ion	Hi	sto	rv
-					

Date	Issue	Status	Description / Changes
April 2023	А	Final	For DCO submission
February 2024	В	Final	Updated draft licence submitted to Natural England during Examination and the Letter of No Impediment

Date: 15 February 2024 Our ref: 2023-63752-EPS-AD1-1

(NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE

PROJECT)



Customer Services, Natural England, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH.

John Bevan, Senior Project Manager, National Grid Sent by e-mail only

Dear Mr John Bevans,

DRAFT MITIGATION LICENCE APPLICATION STATUS: SUBSEQUENT DRAFT

APPLICATION

LEGISLATION: THE CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2017

(as amended)

NSIP: Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

SPECIES: Dormouse

Thank you for your subsequent draft dormouse mitigation licence application in association with the above NSIP site, received in this office on the 26/09/2023 and the 12/01/2024. As stated in our published guidance, once Natural England is content that the draft licence application is of the required standard, we will issue a 'letter of no impediment'. This is designed to provide the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State with confidence that the competent licensing authority sees no impediment to issuing a licence in future, based on information assessed to date in respect of these proposals.

Assessment

The following advice is based upon the information within:

- 1. Dormouse A35 application form received 26/09/2023.
- 2. App 7.8 Annex A Draft Dormouse Licence Method Statement received 12/01/2024.
- 3. Bramford to Twinstead: Technical Note Dormouse Licence Use of Licence Policy 4, dated January 2024.
- 4. Annex A DC 20 05895 Landscape and ecology enhancement plan, dated June 2022.
- 5. Annex A DC 21 04711 Mitigation planting proposals, dated 20/11/2023.
- 6. Annex A DC 21 05468 Landscape strategy plan, dated 21/09/2023.
- 7. Annex A DC 22 01243 Landscape and biodiversity management plan, dated 29/11/2021.
- 8. Figure B2.2 Locations of other nearby dormice licensed sites, dated 01/2024.
- 9. Figure C6b Hazel dormouse baseline, dated 01/2024.
- 10. Figure D Impacts Plan, dated 01/2024.
- 11. Figure E2 Locations and habitats where all capture and exclusion activities will be undertaken, dated 12/2023.
- 12. Figure E3 Specifications for mitigation / compensation, dated 02/2024.
- 13. Figure E4 Key plan monitoring, management, and maintenance plan, dated 12/2023.
- 14. App 7.8 Annex A Draft Dormouse Licence A35a Work Schedule dated 12th January 2024.
- 15. Email x 1, regarding mitigation and compensation measures, received from Cheryl White on the 05/02/2024.

Following our assessment of the resubmitted draft application documents, I can now confirm that, based on the information and proposals provided, Natural England sees no impediment to a licence being issued, should the DCO be granted.

However, please note the following issues have been identified within the current draft of the method statement that will need to be addressed before the licence application is formally submitted. Our wildlife adviser, Katie Hennessy, discussed this matter with Sarah Bevans, via email correspondence, on the 13th of February 2024, where it was confirmed that the necessary amendments would be made. Please do ensure that the Application Form and Method Statement are revised to include these changes prior to formal submission. For clarity these include:

Application Form

At formal submission, ensure that the following sections of the application form are updated as follows:

Section 2 and Section 10:

- Ensure that a suitably experienced named ecologist is proposed at formal submission.

Section 7:

- Ensure that SSSI consent or assent is obtained from Natural England where applicable.

Section 8:

- Ensure that landowner consent is obtained, and section 8 updated accordingly.

Section 9:

- Ensure that this section is updated to reflect the licensable actions to be undertaken.

Section 11:

- Ensure that this section is updated with full details regarding the DCO.

Section 15:

- Ensure that sections a, b, c and d are fully completed with the charging information and invoicing details.

Section 17:

- Ensure that the Declarations in this section are signed and dated by the applicant and the named ecologist.

Method Statement

Section C5 - Field Survey:

- Ensure that an updated walkover survey is undertaken within 3 months prior to the formal application and update the method statement to reflect this.

Section E2 – Methodology:

- At formal submission, where more than 0.25ha is to be cleared per day across the scheme, a final clearance proposal will be provided, which clearly demonstrates how the clearance proposals will allow for the safe dispersal of dormice and will minimise the risk of double handling dormice during clearance works. This will also evidence that no areas

- of habitat will be left isolated from the wider area, following clearance. This will need to be approved by Natural England at formal submission, prior to the granting of a licence.
- Where machinery is proposed, the clearance proposals will also need to ensure that all
 habitats are thoroughly fingertip searched prior to clearance or alternatively, confirmation
 will be required to evidence that trees will be lain on the ground and hand searched after
 snipping.
- If tree shears are machine mounted, at formal submission you will need to evidence where the machinery will be parked, to ensure that the machinery does not track over any suitable dormouse habitat onsite.
- Where alternative machinery is proposed*, ensure that full details are provided which evidence that there is no risk to the welfare of dormice during habitat clearance, using the specific machinery proposed. Natural England must be satisfied regarding the clearance proposals at formal submission, prior to the granting of a licence.
- Ensure that the method statement is updated to show that where clearance is undertaken in April, this will only be from late April onwards, when conditions are suitable for dormice to be active. Justification will also need to be provided within the method statement, to confirm why works need to be undertaken in April.

Figure E2 – Locations and habitats where all capture and exclusion activities will be undertaken:

- Ensure that the figure is updated to show what areas will be cleared, and when, to clearly show the dormouse proposals as referenced in section E2 comments (above).
- Ensure that the figure is updated to show that all vegetation will be cleared in the direction towards retained suitable dormice habitat (a text box may be added to the figure to evidence this).
- Ensure that details regarding hand searches are referenced on the figure.

Section E3.2 – Creation of new habitat:

- Ensure that the method statement is updated to clearly indicate that 60 dormouse nest boxes will be installed.
- Ensure that the method statement clearly states that dead hedging will be provided in all areas as shown on figure E3.

Figure E3 – Key plan specifications for Mitigation/ Compensation:

- Ensure that the location of dormouse nest boxes (and number to be installed) is shown on the figure.

Section F – Declarations:

 Ensure that the declarations section is completed, including confirmation regarding landowner consent.

Work schedule Sections E6a & E6b:

Ensure the following amendments are made to the Work Schedule:

- All Where applicable, the timings of all activities are updated.
- New habitat creation in the comments box, a comment is added to confirm how many ha of new woodland planting and new scrub planting will be undertaken, and when, ensuring consistency with section E3.2 of the method statement.
- Construction of connectivity or linking structures Ensure that the timings are added to
 indicate when this activity will be undertaken by. Also ensure that the comment in the
 timings column is moved to the comments box.

- Site checks and maintenance during construction ensure that specific timings are added for site checks by the ecologist here and the comments box details who will undertake these checks and the frequency (i.e. checks to be undertaken monthly by ecologist, weekly by site staff).
- Hand searches including capture by hand ensure that timings are added to indicate
 when hand searches will be undertaken, and the comments box states 'in accordance
 with procedures set out on Figure E2 dated xx/xx/xx (insert new date once figure E2
 revised).
- Single stage habitat removal active season In the comments box add a comment to state 'as per figure E2 dated xx/xx/xxxx'.
- Two stage habitat removal
 - Stage one In the comments box, ensure that a comment is added to state that any remaining habitat not cleared by single stage clearance, will be cleared by two stage clearance (in line with the method statement).
 - Stage two, add a comment to state that stage two clearance will commence from late April onwards, when conditions are suitable for dormice to be active. This will include a thorough hand search of all areas by the named ecologist and/ or an accredited agent, as clearance is undertaken, in a directional manner, towards retained habit.
- E5b Habitat Management ensure that this section is updated to show 5 years of habitat management, as per the method statement.

Additional Comments

- Please note that the draft application has been assessed on the basis that the impacts are predominantly of a temporary nature. Any revision to the impacts at formal submission may require further assessment from Natural England and will need to be approved by Natural England prior to the granting of a licence.
- *Natural England have advised in an email on the 02/02/2024, that we typically advise against the use of Machine Mounted Flails if clearance is being undertaken during the active season for dormice.

Next Steps

Should the DCO be granted then the mitigation licence application must be formally submitted to Natural England. At this stage any modifications to the timings of the proposed works, e.g. due to ecological requirements of the species concerned, must be made and agreed with Natural England before a licence is granted.

If other minor changes to the application are subsequently necessary, e.g. amendments to the work schedule/s then these should be outlined in a covering letter and must be reflected in the formal submission of the licence application. These changes must be agreed by Natural England before a licence can be granted. If changes are made to proposals or timings which do not enable us to meet reach a 'satisfied' decision, we will issue correspondence outlining why the proposals are not acceptable and what further information is required. These issues will need to be addressed before any licence can be granted.

Full details of Natural England's licensing process with regards to NSIP's can be found at the following link:

 $\frac{http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/wml-g36_tcm6-28566.pdf$

As stated in the above guidance note, I should also be grateful if an open dialogue can be maintained with yourselves regarding the progression of the DCO application so that, should the Order be granted, we will be in a position to assess the final submission of the application in a timely fashion and avoid any unnecessary delay in issuing the licence.

I hope the above has been helpful. However, should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Hennessy

Tel: E-mail:

@naturalengland.org.uk

Annex - Guidance for providing further information or formally submitting the licence application.

Important note: when submitting your formal application please mark all correspondence 'FOR THE ATTENTION OF Katie Hennessy'.

Submitting Documents.

Documents must be sent to the Customer Services Wildlife Licensing (postal and email address at the top of this letter).

Changes to Documents –Reasoned Statement/Method Statement.

Changes must be identified using one or more of the following methods:

- underline new text/strikeout deleted text;
- use different font colour:
- block-coloured text, or all the above.

Method Statement

When submitting a revised Method Statement please send us one copy on CD, or by e-mail if less than 5MB in size, or alternatively three paper copies. The method statement should be submitted in its entirety including all figures, appendices, supporting documents. Sections of this document form part of the licence; please do not send the amended sections in isolation.

Customer Feedback – EPS Mitigation Licensing

To help us improve our service please complete the following questionnaire and return to:

Customer Services, Natural England, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH.

ax: 0845 6013438 or email to wildlife@naturalengland.org.uk							
http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ou	urwork/regulation/wildli	ife/default.aspx					
Natural England Reference No	Please tick to		Consultar	Consultant			
		indicate your	role:	Develope	r (Applica	nt/Licensee)	
1. How easy was it to get in co	ontact with the Wild	dlife Manager	nent & L	icensing te	am of Nat	ural Englar	nd?
Difficult (1)	OK (2)		Easy (3)		Very Eas	sy (4)
			, \square				
If 1 please specify who you initia	ally contacted in rela	tion to your is:	sue/enqu	iry?			
2. Please tell us how aware y	ou were (BEFORE	vou contacte	ed us) of	wildlife le	gislation a	and what it	does/does
not permit in relation to your	•	,	,		J		
Unaware (1)	Very Limited A	wareness (2)	Par	tially Aware	(3)	Fully A	ware (4)
						[
3. How would you rate the ser	vice provided by N	atural Englar	nd?				
			Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Not
			1	2	3	4	applicable
Ease of completion of applicatio							
Advice provided by telephone (if	applicable)						
Our web site (if applicable)							
Clarity and usefulness of publish	ned guidance						
Helpfulness and politeness of st	aff						
Advice and clarity of explanation	ns provided during M	lethod					
Statement assessment	5						
Advice and clarity of explanation	is provided during R	easoned					
Statement assessment Speed of process							
Overall service							
If 1 or 2 to any of the above plea	aco coocify why:						
ii i oi z to arry or the above piec	ise specify wity.						
4. Was your issue/enquiry res	olved by the activit	ty authorised	under li	cence or ac	dvice prov	rided by us	?
Fully	Partially	Unre	solved				
If not fully resolved please state	what you think could	d have been o	lone inste	ead (note le	gislation at	fects which	actions can
be licensed):							
5. Was there a public reaction	to any action take	n under the li	cence o	r as a result	t of our ac	dvice?	
Positive support	No reaction		tive reac				
6. Would you use a fully online	•			vailable in t		?	
Definitely	Possibly	Unlik	ely		No		

7. Do you have any further comments to make or suggestions for improving our service, if yes please specify (continue comments on an additional sheet if necessary). If you are happy to be contacted at a later date to explore possible improvement options, please tick this box \square and ensure your Natural England reference number is at the top of this page.

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

Licence Application Form

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		nationalgrid.com		
*Title (please tick as appropriate)		Mr Mrs Mx	Other Please specify	
*Forenar	me	Middle name		*Surname
John			Bevan	1
Professional Membership (e.g CIEEM, IEMA	., etc).			
House name/number: National Grid House				
*Address Line1	Warwick Tech	nnology Park		
*Address Line 2				

Address Line	3				
Town	Warwick	*C	ounty	Warwickshire	
*Postcode		Co	ountry	UK	
Either `Telephone N	lo.' or `Mobile No.' must be	completed.			
Telephone No		Mc	bile No.		
		Fa	x No.		
*O	(5			ty Owner and Maintainer	
*Customer Typ	oe (eg Farmer, Householde	er, Ecologist, etc.)	Liectrici	ty Owner and Maintainer	
(b)If you are re	gistering on behalf of an o	ganisation please	complete ⁻	this section.	
*Position Ser	nior Project Manager		,	What is the size of your organisation?	
*Organisation I	Name National Grid			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 organisat ted company, registered chari isation, Government agency,	ty,	Private	Limited Company	
Companies Ho Charity Numbe	ouse Registration or Regist er:	ered			
(c) Alternative Applicant Contact Details					
In the event that contact details	it the <u>applicant</u> is unavailab	pleting this section	•	it would be helpful if alternative onfirming that this contact is	
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 register	ing on behalf of an organisation please com	plete this section.			
*Position TBC		What is the size of your organisation?			
*Organisation N	ame Jacobs UK Ltd	Micro (1 to 10 employees)			
		Small (11 to 49 employees)			
		Medium (50 to 249 employees)			
		✓ Large (250 employees or more)			
(eg. private limited	I status of your organisation? I company, registered charity, ttion, Government agency, Local Authority)	Private Limited Company			
Companies Hou Charity Number:	se Registration or Registered				
(c) Alternative Named	d Ecologist Contact Details				
alternative conta	the <u>named ecologist</u> is unavailable to discunct details could be provided. By completing ton behalf of the <u>named ecologist.</u>	ss the application, it would be helpful if this section you are confirming that this contact is			
Name	Sarah Bevans				
Telephone No					
Email address	@jacobs.com				
	(8)(40080.00111				
3. Communicat	ion Preferences				
Please indicate who should be contacted if we need to discuss this application: (please note more than one option can be selected for each question)					
()·	Than one ophen can be colocica for cach queen				
Applicant	Named Ecologist				
Applicant					

Applicant Preferences:	Email	v	Post		Telephone	
	If `Yes' f	or teleph	one, pleas	e provide a	contact no.	
Named Ecologist Preferences:	Email	•	Post		Telephone	
	If `Yes' f	or teleph	one, pleas	e provide a	contact no.	
4. Previous Applicatio	ns					
(a) * To your knowledgedecisions concer	_		any previou	us applicati	ons orlicence	Yes No 🗸
If `No' please move to q	uestion 4(g).	If `Yes' to	(a), please	complete th	e following.	
(b) *Date of most rec	ent applicat	ion:				
(c) *Which species w	as the subje	ect of the	previous a	pplications	?	
(d) *What was the ap	plication or	licence r	eference nu	ımber?		
(e) *What was the outcome of the previous application? (Please select one of the following)						
Granted Not Granted Advice Only 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 application/licence reference numbers, species details and outcome 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 provious reference numbers and spe			<i>غ</i>		and badger se	ett 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 $\underline{\text{here}}$.

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 V	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 (Please	se select one of the following):						
Imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment under section 55(2)(e)							
Preserving public health or public safety, under s	Preserving public health or public safety, under section 55(2)(e)						
Preventing the spread of disease, under section	Preventing the spread of disease, under section 55(2)(f)						
Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber fisheries or inland waters, or any other form of property 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						

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 designated site: Conservation (SAC), Ramsar Site, Ancient Monument, Marine Nature Reserve (MNR), Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Hintlesham Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest Adjacent to On Hadleigh Railway Walk Local Nature Reserve / County On Adjacent to 1 Wildlife Site (CWS) Ansell's Grove/Ash Ground Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) On Adjacent to Alphamstone Complex, **CWS** The Dollops On Adjacent to Valley Farm Wood On Adjacent to On Adjacent to⊺

Site Details

6.

	(c) Please give either the outcome of your consultations or the reason why you have not consulted us. Please provide any relevant correspondence and the name of the local Natural England adviser or reserve manager consulted.		Kench at NE on 21/03/2	375746). Consultation is			
0	Audhania dia						
8.	Authorisation						
	(a) * Is the applicant the ow	vner / occupier of the land	?	Yes No No 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	owner / occupier's permis	ssion to apply?	Yes 🗸 No 🗌			
Please note that it is your responsibility as the applicant to obtain the owner or occupier's permissions to act und licence on their property.				permissions to act under			
You may be asked to provide documentation which confirms that you have owner or occupier's permissions and contact you if this is necessary							
9.	Application Details						
	(a) Please add details for all licensable actions you wish to perform: Two stage habitat removal						
	Licensable Action						
	Application Cubicat						
	Application Subject	Dormice Hazel Dormice					
	Species	✓ Capture					
		Disturb					
		Transport					
		Damage breeding s	ite				
		Destroy breeding sit					
		Destroy resting place					
		Damage resting place	ce				
		✓ By hand					
		Next box/Nest tube					
		✓ Hand search					
		✓ Two stage habitat re	emoval				
		Single stage habitat removal - active season					
		Single stage habitat	removal - hibernation season				
		Other					
	If Other method, please specify						
			w. Please note this refers to th	e date of the first			
	*Proposed Date from:	*Proposed Date from: September 2024					
	i i i obooca Dale II UIII.			I I			

(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. If "Yes" to (a) please go to the next section. (c) * Does the named ecologist currently hold a valid personal survey licence or are they registered to use a class survey licence for the same species? No If `No' go to (f) (d) *What is/are the survey licence reference number(s)?					
	(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				
Pleasi	(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: e note: If you have not held a mitigation licence in the species results application in the species results application.	he 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 confact these referees to verify their statement					
	1st Referee:					
	2nd Referee:					
11.	Consent Status					
	(a) * Is any consent required for your pr	oposed project and the subject of this licence application?				
	1. Planning-related consent requir	ed (eg, Planning permission, listed building consent, etc).				
	2. Demolition consent (under Build	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 selecte	(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	onsent(s) to allow the Yes No 🗸				
	 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, prio application being submitted through this charges rather than trying to pursue a licence under Exce about financial implications resulting from delays Please see our website for further advice about the second s	able servic eptional Ci s in obtaini	e. We strongly advise customers to rcumstances, particularly where the	o use this service re are concerns
Consent Obtained			
(g) Please confirm details of all the consent and this licence application.	s that ha	ve been granted relevant to the p	proposed 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.	are releva	ant to the proposed activity and this	licence application,
(i) For all consents that have been granted, conditions or Reserved Matters relating to species and habitat issues (which are into be and are capable of being discharged development begins) been discharged?	to wildlife tended to		Yes No No
		If `Yes' to (i), please skip	

(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 Cot Public Inquiry or in an Environmental Statement.	untry Planning act 1990) or other commitments made at a
		Yes No
'f `Yes' 'o '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 that Protected Species or other protected species (Town and Country Planning Act 1990) or other confinquiry or in an Environmental Statement.	? Eg, a Section 106 Agreement Yes No
f `Yes' o 'l'	Has this been met?	
(f \\/ a = !		
f `Yes' o 'l'	When will this be complete?	
Reasoi	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) * Does	your application require a R	leasoned Statement?	Yes 🗸 No 🗌
	confirm the exception that a cale housing developments	applies (specify species and scena	irio eg, home improvements or
12. Consenting	A . (1 2)		
this licence application (eg, Secretary of State provide details for it as remaining fields blank.	n. Please then provide contact e, Natural England, Environme e appropriate. If no consent is a	ties that have granted consent for the parties that have granted consent for the parties for the responsible officer. If contracting the parties of State for Rusines.	onsent is granted by another body is Consent, etc) then please issues) then please leave the
*Title	*Forename	*Surname	*Position
Email Address Telephone Number			
Address			
13. Method Sta	tement		

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.

14.	Supplementary Information
	Please provide any additional information you may have to support your application.
15.	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 <u>terms and conditions for payment</u> 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		
\circ	To prevent serious damage to property		
\circ	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, or fence) to a single home for which you		
0	have received planning consent through a householder planning application		
\bigcirc	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	rpose 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		
Email address for invoices		
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

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

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.

dormouse habitat (before mitigation or compensation)

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			
	ave you or any person listed in the application lidlife-related or animal welfare offence?	peen convicted of any	Yes	No 🔽
If `Yes' please provide details	Please provide details of the convictions: (including dates)			
Countrysi Regulatio Mammals do not ha Offenders	ces we are referring to relate to persons convicted or de Act 1981, the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) ns 2017 (as amended), the Protection of Badgers Ac (Protection) Act 1996, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 we to declare conviction if the person concerned is: (Act 1974 and their conviction is treated as spent; or ng them absolutely.	Regulations 1994, the 0 t 1992, the Deer Act 199 and the Protection of An 1) a rehabilitated person	Conservation of Habitats and 91, the Hunting Act 2004, the himals Act 1911 (all as amer for the purposes of the Reh	d Species e Wild nded). You nabilitation of
17b. A	Applicant Declarations			
	 I have read and understood the privacy new two controls. Where required, I undertake to obtain permiss licence resulting from this application, and to to monitor or inspect the work described in the second of the suidance produced in the second of the	sion from landowners allow any employee o is application. ovided in the application	or representative of Natura	al England e
	 I confirm that there is no satisfactory alternative to meet the need/resolve the problem detailed in this application. 			ed in this
 I have read and understood the <u>Terms and Conditions</u> for payment in respect of Wildlife Licence Applications and agree to pay all the relevant charges due. 				
	I agree to the declaration above.			
	Signature of Applicant			
	For electronic applications, please insert an econfirm with the declaration.	electronic signature ab	ove or tick this 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		
Tvarile. (III BEOOK letters)		

Applicant

17c.

Fcologist 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/Images/ 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 ☐ 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) has submitted 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 electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km. The project meets the threshold as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined under Part 3 of the Planning Act 2008, hence National Grid requires a development consent order (DCO).

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).

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, control building and a permanent access track.

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 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. This has been approved under a separate Town and Country Planning Act application made to Braintree District Council (ref: 22/01147/FUL).

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 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.

For a full description of the project, reference should be made to Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement: Project Description [APP-072].

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?				
Releva from sp document		Reference the document name/s, relevant page/paragraph nu extracts here:	ımber/s and insert	
Individ docum entirety	ents in their	List the document name/s attached to your application and propage/paragraph number/s here:	ovide the relevant	
⊠ Websit	e links	Insert website links here and specify where exactly in the linked document or web page the evidence referred to is located: Environmental Statement – Chapter 4: Project Description [APP-072] https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000578-6.2.4%20ES%20Chapter%204%20Project%20Description.pdf Need Case April 2023 [APP-161]		
		https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000539-7.2.1%20Need%20Case_April%202023.pdf		
. , . ,	<i>?</i>	inserted the relevant extracts in the table above, please supporting evidence is attached to your application.	Yes ⊠ N/A □	

A3 There must be a <u>Public Interest</u>. 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 fo	Which of the following are you providing to support the statement you have made above?				
Relevant ex from specifi documents	Reference the document name/s, relevant page/paragraph number/s and insert extracts here:				
Individual documents in 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 web page the evidence referred to is located:					
	Need Case April 2023 [APP-161] https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000539-7.2.1%20Need%20Case_April%202023.pdf				
12 (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. 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 would 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

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:			
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: ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity [APP-075] https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000581-6.2.7%20ES%20Chapter%207%20Biodiversity.pdf			
	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-182] https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000562-7.8.2%20LEMP%20Appendix%20B%20Vegetation%20Reinstatement%20Plan.pdf			

A4 (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	\boxtimes	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.

Whilst the transmission system in East Anglia has been sufficient until today, it will soon exceed its current capability. This includes its thermal boundary capability (the physical capacity of the circuits to carry power) and transient stability (the ability to accommodate faults without damaging generators or the network).

Increased transmission capability is therefore required in the East Anglia region, to allow National Grid to maintain a robust network, remain in accordance with its licence obligations, and to allow new sources of electricity generation to connect. This is vital to facilitate the ambitious targets set by the Government, for secure, clean and affordable energy for the long term.

B1 (b) Please provide details of supporting evidence. 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 number/s and insert extracts here:		
	Individual documents in their entirety	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: Strategic Options Report June 2011 [APP-162] https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-		

	content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000540-7.2.2%20Strategic%20Options%20Report_June%202011.pd		
	Evolution of the Project [APP-166]		
	https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000544-7.2.6%20Evolution%20of%20the%20Project.pdf		
B1 (c) If you have not ins	serted the relevant extracts in the table above, please	Yes ⊠	N/A □

confirm the above cited supporting evidence is attached to your application

Yes	\boxtimes	N/A	

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 on species		
Location or route 1: PSO 1 Do nothing					
Describe the location or route considered	Doing no physical works and instead making constraints payments to generators to reduce their output, therefore reducing the flows across the region.				
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					
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 conductor	ors to the highest ra	ated 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 pylo	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				
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				
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				
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 a would require a tunnel beneath the River Blackwater. This wou result in high capital costs and potential high environmental effects		ckwater. This would	
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				
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 sufficient 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				
Describe the location or route considered	Providing a new conn Cross.	ection between Bramfo	ord and Waltham	
Clearly set out how and why the alternative location/route was discounted.	work to substations in	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 considered	A new line parallel to the existing 400kV and 132kV overhead line between Bramford and Twinstead approximately 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 (direct option to the north of Hadleigh) approximately 26.5km in length			
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 (northerly option) approximately 30km in length			
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			

The review concluded that although the route ne AONB, it was not unconstrained in terms of
ie AOND, it was not unconstrained in terms of
and environmental sensitivities and this resulted in
tatutory consultees and members of the public
jections to this route corridor.

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?			
Relevant extracts from specific documents	Reference the document name/s, relevant page/paragraph number/s and insert extracts here:		
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: Strategic Options Report June 2011 (Sections 4.1 − 4.2) [APP-162] https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000540-7.2.2%20Strategic%20Options%20Report June%202011.pdf			
. , ,	serted the relevant extracts in the table above, please		

confirm the above cited supporting evidence is attached to your application

B3 (a) Set out which alternative development scales or designs were considered for the chosen plot or route.					
Important note: If new infrastructure is existing infrastructure.	to be created explain	why the need cann	ot be met by expanding		
☐ 'Not applicable to situation'					
If you have ticked 'Not applicable to situation', please explain why here and include supporting evidence in B3 (b):					
Otherwise please complete this table as appropriate	Won't deliver need				
Development scale or Design 1:					
Describe the development scale or design considered.	Project entirely underground				
Clearly explain how and why the different development scale or design considered was discounted.	Although this option would avoid the landscape and visual effects of an overhead line it was discounted in terms of National Policy and duties placed upon National Grid to be economic and efficient, it would also have further/ different environmental effects including that on ecology and archaeology.				

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

Development scale or Design 2:				
Describe the development scale or design considered.	All underground sections open cut (without the use of trenchless construction methods)			
Clearly explain how and why the different development scale or design considered was discounted.	This was dismissed because of impacts to sensitive features such as woodland to the south of Ansell's Grove, River Stour and River Box.			
Development scale or Design 3:				
Describe the development scale or design considered.	Standard open cut techniques (non-ducted) for underground cable sections.			
Clearly explain how and why the different development scale or design considered was discounted.	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 Design 4:				
Describe the development scale or design considered.	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?			
Relevant extraction from specific documents			
Individual documents in the	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: Strategic Options Report June 2011 (Section 5) [APP-162] https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000540-7.2.2%20Strategic%20Options%20Report_June%202011.pdf			
	ot inserted the relevant extracts in the table above, please ited supporting evidence is attached to your application.		

B4 (a) Other alternative activities, processes or construction methods considered which would achieve the design but reduce the impact upon the species

Important note – detailed timings of licensable works, alternative mitigation and compensation which will reduce the degree of harm are to be considered within the Method Statement and not here.					
☐ 'Not applicable to situation'					
If you have ticked 'Not applicable to situation', please explain why here and include supporting evidence in B4 (b):					
Otherwise please complete this table as appropriate	Won't deliver need Not feasible Greater impact on species				
Alternative activity, process or method 1:					
Describe the alternative activity, process or method considered.	Avoiding the clearance of hedgerow, scrub and woodland in areas proposed to avoid impact of loss of habitat.				
Clearly explain why this alternative was discounted.	Discounted as vegetation clearance is essential to create easement to facilitate the construction works.				
Alternative activity, process or method 2:					
Describe the alternative activity, process or method considered.	Undertaking some conheavy plant to limit di		y hand as opposed to by ouse		
Clearly explain why this alternative was discounted.		nd-held machinery	orks required on this project would not be feasible and		
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 involves coppicing where possible, giving the opportunity for re-establishment				
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 the table: Right click in the bottom row > Choose Insert > Insert rows below					

B4 (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:	
Individual documents in their	List the document name/s attached to your application and provide the relevant page/paragraph number/s here:	

entirety	
	Insert website links here and specify where exactly in the linked document or web page the evidence referred to is located:
	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-182] – Section 7.3 Hedgerows https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000560-7.8%20Landscape%20and%20Ecological%20Management%20Plan.pdf
	ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered [APP-071] – Section 3.10 Alternative Design and Construction Method
	https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000577-6.2.3%20ES%20Chapter%203%20Alternatives%20Considered.pdf

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	12 January 2024	
Activity		Comments
Activity (state completed and fit for purpose before licensed works due to com-	mence 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 2027 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

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

			and left in place post construction
Installation of dormou	se nest boxes (post construction)	N/A	
Construction of connectivity or linking structure (state what this is)		Dead hedging will remain in situ until hedgerow reinstatement has become established	
Single stage habitat r	emoval – active season (with finger tip search)	Mid-September/October 2024	
Single stage habitat r	emoval – hibernation season (with finger tip search)		
Hand searches include	ling capture by hand	N/A	
Two stage habitat removal:	Stage 1 – 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 (start and end dates)	Autumn 2024 - Autumn 2028	
Site checks & mainte	nance during construction	Autumn 2024 - Autumn 2028	
Habitat reinstatement	t (for temporary impact schemes only) – e.g. restoration	Autumn 2027 - Spring 2029	
Post construction mit	igation/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	Y	Υ	Y

Year	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039
Population monitoring		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)	Υ	Y	Υ	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)). You are strongly advised to refer to the Dormouse Conservation Handbook. Please use recent photographs to support your application.



Wildlife Licensing Natural England Horizon House Deanery Road Bristol 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. The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement ('the project') 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 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).

Historic dormouse records (within the last 3 years) and positive survey results from the 2022 surveys were used to identify suitable habitat within the project where dormouse were assumed present using a 1km radius around these records. For suitable habitat located outside the 1km radius where records exist that are older than 3 years, dormice were recorded in the 2012 surveys or no records are present but suitable habitat for dormice is present, Licence Policy 4 has been used and dormice are also considered to be present in these areas. As such, dormouse are considered present in all suitable habitat in the Order Limits.

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/lines
 of trees/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: Late November 2024 March 2025 the hedgerows/scrub/lines of trees/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;
- 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 temporarily for construction activities will be reinstated on completion of construction.

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 once the cables are installed. Trees would not 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 replace habitat lost. This planting will link to existing retained habitats. Hedgerow reinforcement will also take place to fill gaps in existing retained hedgerows. Planting and natural regeneration of woodland is also proposed immediately adjacent to Hintlesham Woods.

Landscape mitigation planting would 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 project is located in the south-east of England. 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 proposed GSP substation and the western part of the project lie in Braintree District (Essex). Please see Figure C5a.

There is an existing 400kV overhead line operated by National Grid between Bramford and Twinstead, which 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 in the east of England. UK Power Networks distributes electricity at lower voltages to industrial, commercial, and domestic users.

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 400kV electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km. The reinforcement would comprise approximately 18km of overhead line (consisting of approximately 50 new permanent pylons, and conductors) and 11km of underground cable system (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 compounds 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). 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.

Some aspects of the project, such as the underground sections of cable 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 Order Limits are broken down into seven separate sections, see Figure C5a.

- 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 described in this method statement are based on the Proposed Alignment submitted as part of the application for development consent. 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 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 <u>master plan</u> document will be required.

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 other major project applications made within 1km of the Order Limits in the past five years and their potential in-combination effect on dormouse was undertaken and summarised in the table below. This information has been gathered from planning application registers and as such the Applicant is unable to accurately reproduce the areas of habitat effected by other projects. Where other projects have provided landscape / planting plans, these are provided in Annex A. All other identified proposed developments are located within Section A/B: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham of the project. Vegetation clearance (and therefore potential impacts on dormouse habitat) for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement are planned to begin in Autumn 2024 where the majority of works around the existing substation involve pruning of hedgerows only. A single hedgerow would require a maximum 8m gap to permit construction vehicle access to the west of the substation (see Figure D – Impacts Plan).

None of the other project applications were considered likely to have significantly impacted or are likely to significantly impact on the same populations of dormice as this application due to the small scale and mostly temporary impacts that these applications and projects will have on suitable dormouse habitat.

The location of the other applications and projects in relation to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement are shown on Figure B2.2.

	PROJECT NAME			
	and			
	CONSENTING	POTENTIAL IMPACT ON		INCOMBINATION EFFECT
PROJECT	STAGE	DORMOUSE HABITAT	MITIGATION	ASSESSMENT
			New native species hedgerow	
			planting and infill planting along	
			existing 'gappy' sections of	
			hedgerow - in excess of the	None – Vegetation clearance of
		Hedgerow removal is	amount of hedgerow impacted.	the two projects are unlikely to
	Greybarn Solar	required: one 80m	See	overlap. The Bramford to
	Energy Farm –	section; and 8-13m	DC_22_01243_LANDSCAPE_AND	Twinstead Reinforcement
	Awaiting	sections at a further	_BIODIVERSITY_MANAGEMENT_	proposes pruning of retained
DC/22/01243	decision	three locations.	PLAN	hedgerows only in this area.

		Small sections of		None – project located approx.
		hedgerow removal	Addition of hedgerow and trees.	1km from the Bramford to
	Tye Lane Solar	required (undefined).	See	Twinstead Reinforcement where
	Farm -	Main works restricted	DCC_21_04711_MITIGATION_PL	pruning of hedgerows is the
DC/21/04711	Consented	to arable habitat.	ANTING PROPOSALS	nearest works.
-, , -			64.69% increase in BNG	
	Bramford Solar	Cable route connecting	Hedgerow Units through	None – Projects on different
	Farm and	to Bramford Substation	hedgerow planting and	construction programmes with
	Battery Storage	passes through two	enhancement of existing	the same gaps in hedgerows
DC/20/05895	- Consented	hedgerows.	hedgerows	used for access.
, ,		Ŭ		None – The same hedgerow
				would be impacted by both
			27.8% increase in BNG hedgerow	projects (although removal
			units through planting new	required for the BESS project
	Battery Energy		hedgerows. Woodland planting	while the Bramford to Twinstead
	Storage System	Approximately 80m	also proposed. See	Reinforcement would require
	(BESS) -	section of hedgerow	DCC_21_05468-	pruning only). Therefore, no in-
DC/21/05468	Consented	removal	LANDSCAPE_STRATEGY_PLAN	combination effect.
	Chuntonia	Tamananan unanan alaf		Name CDA construction
	Strategic	Temporary removal of hedgerows for		None – SPA construction
	Pipeline Alliance - Bury to	installation of water		complete and reinstatement underway by Autumn 2024 when
	Colchester -	pipe of approx. 40m		the Bramford to Twinstead
DC/21/06672	Consented	each.	Reinstatement of hedgerows	Reinforcement would begin.
DC/21/00072	Consented	eacii.	Remstatement of fledgerows	Reinforcement would begin.
				None – Vegetation clearance
	East Anglia			requirements of the two projects
	(EA)Three			are unlikely to overlap. The
	Offshore			Bramford to Twinstead
	Windfarm – in			Reinforcement mainly proposes
EN010056	Consultation			pruning of retained hedgerows
				only in this area. Where singular
				gaps less than 8m in hedgerows
				are required for the Bramford to
		Undefined but likely to		Twinstead Reinforcement
	East Anglia	involve management of		construction access, these would
	Green – in	hedgerows around the	Undefined due to early stage of	be reinstated by the time EA
EN020027	Consultation	Bramford substation	project	works would begin.

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 provides further details of the 2012 survey locations and results.

This collated baseline information is shown in Figure C6b.

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.

Field survey objectives in 2022 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:
 - o 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 project 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 644ha. 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	412.1
Wetland	1.4
Grassland	142
Scrub	10.1

Rivers and lakes	2.1
Urban	40.2
Woodland	32.2
Hedgerow	35.6
Line of trees	5.1

Of the habitat types listed in Table C1, the woodland, scrub, hedgerow and line of trees are considered to be potentially suitable for dormice. 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. Figure C6b shows suitable habitat for dormouse where connections with the Order Limits have been identified.

 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) – see Figure C5b	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 <i>Salix</i> 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, <i>Rumex</i> sp., (including wood dock). There were areas of bare ground/ leaf litter and common feather moss. Southern boundary included species

		avala as blookthown and anomains
		such as blackthorn and snapping bonnet mushroom
Area 6a, 6b, 6c		6a – Native hedgerow with species including hawthorn, ash, blackthorn, holly and oak with ground flora species
	The same	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,
	Photograph 8	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		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
	Photograph 9	parsley, cock's foot, cow parsley, garlic mustard, dog's mercury, common hogweed, creeping thistle and dock sp.
	T Hotograph 9	Shrub and tree species included cherry, holly, hawthorn, blackthorn, elm sp, poplar sp., bramble and ivy.
Area 6e		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
		and dog a mercury
	Photograph 10	

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 <i>Salix</i> 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. tubes/nest boxes; nut searches; other – please specify)			
(e.g. format 01/06/13 to 15/10/13)	(e.g. tubes/nest boxes, flut 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, 6l	o 6c 6d and 6e			
w/c 16/05/22	Nest tube checks			
Comments:				
Areas 7a, 7b, 7c, 8, 9, 10a, 10b,	10c and 10d			
w/c 20/06/22	Nest tube checks			
Comments:				
Areas 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 6b, 6c				
20/07/22 – 27/07/22 Nest tube checks				
Comments: Areas 7a, 7b, 7c, 8, 9, 10a, 10b, 10c and 10d				
W/c 15/08/22	Nest tube checks			
Comments:	THOSE RADO OTTOONS			
Areas 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e and 6f				
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	o, 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:

- 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 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 dorn	nice 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	est in Area 4c, one dormouse nest in Area 6d			
12/09/22 – 22/09/22				
Findings: One dormouse ne	est in Area 9, five dormouse nests and one adult dormouse seen in Area 10d			
04/10/22 - 12/10/22				
	est in Area 1, three dormouse nests and one dormouse seen in Area 4a, one ar dormouse nests in Area 4c, one dormouse nest in Area 6c, five dormouse nests 6d			

Provide further (brief) comments/explanation if required:

Please see Figure C6a and ES Appendix 7.8: Dormouse Survey Report for details on 2022 survey results.

Nut search results

Date (e.g. format 01/06/14)	Quadrat site

12/09/22 – 22/09/22					
Findings (include % of nuts opened by dormice): No dormouse chewed nuts					
04/10/22 - 12/10/22					
Findings: Dormouse chew opened by dormice in each are	red nuts found in Area 9 and Area 10c. Approximately 5% of nuts checked were ea.				
Findings:					
Findings:					
Findings:					
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 ten survey areas, with six individual dormice and 23 dormouse nests 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 nor necessary (please see guidance above) to undertake a survey of all suitable dormouse habitat within the Order Limits, especially when a full habitat survey (UKHab and hedgerows) has been undertaken to update the baseline on supporting habitat (see Environmental Statement Appendix 7.1 and 7.5). Therefore, a sampling approach was used. The results of the 2022 survey, 2012 survey, historical records and habitat connectivity between these areas have been used to assess each section of the project to determine whether dormice are present in suitable habitat that is present within the Order Limits. Figure C6b presents the complete dormouse baseline comprising all available information and identification of habitat connectivity between suitable habitats for dormouse in the Order Limits with records of presence beyond the Order Limits.

For those areas where there is not a positive record from the 2022 surveys or a recent record (within three years) located within a 1km buffer of this data, Licence Policy 4 (LP4) has been used and dormouse presence assumed where suitable habitat is present. This has been illustrated on Figure C6b. Dormouse have been considered present within a 1km buffer of positive records based on dormouse territories being estimated at around 1ha with individuals being radio tracked travelling up to 1.2km (Juskaitis, 1997). Further justification for using LP4 has been included in a separate Technical Note (Bramford to Twinstead: Technical Note – Dormouse Licence – use of Licence policy 4)) which accompanies this application.

A breakdown of each project section is provided below:

Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham (overhead line)

The 2022 field surveys identified dormouse presence in Area 1. There are hedgerow connections from the woodland where the dormice were recorded to all suitable habitat for dormice (hedgerows, woodland and scrub) within 1km of the record. Dormice are therefore considered present in these areas. Country lanes are not considered to form a barrier to dispersal as tree canopies often overlap across these roads.

Historical dormouse records from the Local Records Centre (LRC) showed that dormice have been recorded in Wolves Wood in 2015. The A1071 to the south of Wolves Wood is unlikely to form a barrier to dispersal from this woodland to the Order Limits to the south. Hadleigh Railway Walk CWS and Raydon Great Wood CWS are

located on the southern boundary of Section AB and mention dormice in their citation. The 2012 dormouse survey also recorded dormice at Hadleigh Railway Walk CWS. These sites are connected by hedgerows and woodland to suitable habitat for dormice to the south of the A1071. As the records are over three years old LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse in suitable habitat within a 1km buffer of these records/ designated sites. However, there is the acknowledgement that as the habitats have not changed since the records were made that this data is still considered valid.

Where there are areas of Section AB with no dormouse records and not located within 1km of records LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse as suitable habitat is available, such as the area around Bramford Substation and Burstall Bridge (where the project will have minimal impacts).

Section C: Brett Valley (overhead line)

Hadleigh Railway Walk CWS and Raydon Great Wood CWS are located on the northern boundary of Section C and mention dormice in their citation. The 2012 dormouse survey also recorded dormice at Hadleigh Railway Walk CWS. These sites are connected by hedgerows and woodland to suitable habitat for dormice to the west. As the records are over three years old LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse in suitable habitat within a 1km buffer of these records/designated sites. However, there is the acknowledgement that as the habitats have not changed since the records were made that this data is still considered valid.

An area of Section C to the west of the River Brett has no dormouse records and is not within 1km of records. Therefore, LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse as suitable habitat is available.

An area of woodland on the boundary of Areas C and D is considered to support dormice as it is connected via woodland and hedgerows to positive dormice records from 2022 (Area 4) due to tree canopies connecting across Rands Road and is within 1km of this positive record. Country lanes are not considered to form a barrier to dispersal as tree canopies often overlap across these roads. Valley Farm Wood CWS which has dormice mentioned in its citation is also present adjacent to survey Area 4 and dormice were also recorded in the 2012 survey.

Section D: Polstead (overhead line and underground cables)

2022 field survey confirmed dormouse presence within the Order Limits in Section D (Areas 4 and 6). These survey areas are connected by hedgerows and woodland to suitable habitat for dormice across the whole of Section D and the entire Section D is located within 1km of the positive records. Country lanes are not considered to form a barrier to dispersal as tree canopies often overlap across these roads.

A dormouse record from 2020 is also present at Polstead Heath. Additionally, Valley Farm Wood CWS (which has dormice mentioned in its citation and dormice were recorded in the 2012 survey) is located in the Order Limits in this section. Millfield Wood (which has historical LRC records for dormice) is located adjacent to the Order Limits (both to the north and the south) and the area of Millfield Wood located to the south of the Order Limits also had positive records of dormice in the 2012 survey.

Section E: Dedham Vale AONB (underground cables)

2022 field survey confirmed dormouse presence within the Order Limits in Section E (Areas 6). This survey area is connected by hedgerows and woodland to suitable habitat for dormice and dormice are considered to be present in these habitats within 1km of the record.

The Dollops CWS is located within the Order Limits and Bushy Park Wood CWS. Both have dormice mentioned in their citations. As the records are over three years old LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse in suitable habitat within a 1km buffer of these designated sites. However, there is the acknowledgement that as the habitats have not changed since the records were made that this data is still considered valid. The western part of Alder Carr woodland and other connected hedgerows are located outside this 1km buffer and therefore LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse as suitable habitat is available.

Section F: Leavenheath/Assington (overhead line)

Arger Fen LNR (and the overlapping Arger Fen and Spouse's Vale Suffolk Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve), Tiger Hill LNR and Assington Thicks CWS, which all have dormice mentioned in their citations, are located adjacent to the Order Limits in Section F and have habitat connectivity to suitable dormice habitat in the Order Limits for Section F. Historical dormouse records from the LRCs have also been found at these designated sites. Dormice were also recorded in the 2012 surveys in an area of woodland immediately adjacent to the north of Arger Fen LNR and there are records from 2017. As the records are over three years old LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse in suitable habitat within a 1km buffer of these designated sites. However, there is the acknowledgement that as the habitats have not changed since the records were made that this data is still considered valid.

The eastern part of Section F has no dormouse records and is not within 1km of records. Therefore, LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse as suitable habitat is available. The exception to this is one isolated area of scrub around a pond at TL946374 where dormice are considered to be absent.

Section G: Stour Valley (overhead line and underground cables)

2022 field survey confirmed dormouse presence within the Order Limits in Section G (Areas 9 and 10). The woodlands where dormice were recorded (Areas 9 and 10) are connected to woodland and hedgerows in the Order Limits and dormice are considered to be present in these connected habitats within 1km of the records.

There is also a dormouse record from 2022 at woodland at Culverdown and dormice are considered to be present in connected habitats within 1km of the record.

The 2012 dormouse survey also recorded dormice at Twinstead in the northern areas of the Order Limits in Section G and there is a historic record from 1998. As the records are over three years old LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse in suitable habitat within a 1km buffer of these records. However, there is the acknowledgement that as the habitats have not changed since the records were made that this data is still considered valid.

The north-western part of Section G, an area to the west of the River Stour and the proposed temporary access route in the south-west of Section G have no dormouse records and are not within 1km of records. Therefore, LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse as suitable habitat is available.

Section H: GSP substation

There are no records of dormice within the Order Limits in Section H or within a 1km buffer. Therefore, LP4 is being used to assume presence of dormouse as suitable habitat is available but the project will have minimal impact upon vegetation in this section.

As nest tube surveys are intended to detect the presence of hazel dormouse and do not enable an accurate assessment of population size to be made, estimations of the population across the project 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. Approximately 13.69ha of suitable dormouse habitat could be impacted by the project (based on the assumption that hedgerows are 1m wide to convert metres length to area in ha), this equates to approximately 41 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 occur within the Order Limits. However, most habitats would be reinstated post works, with permanent habitat loss restricted to relatively minor areas of woodland associated with the pylon bases, hedgerow/scrub/woodland removal for permanent access tracks to the CSE compounds and scrub removal for underground cable installation.

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 temporary removal of hedgerows and lines of trees could also temporarily fragment dormouse habitat and populations (discussed in section D3). Figure D (impact plan) shows the areas and extent of habitat that will be affected across the length of the project where dormouse are recorded or assumed present.

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 132kV overhead line crosses a hedgerow, it is assumed that a 5m gap (coppiced to ground level) would be required to allow access through the hedgerow by construction vehicles. Existing hedgerow gaps and accesses will be used where practicable. The hedgerow will be coppiced to ground level (no excavation of the rootzone) with matting placed over the soil to protect the roots.

For the removal of the existing 400kV overhead line it is anticipated that a temporary 20m gap will be required to allow access through the hedgerow by construction vehicles and also for or undertaking the line removal. Existing hedgerow gaps and accesses will be used where practicable. The hedgerow will be coppiced to ground level (no excavation of the rootzone) with matting placed over the soil to protect the roots.

The temporary access route for the removal of the 400kV overhead line to the north of Stour Valley CSE compound will require a stone access route and an 8m gap in hedgerows and roots will be removed. However, existing gaps will be used where available. Where there is a hedgerow present, the conductors will be carefully lowered to avoid damage to the hedgerow. All hedgerows would be allowed to naturally re-establish where coppiced (with supplementary planting if required) and replaced where entirely removed following construction with increased species diversity than the existing.

It is anticipated that there would be no woodland lost as a result of the removal of the 132kV and 400kV 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.

Woodland areas and hedgerows that previously were below the 132kV overhead line and would not lie beneath the new 400kV overhead line would be left to naturally regenerate.

New 400kv Overhead Line (Including CSE Compounds)

Where the new overhead transmission line would cross a hedgerow, it is generally assumed that a 20m gap would be created to undertake the works (comprising the temporary access route and working area for the construction of the overhead line). The hedgerow would be coppiced to ground level, with no excavation of the rootzone except along any stone access route.

An additional 20m of hedgerow would also be pruned during construction, where the new overhead line would cross hedgerows to allow the safe installation of the conductors above. This is required in construction only.

Woodland areas crossed by the new overhead line conductors would have a 20m working width coppiced 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.

During operation, a reduced canopy height would be maintained 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 routes would be replanted or allowed to naturally regenerate following construction along with reinforcement planting along the surrounding hedgerows.

Installation Of Underground Cables

There is one location where the underground cables need to cross a wooded tree belt (Section G: Stour Valley to the 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. Trees cannot be planted over the top of the cables due to operational and safety requirements. However, replacement trees will be planted as close as practicable as the original location.

Where the underground cables need to cross hedgerows perpendicular to the alignment it is assumed that a 60m gap (including excavation of roots) would be required. The hedgerow would be reinstated following construction with low rooted varieties.

For the works described above there may be site features or constraints that mean the hedgerow gaps would need to be wider such as for the creation of visibility splays. These exceptions are labelled on Figure D.

The habitats to be affected are broken down into four categories: permanent loss of habitat, complete removal, coppiced, and pruned. Vegetation to be permanently removed is classed as 'destruction' of habitat as dormice will no longer be able to use this vegetation once the impact has occurred. All other types of impacts (complete removal of habitat including roots, coppicing and pruning of vegetation) are classed as 'damage' due to the impact being temporary as they would be reinstated/regenerate, like for like in the same location, within a short time frame. This is summarised in Table D1.

Although scrub is present within the Order Limits there will be very minimal loss of this habitat as the overhead lines will pass over the top of this habitat and temporary access routes have been located within arable and modified grassland habitats where possible.

Table D1. Habitat with dormouse presence affected by the project

Dormouse habitat	Permanent loss of habitat (ha/m) - DESTROYED	Complete Removal of Habitat (Including Roots) (ha/m) - DAMAGED	Coppiced Habitat (ha/m) - DAMAGED	Pruned Habitat (ha/m) - DAMAGED	Total Habitat Affected (ha/m)
Hedgerow/line of trees	72m	3,785m	8,733m	6,185m	18,775m
Woodland	0.87ha	0.12ha	4.44ha	5.78ha	11.21ha
Scrub	0.5ha	0.1ha	None	None	0.6ha

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, hedgerows, scrub 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 (644ha), approximately 12.31ha of 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 (approximately 0.87ha of woodland for the pylon bases and permanent access tracks, 0.02ha scrub and 72m of hedgerow for permanent access tracks, and 0.48ha scrub for underground cable installation). 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.*

The temporary removal of hedgerows and lines of trees could temporarily fragment dormouse habitat and populations. However, effects are considered unlikely as although there would be temporary severance of hedgerows/lines of trees there would be no fragmentation or subsequent isolation of habitat as there would be plentiful habitats retained, with their connections to the wider landscape, on both sides of the temporary severance. These gaps would be reinstated following construction.

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 the new overhead transmission line would cross a hedgerow, it is generally assumed that a 20m gap would be created to undertake the works (including the temporary access route and working area for the construction of the overhead line). The hedgerow would be coppiced to ground level, with no excavation of the rootzone except along any stone access routes. However, hedgerows would be re-instated once construction is complete. Therefore, no long-term fragmentation caused by hedgerow loss is anticipated. An additional 20m of hedgerow would also be pruned during construction, to allow safe installation of the conductors overhead.

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 wooded tree belt 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, apart from two locations where 91m and 130m gaps are required and these are labelled on Figure D. Full reinstatement and replanting of hedgerow over the cable would occur 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	18,703m (approx. 1.87ha)	72m (approx. 0.01ha)
Woodland	10.34ha	0.87ha
Scrub	0.1ha	0.5ha

Total quantity	12.31ha	1.38ha

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	Predicted scale of impact (insert Low, Medium, High in columns below)			Notes (include impact on population)
proposal	Site	County	Regional	
Approximately 41 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 (with a graduated cut for an additional 12.5m on either side). There are a limited number of areas where clearance widths will be 60m associated with the underground cable installation. There are also a small number of locations where clearance widths will be larger than 60m as a result of site features or constraints.
				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.
- For the removal of the 400kV overhead line through the woodland area near Ansell's Grove and to the north of Henny Back Road, a commitment has been made to limit the works to the existing maintenance swathe within the woodland.
- 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.
- Two trenchless crossings are proposed in Section G: Stour Valley which will avoid impacts to hedgerows and woodland at this location.

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 single Dormouse Conservation Handbook)	e-stage clearance technique (as defined in the
Quantity of habitat to be cleared	11.21ha woodland, 0.6ha scrub and 18,775m hedgerow
Description of the habitat types to be cleared	Hedgerows, scrub and woodland
Clearance to be undertaken within best practice timing of April – May (inclusive) and/or mid-September – October (inclusive)	
Confirm that a maximum of 0.25ha is to be cleared per day, on successive days	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 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 and programme of the multiple clearance areas each day are to be confirmed at the detailed design stage. These will be directional and will be programmed so as to not remove the whole of a home range for the dormice in any one 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 over the underground cables once installed to temporarily maintain connectivity where 60m wide lengths of each hedgerow will require removal. There are also two locations where 91m and 130m lengths require removal. Dead hedging will also be used at one location in Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham in order to maintain connectivity between woodland on either side where a 49m length of hedgerow will be removed. The dead hedging will remain in place until reinstated vegetation is established.
Other:	
Two-stage habitat clearance	

Dormouse Conservation Handbook)

Details of dormice habitat to be cleared following the two-stage clearance technique (as defined in the

Quantity of habitat to be cleared	The quantity of habitat requiring two stage clearance 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: 11.21ha woodland, 0.6ha scrub and 18,775m hedgerow
Description of the habitat types to be cleared	Hedgerows, scrub and woodland
Clearance to be undertaken within best practice timing of stage one in November – March (inclusive) and stage two in April – May (inclusive)	 ✓ Yes ☐ No Estimated number of days/ weeks TBC 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 over the underground cables once installed to temporarily maintain connectivity where 60m wide lengths of each hedgerow will require removal. There are also two locations where 91m and 130m lengths require removal. Dead hedging will also be used at one location in Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham in order to maintain connectivity between woodland on either side where a 49m length of hedgerow will be removed. The dead hedging will remain in place until reinstated vegetation is established.
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.

N/A

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.

41 dormice.

Arrows have not been added to Figure E2 to show the direction of displacement given the large number of areas where small amounts of vegetation removal are required. Adding arrows would make the figure very difficult to view. In all instances connected retained vegetation is present and vegetation will be cleared in the direction that allows dormice to move into this connected retained vegetation. A note to this effect is present in the legend of Figure E2.

- **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) 1260m	Section AB:Bramford Substation/Hintlesham - Sheet 3 of Figure E3 Section G: Stour Valley - Sheet 11 of Figure E3	Field maple (10%), hazel, (15%), hawthorn (20%), spindle (5%), holly (10%), blackthorn (20%), dog rose (5%), elder (10%) and elm (5%). Where standard trees can be planted, these would include alder, wild cherry, oak and small leaved lime.
Hedgerow translocation ☐ Yes ☑ N/A	Length (m)		
Coppice stool translocation ☐ Yes ☑ N/A	Area (ha) / length (m)		
Habitat reinstatement / restoration ☑ Yes ☐ N/A	Area (ha) / length (m) 3785m hedgerow 0.85ha woodland	All hedgerow removal sections will be reinstated on completion of construction, apart from four locations where permanent loss is required for permanent access tracks totalling approx 72m.	Hedgerow: Field maple (10%), hazel, (15%), hawthorn (20%), spindle (5%), holly (10%), blackthorn (20%), dog rose (5%), elder (10%) and elm (5%). Where standard trees can be planted, these would include alder, wild cherry, oak and small leaved lime.

		Nine areas of woodland will be reinstated using shrub/scrub species	Woodland: Field maple (10%), silver birch (15%), hazel (10%), hawthorn (5%), holly (10%), honeysuckle (5%), blackthorn (5%), oak (25%), elder (5%) and small leaved lime (10%)
Woodland thinning / coppicing ☐ Yes ☑ N/A	Area (ha)		
Woodland infill planting to increase species diversity ☐ Yes ☒ N/A	Area (ha)		
Other: Coppiced/pruned regrowth	14918m hedgerow 10.22ha woodland	Areas of woodland and hedgerow coppiced and pruned for overhead line installation/removal would be permitted to regrow post works, although not all to full height (regular maintenance under the new overhead lines)	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) 8.2ha	Several areas across the project: Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham Section D: Polstead Section F: Leavenheath/Assington Section G: Stour Valley Section H: Grid Supply Point Station	Low growing scrub mix: hazel (10%), holly (10%), honeysuckle (15%), blackthorn (15%), dog rose (20%), goat willow (5%), and elder (25%)
New woodland planting ☐ Yes ☐ N/A	Area (ha) 17.57ha	Several areas across the project: Section AB: Bramford	Field maple (10%), silver birch (15%), hazel (10%), hawthorn (5%), holly (10%), honeysuckle (5%), blackthorn (5%), oak (25%), elder

		Substation/Hintlesham	(5%) and small leaved lime (10%)
		Section D: Polstead	
		Section F: Leavenheath/Assington	
		Section G: Stour Valley	
		Section H: Grid Supply Point Station	
Nest box installation ☑ Yes ☐ N/A	Number Approximately 10 at six locations	Six indicative areas shown on Figure E3	Nest boxes will be installed within woodland areas during Summer 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 1423m	Dead hedging will be used for the underground cable section of the project in Sections D, E and F to maintain connectivity where 60m wide lengths of each hedgerow will require removal (see Sheets 6 and 7 of Figure E3). There are two locations on Sheet 6 where 91m and 130m widths will require removal. It is also proposed on hedgrows in Section G where 60m gaps are required (see Sheet 11 of Figure E3). Dead hedging is also proposed on Sheet 1 at Burstall Hill in order to maintain connectivity between woodland on either side where a 49m length of hedgerow will be removed.	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	11.07ha woodland 19,963m hedgerow	Total quantity of dormice habitat created (total of Table E3.2) in ha / metres	27.67ha 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 temporarily for construction activities will be reinstated on completion of construction.

Where the underground cables need to cross one wooded tree belt, once the cables are installed, the 60m wide construction working area would be replanted with scrub habitat consisting of low rooting species. 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 compensate for habitat lost. This planting will link to existing retained habitats. Hedgerow reinforcement will also take place to fill gaps in existing retained hedgerows. Woodland planting and 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.

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.

New hedgerow planting has also been considered as part of the wider planting proposed to reduce other effects e.g. landscape but is not required as a compensation measure for this licence and therefore not included in Section E3.2.

National Grid has committed to delivering at least a 10% environmental 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	Timing i.e. first 5 years
Habitat Management	Required:	undertaken?	following completion of development
☐ No habitat management required			
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 □	Site 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, 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	Years 1-5 post works, during the five year maintenance contract.
Maintain dormouse bridges / connecting structures in good condition	Yes ⊠ N/A □	Site inspections to check that the dead hedging remains in good condition	Years 1-5 post works, during the five year maintenance contract. Dead hedging will be removed once reinstated hedgerows have established
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 six locations (see Figures E2 and E4)) 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 six locations, see Figures E2 and E4) 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:

Important Advice:

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 individually (i.e. separate documents).

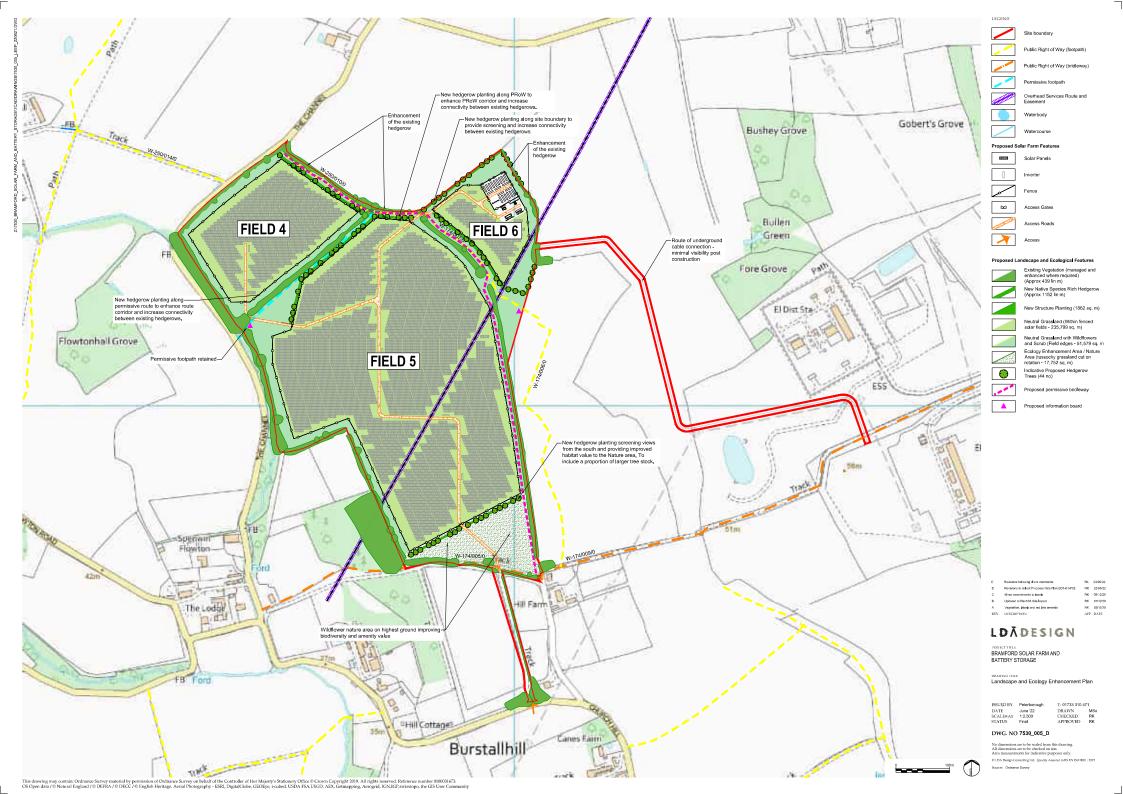
Maps/Figures must include the title, site name as referenced on your application form, date and figure reference. If a grid reference is more applicable (e.g. a dormouse bridge is being provided please include this). Include a scale bar (appropriate to the situation e.g. 100m on site maps, 1km on location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

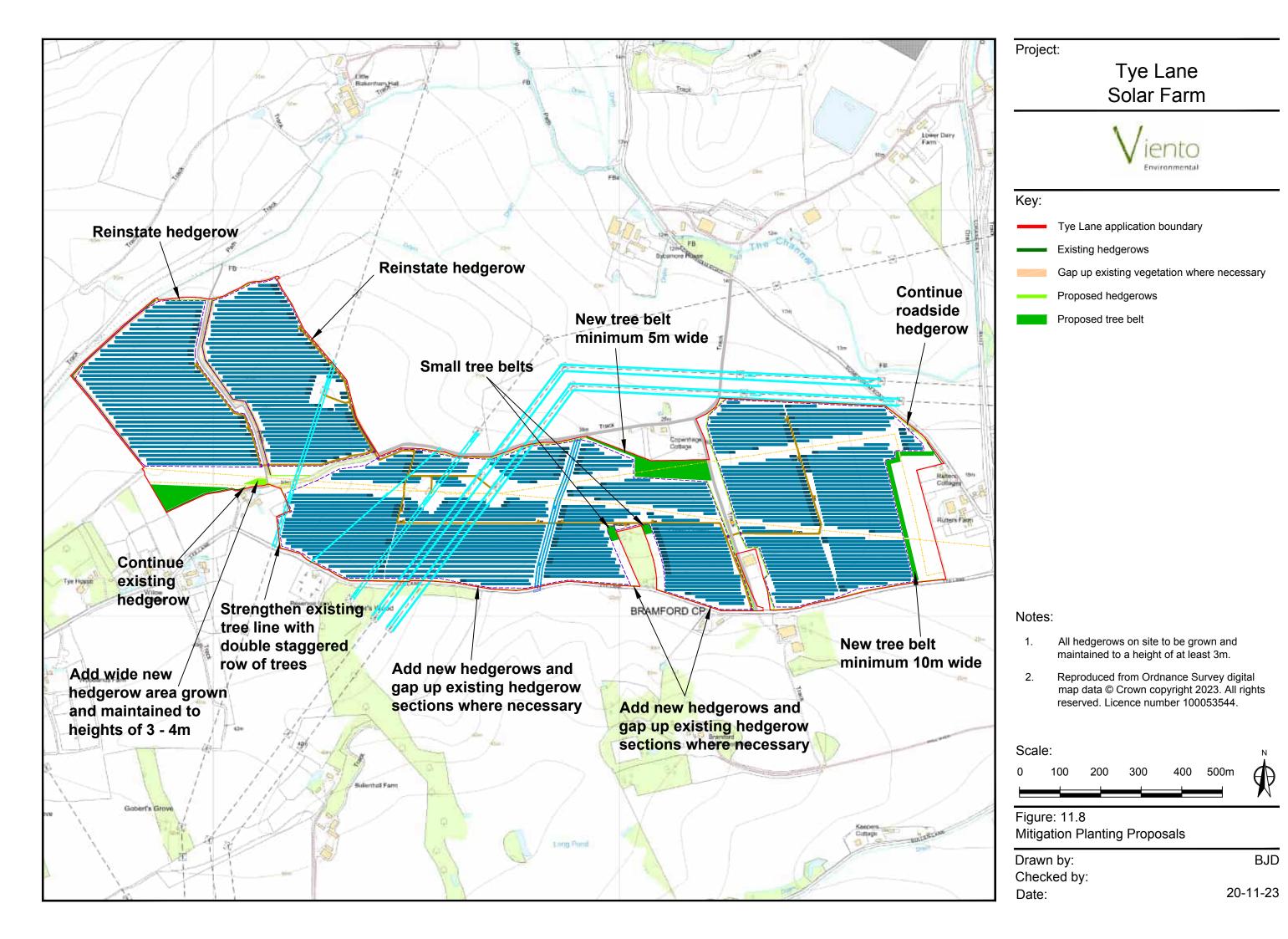
Additional maps, photographs or diagrams should be included where necessary to adequately explain the scheme.

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 survey results (location of nests/dormice, etc). Ensure Figure is at a suitable scale to show the results.
Figure D	Yes	-	Impacts plan – map/figure to show impacts and 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.

Annex A







LEGEND

Red line Boundary



Proposed battery storage facility. Refer to Engineer's drawings for



Proposed weldmesh fence



Existing Public Right of Way (PRoW)

Soft Landscape:



Existing retained vegetation



Proposed native woodland block (Mix to include: Oak, Hornbeam, Holly, Lime, Cherry)



Proposed native trees within proposed hedgerow and scrub



Proposed native hedgerow (Mix to include: Hawthorn, Hazel, Field Maple)



Proposed scrub planting to infill existing vegetation

Proposed attenuation basin with



meadow mixture for wetlands



Proposed drainage swale with meadow mixture for wetlands



Proposed grassland

Rev	Date	Description
Α	21.09.23	Redline updated
В	22.02.15	Layout updated
С	22.02.17	Layout updated

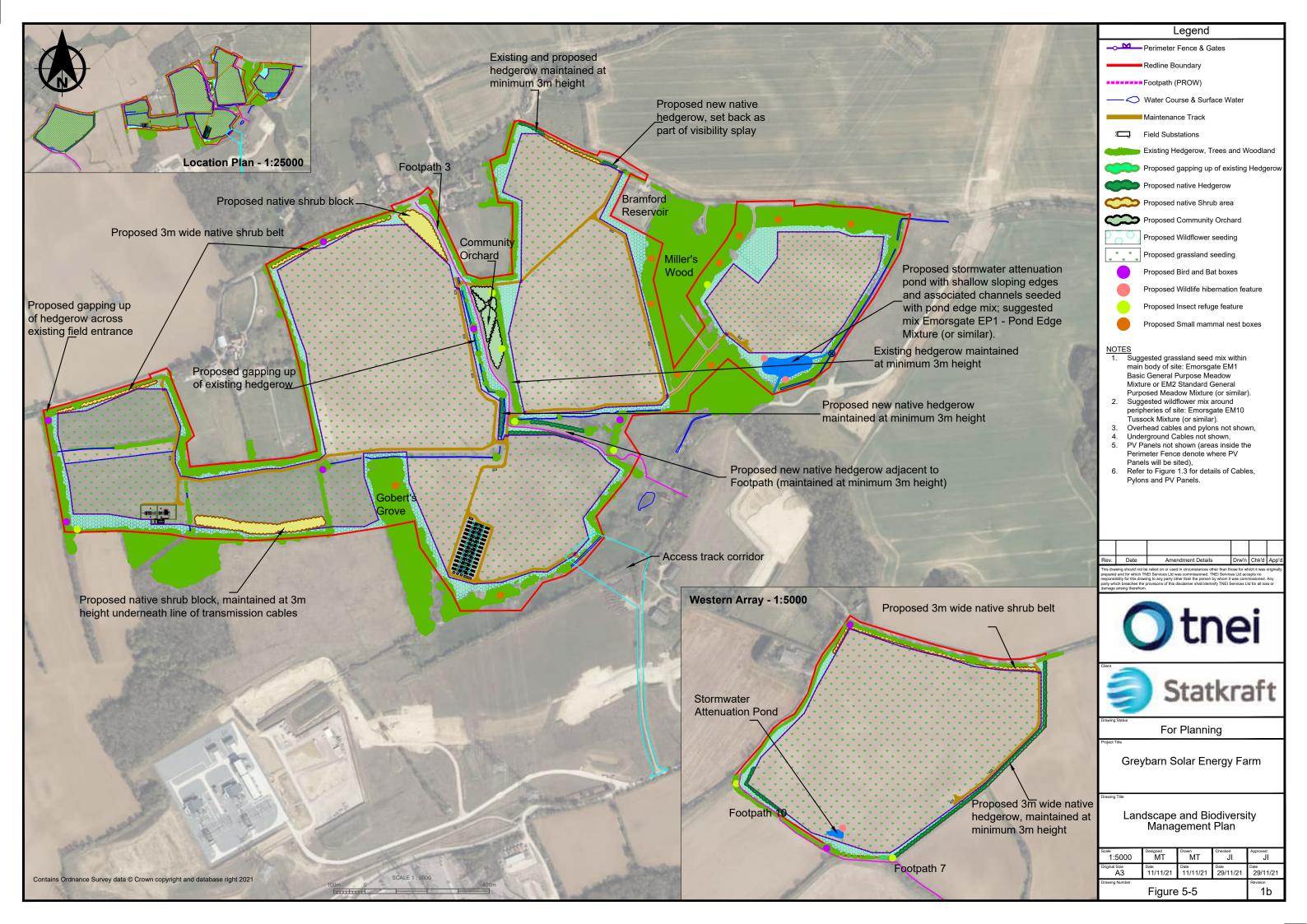
Landscape Strategy Plan Land at Bullen Lane, Bramford Project: Client: Bramford Power Ltd. September 2021 1:500 @ A2 Date: Scale:

Drawing No: | 2424 01 Rev: | C

T: +44 (0)1279 647044 E: office@lizlake.com www.lizlake.com

COPYRIGHT Liz Lake Associates Information contained in this drawing is confidential and may not be used for any purpose other than that for which the drawing is supplied without prior written authority of Liz Lake Associates. This drawing is copyright and may not be copied except within the agreed conditions of supply.





Bramford to Twinstead: Technical Note – Dormouse Licence – use of Licence Policy 4

Version No: 1.0 Date: January 2024

Section 1. Purpose of this technical note

1.1 This Technical Note has been prepared to accompany the draft Dormouse Licence application for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement ('the project'). Following a meeting with Natural England on the 26 October 2023, where National Grid said that it proposed to use field survey, desk study data and apply Licence Policy 4 where dormouse survey data and historical records are more than three years old to assume dormouse presence where suitable dormouse habitat is available within the Order Limits. This Technical Note provides the justification for the use of this policy.

Section 2. Licence Policy 4

Background

- 2.1 Field surveys for dormouse were undertaken in 2022 at ten areas across the project and recorded dormouse presence at five of the survey areas. A Technical Note¹ describing the approach to dormouse surveys was shared with Natural England, Local Planning Authorities, and the Wildlife Trust. The dormouse advisor at Suffolk Wildlife Trust confirmed that they were happy with the survey approach.
- All proposed underground cable route sections, where they crossed suitable dormouse habitat were included in the survey, as these were areas identified as likely to result in the greatest impact on suitable dormouse habitat, as hedgerow gaps would be 60m in most instances. A sampling approach was used for the proposed overhead line sections and overhead line removal sections where the potential for impacts on vegetation are comparatively less at 20m for each hedgerow crossing, except in a small number of locations where site features or constraints result in a larger gap being required. All impacts on vegetation would be temporary with habitats reinstatement at the end of construction for the majority of Order Limits.
- 2.3 Section H: GSP substation was excluded from the survey, as impacts on dormouse habitat would not be significant at these locations. This is because the impacts on selected hedgerows would be limited to construction access, visibility splays and pruning of retained vegetation with no resulting isolation or fragmentation of habitats.
- 2.4 In a region of known dormouse presence, the assumption made in Environmental Statement Chapter 7: Biodiversity [APP-075] relating to the assessment of impacts on dormouse, was that where dormouse presence is established in one habitat through desk study or field survey, dormouse will be assumed present in any suitable linked habitat within a 1km radius. 1km is deemed appropriate as dormouse territories are estimated at around 1ha with individuals being radio tracked travelling up to 1.2km (Juskaitis, 1997).

_

¹ National Grid (2021). Bramford to Twinstead: Technical Note – Approach to Dormouse

- 2.5 A desk study was undertaken to obtain records of dormice present within 1km of the Order Limits.. Where data requests returned records that are three years old or newer, if suitable dormouse habitat is present within 1km of these records and habitat connectivity is present, dormice are assumed present in the full 1km radius area.
- Where suitable dormouse habitat is present within the Order Limits but there are no records or survey results within the last three years, Licence Policy 4 will be used to assume dormouse presence. The location of these areas are shown on Figure C6b Hazel Dormouse Baseline and described in Section C7 of the Method Statement. Section D: Polstead is the only area where there is no requirement for Licence Policy 4 as there are recent records/positive survey results and a 1km radius around these cover the entirety of Section D. All other project sections have areas where there is suitable dormouse habitat present within the Order Limits but no records or positive survey results within the last three years.
- 2.7 Licence Policy 4 enables alternative sources of evidence to be used to reduce the standard survey requirements where all the following apply:
 - costs or delays associated with carrying out standard survey requirements would be disproportionate to the additional certainty that it would bring;
 - ecological impacts of development can be predicted with sufficient certainty;
 and
 - mitigation or compensation will ensure that the licensed activity does not detrimentally affect the conservation status of the local population of any EPS.

Justification for use of Licence Policy 4

Disproportionate survey effort

- The cost of undertaking a survey of all suitable dormouse habitat within the Order Limits would be disproportionate to the additional certainty this data would bring. As stated in the Dormouse Licence method statement template (guidance in Section C7) 'Usage of nest tubes by dormice is patchy and depends on a whole range of specific factors, such as the presence of suitable locations for natural nests. Natural England considers that once dormice are detected they should be assessed to be present in all suitable habitats on site, unless there are effective barriers to movement". This concurs with advice provided by the dormouse advisor at Suffolk Wildlife Trust when consulted regarding the survey effort for this project. Their advice was that a precautionary approach to dormice should be undertaken in areas where dormice have previously been recorded even if current survey results return a negative result. This is based on evidence that suggests that using 50 nest tubes in high canopy areas does not provide certainty of detection (Bullion et. al., 2021). Indeed, Natural England have advised that 'dormouse absence cannot be assumed, where suitable dormice habitat is present [...].
- 2.9 A UK Habitat Classification (UK Habs) survey and detailed hedgerow survey of the Order Limits was undertaken in 2022, as reported in Environmental Statement Appendix 7.1 and 7.5, respectively. This survey data enabled an assessment of suitability for dormouse using the characteristics described in Bright *et al.*, 2006. This data also provided information with aerial photography to determine whether habitats are of sufficient quality to enable dormice to disperse across the landscape. The location of habitat suitable to support dormice within the Order Limits is shown on Figure C5b Survey Areas. Within the Order Limits there are 10.1ha scrub, 32.2ha woodland, 35.6km hedgerow and 5.1km line of trees and given this vast amount of suitable habitat present it is considered that surveying all of this habitat would be disproportionate to the data gained and would not change the mitigation approach.
- 2.10 Historic records, 2012 dormouse survey results and the presence of a number of designated sites within or adjacent to the Order Limits which have dormice mentioned in their citation also provide important supporting information to justify the assumptions that where there is suitable dormouse habitat in the Order Limits, dormouse are present. Habitat surveys were undertaken for the project in 2012 and the findings of these surveys are consistent with the more recent habitat surveys undertaken in 2022 suggesting no significant changes in habitat types present or land use. Absence of

Technical Note - Dormouse Licence - use of Licence Policy 4

significant change over the last 10 years in supporting habitat would indicate that the 2012 dormouse survey data is still valid.

2.11 In addition, dormouse is a Suffolk flagship species in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and as a result positive habitat management, connection and creation is occurring in the region to enhance areas for this species. This further strengthens the case for assuming that dormice are present in areas where suitable habitat is present.

Certainty in understanding impacts

2.12 The location and maximum extents of habitat removal are presented in the Environmental Statement and in the draft Dormouse licence. Two trenchless crossings are proposed at Section G: Stour Valley, which will avoid impacts to hedgerows and woodland at this location. Detailed design will be finalised during the detailed design stage, subject to development consent, prior to the final submission of the EPS licence where impacts upon vegetation may be reduced. However, for the draft licence, a worst case scenario for impact on vegetation has been assessed and mitigated for i.e. dormice assumed present in all habitat suitable to support this species within the Order Limits to give certainty in understanding the impact of the project.

Mitigation

- 2.13 Mitigation will be put in place to ensure that no dormice are injured/killed during vegetation removal. Dead hedging will be used over the underground cables once installed to temporarily maintain connectivity where 60m wide lengths of each hedgerow will require removal. (N.B. There are two locations where larger 91m and 130m gaps respectively, will be required). Dead hedging will also be used in Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham in order to maintain connectivity between woodland on either side where a 49m length of hedgerow will be removed.
- 2.14 The majority of habitat removal is temporary and will be reinstated on completion of construction. The Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) Appendix B Vegetation Reinstatement Plan covers all of the reinstatement planting, embedded planting and additional mitigation planting and this is secured through Requirement 4 of the DCO.
- 2.15 Habitat creation (17.57ha new woodland planting, 8.2ha scrub planting and 1.9ha natural regeneration of woodland) and enhancement (1260m hedgerow gap planting) will result in a large increase in available resource for dormice compared to the overall permanent loss of 1.38ha of dormouse habitat as a result of the project.

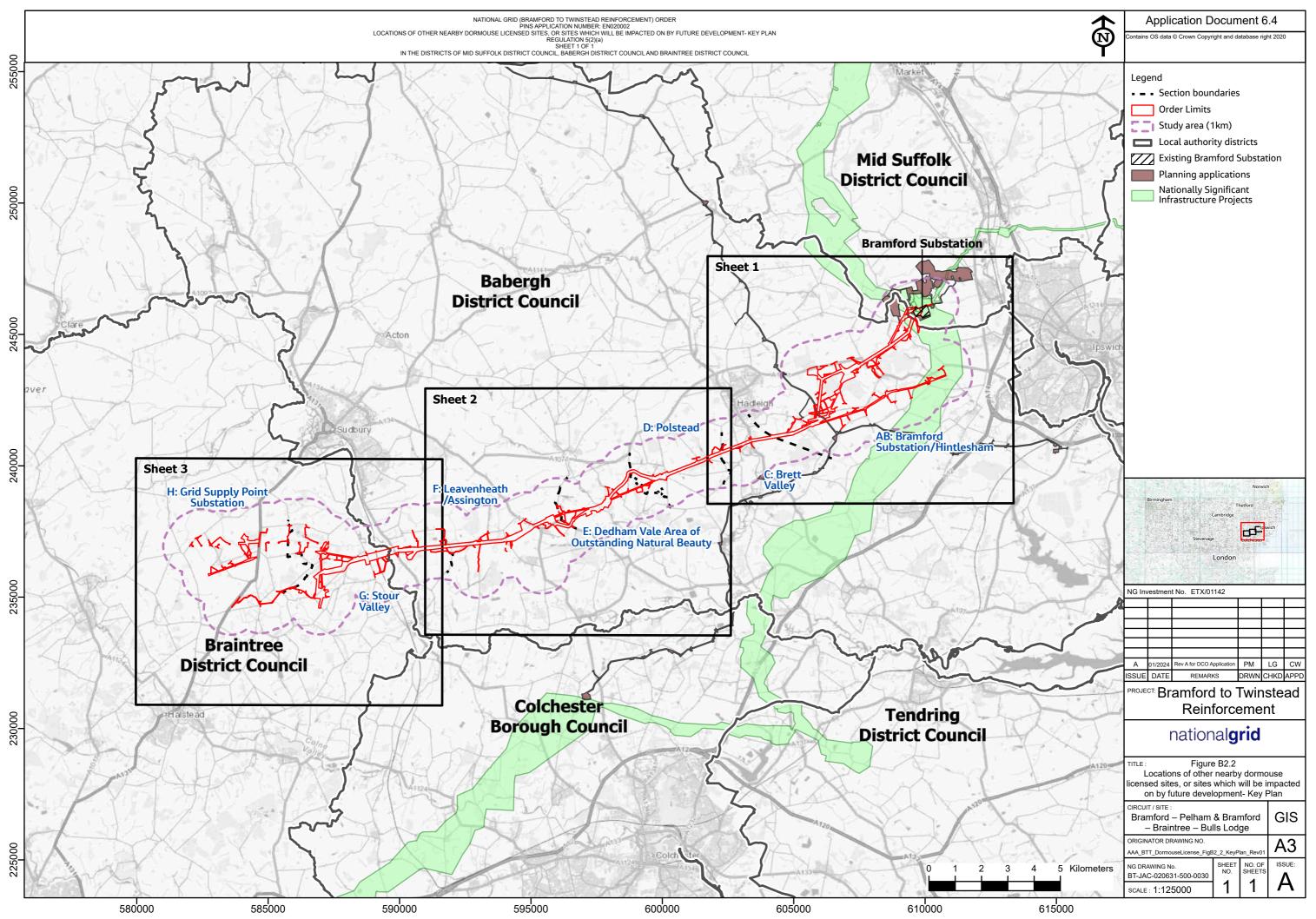
References

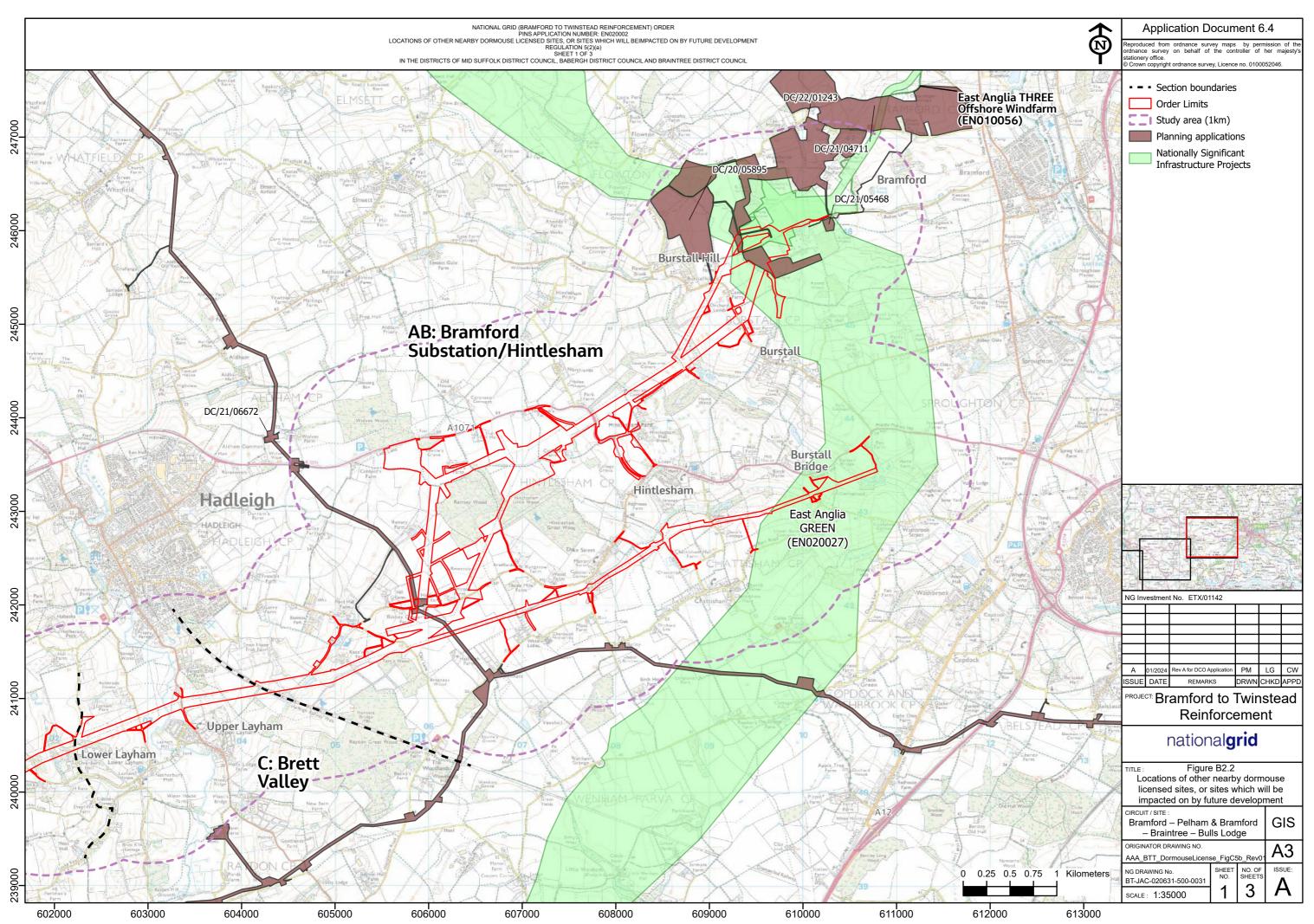
Bright, P., Morris, P. and Mitchell-Jones, T., (2006) The Dormouse Conservation Handbook. 2^{nd} Edition. English Nature, Peterborough, UK.

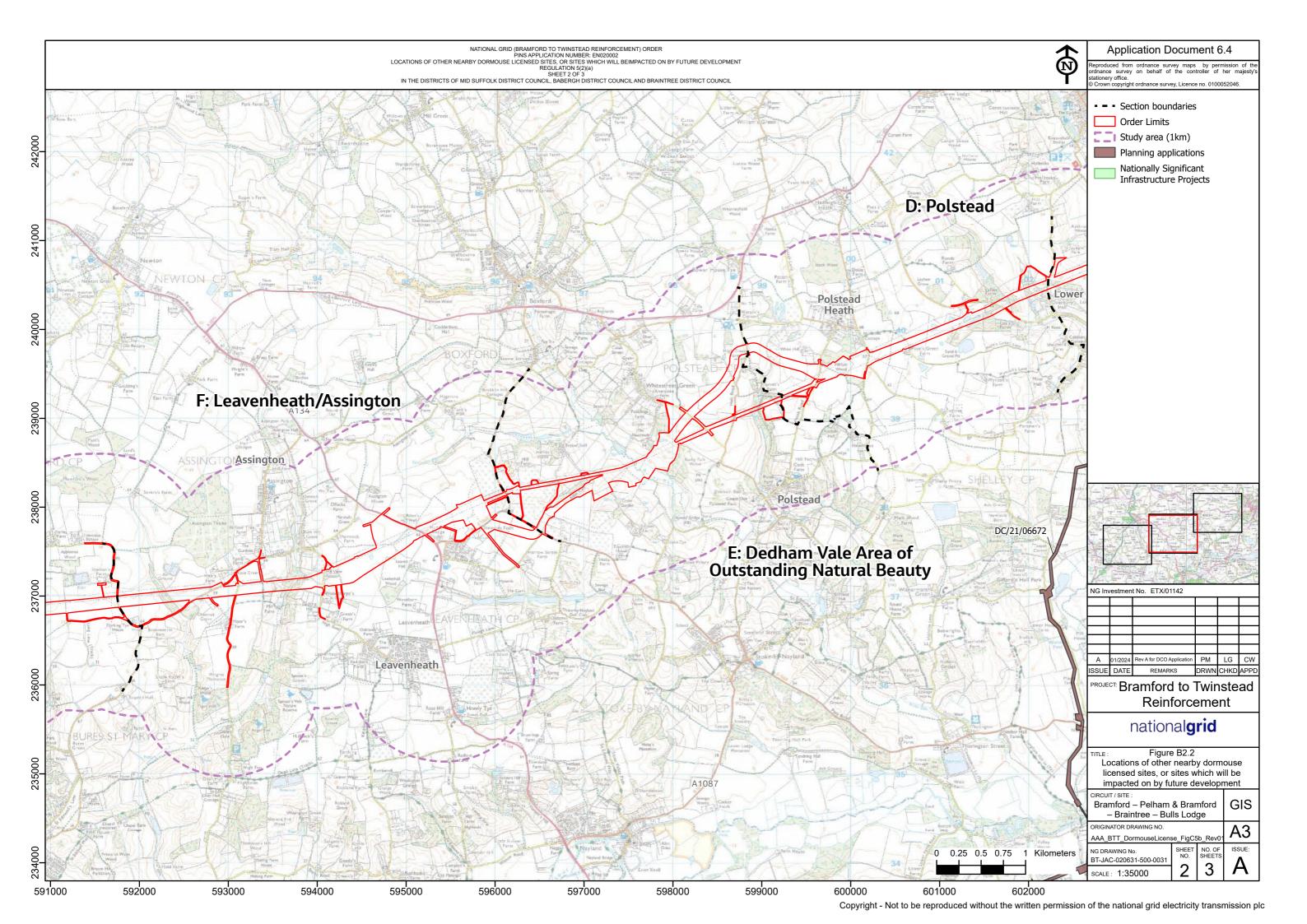
Bullion, S., Burrough, K., Chanin, P., Langton, S., and Looser, A. (2021). Detecting hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* with nest tubes and tracking tunnels: maximising the probability of success. Mammal Communications 7: 38-46, London.

Juškaitis, Rimvydas. (1997). Ranging and movement of the Common dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* in Lithuania. Acta theriologica. 42. 113-122. 10.4098/AT.arch.97-15.

16/02/2024







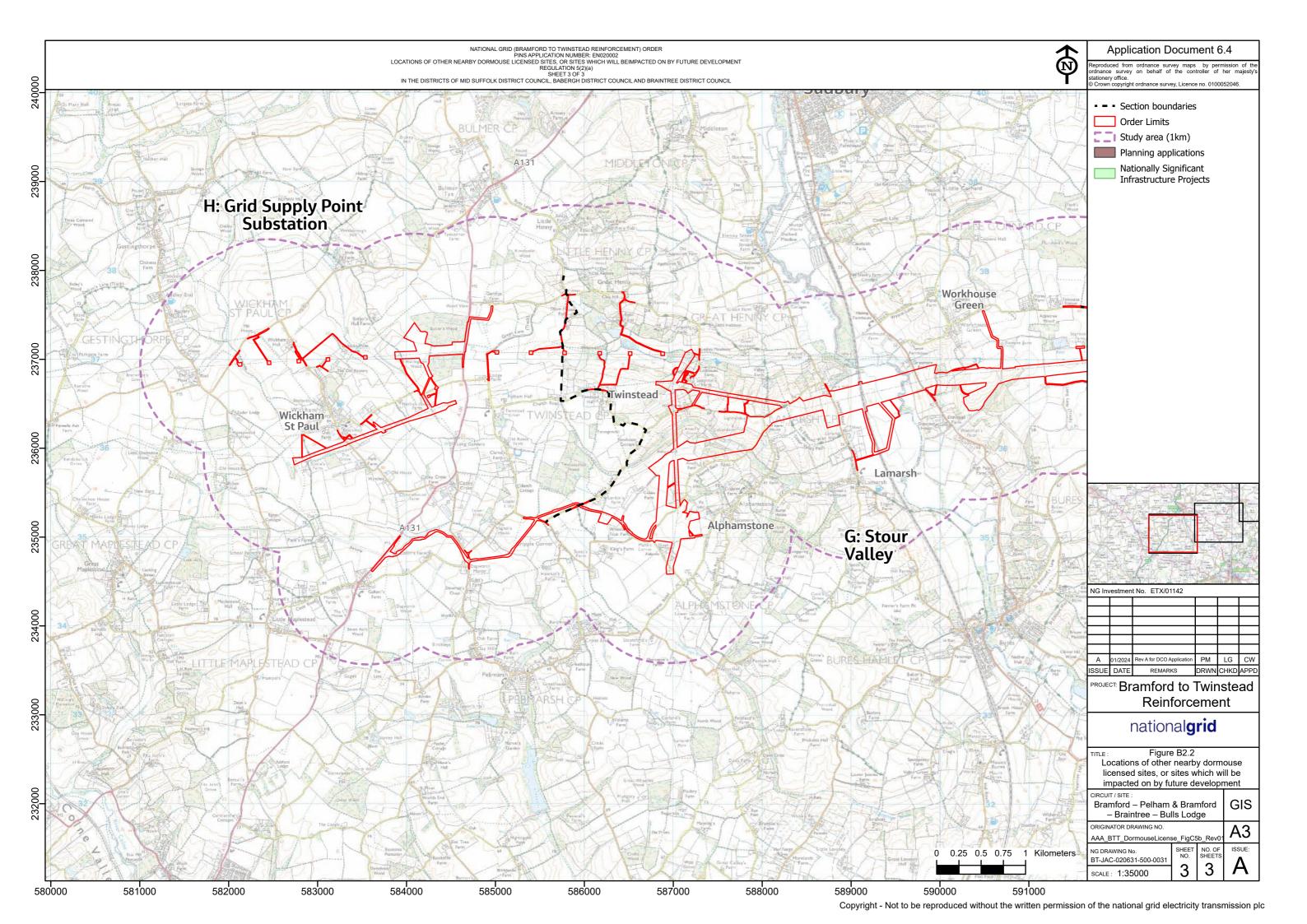
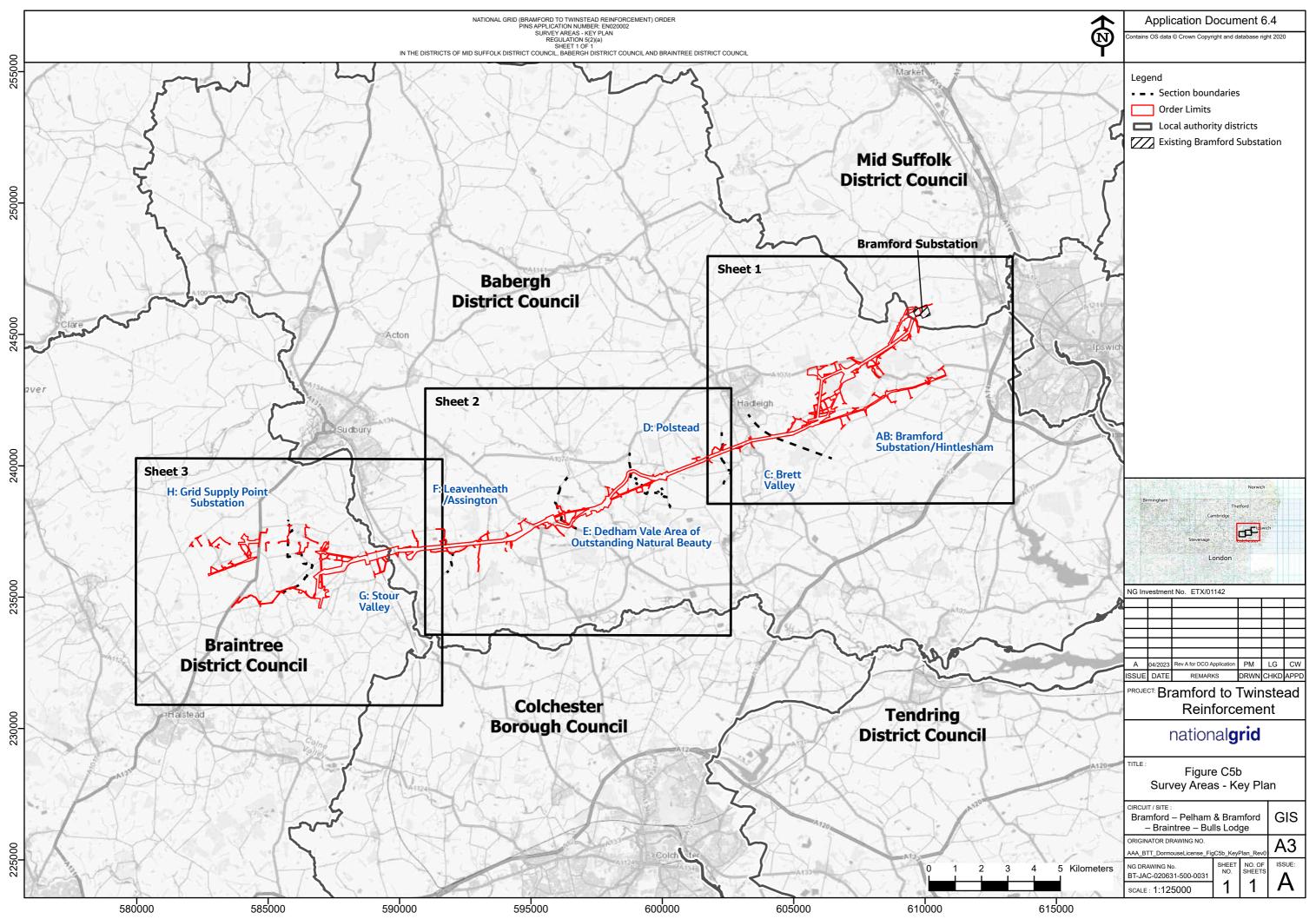
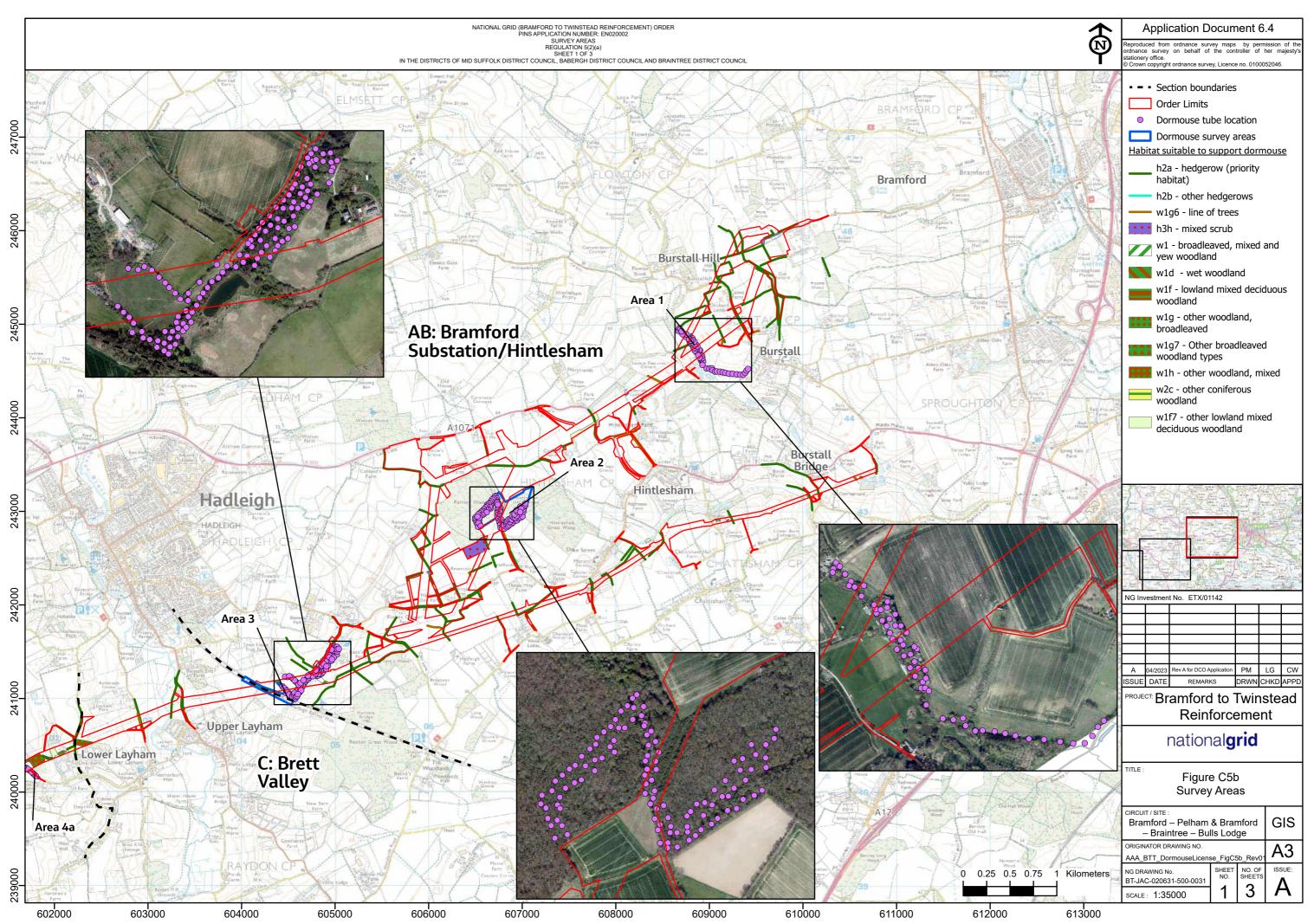
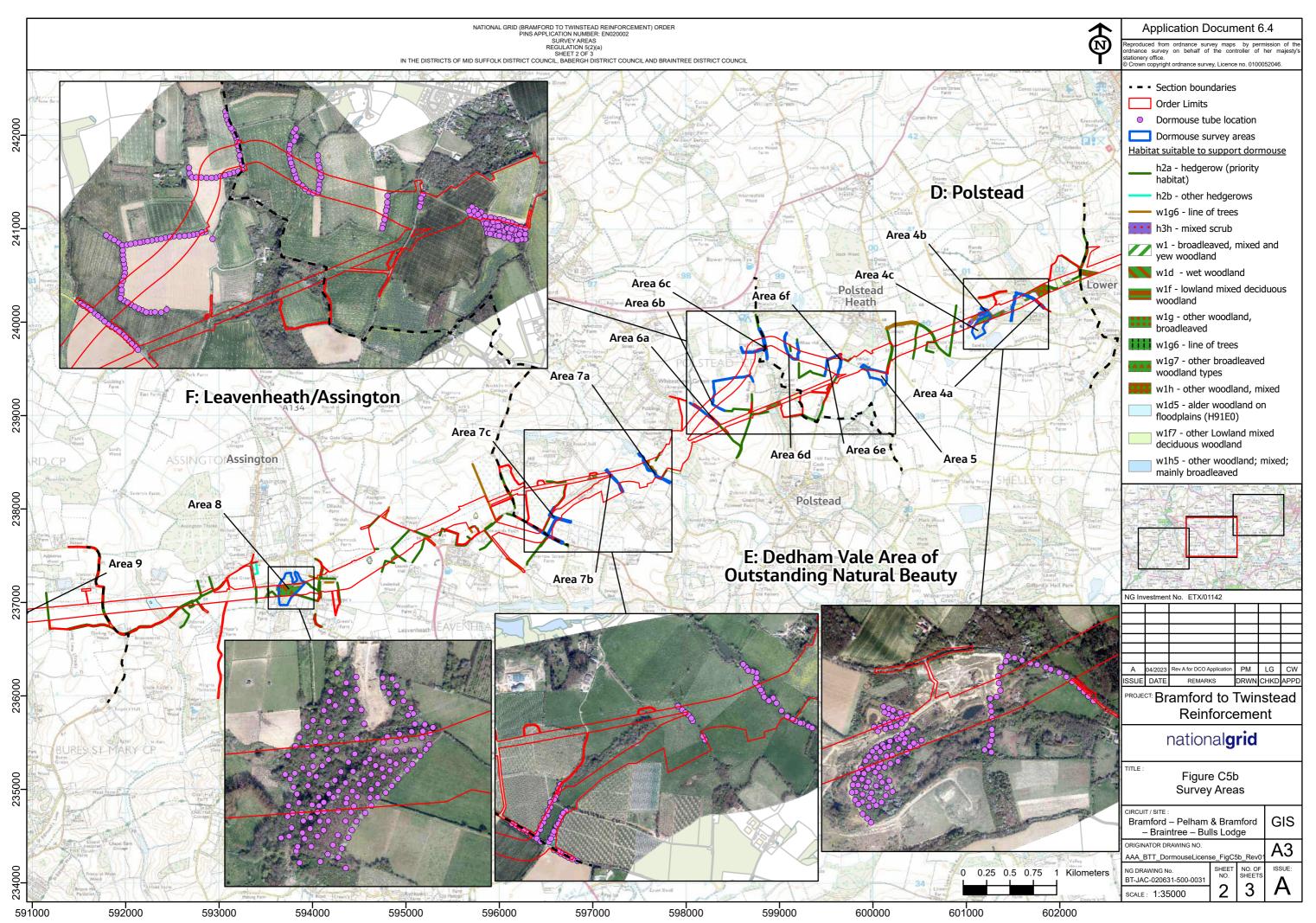


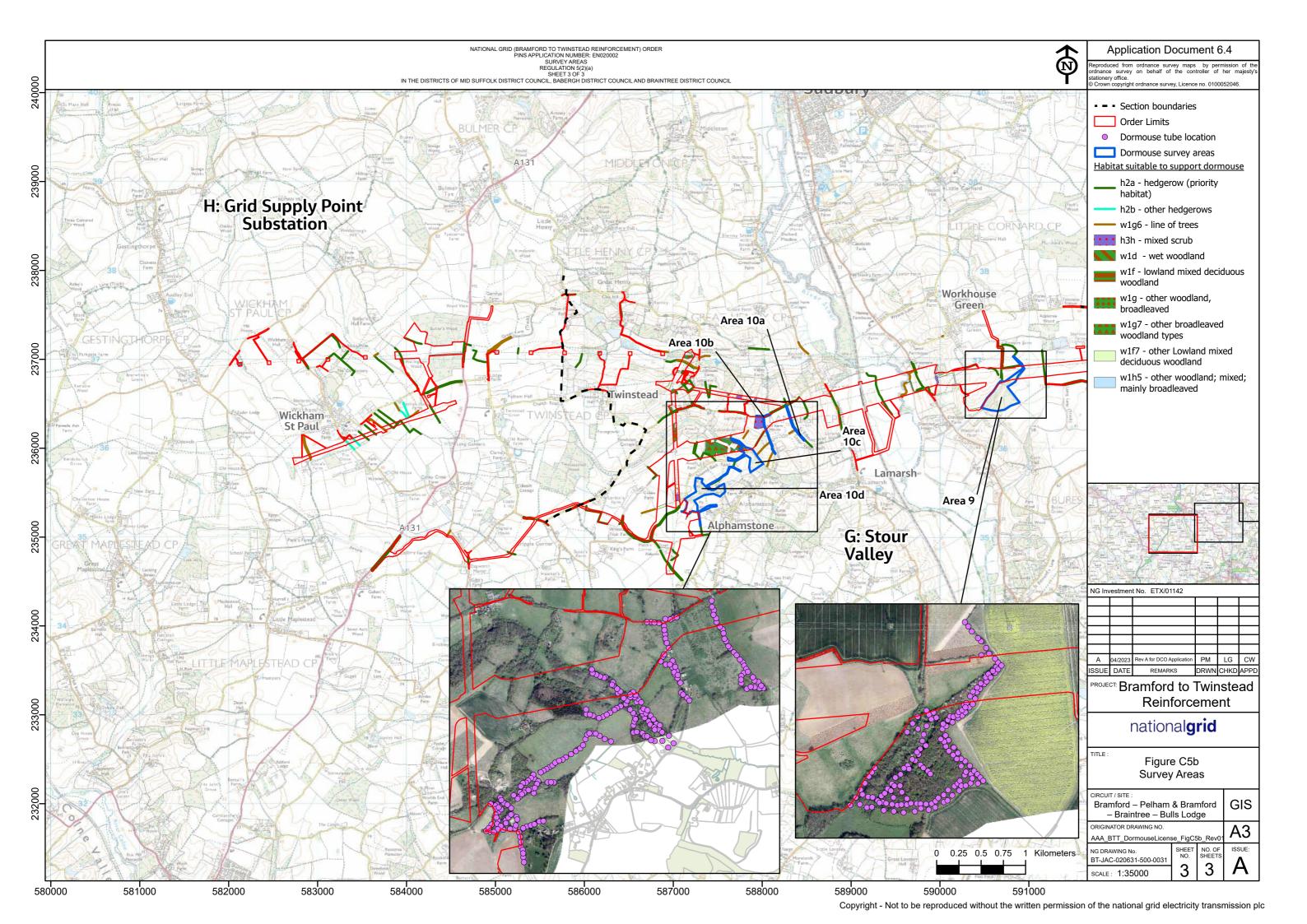
Figure C5a – Location Plan

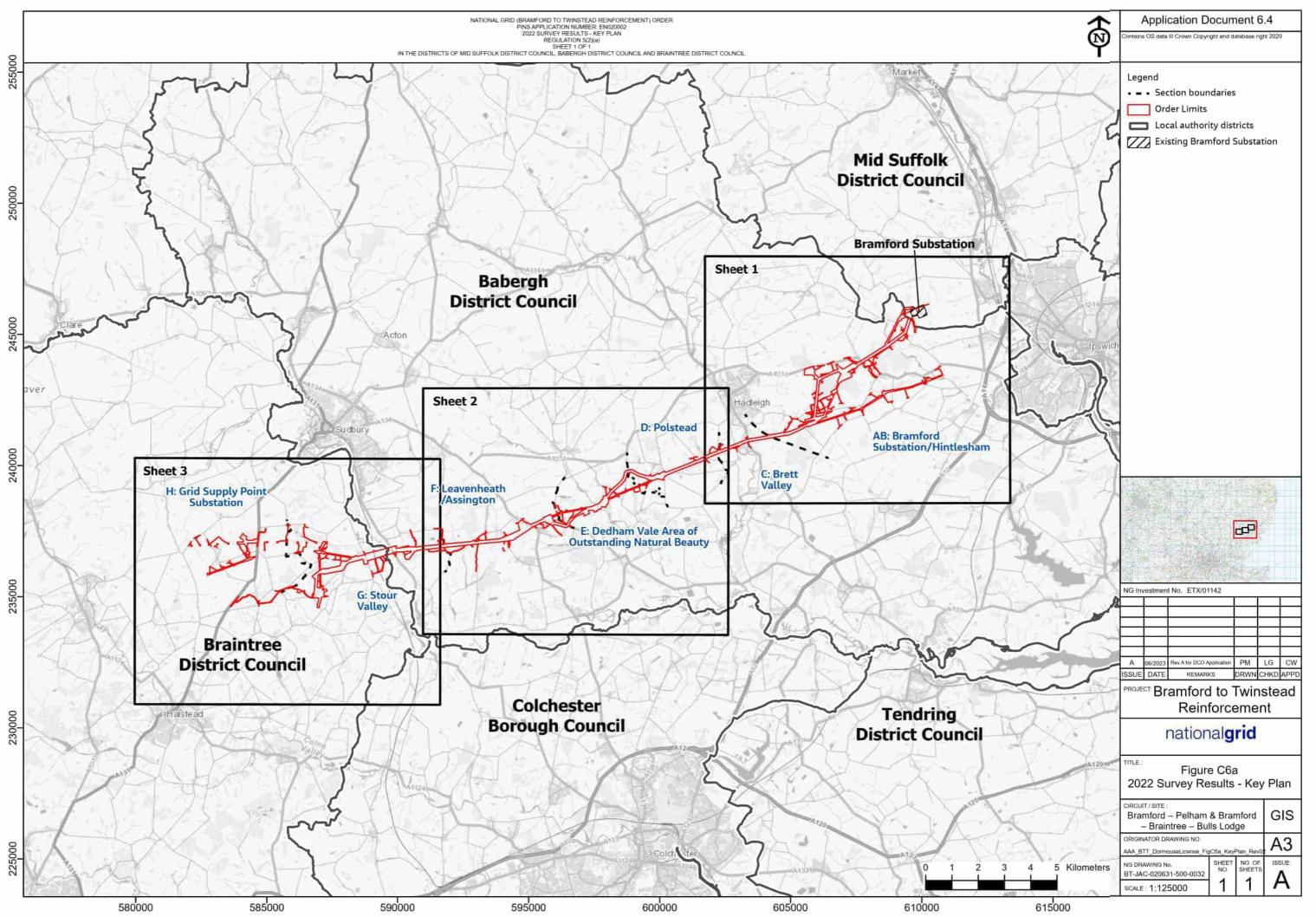
See Figure 4.1 (application document 6.4)

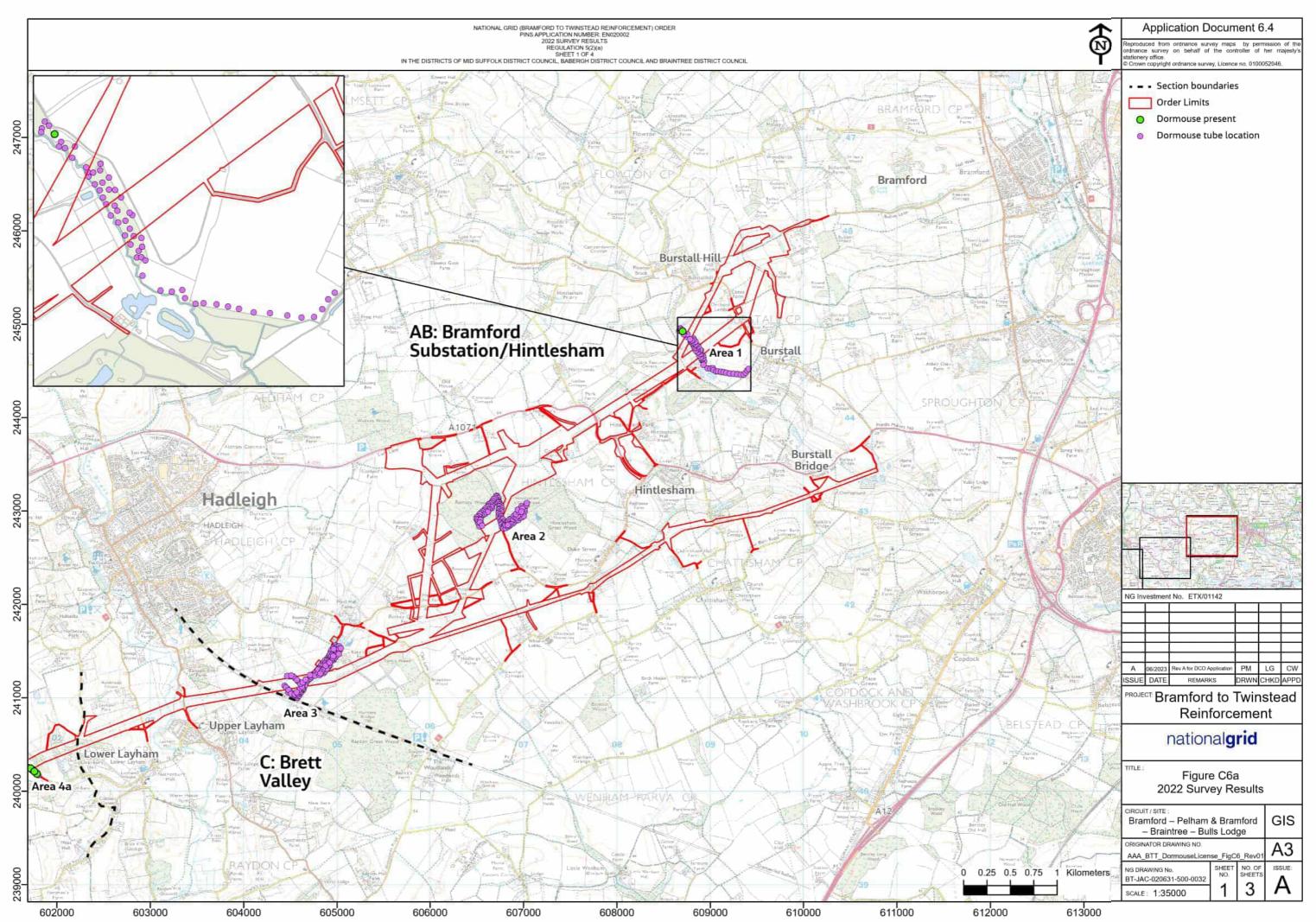


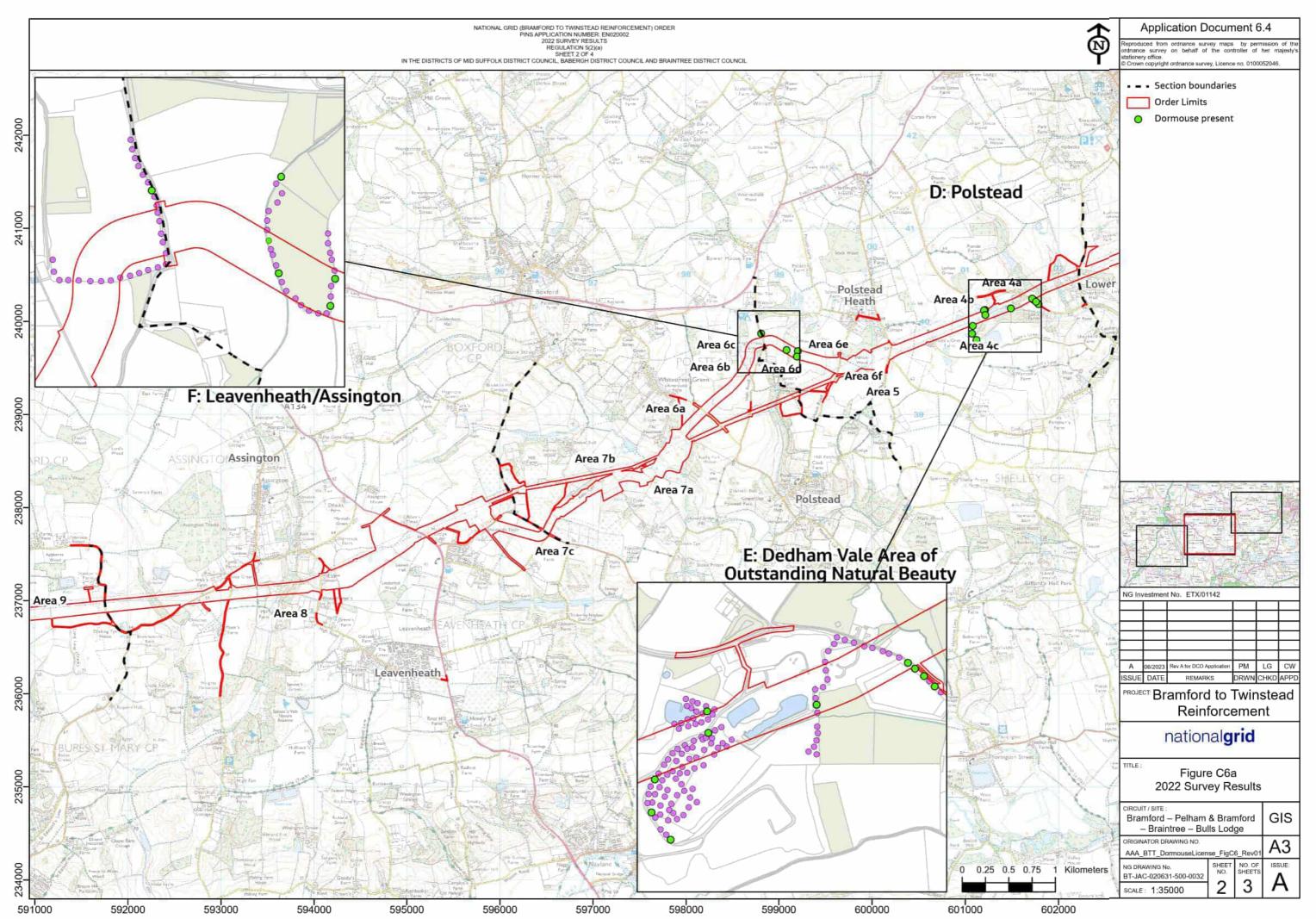


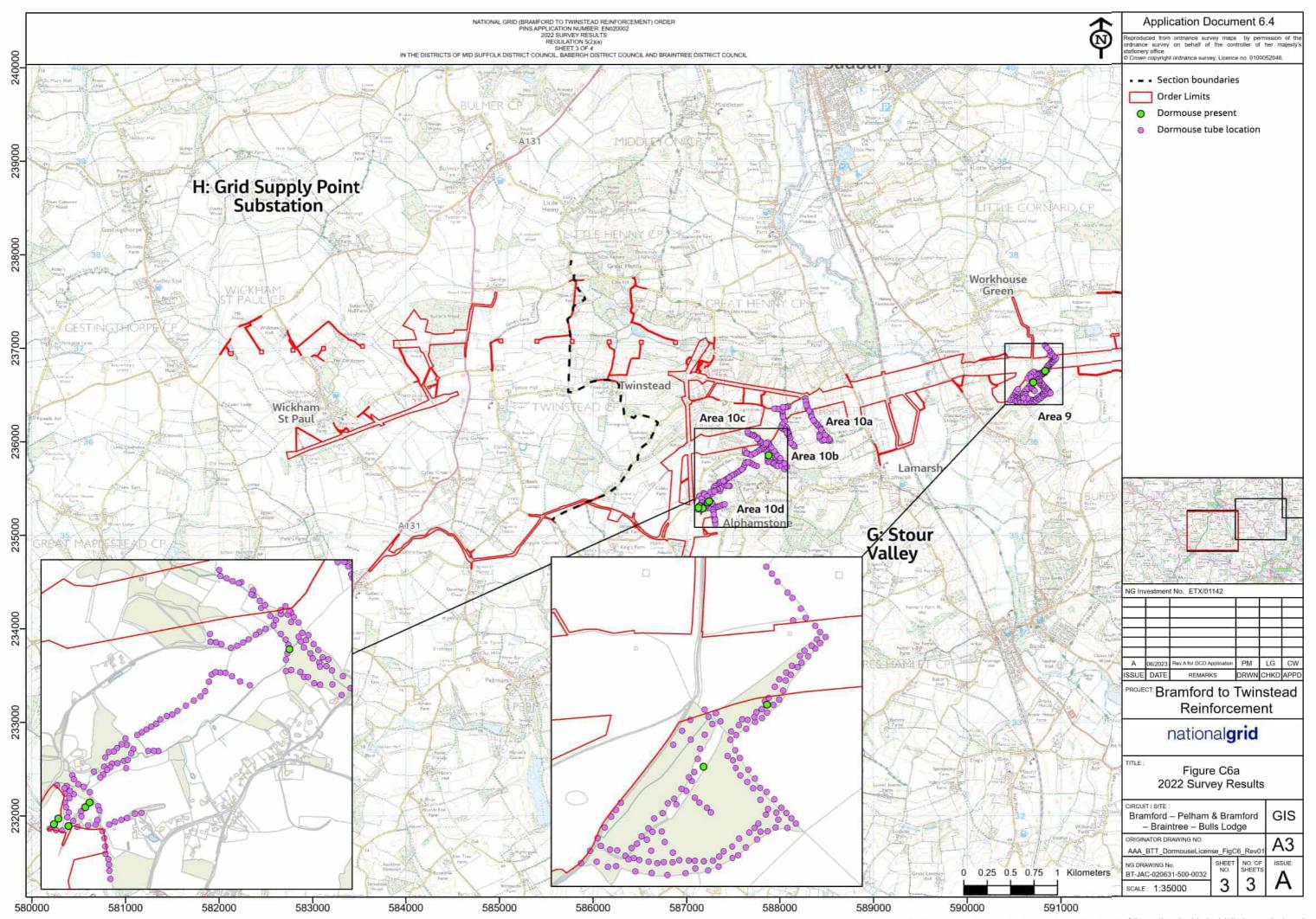


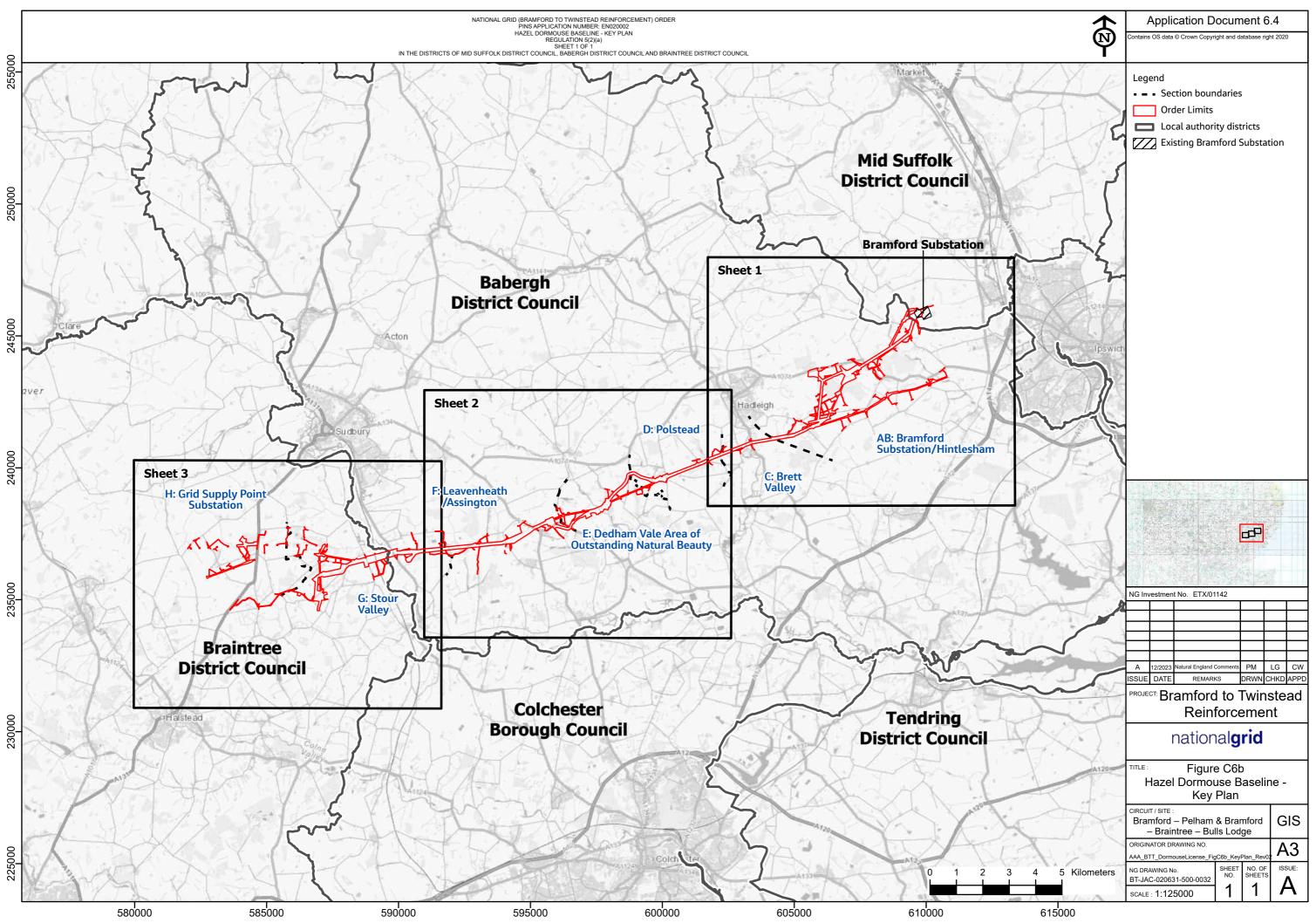


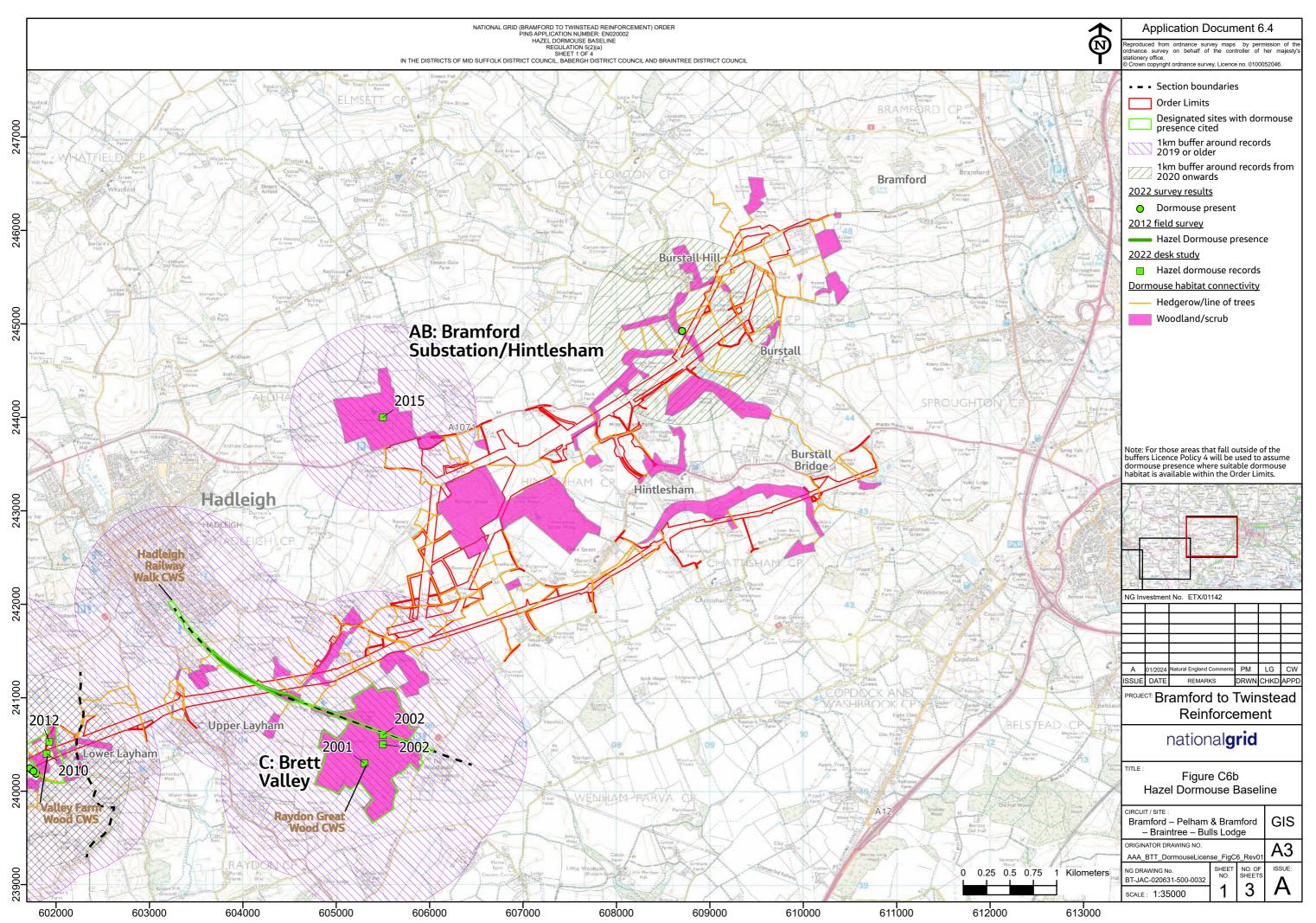


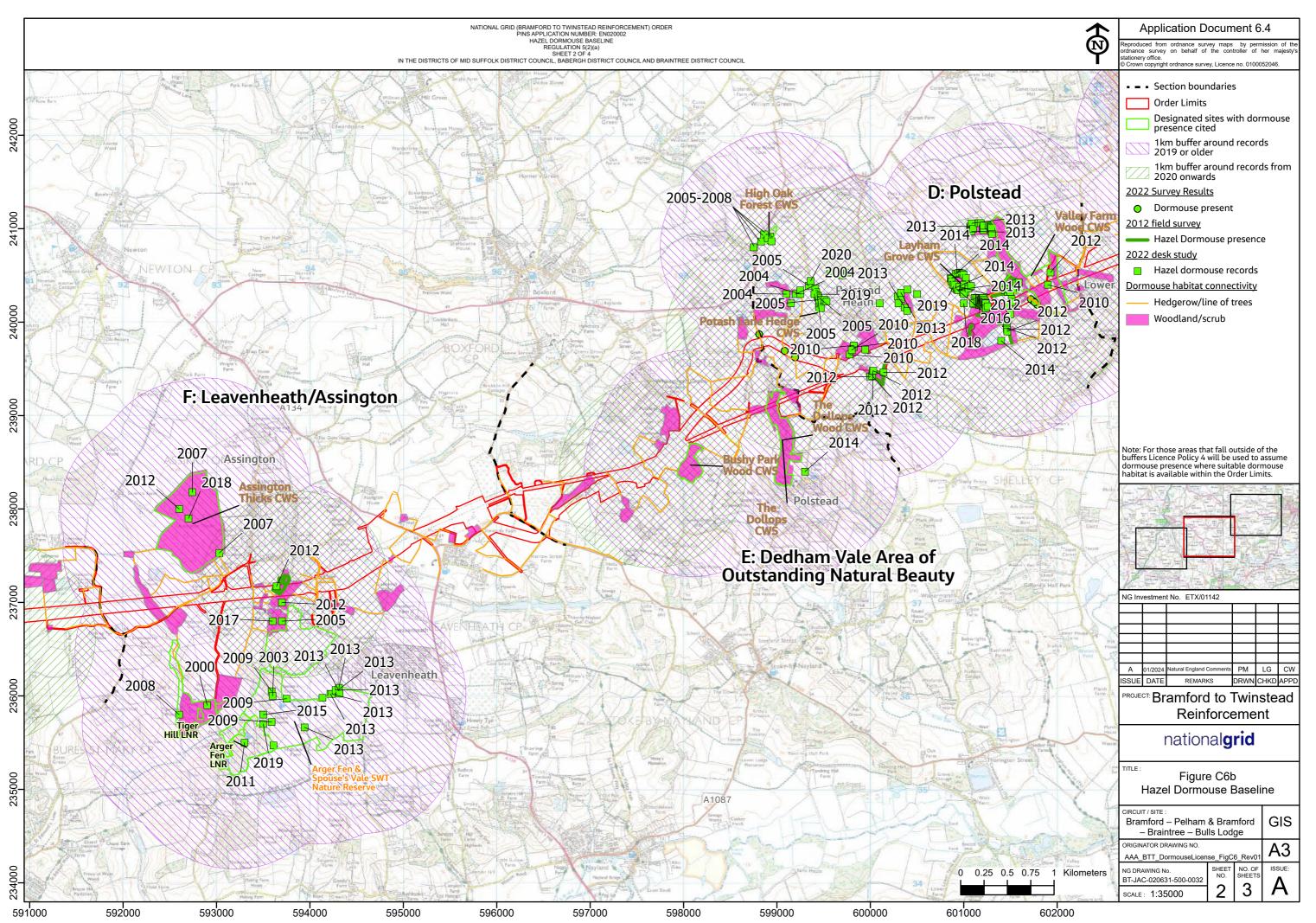


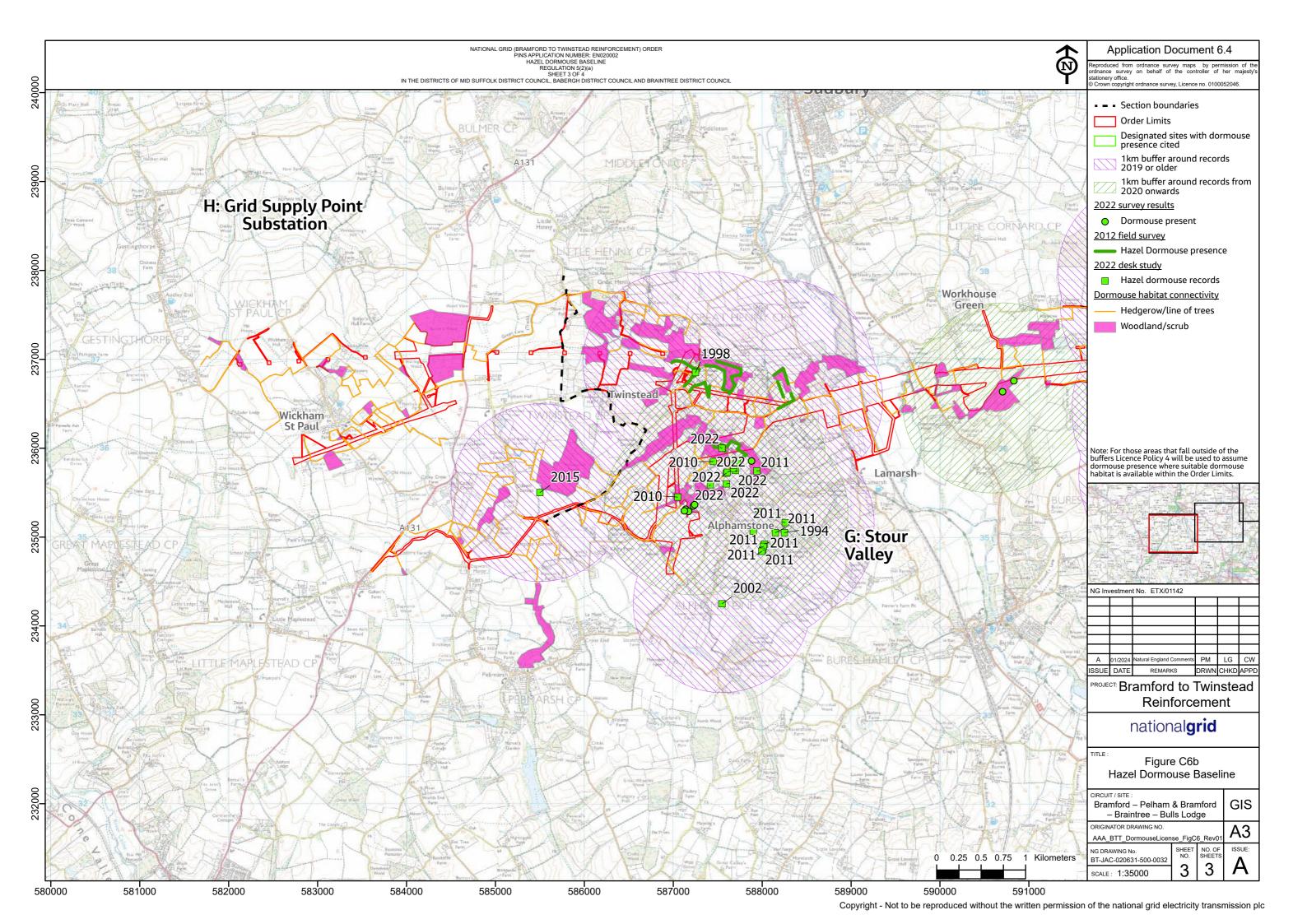


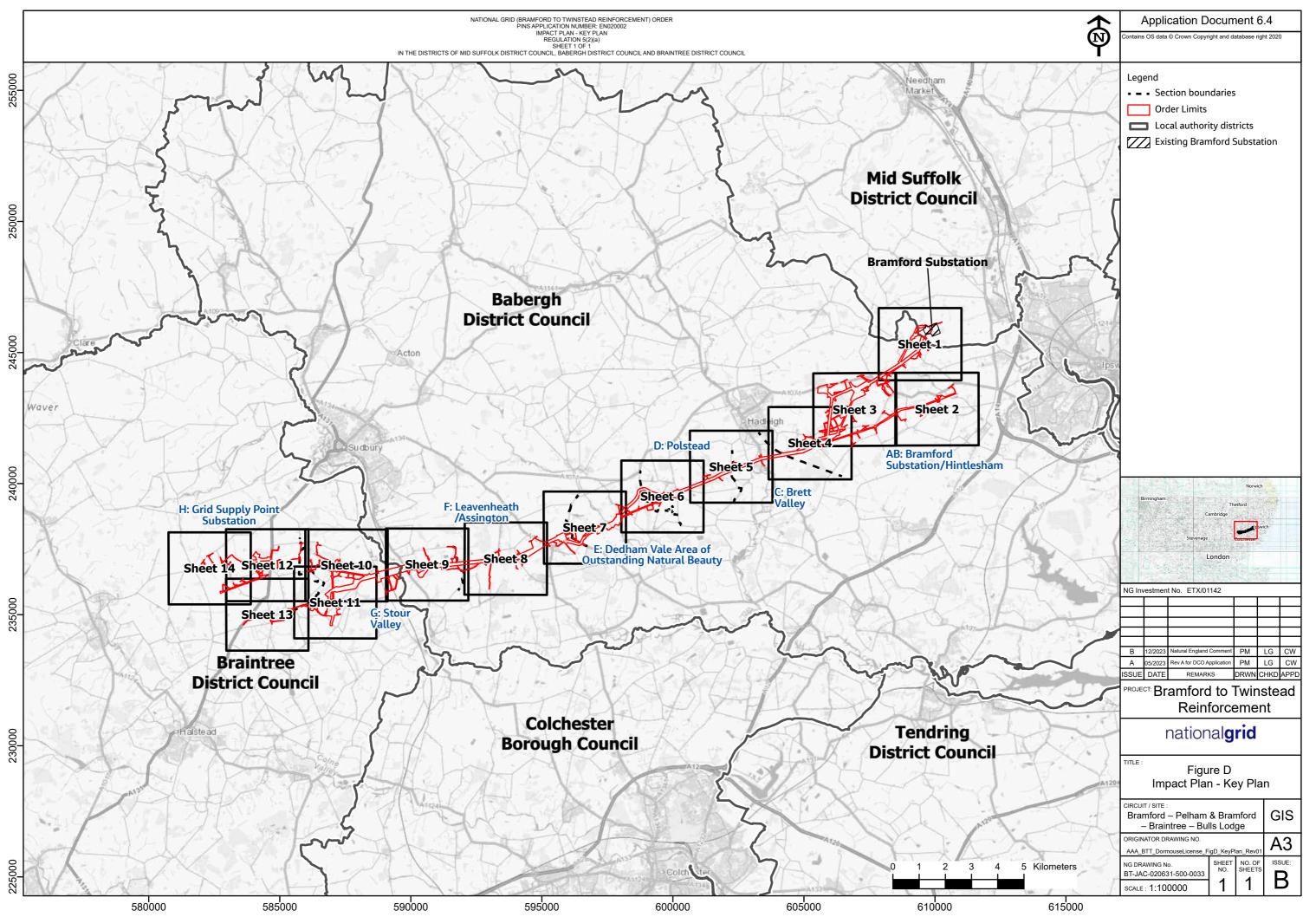


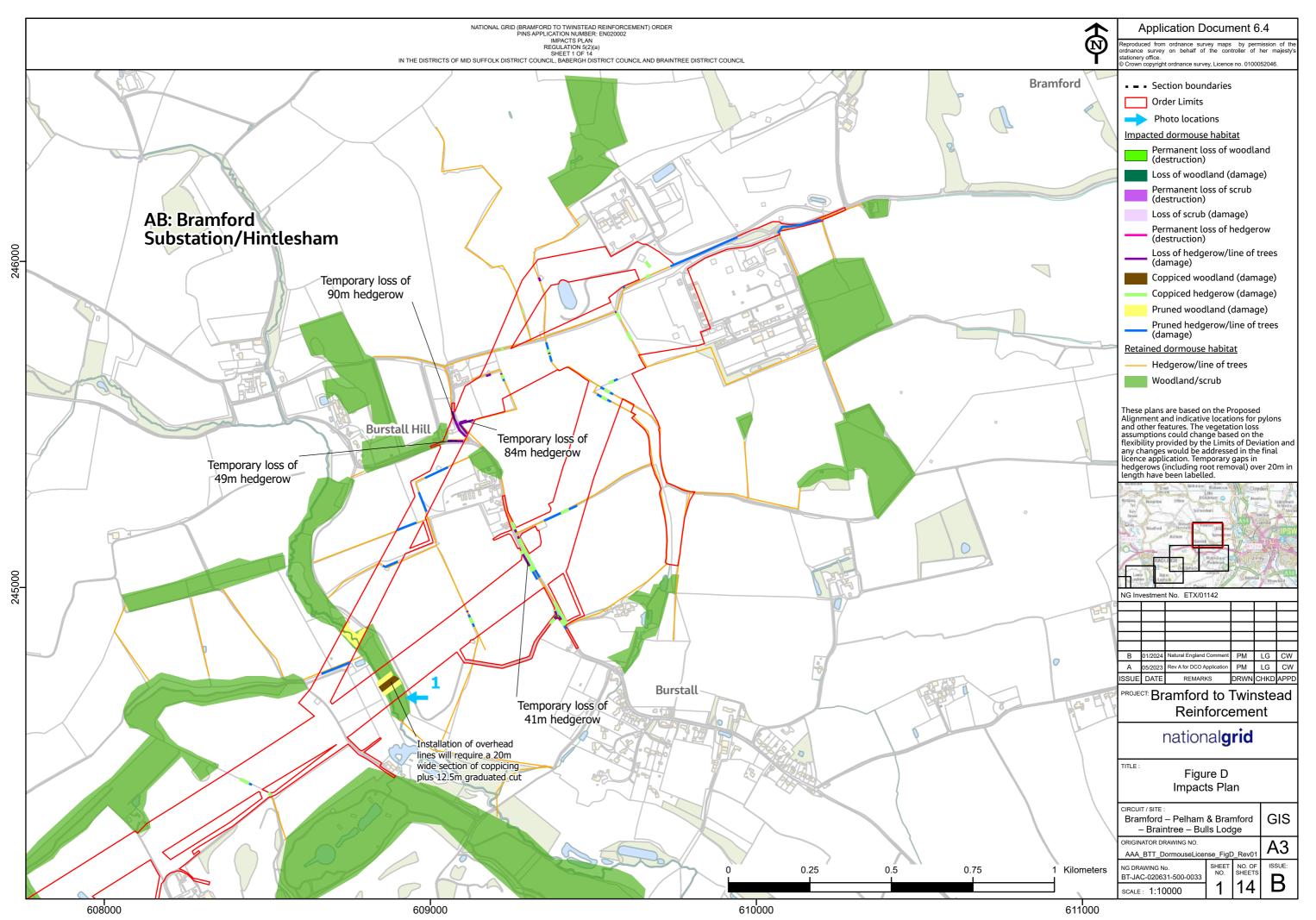


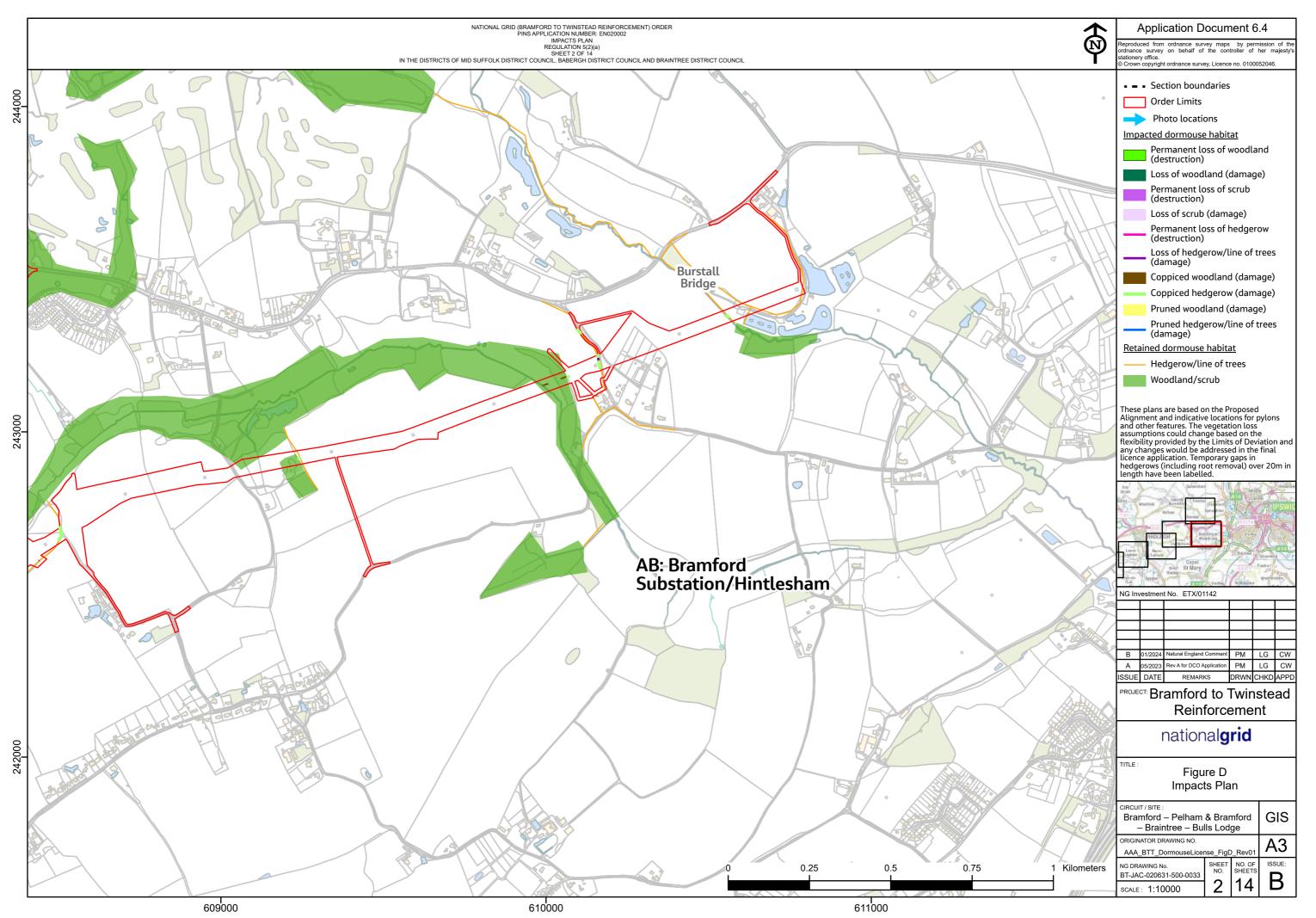


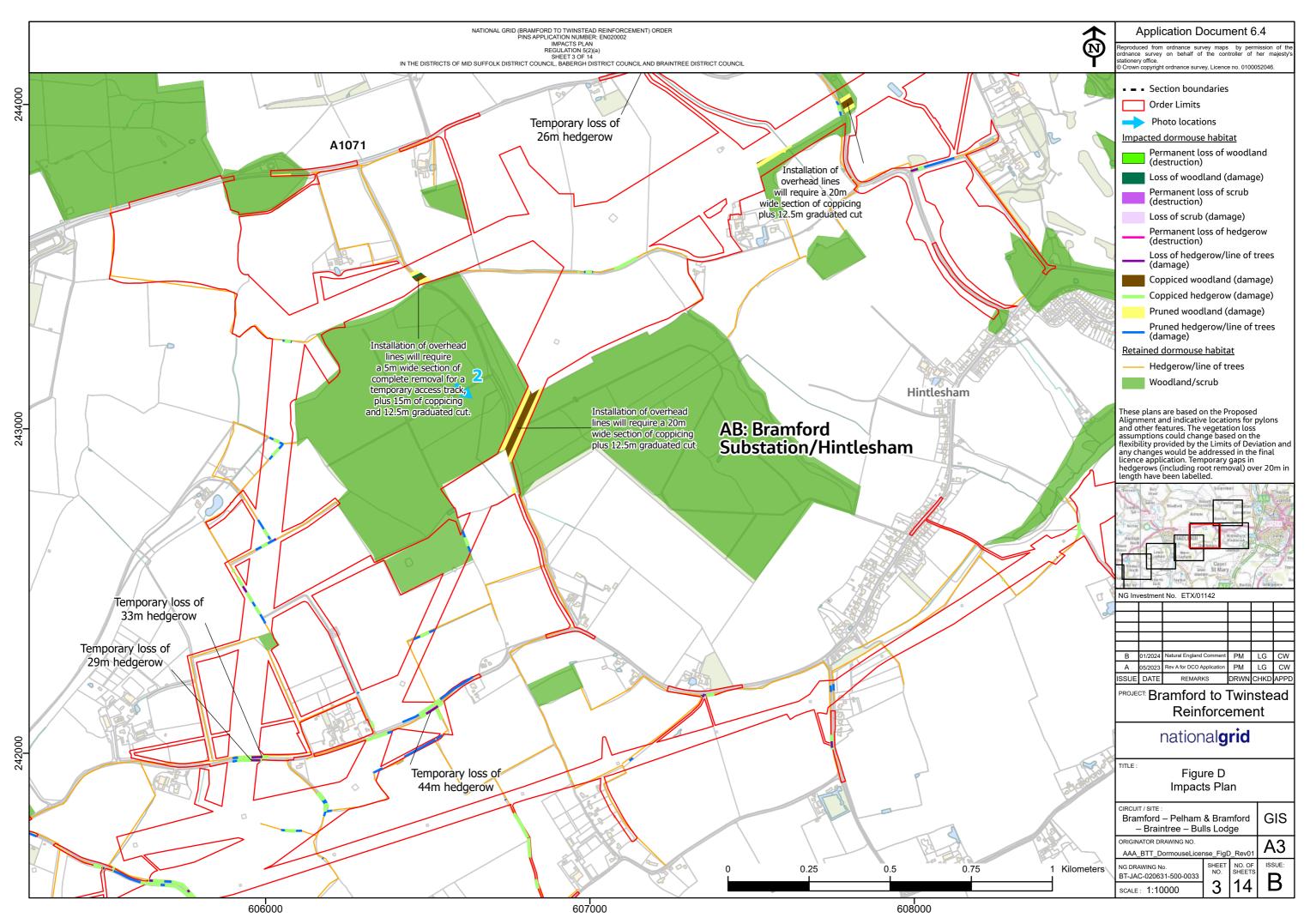


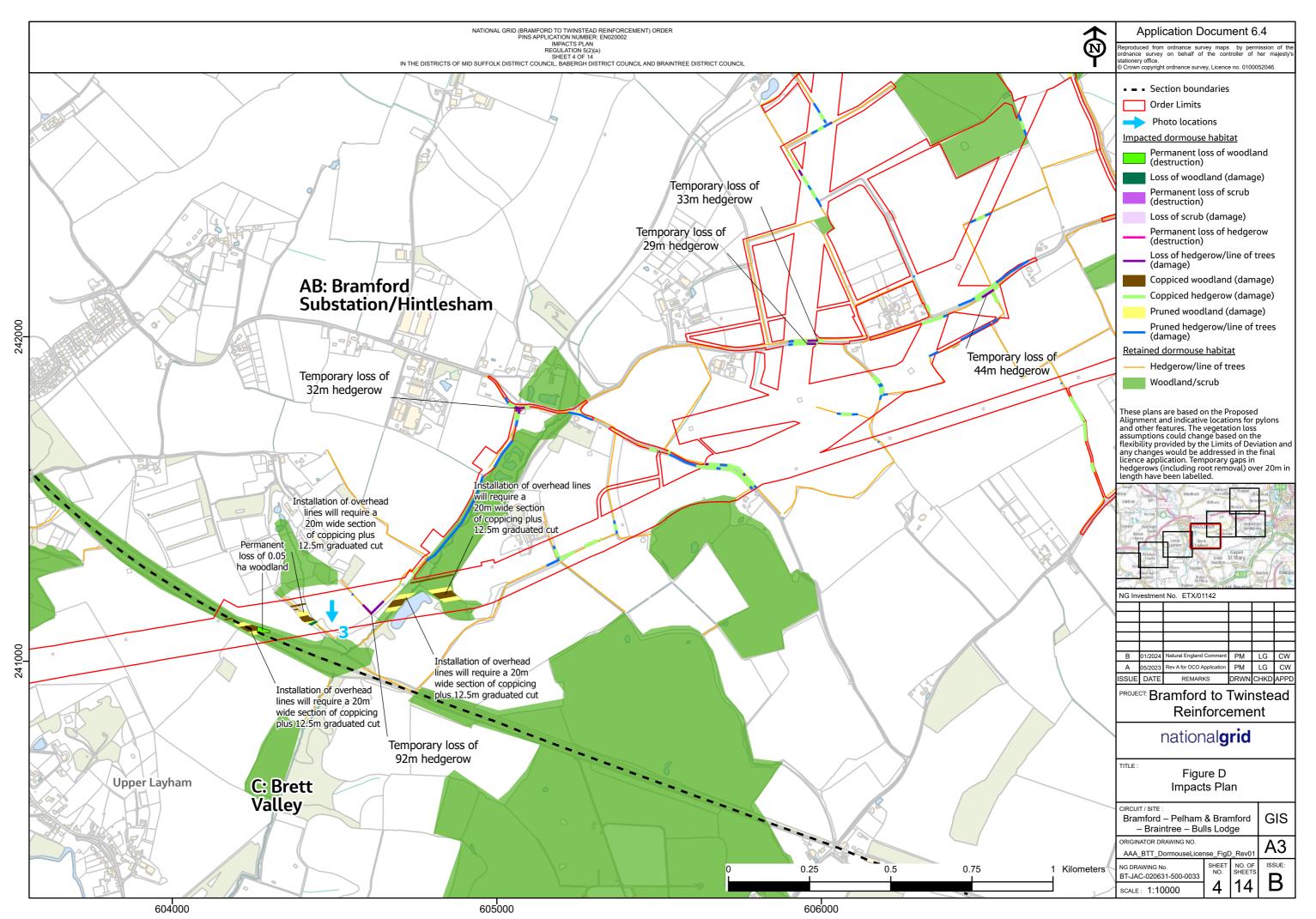


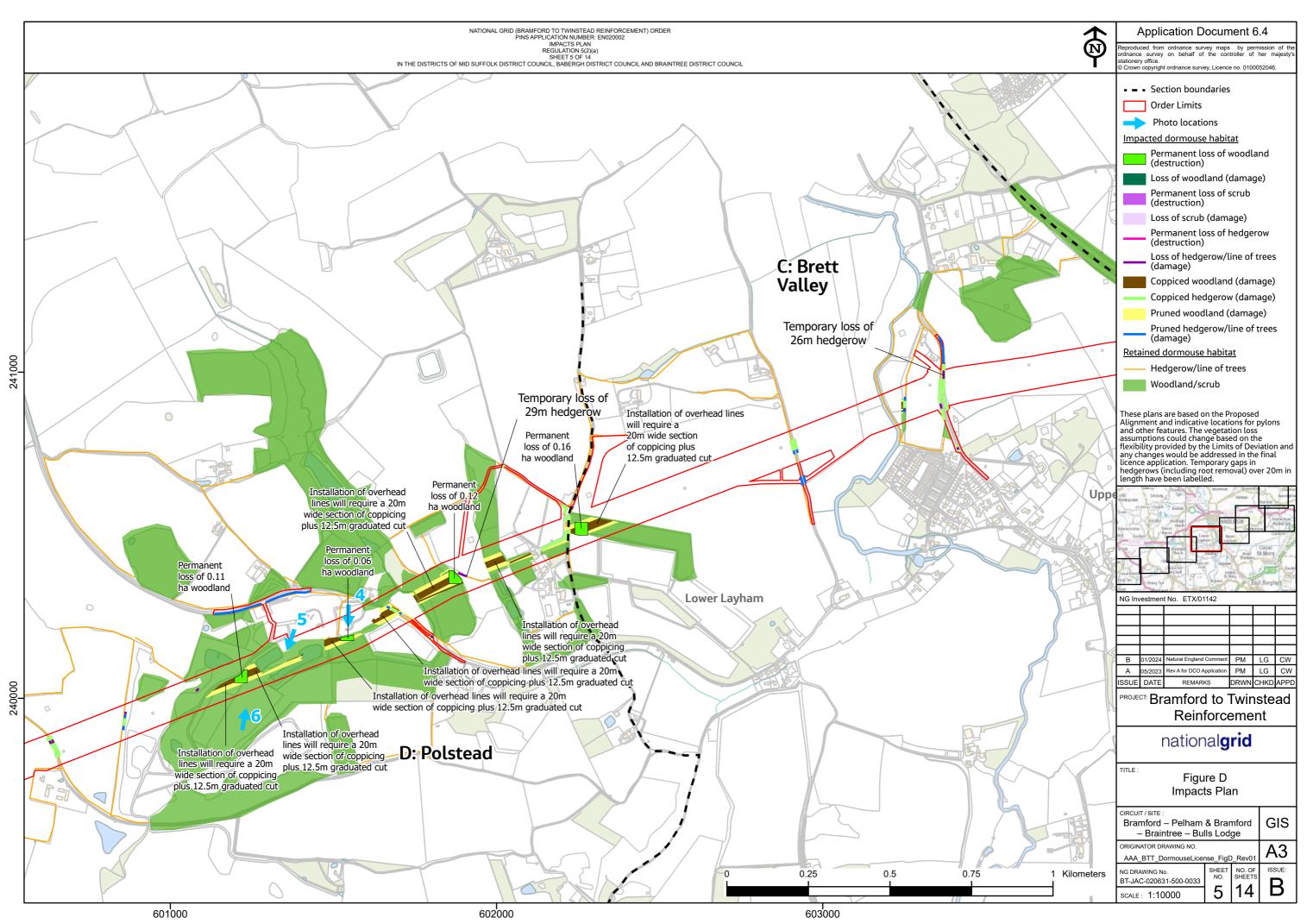


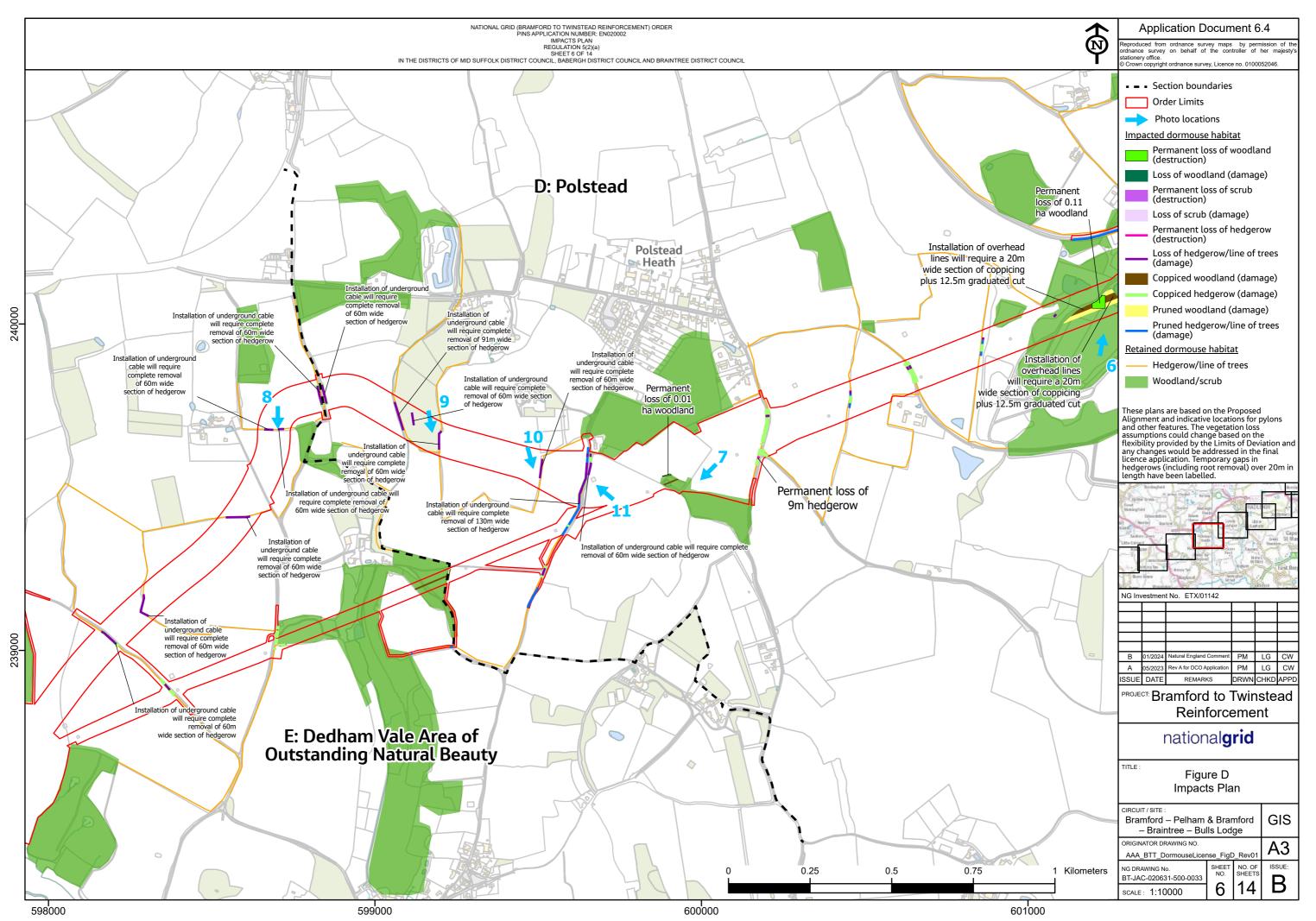


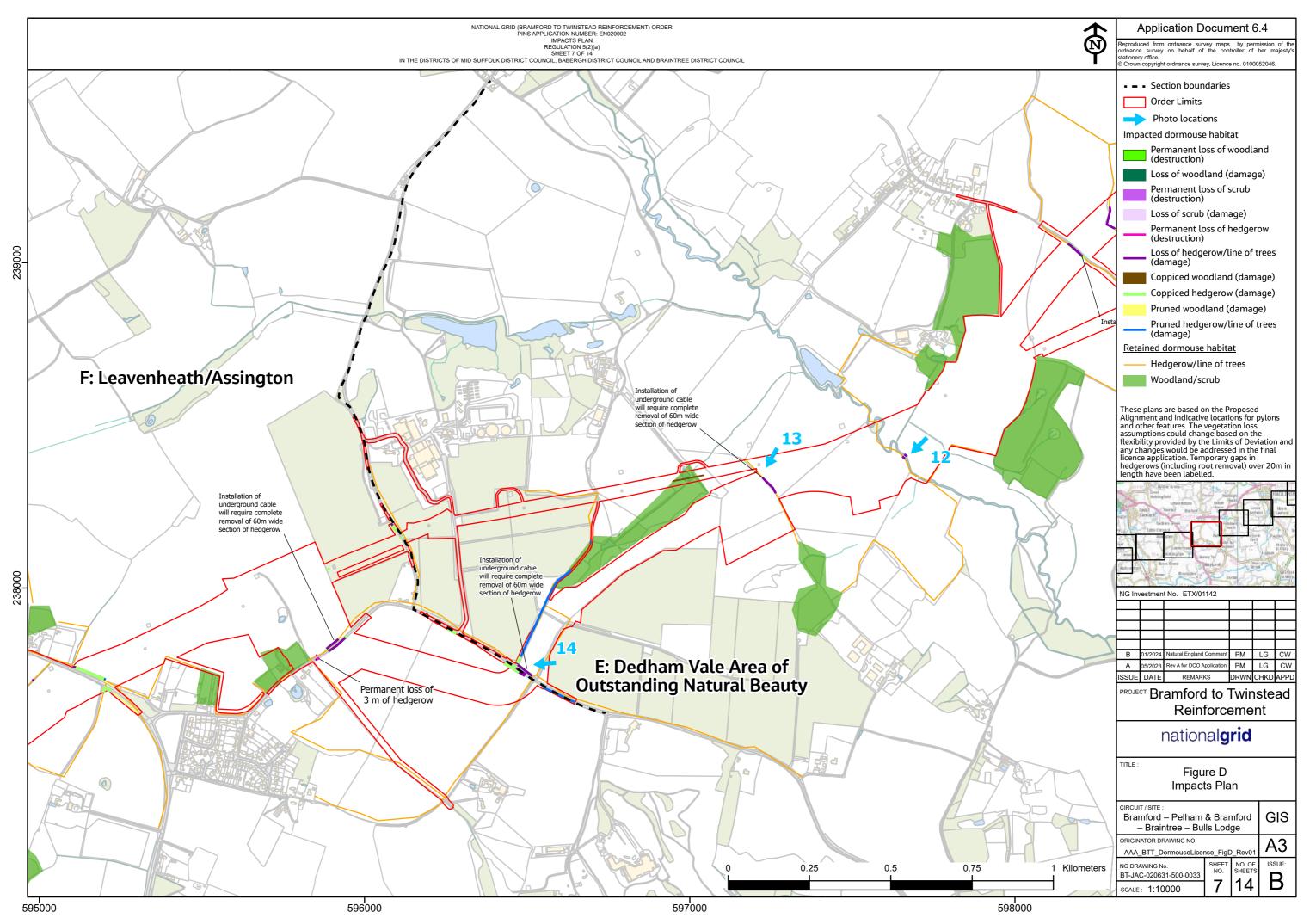


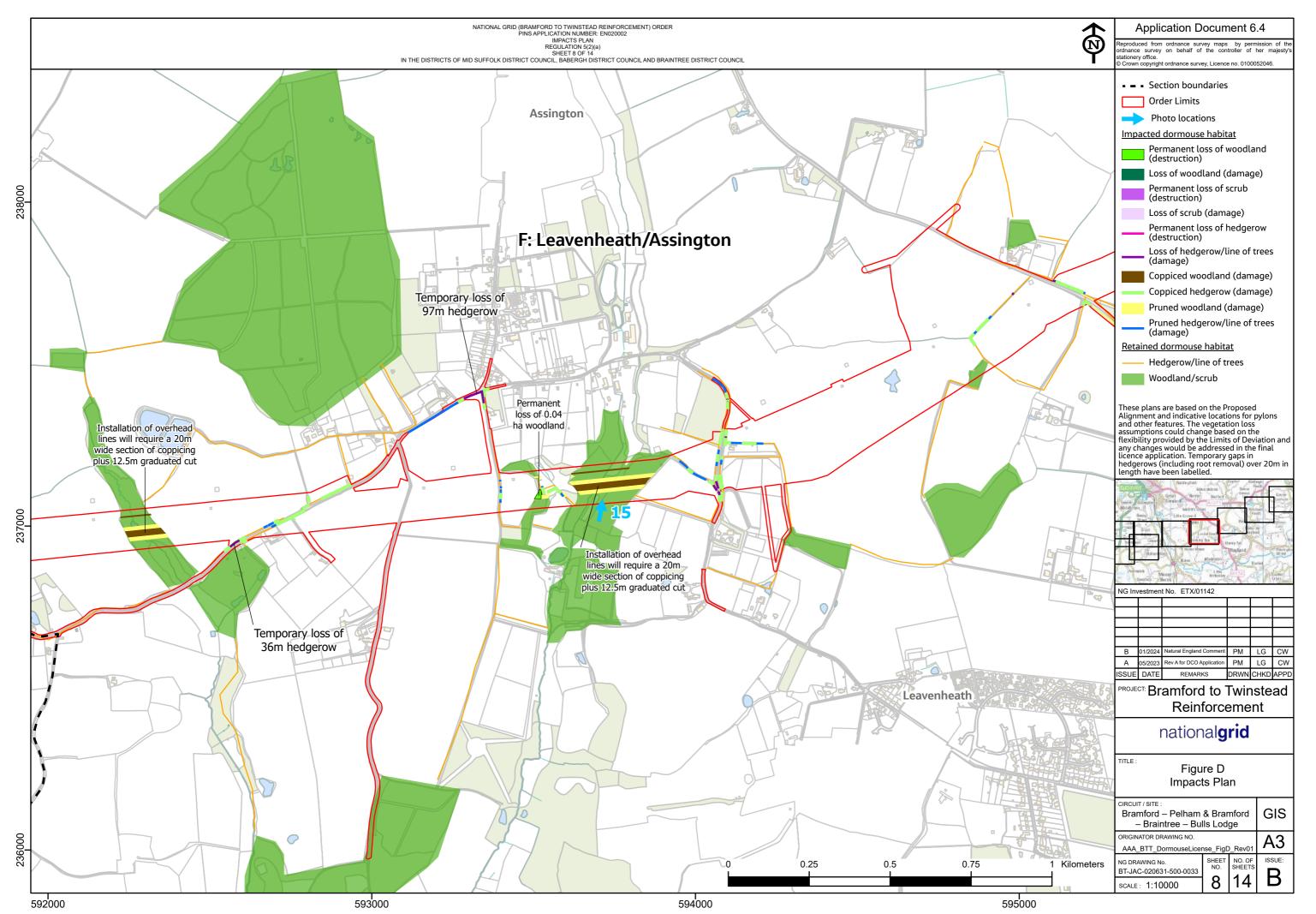


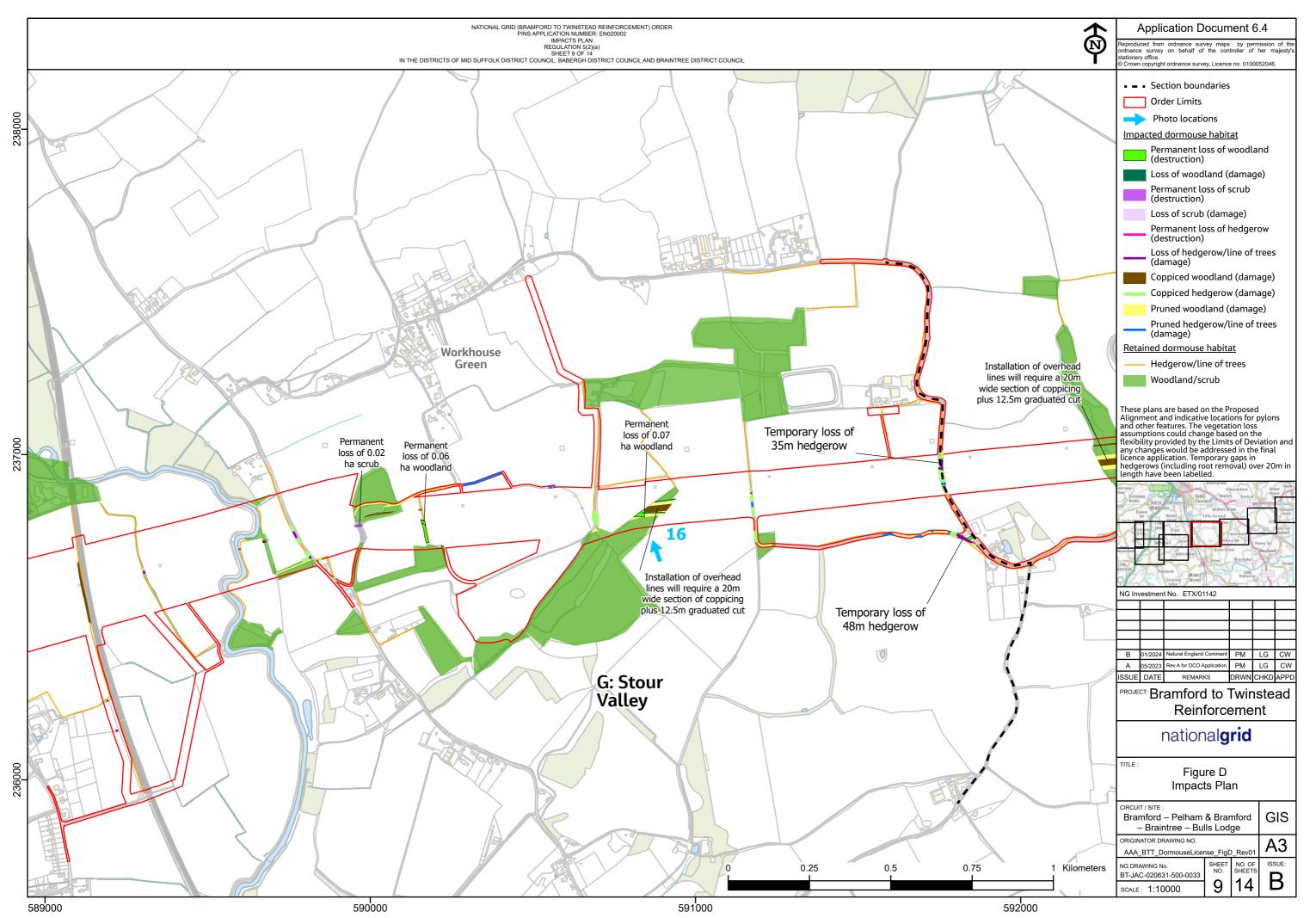


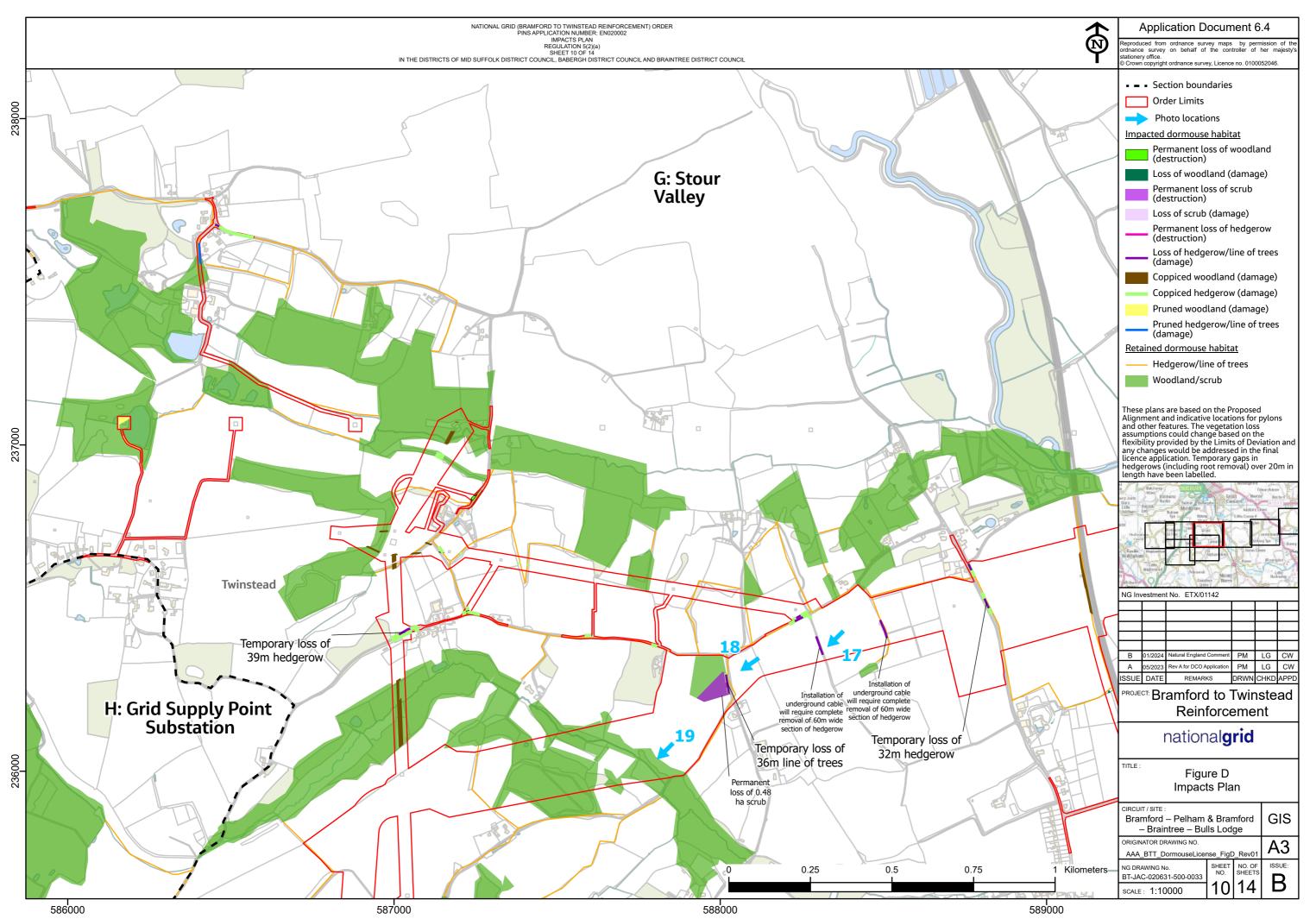


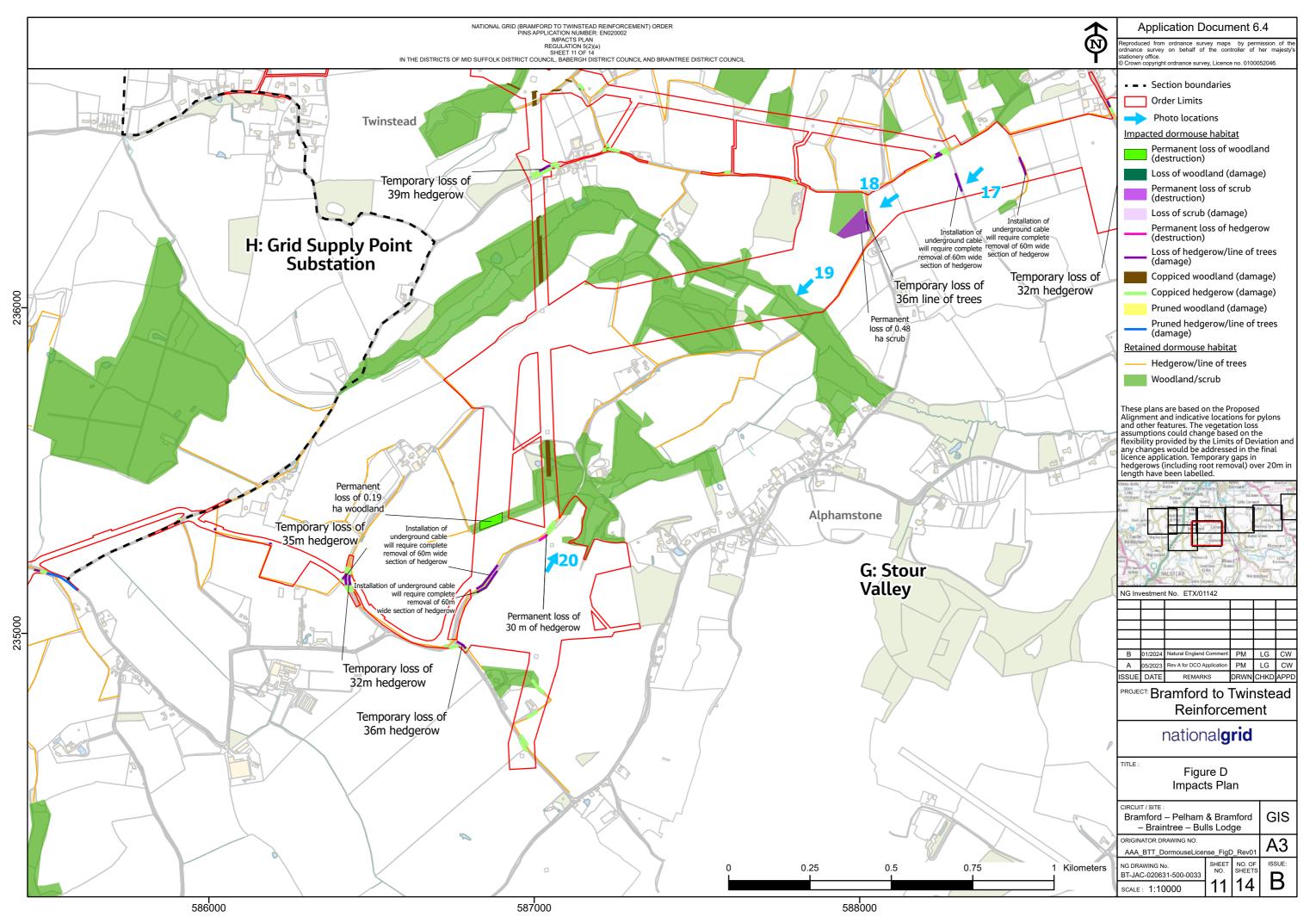


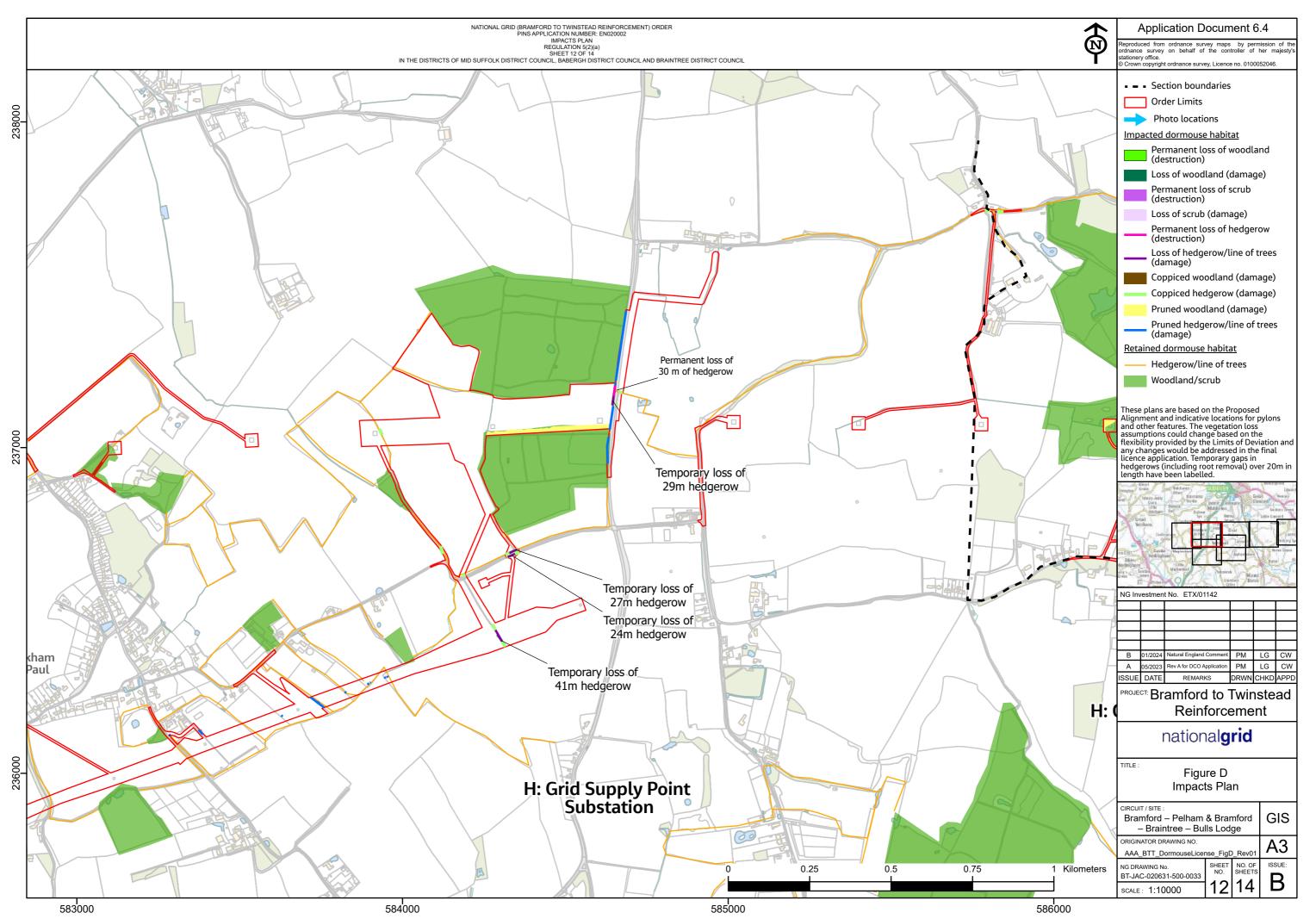


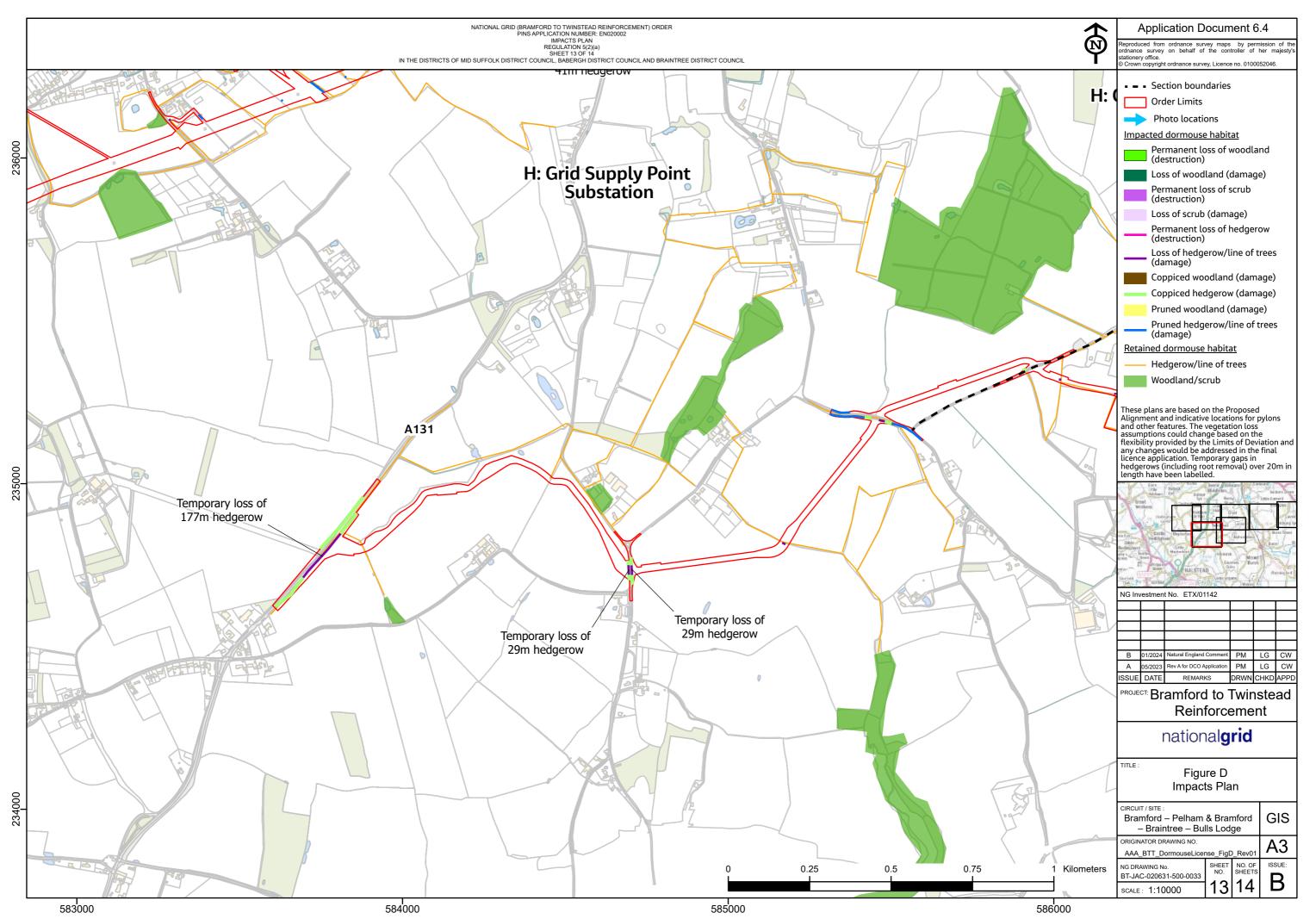


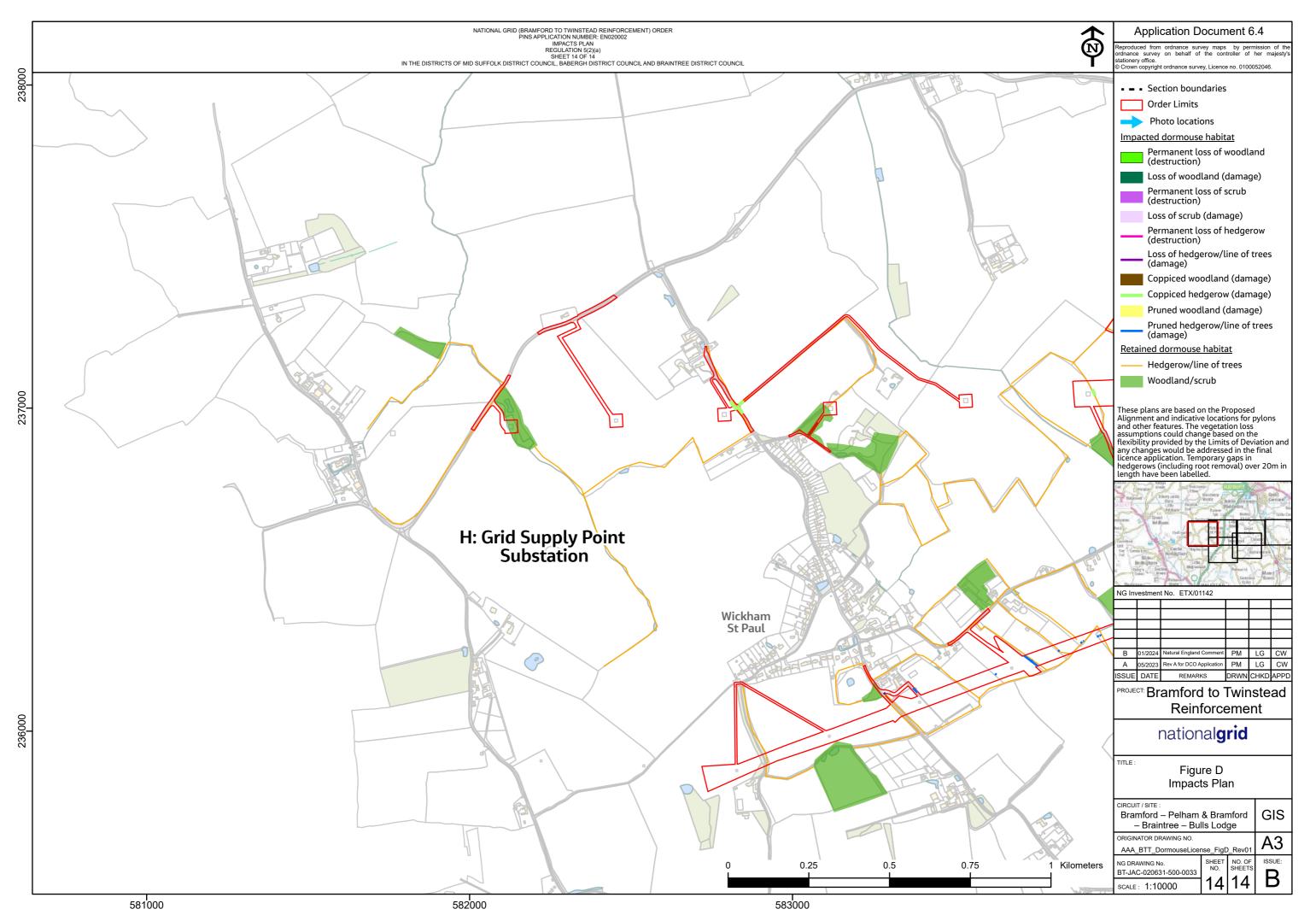


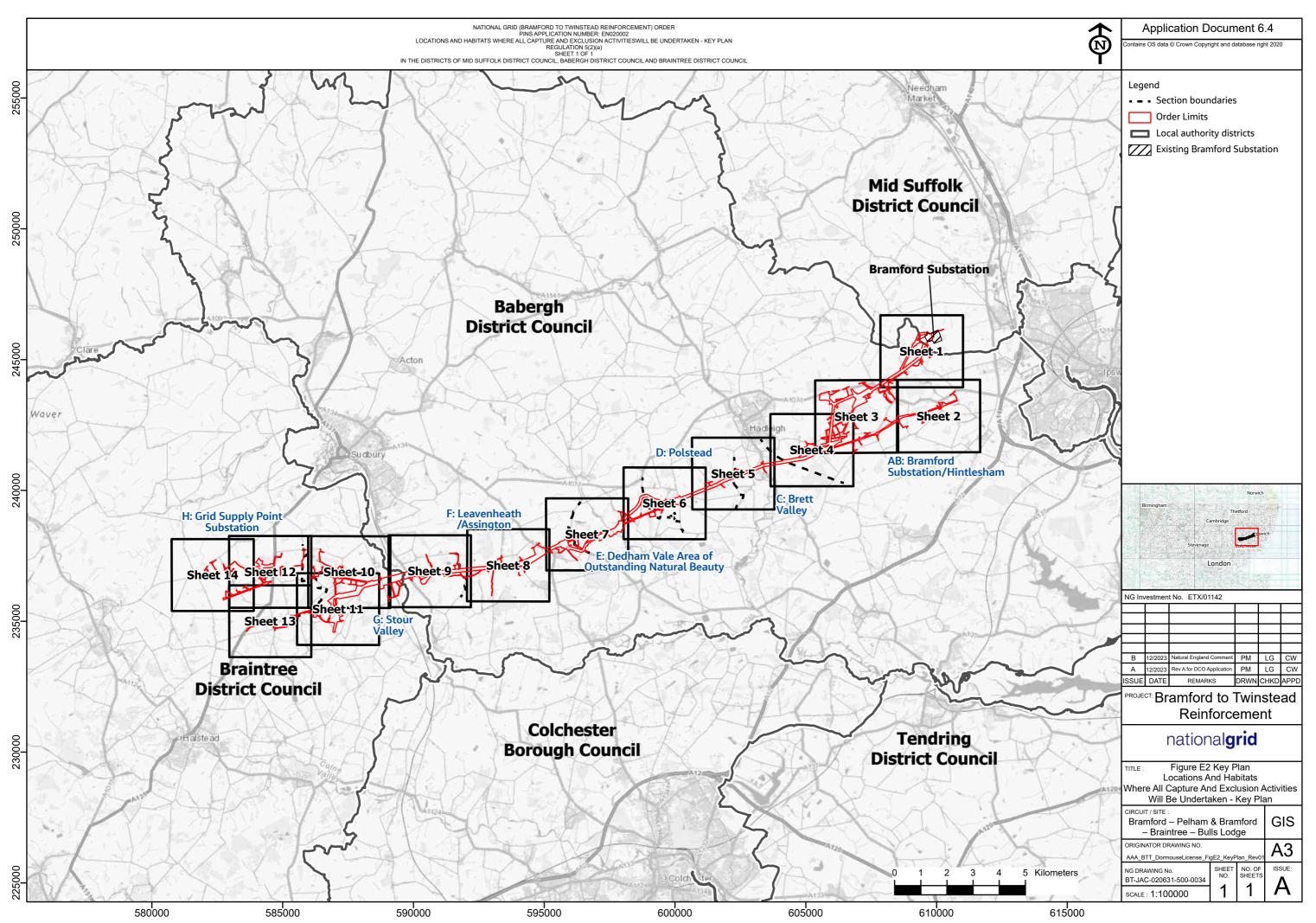


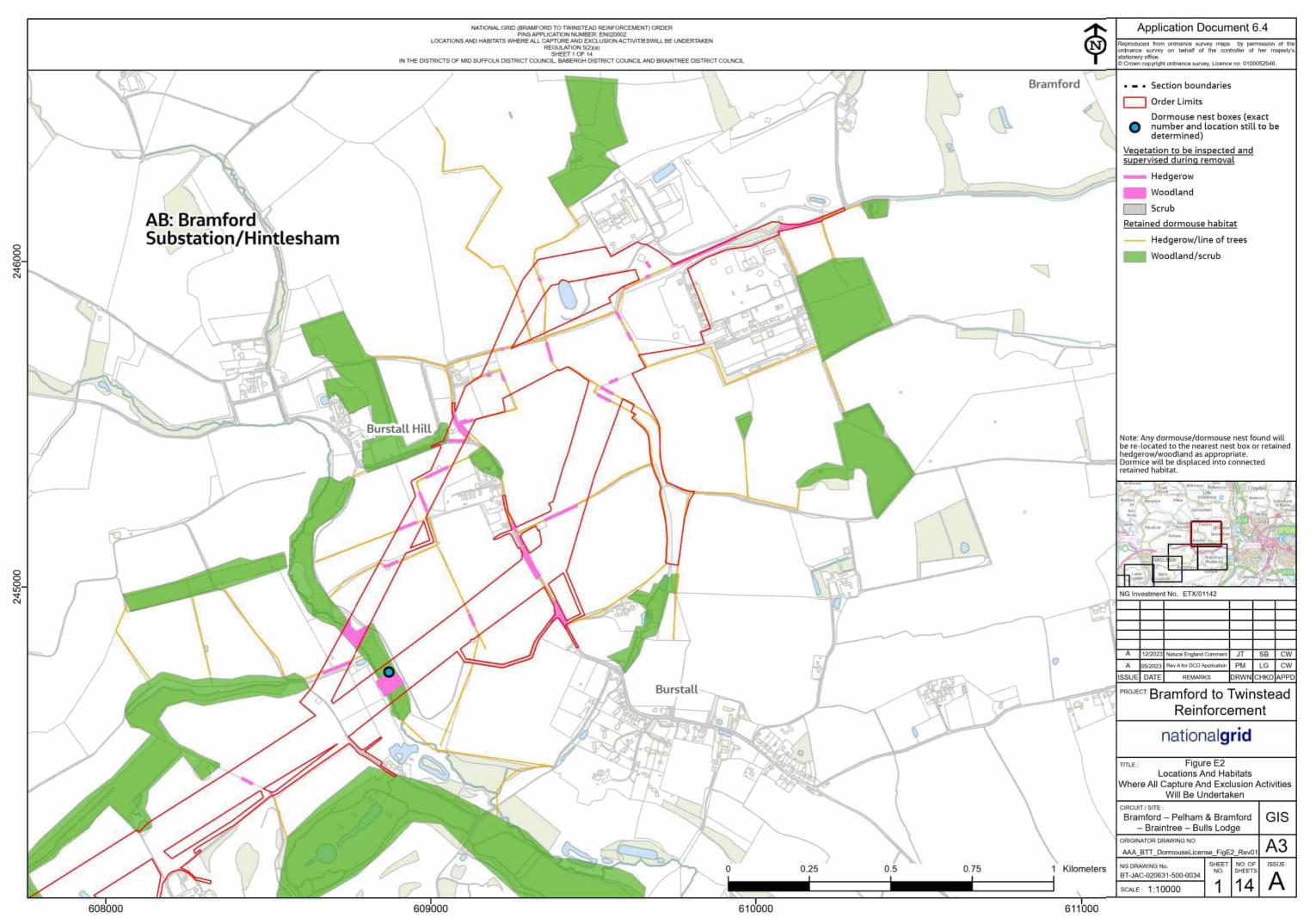


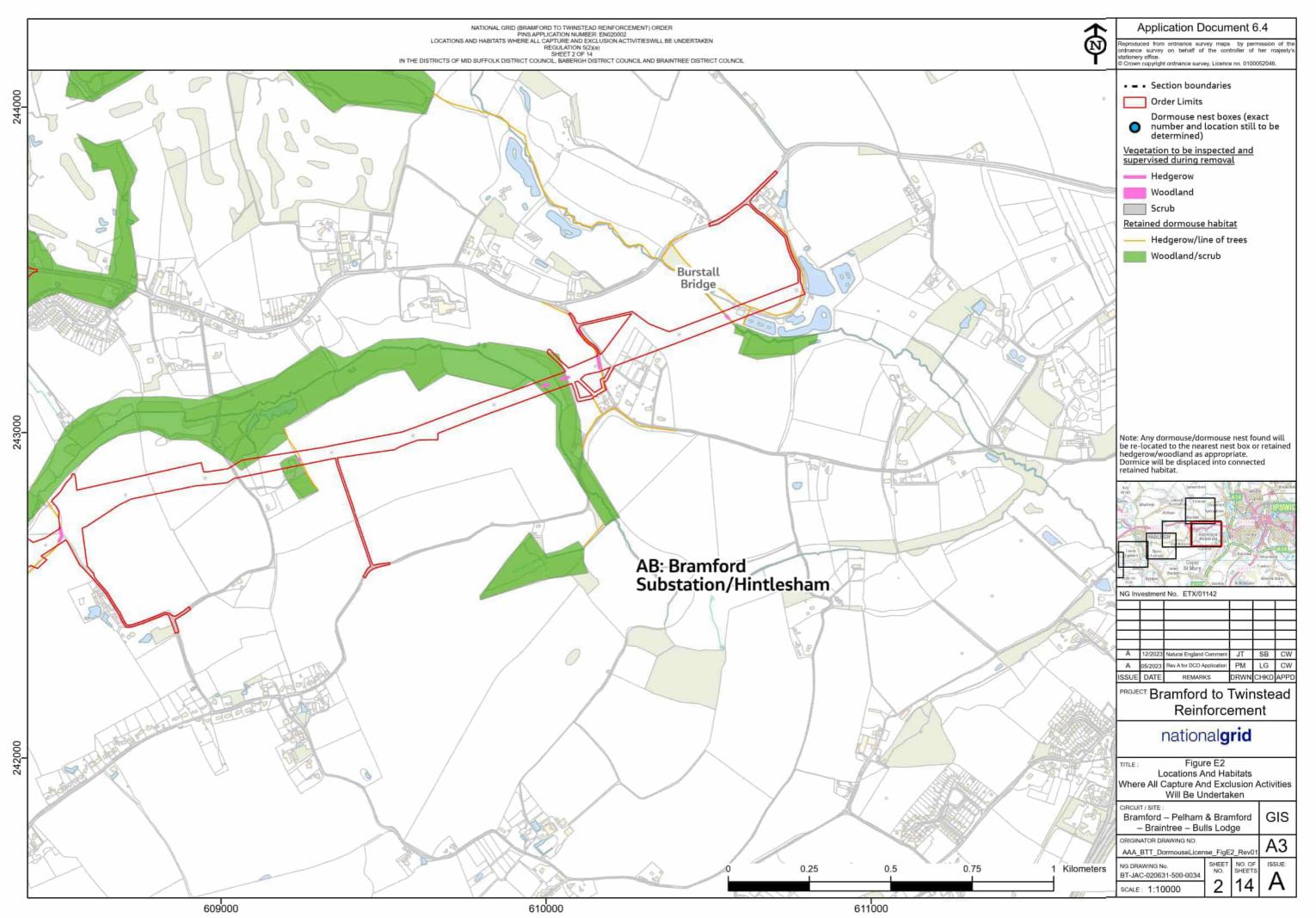


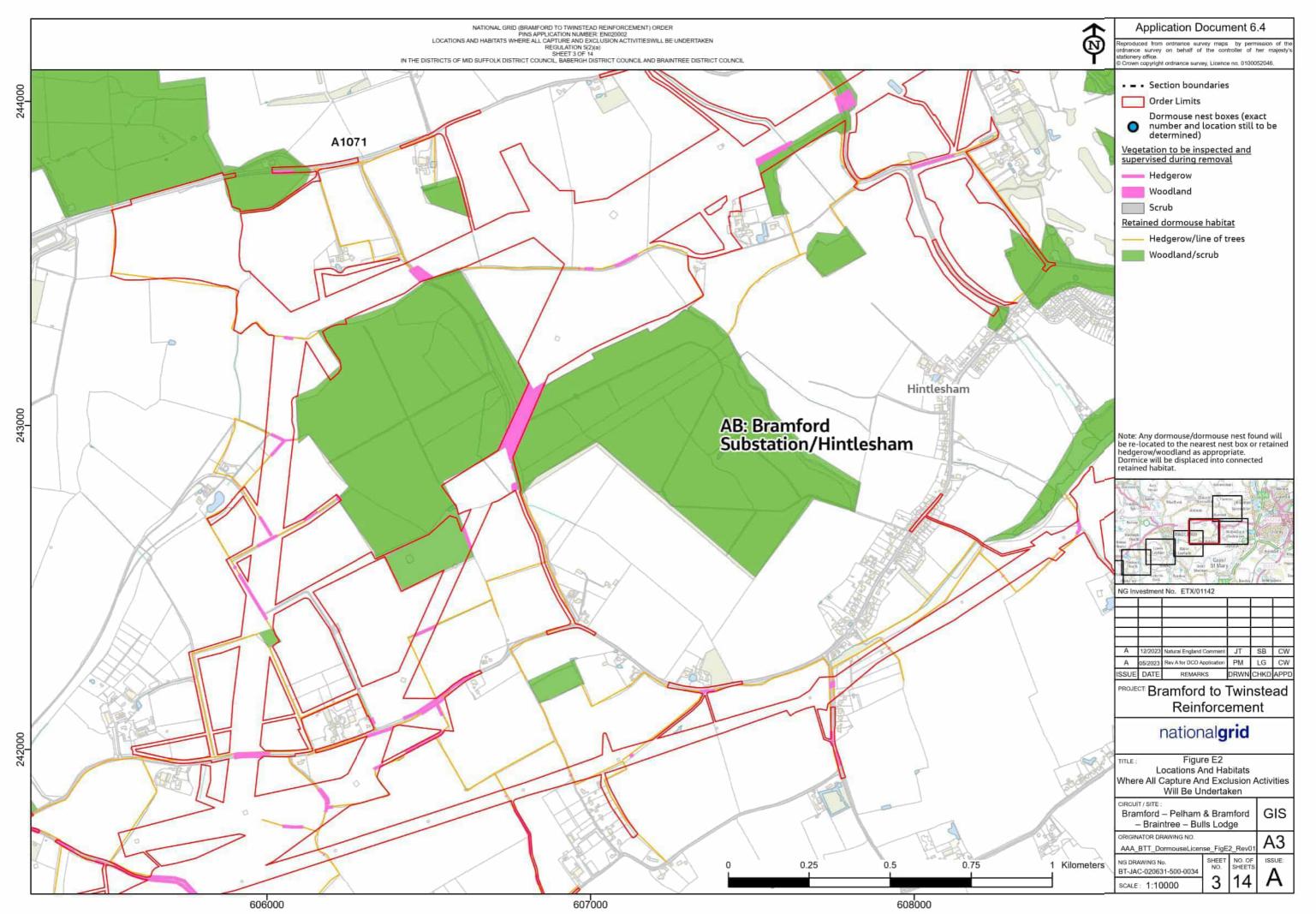


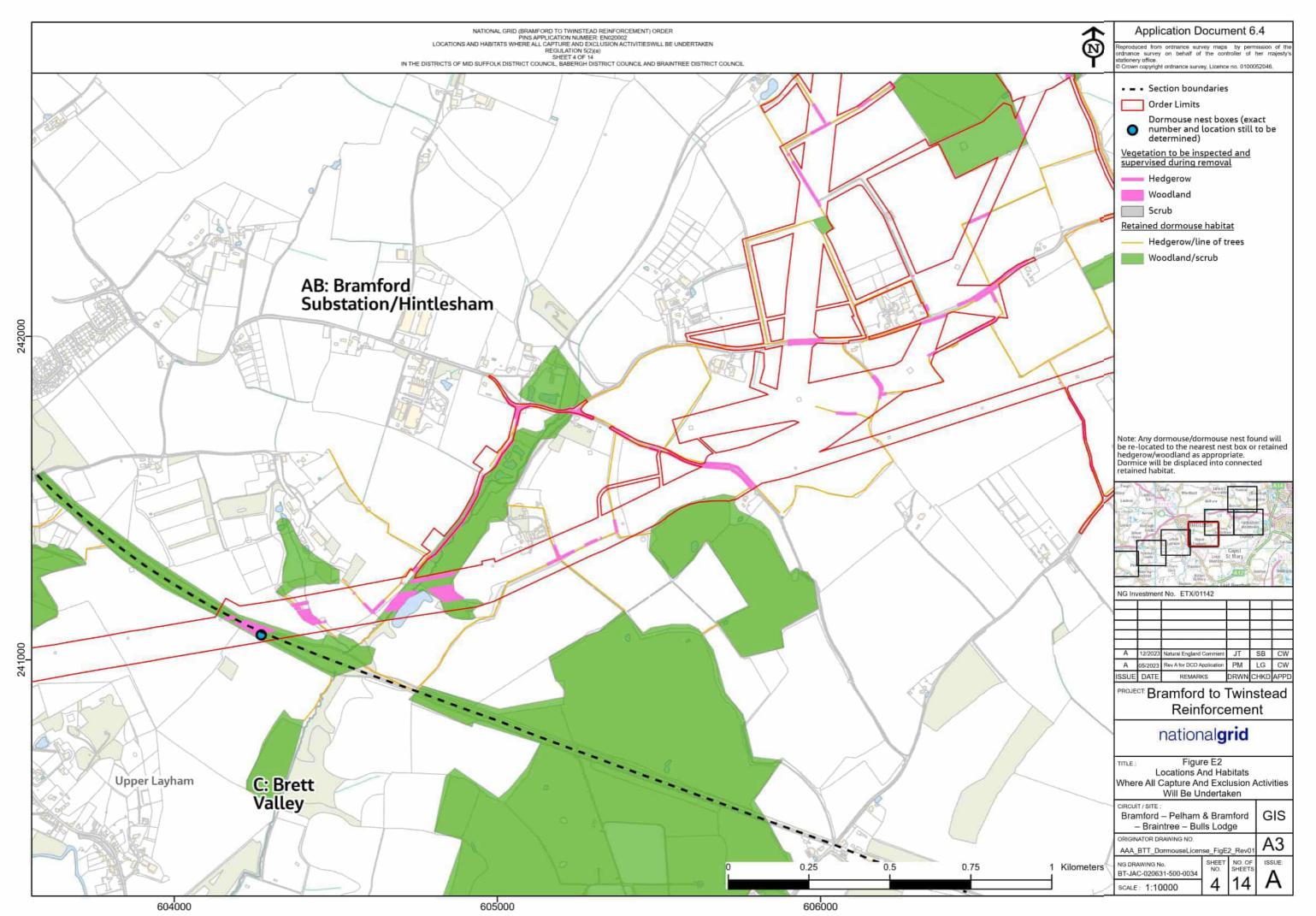


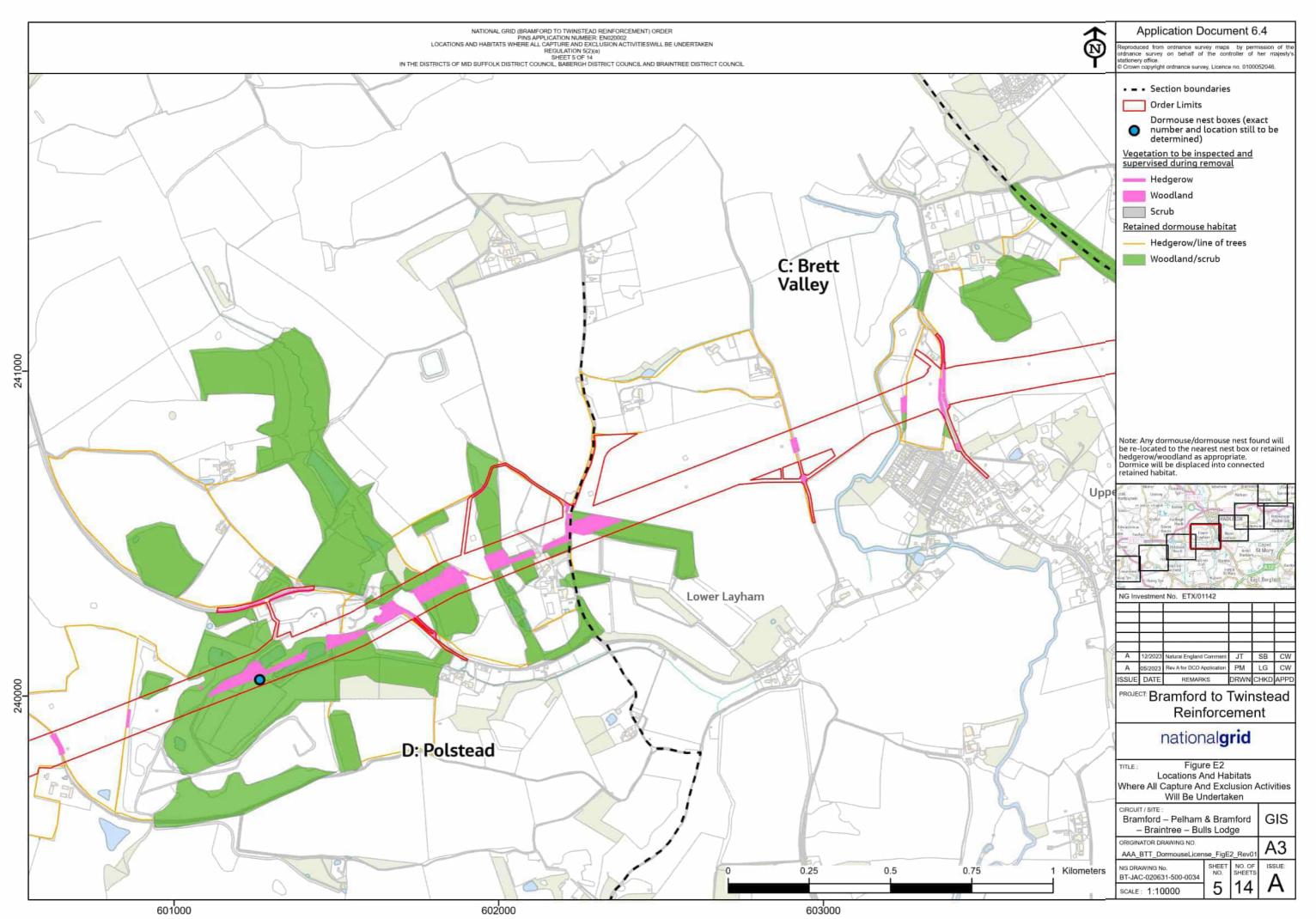


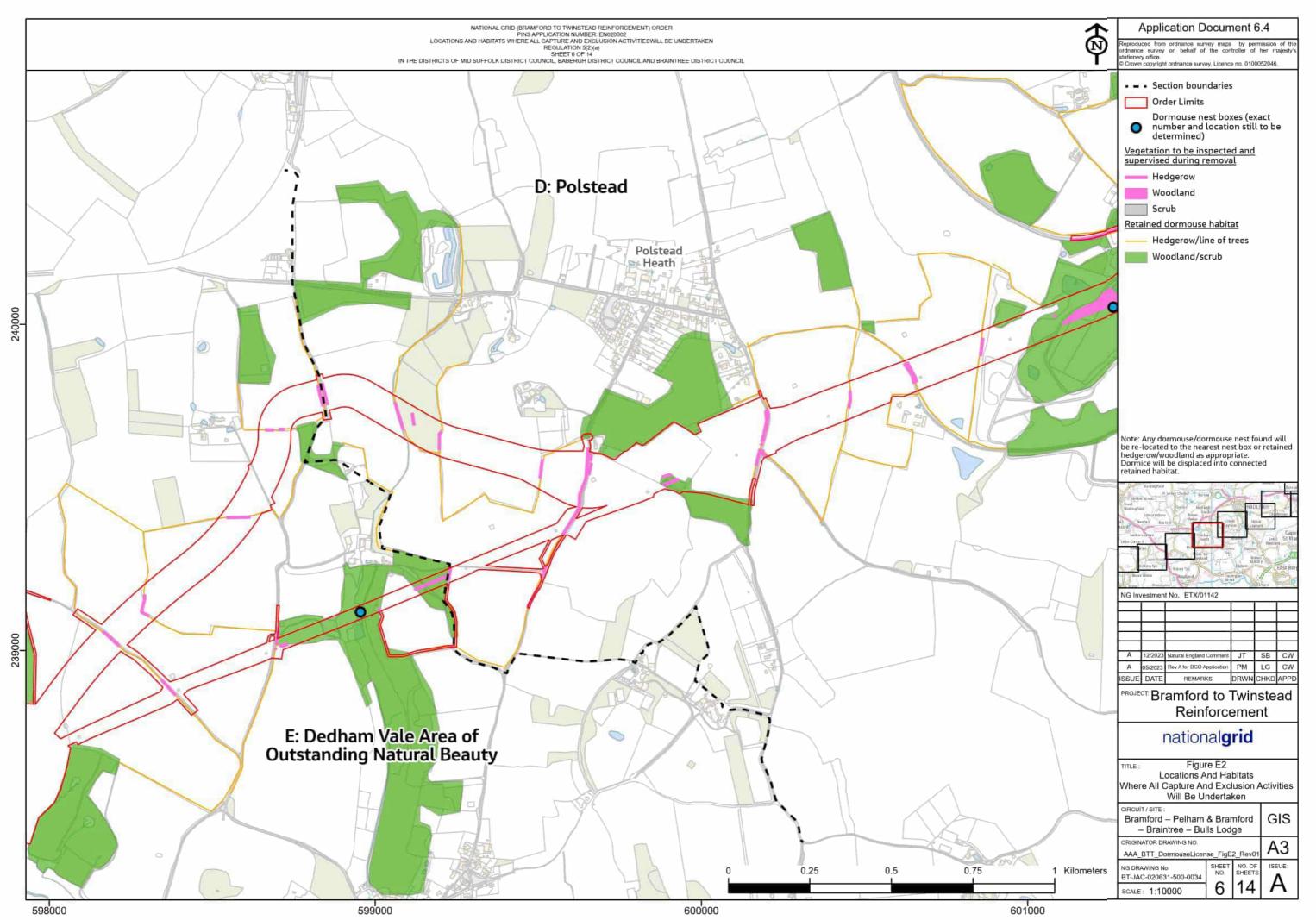


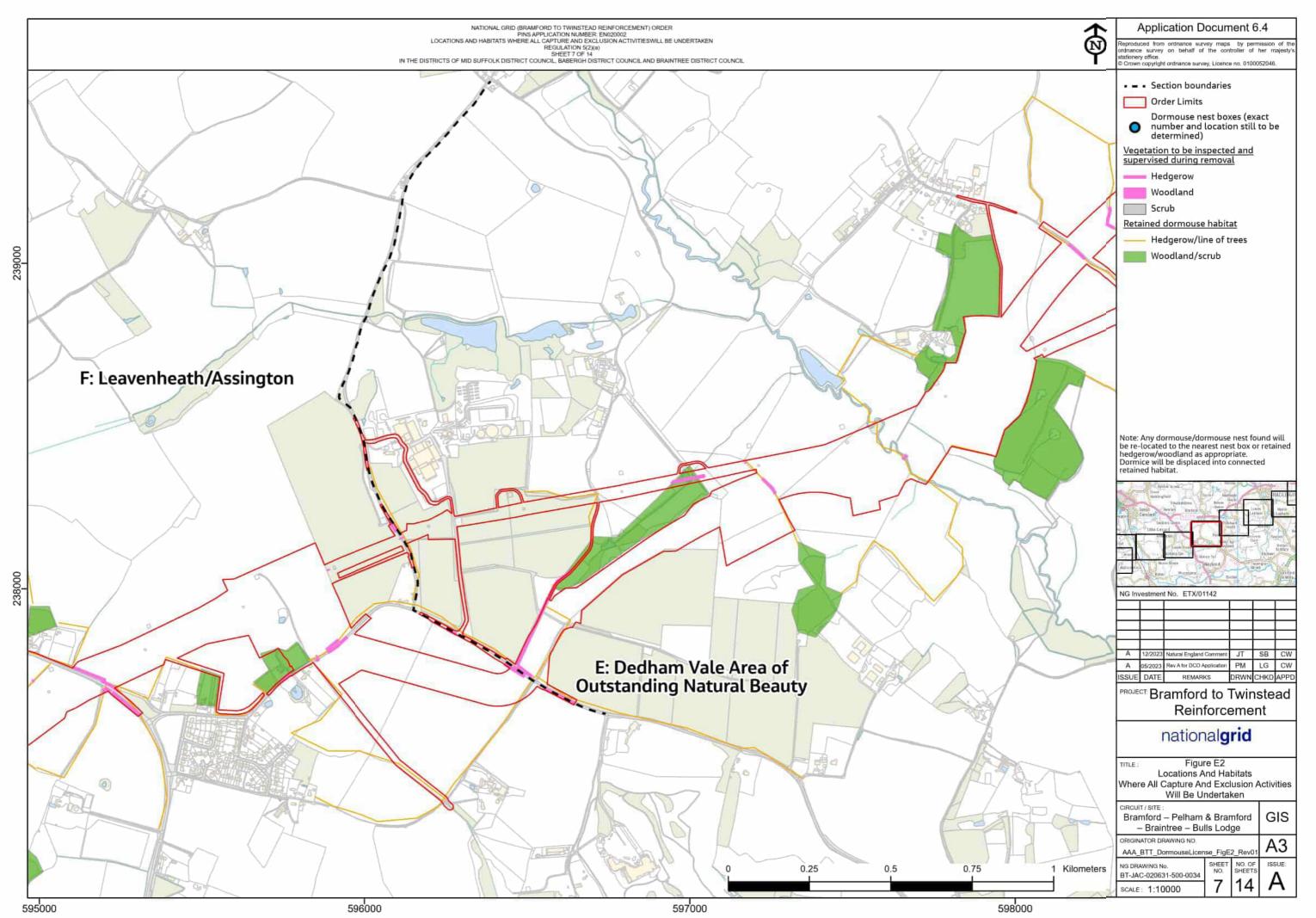


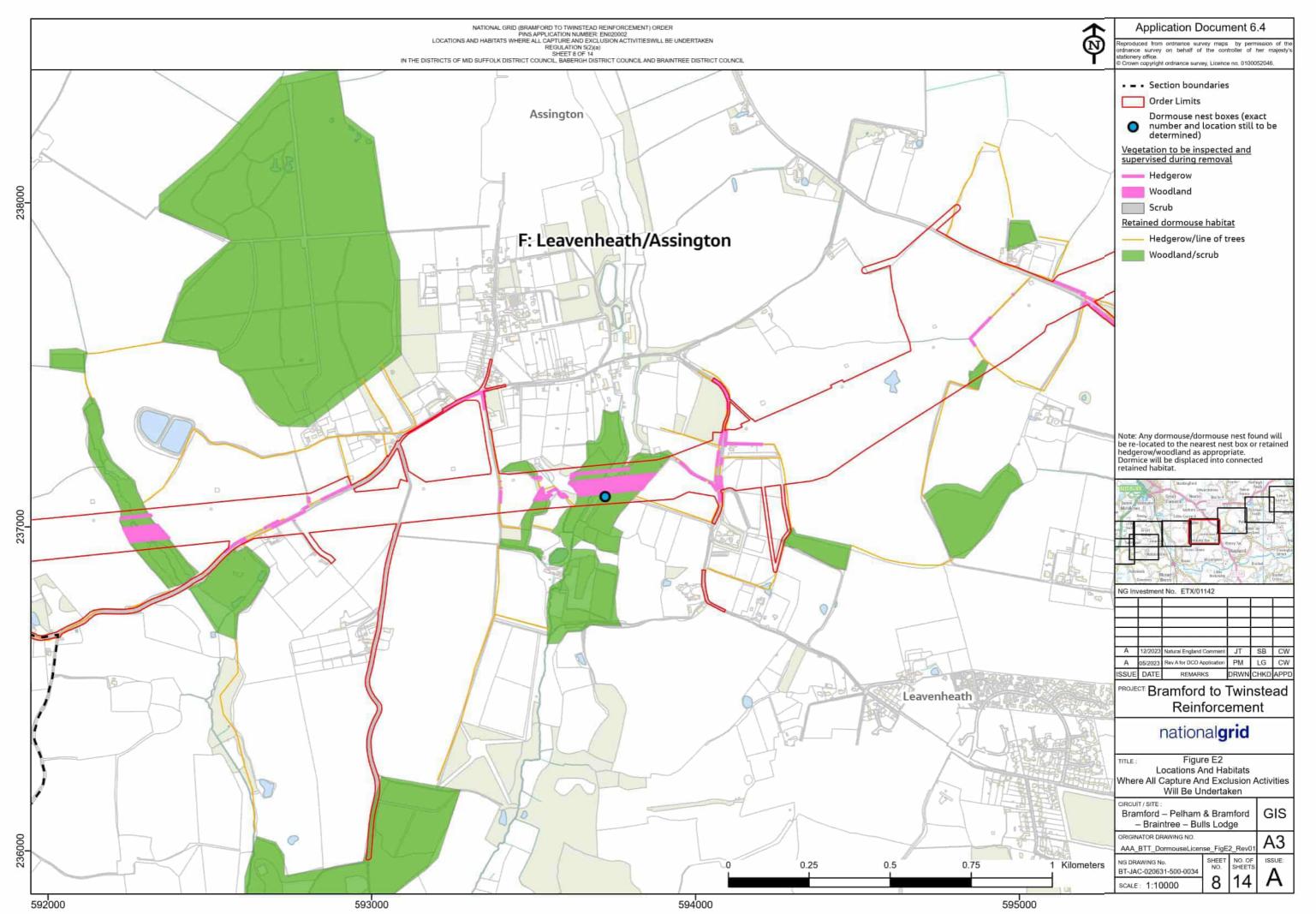


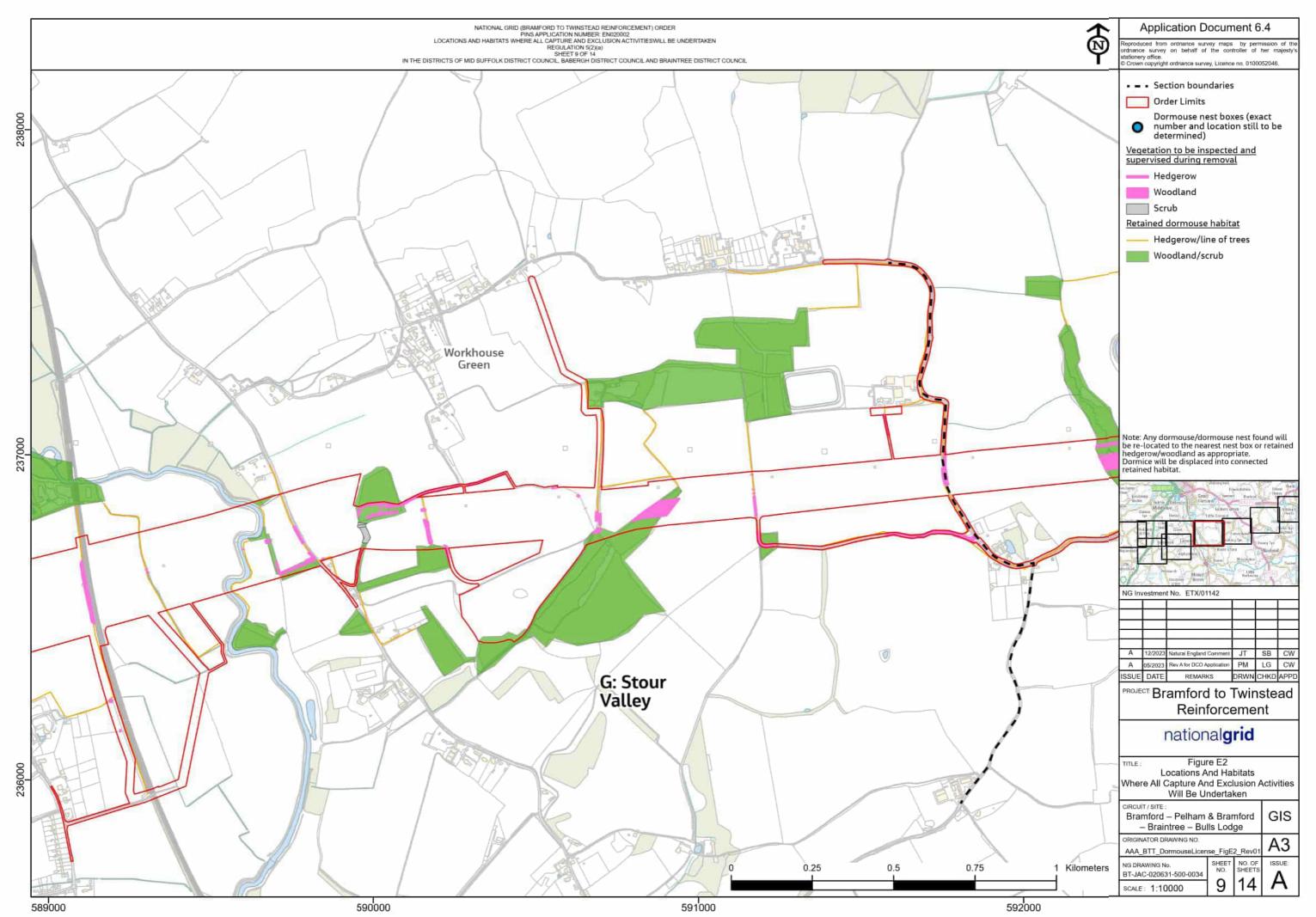


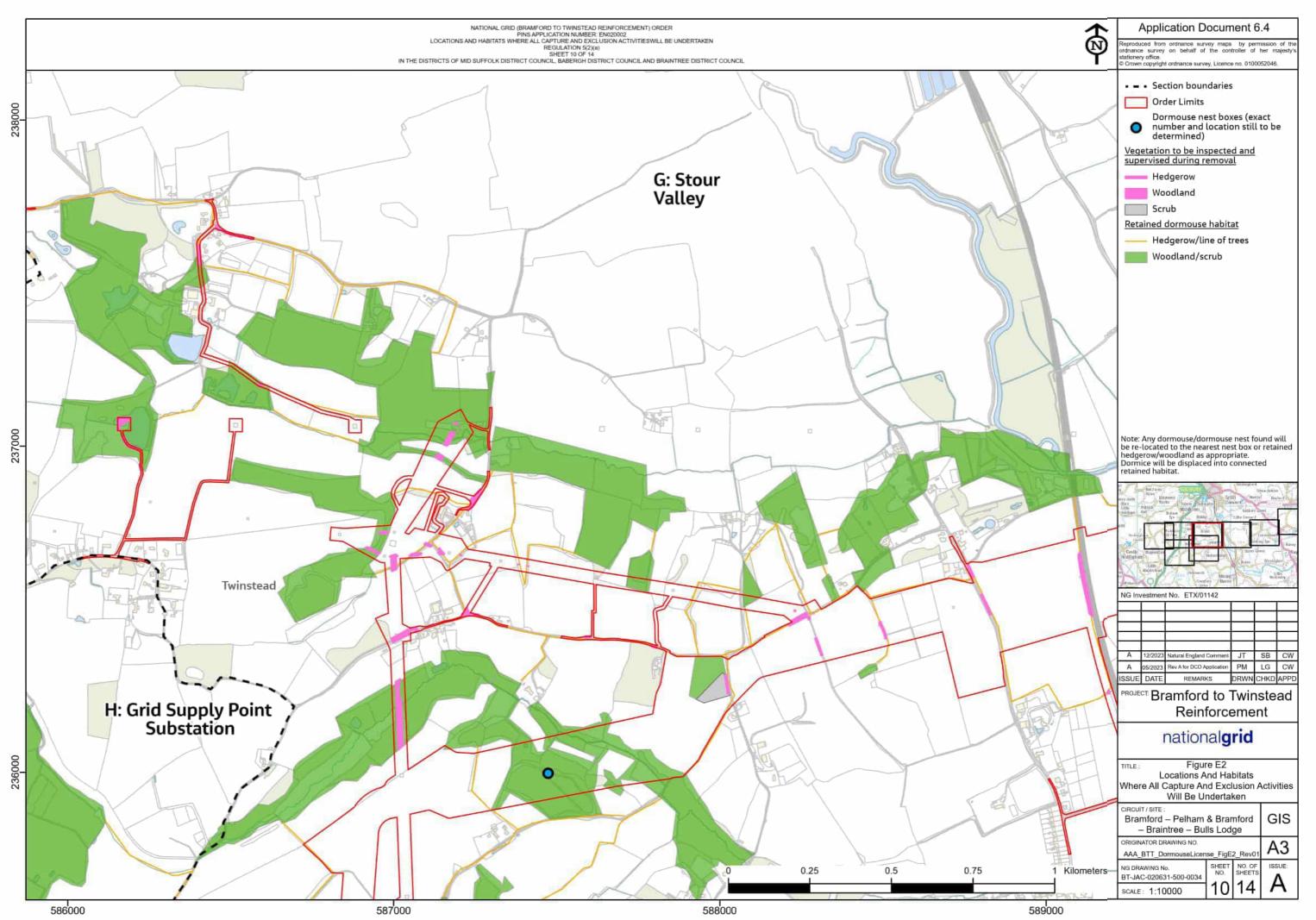


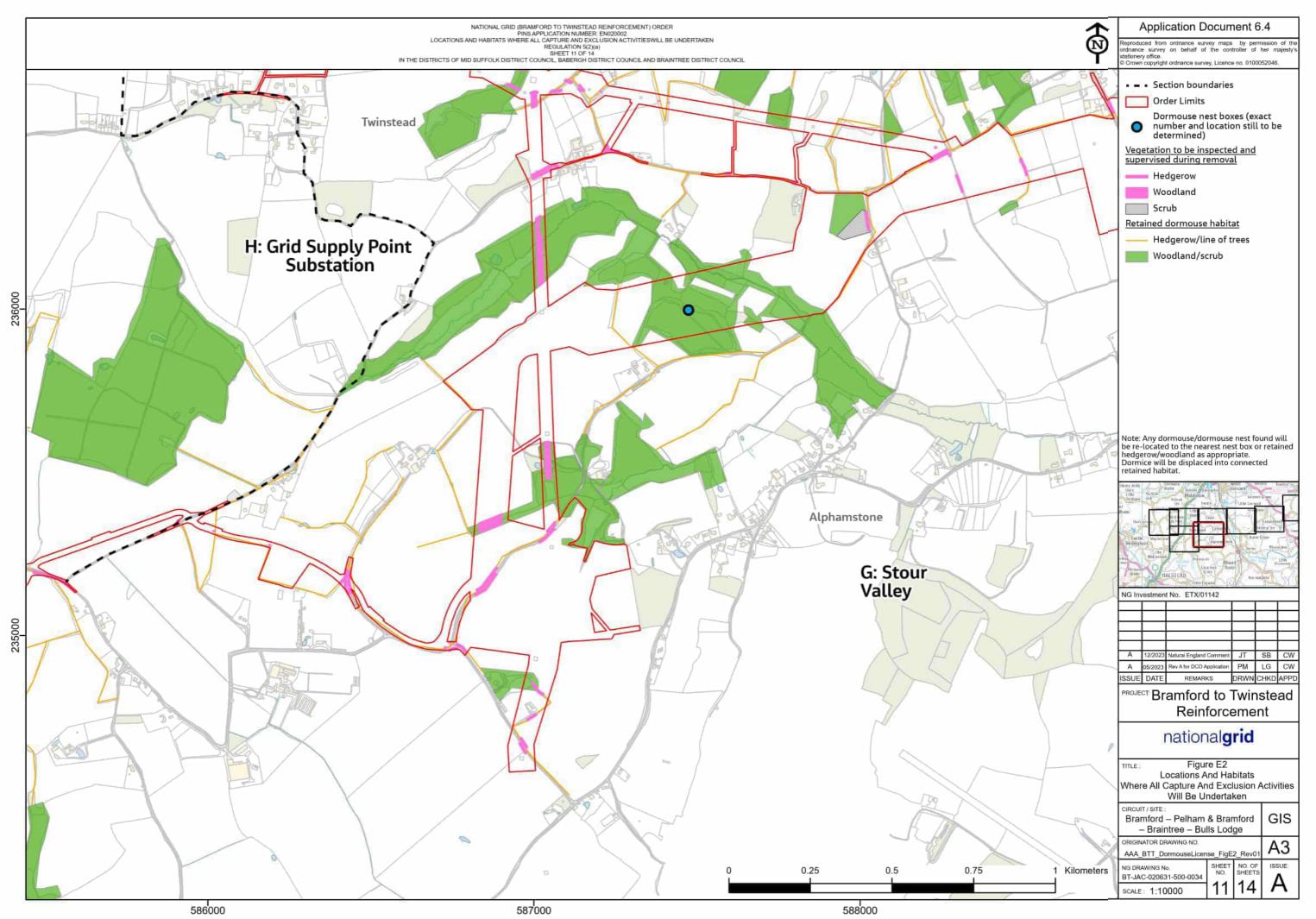


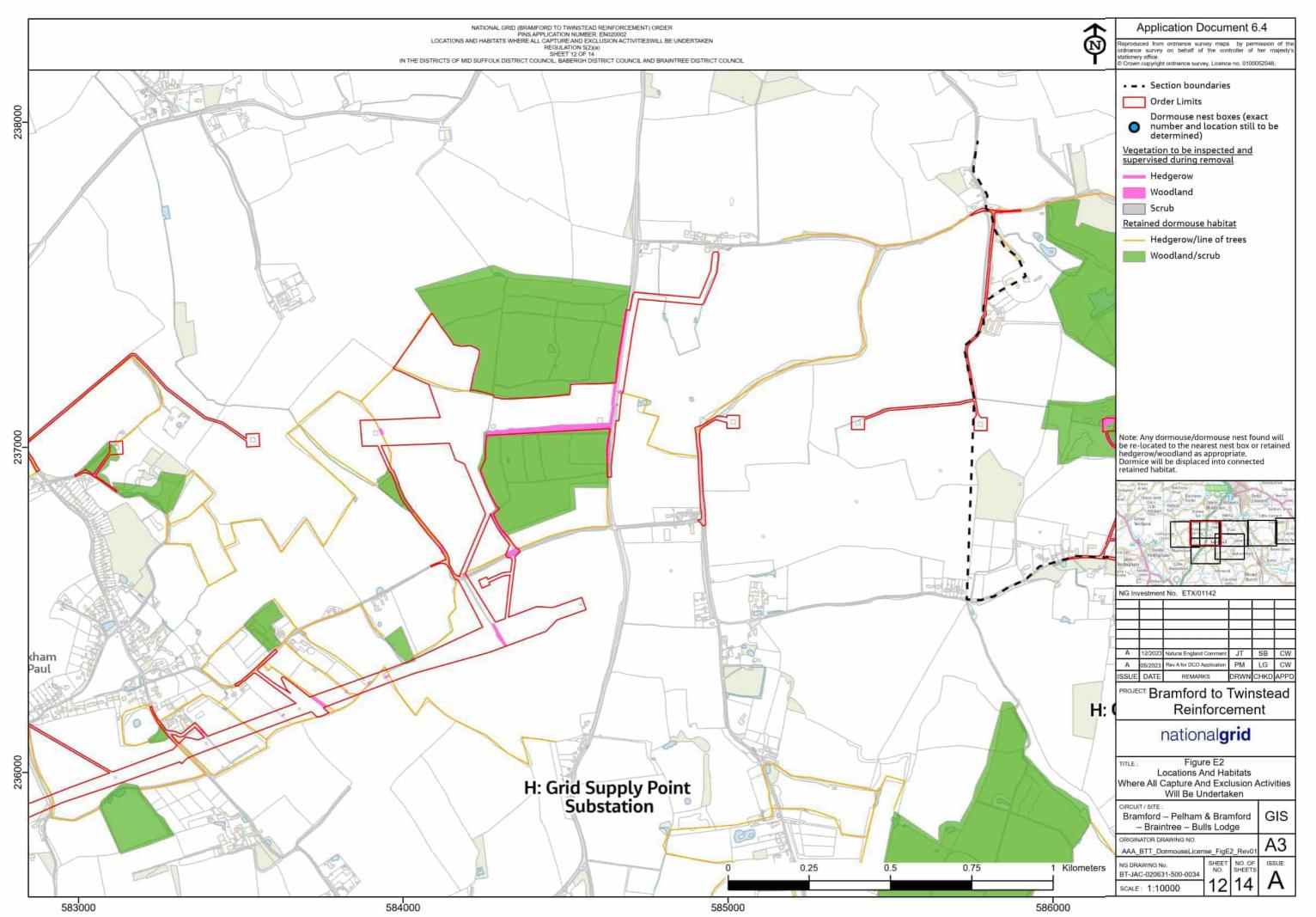


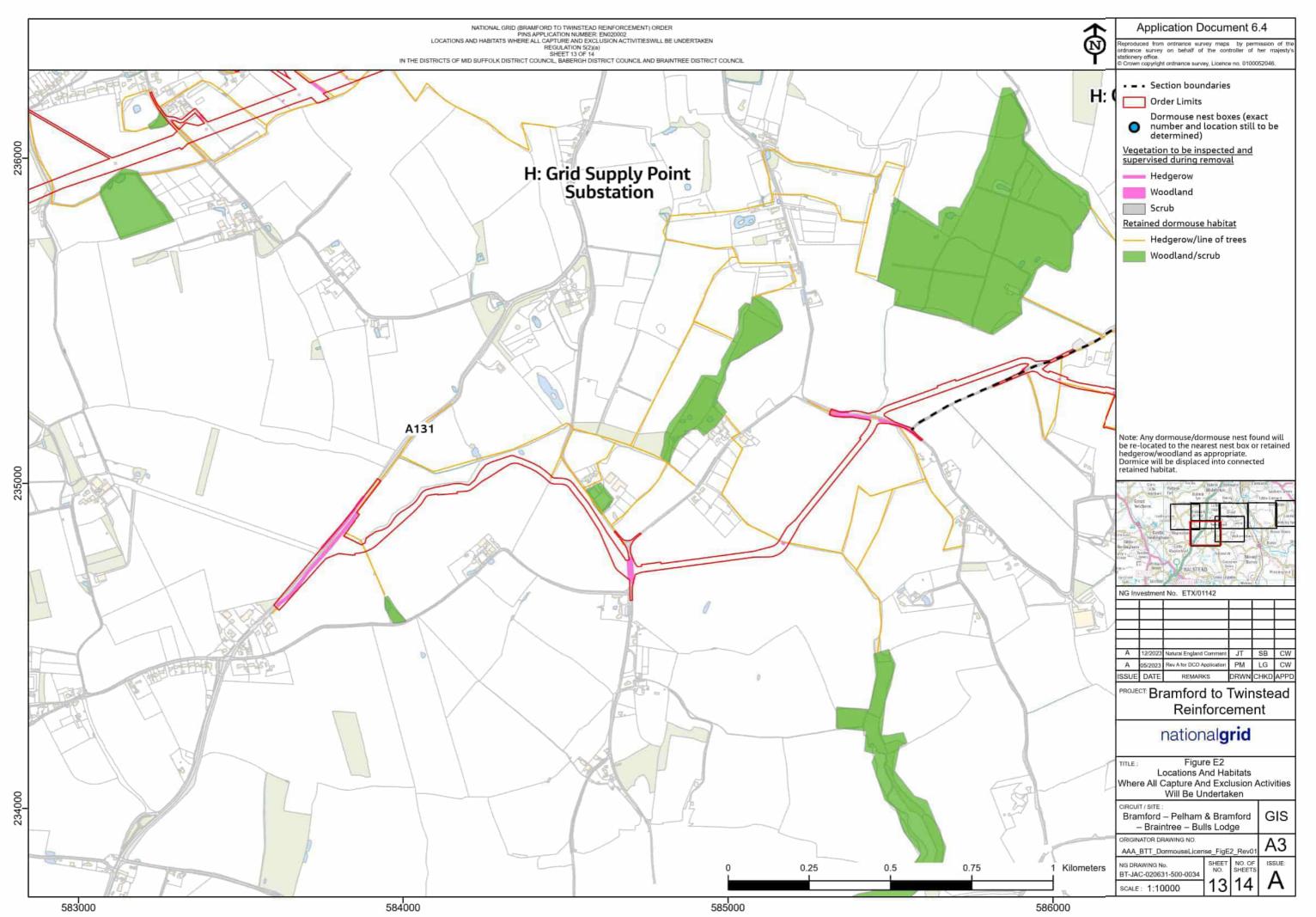


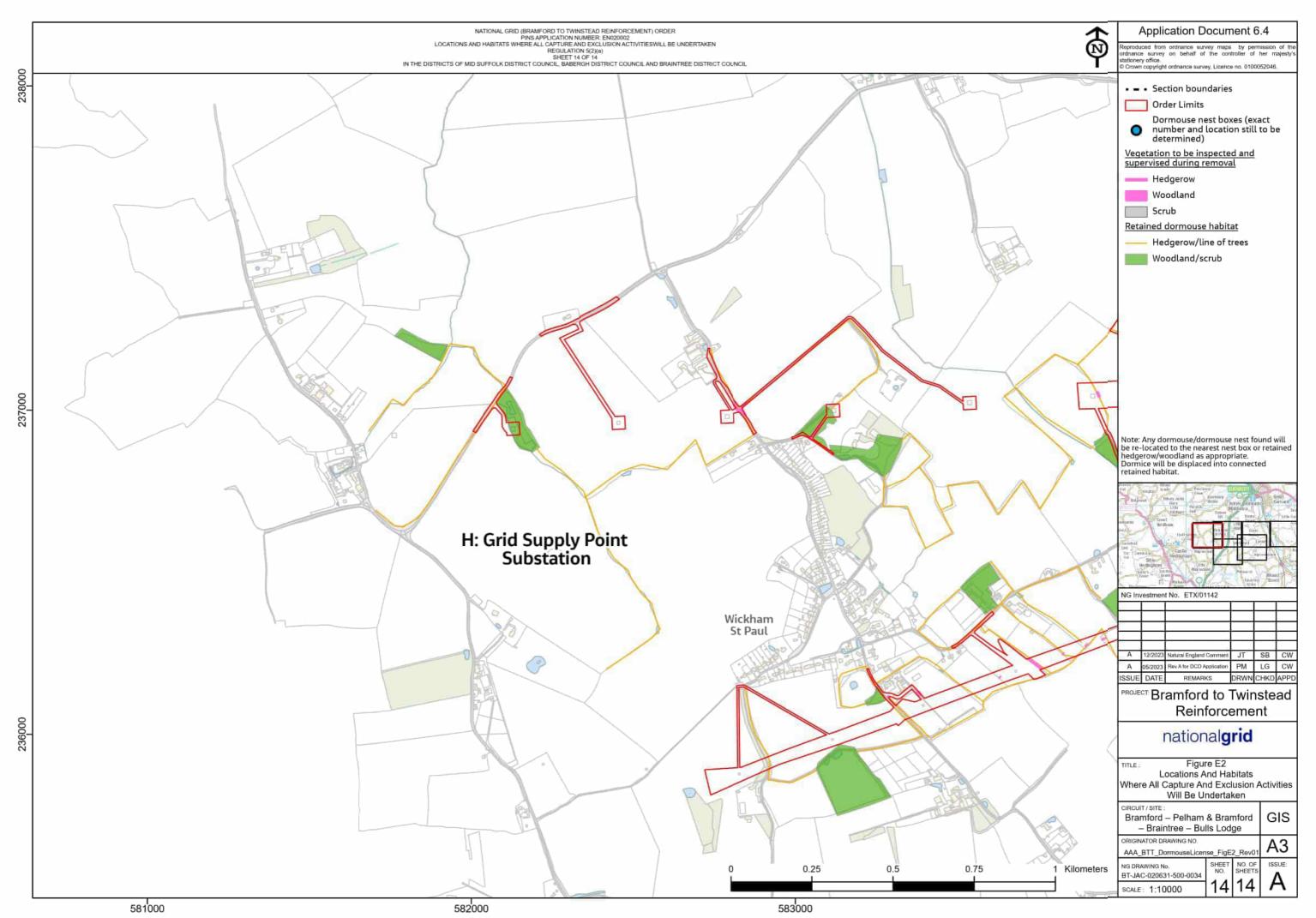


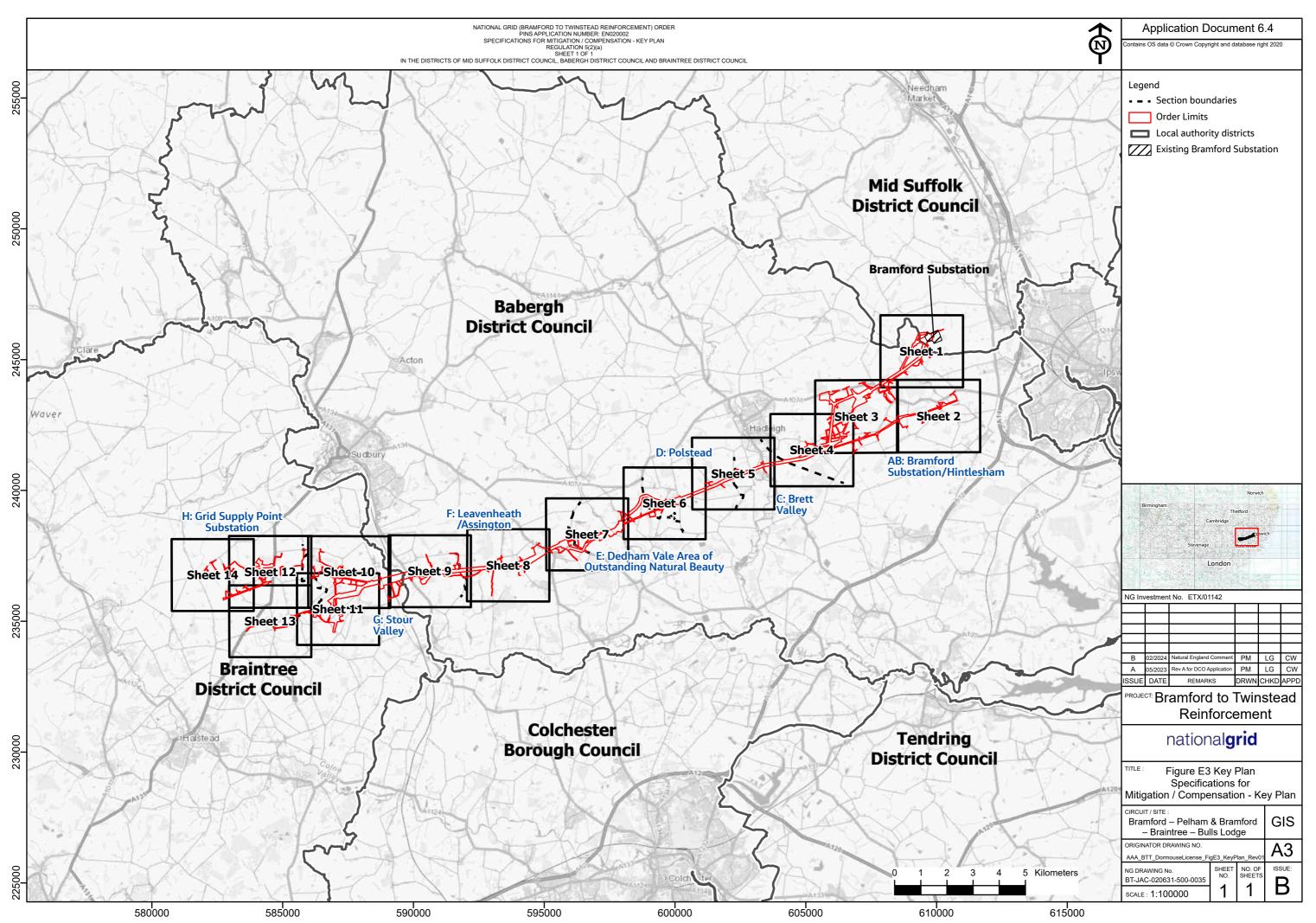


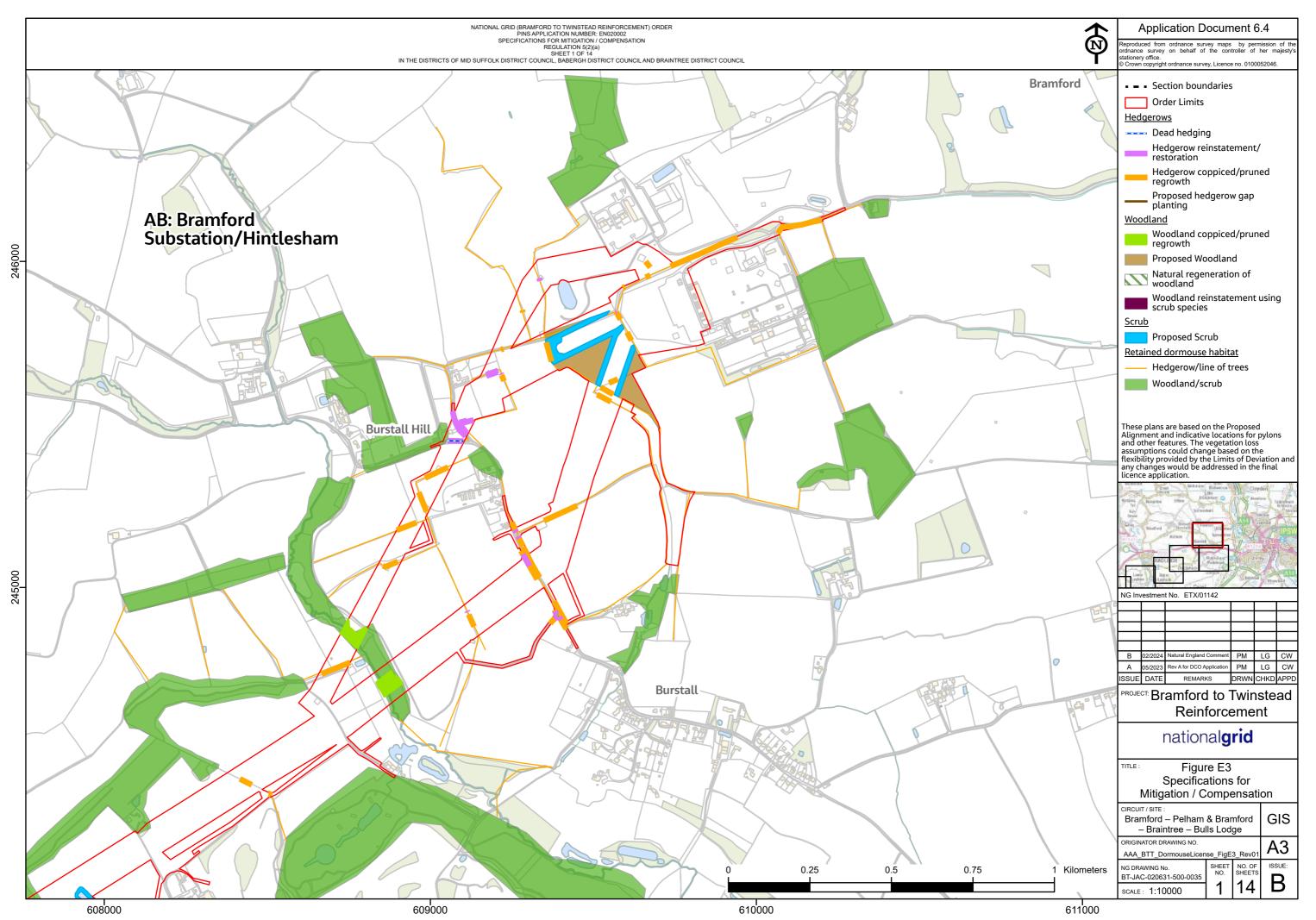


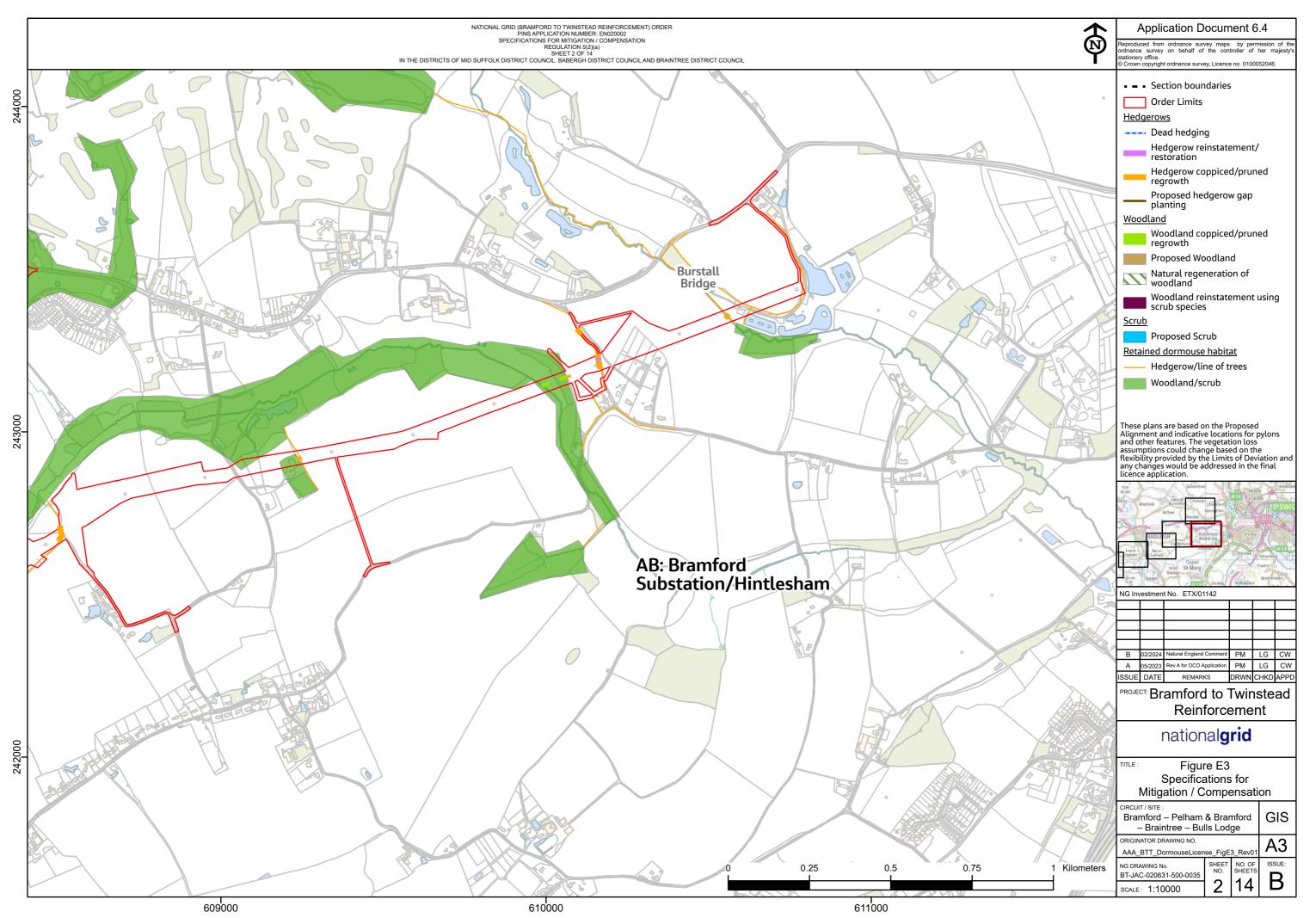


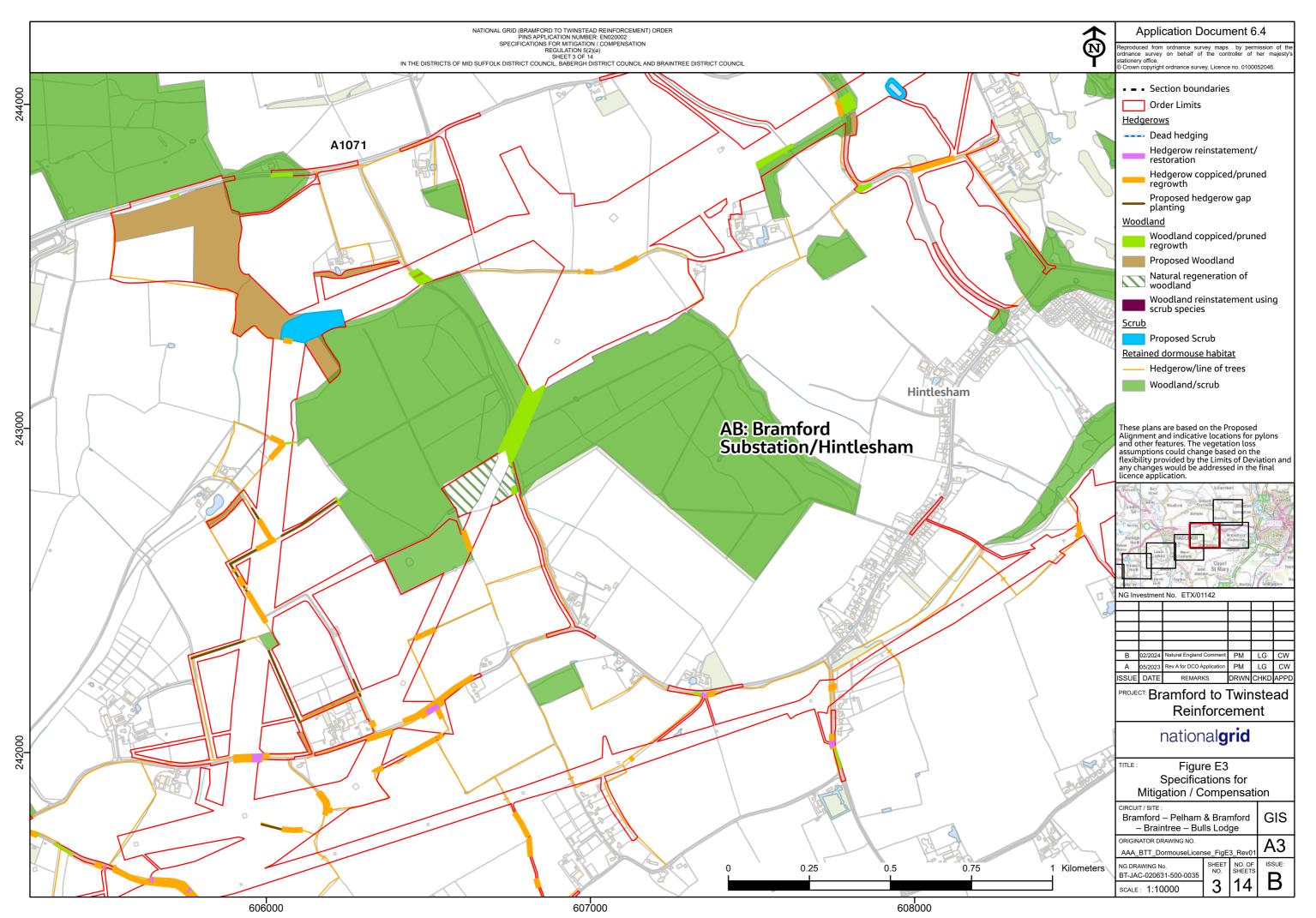


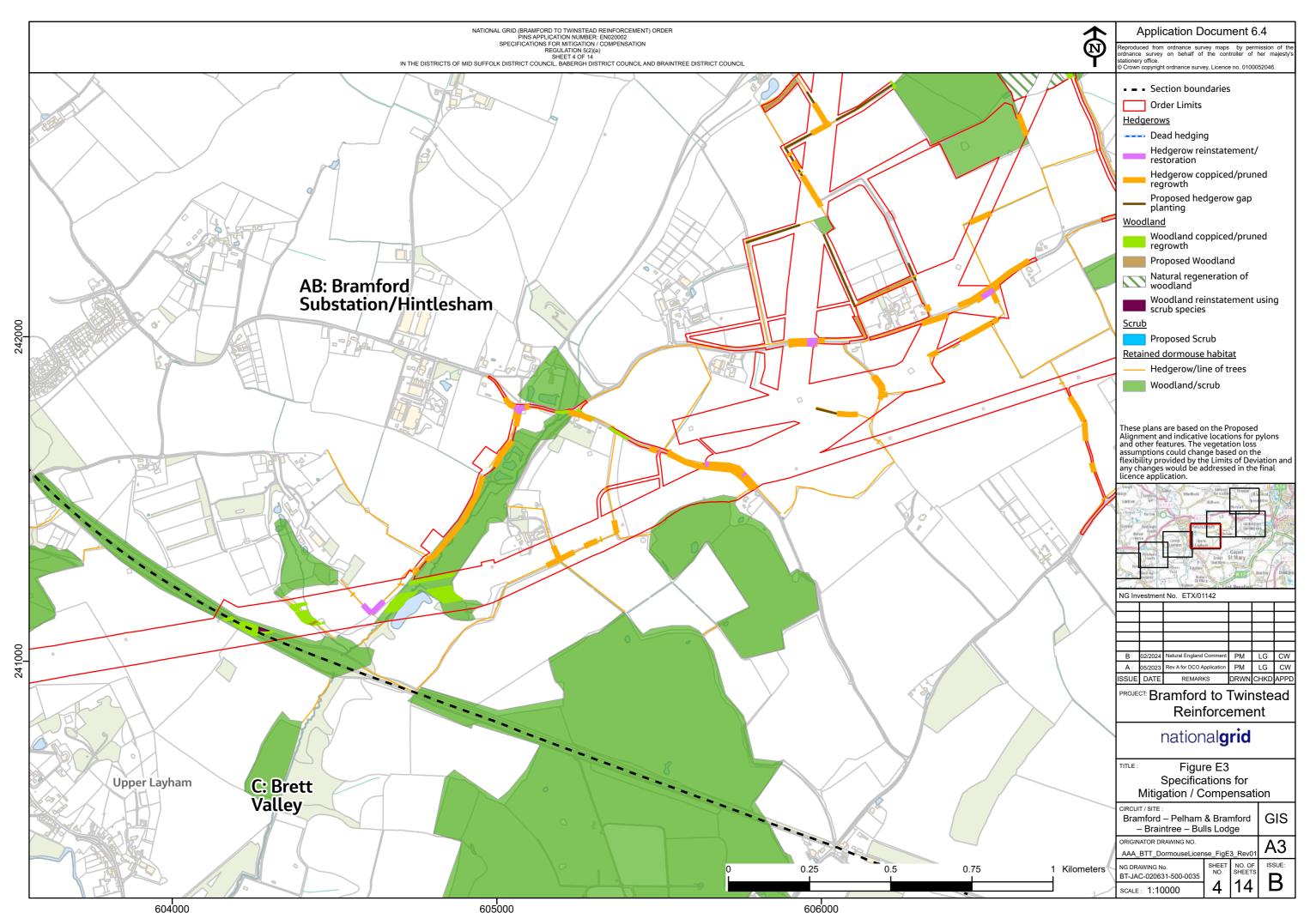


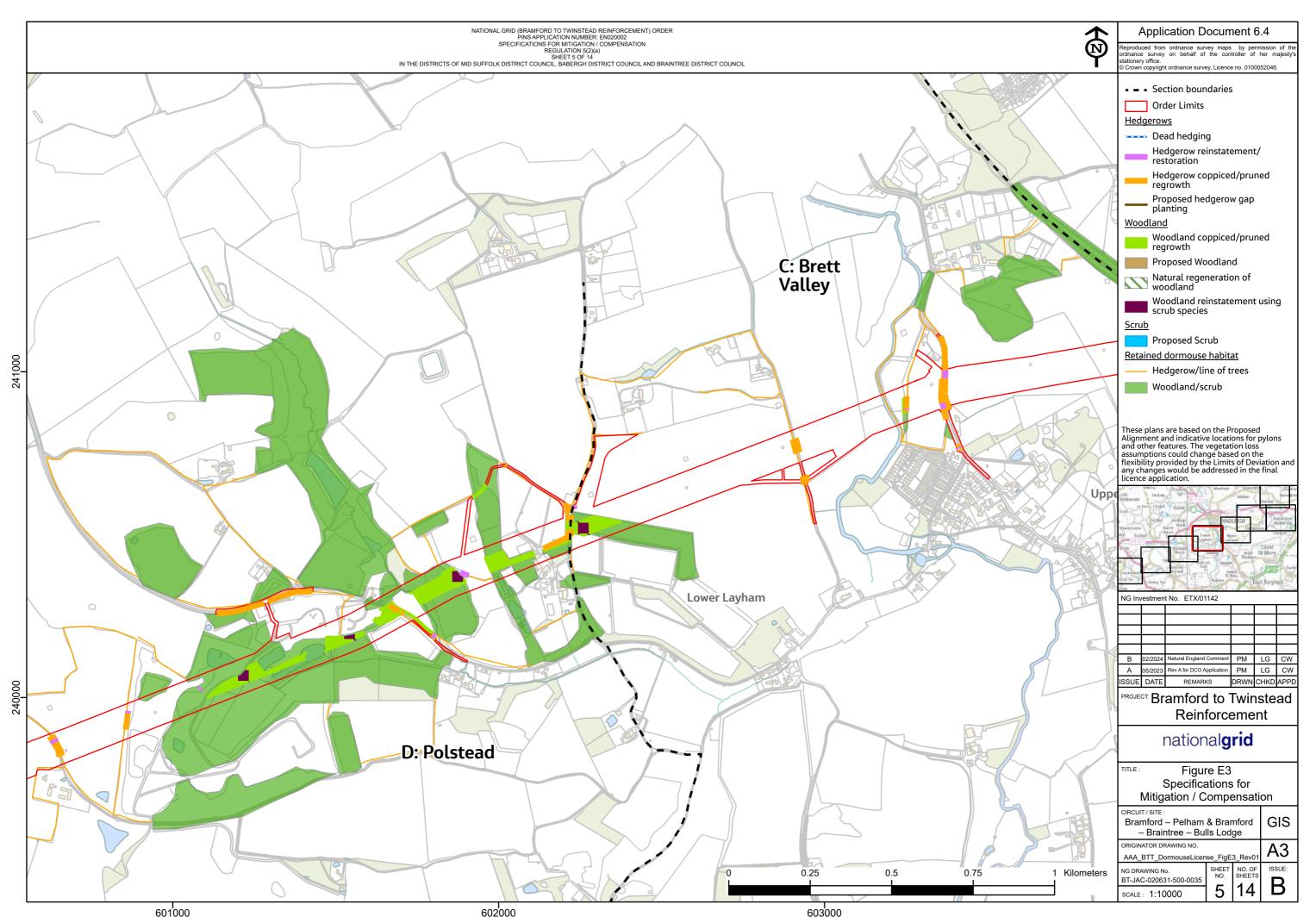


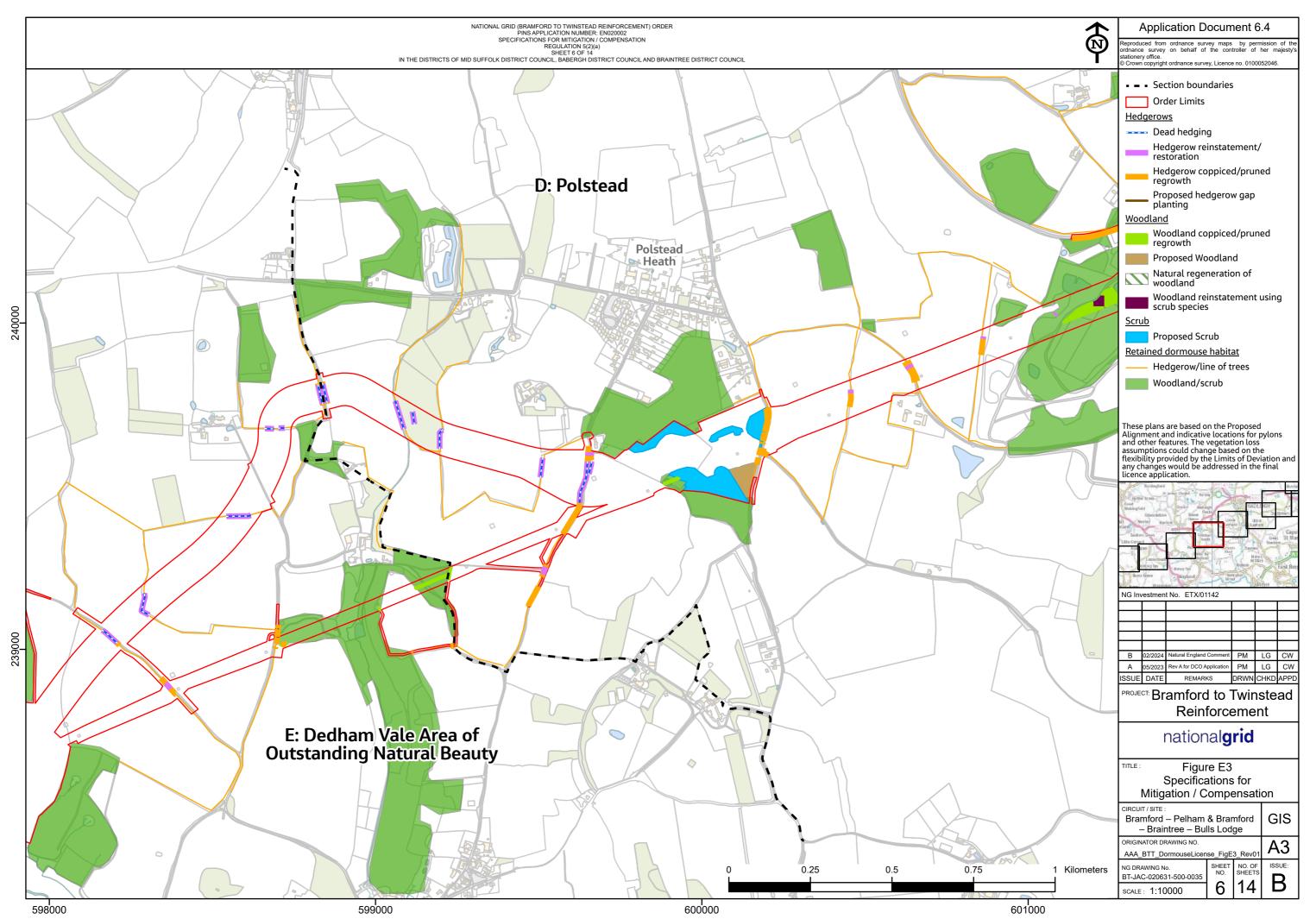


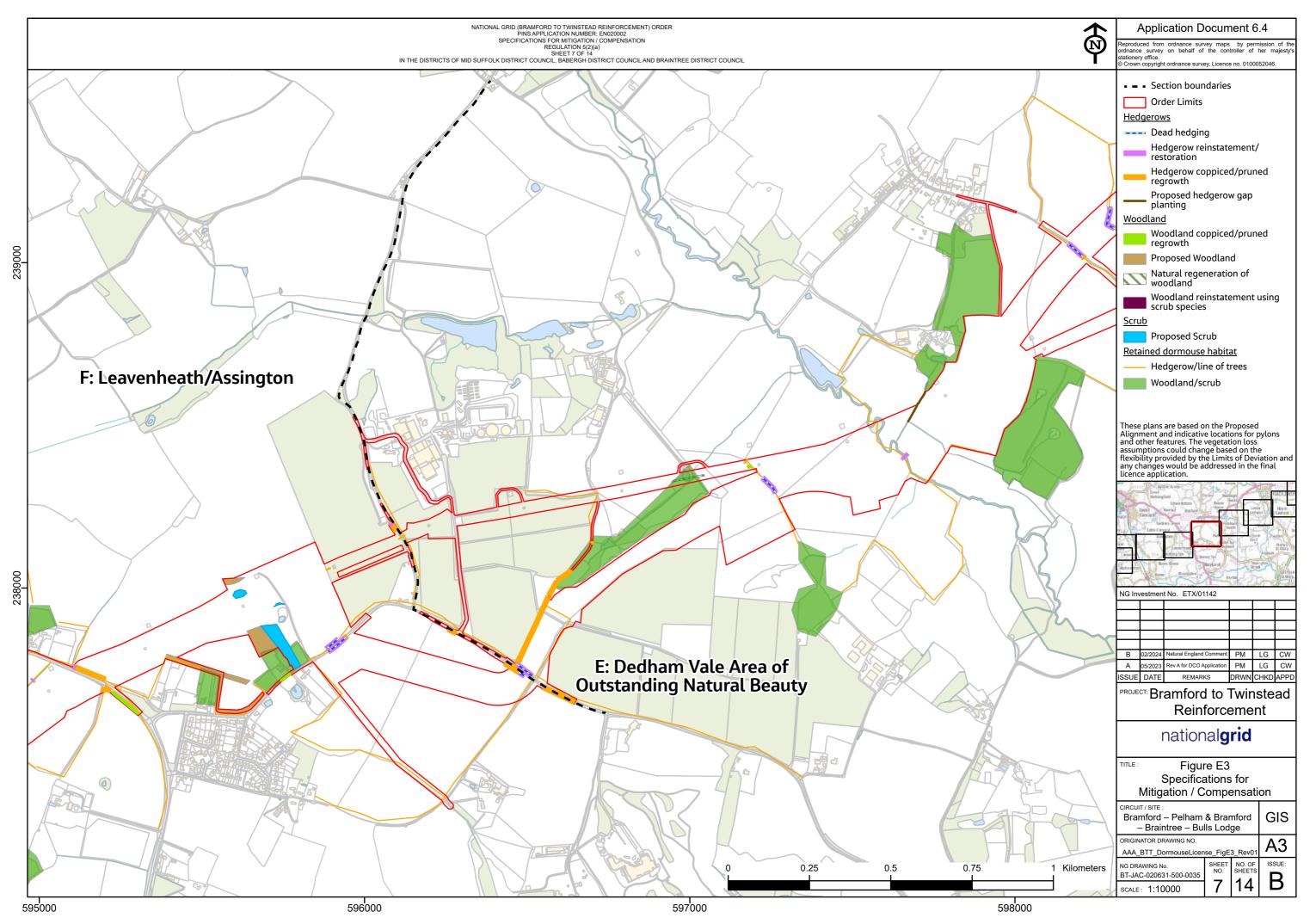


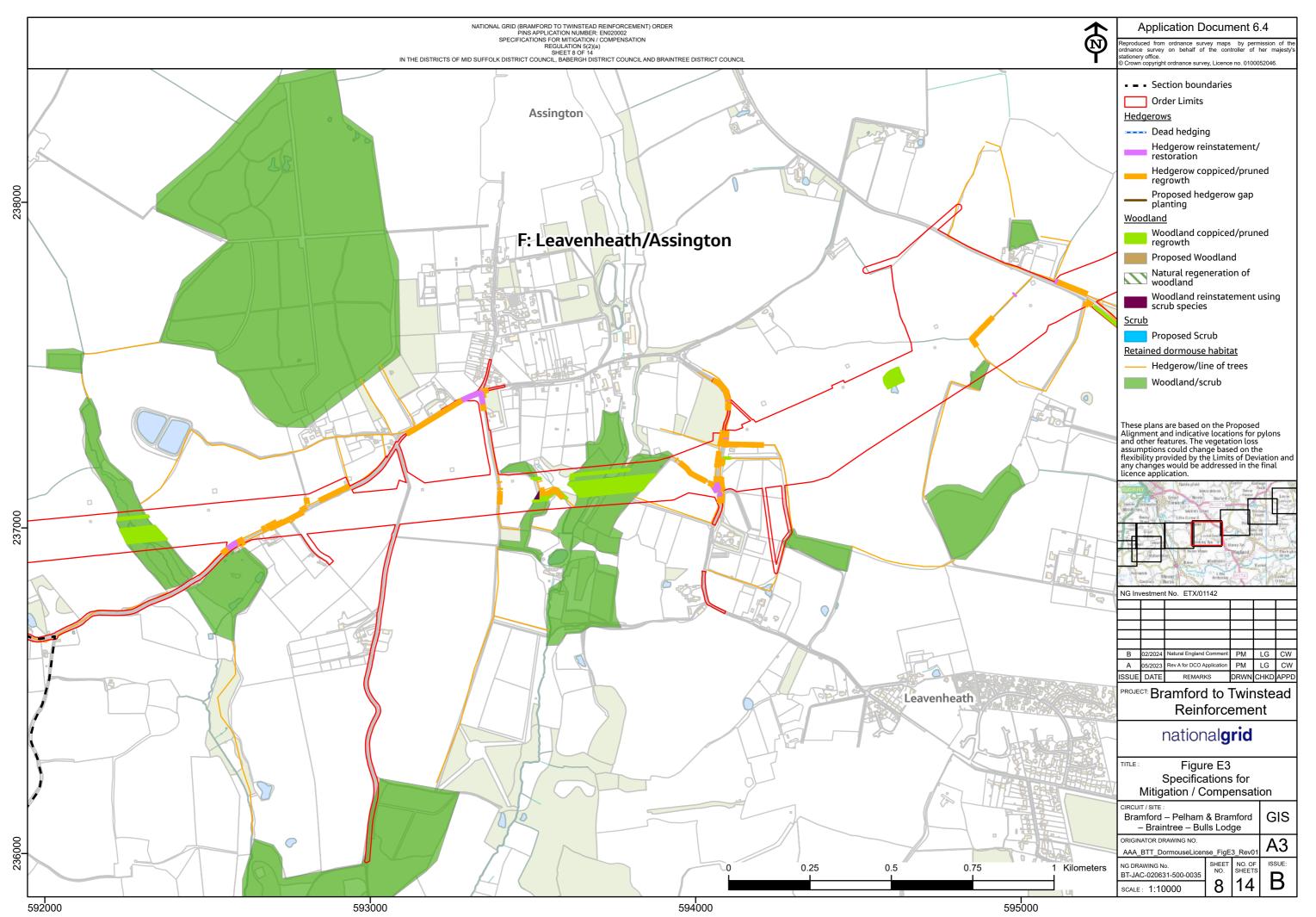


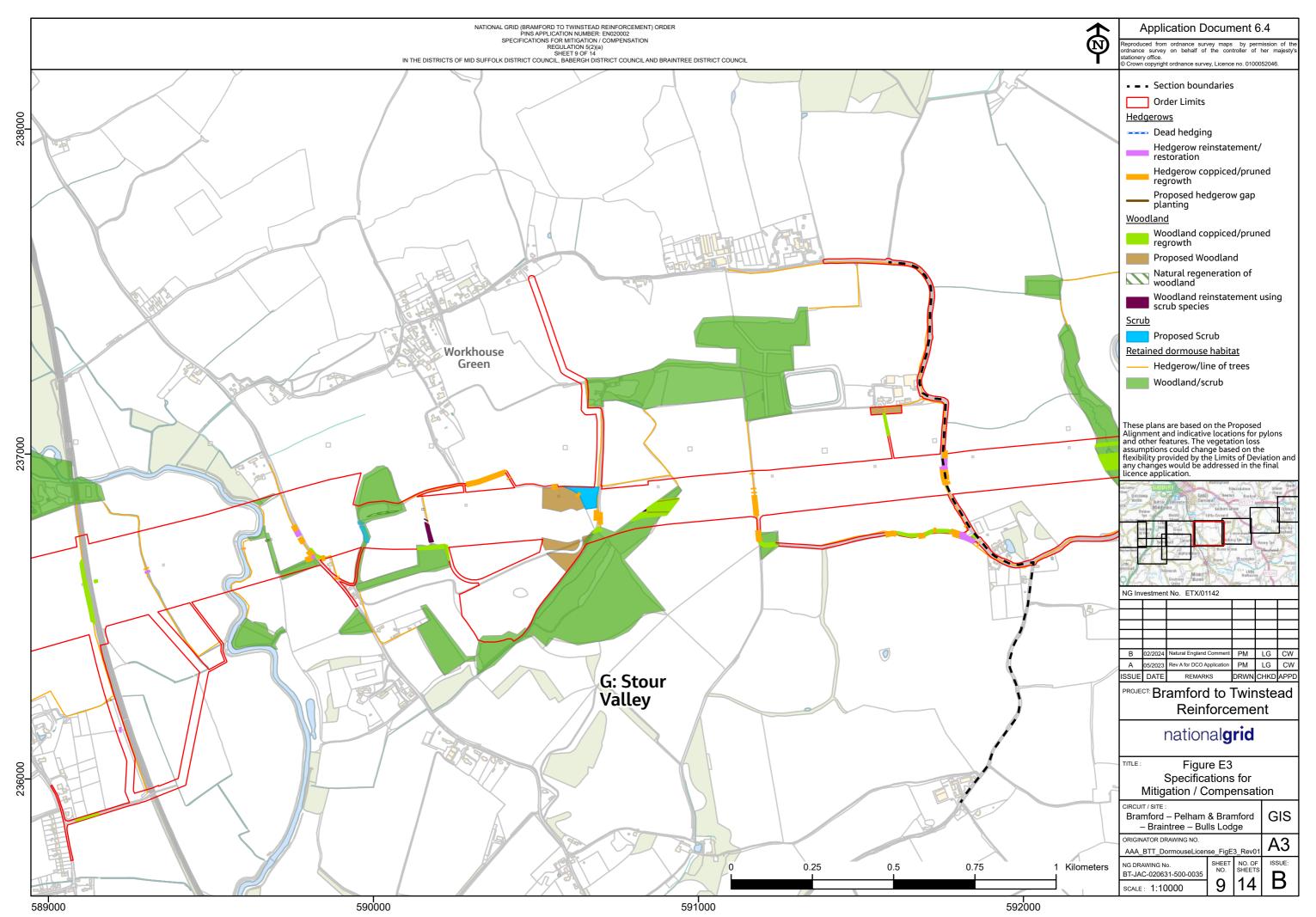


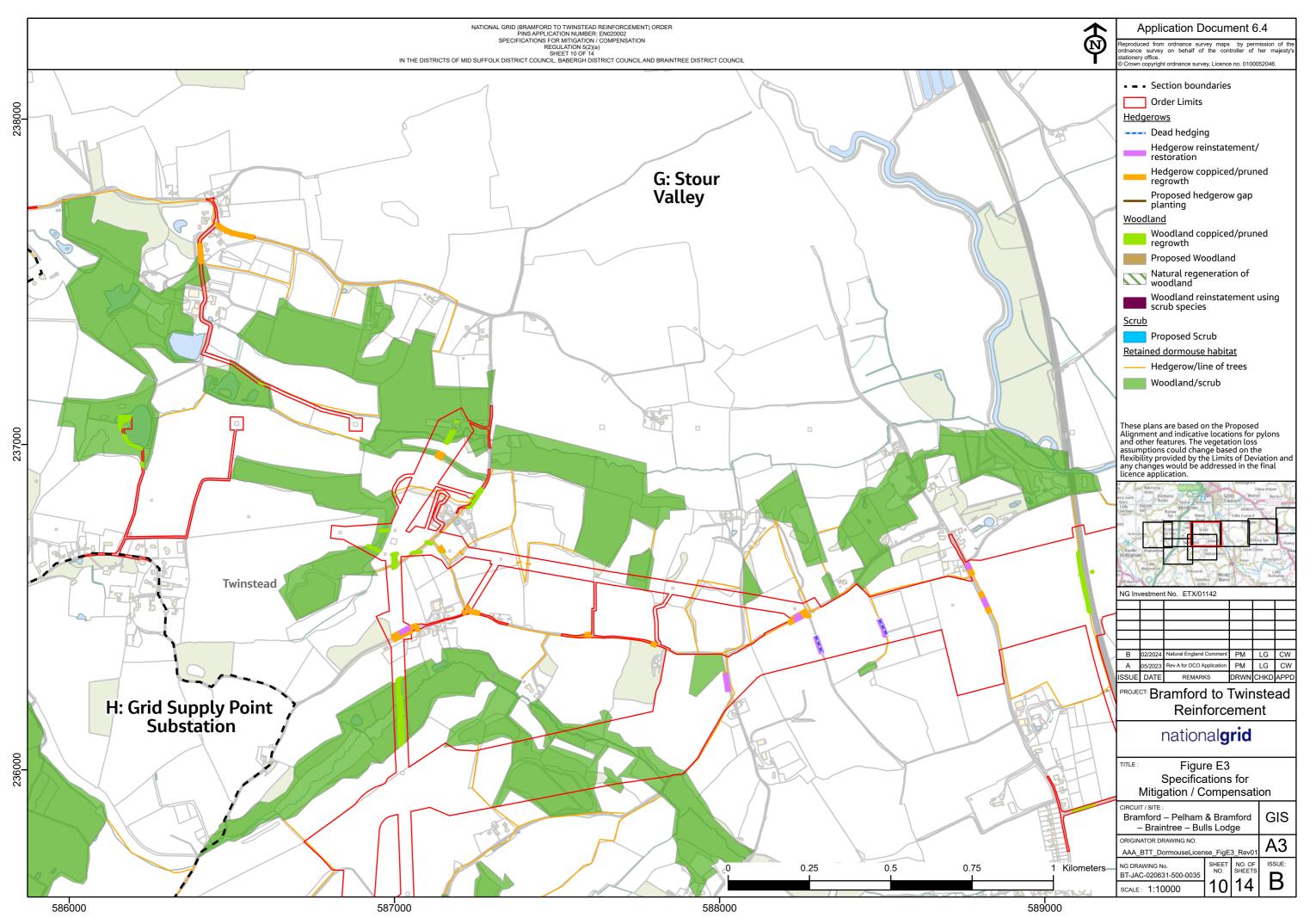


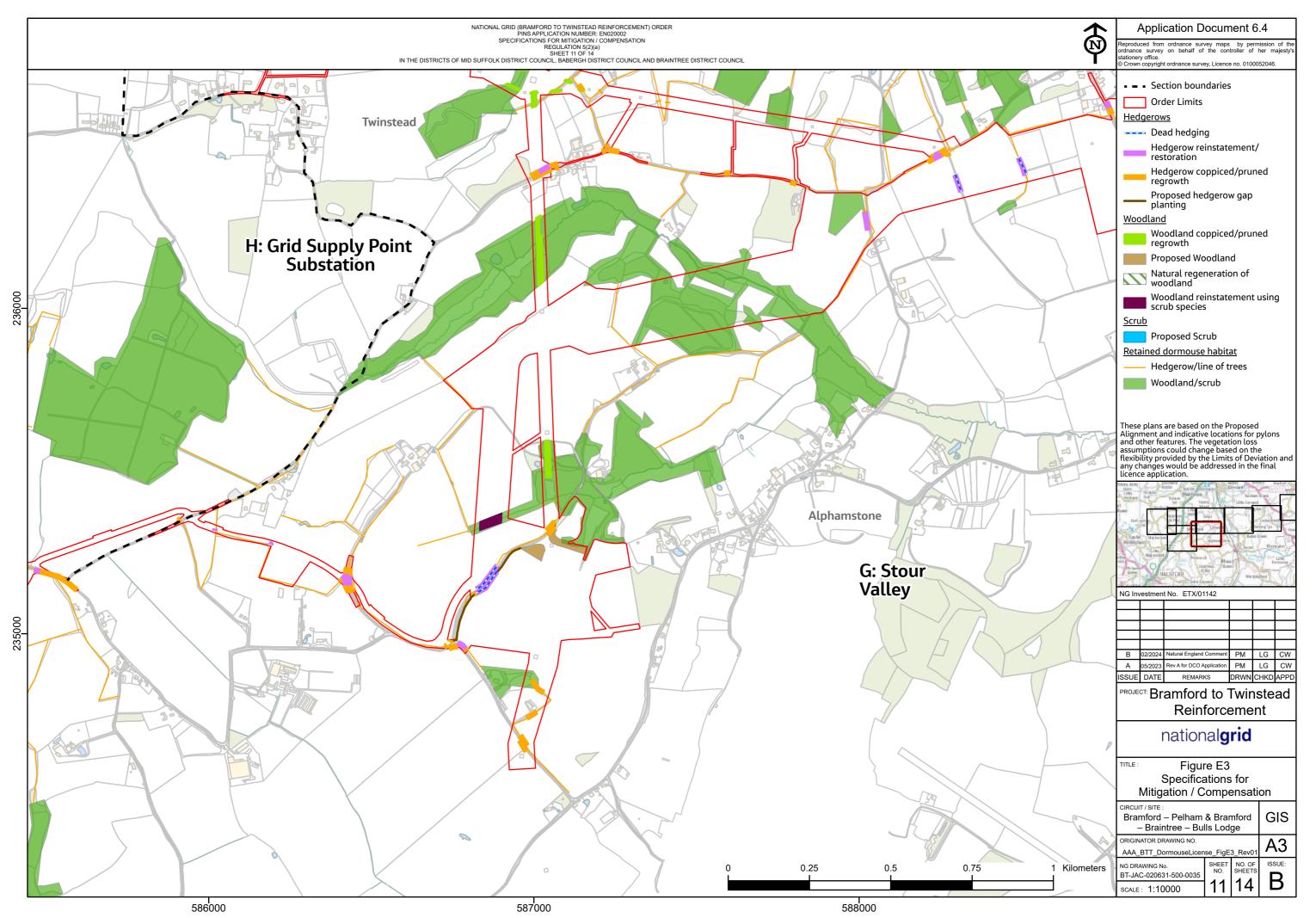


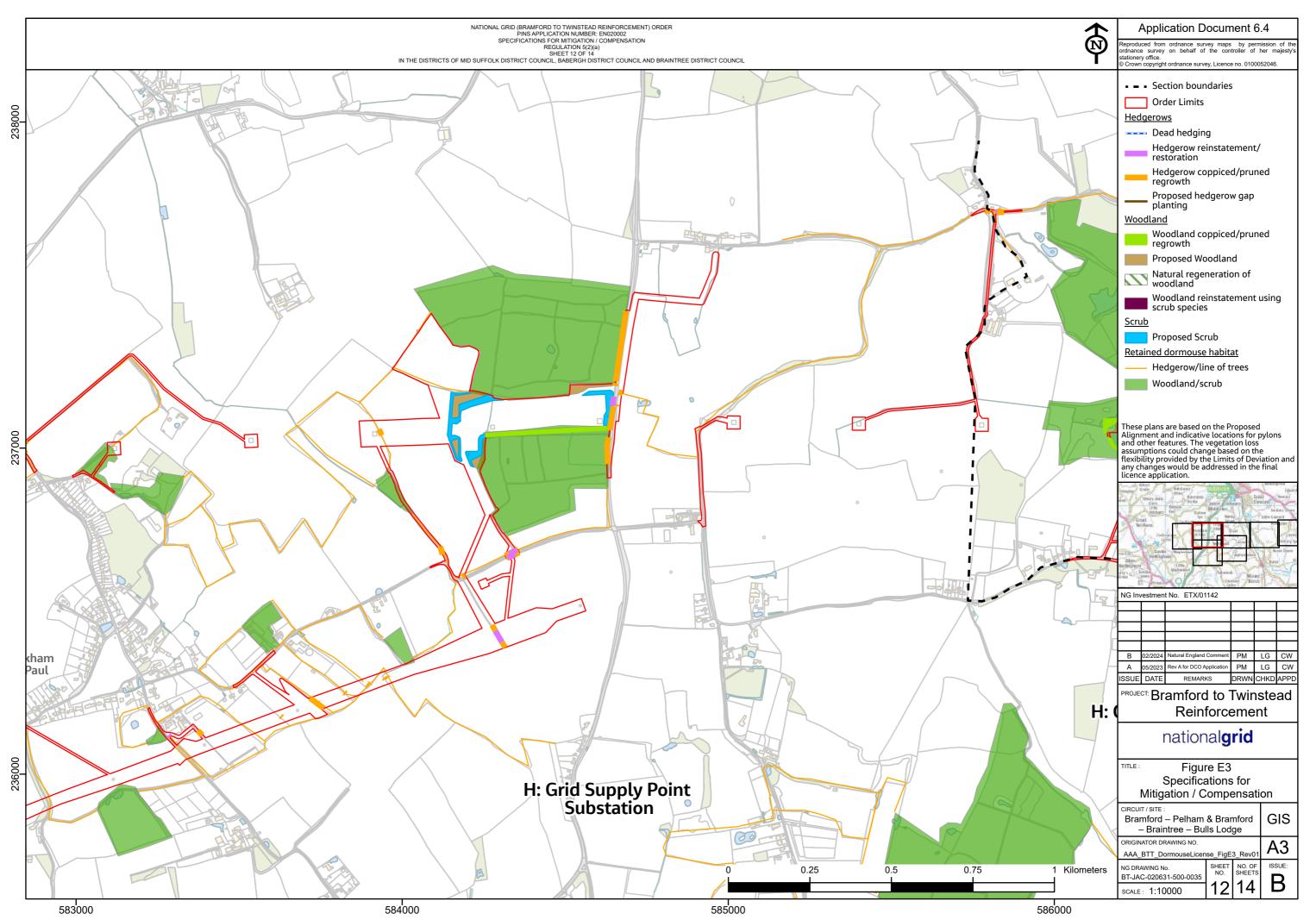


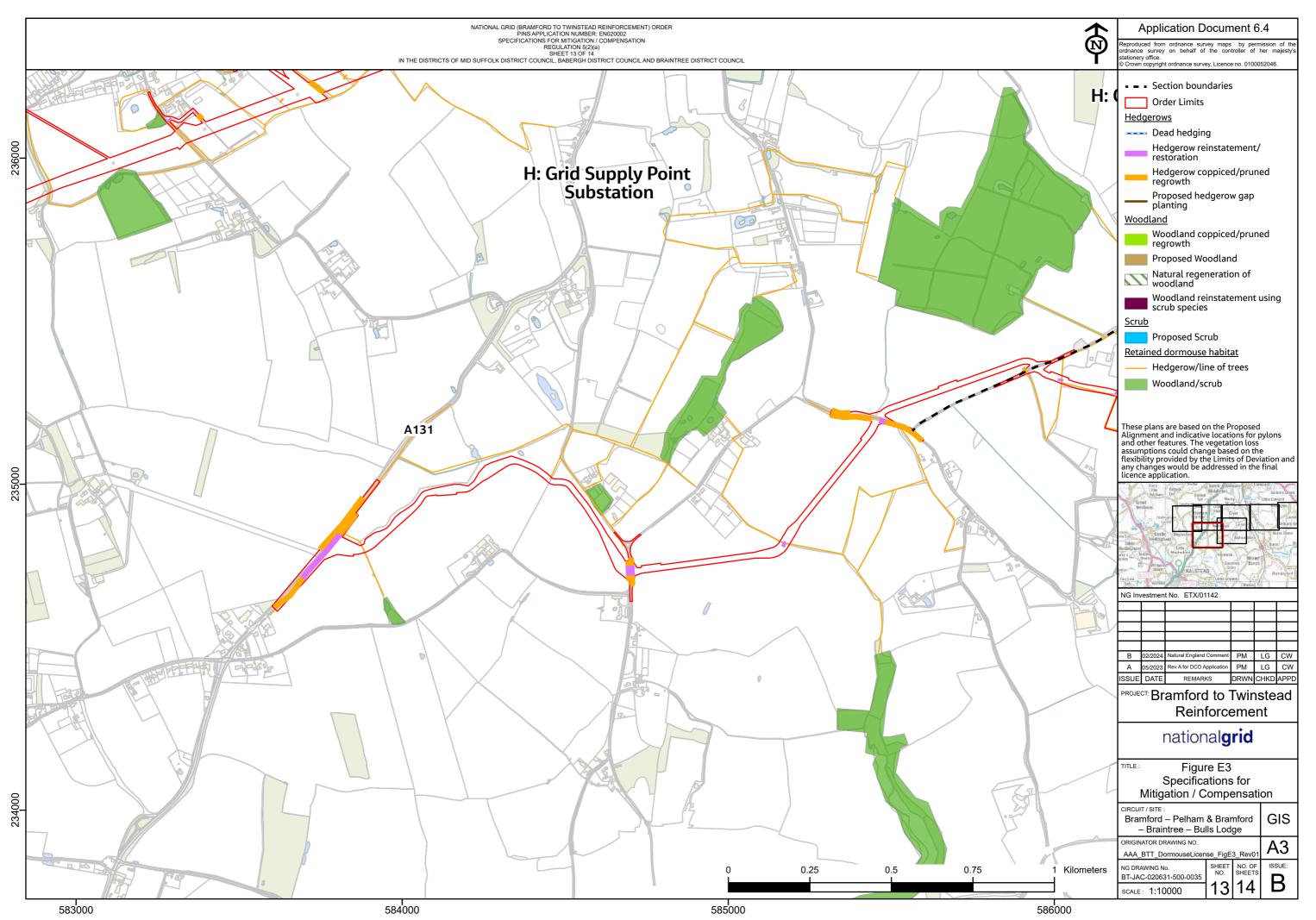


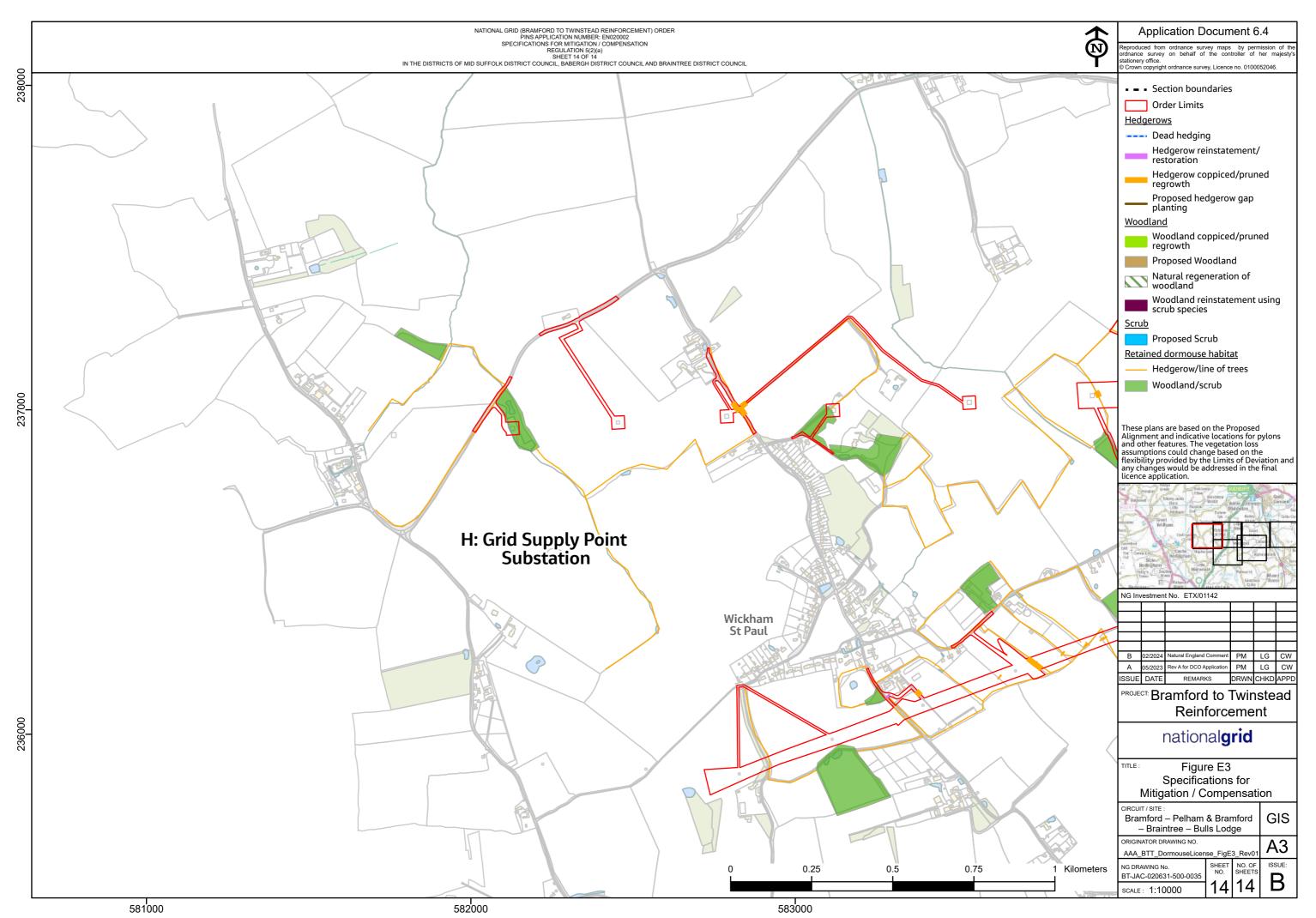


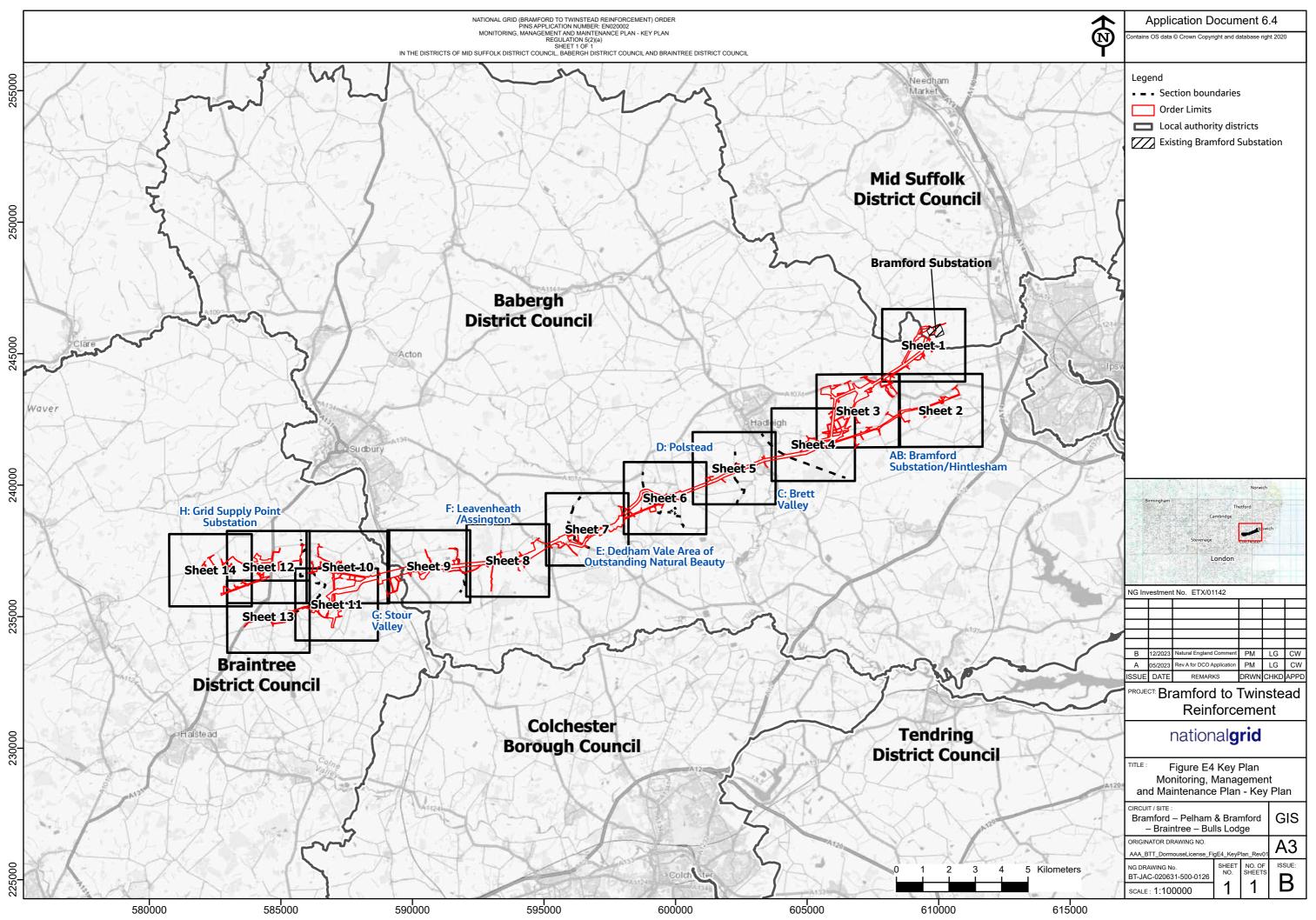


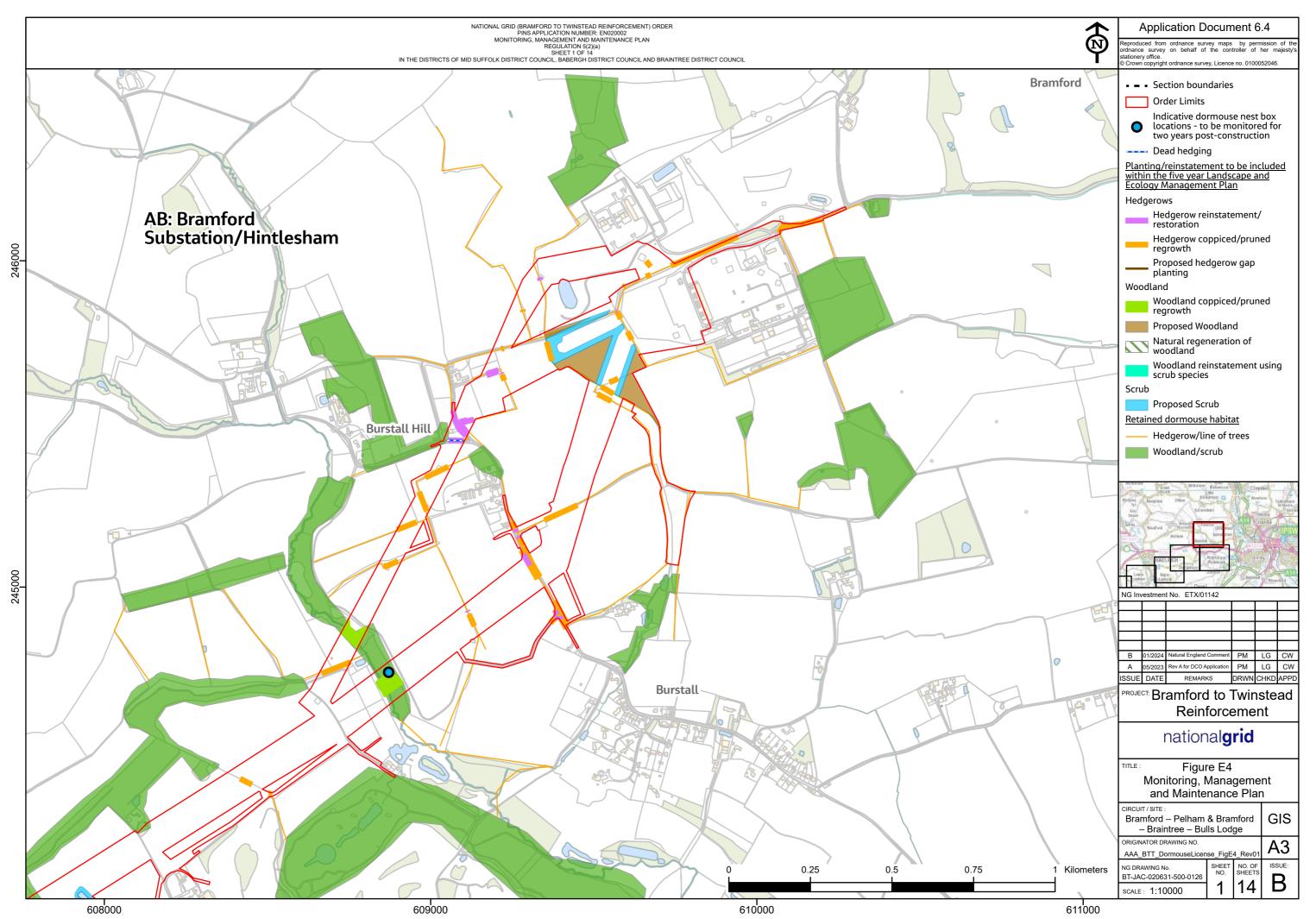


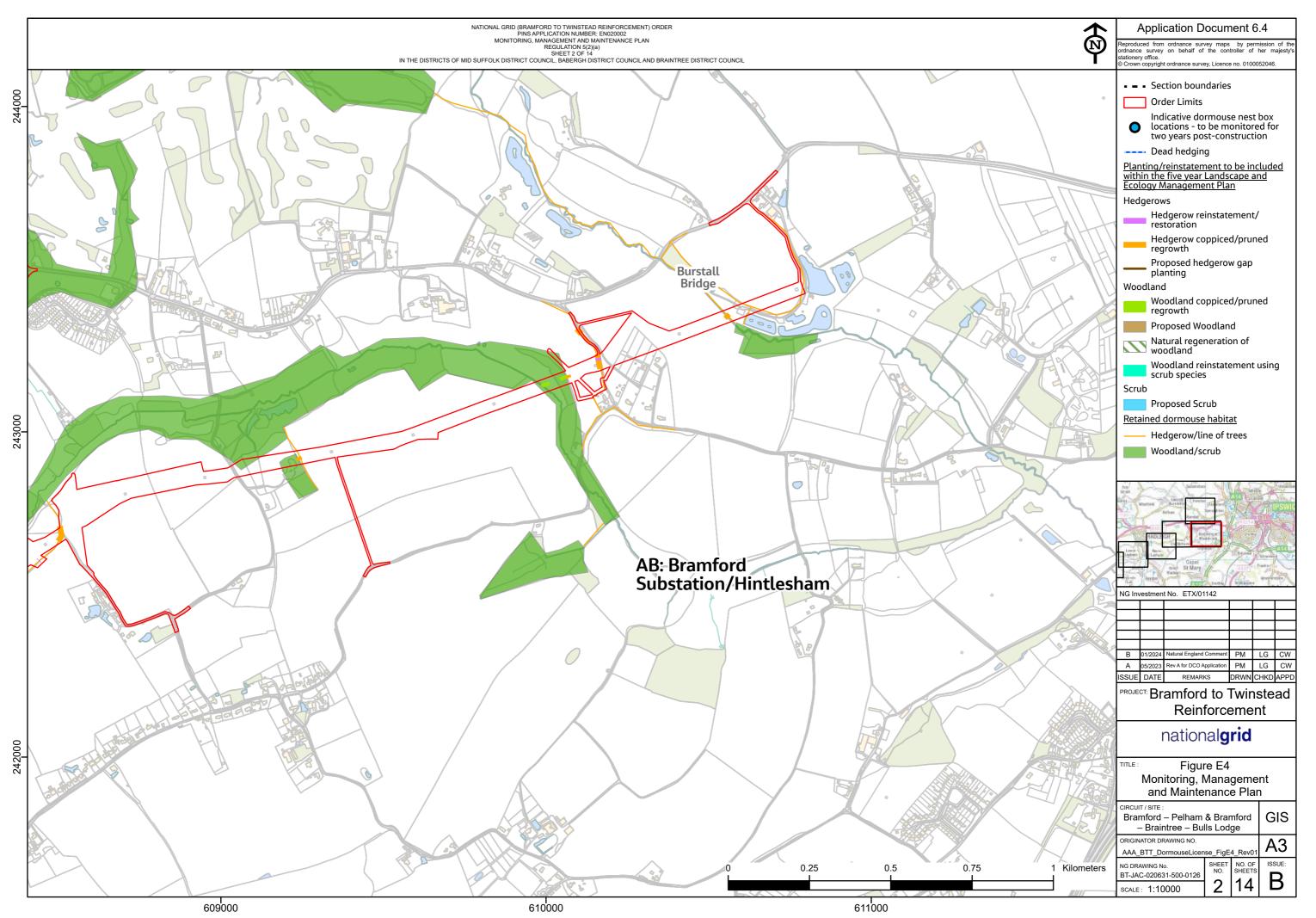


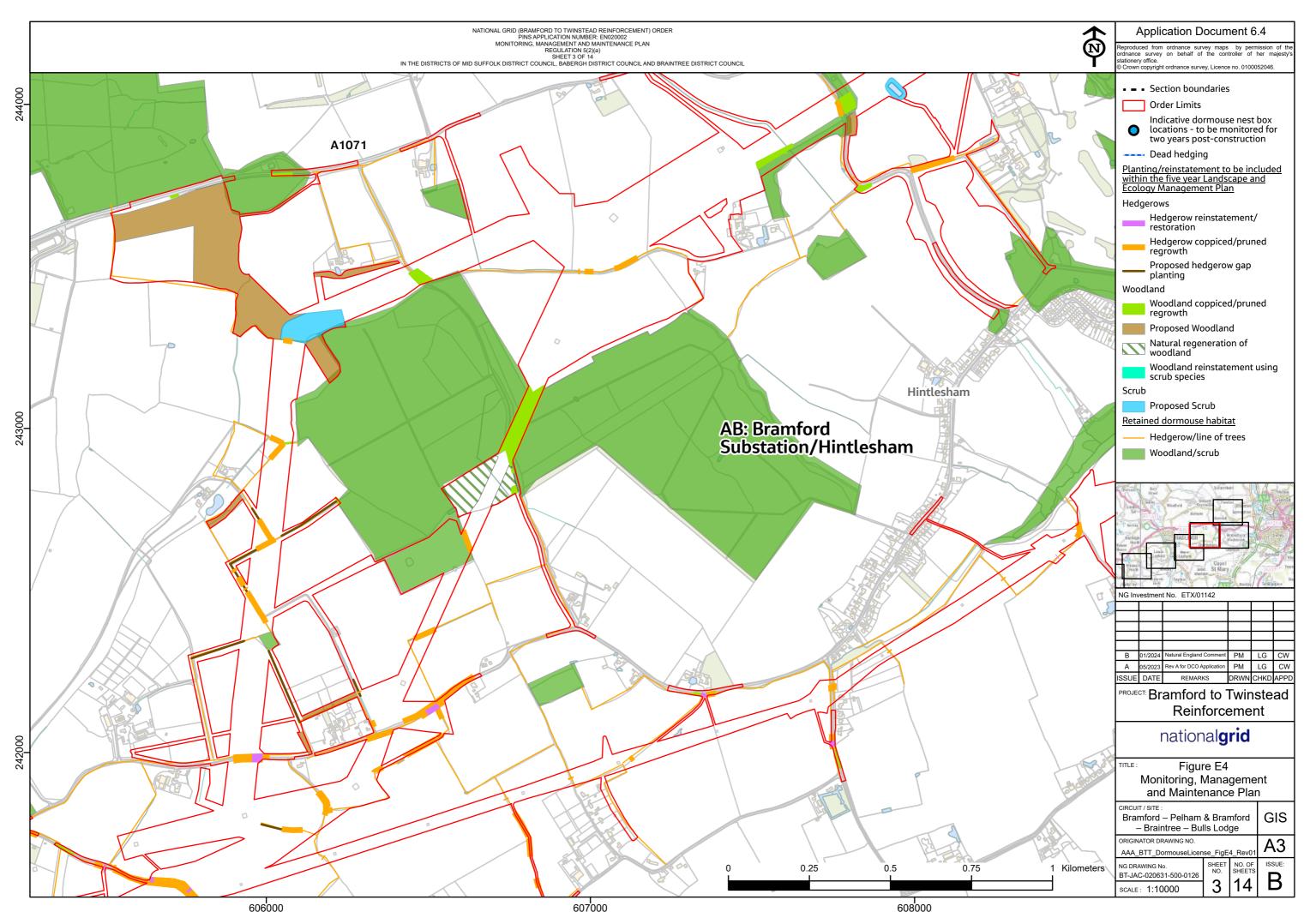


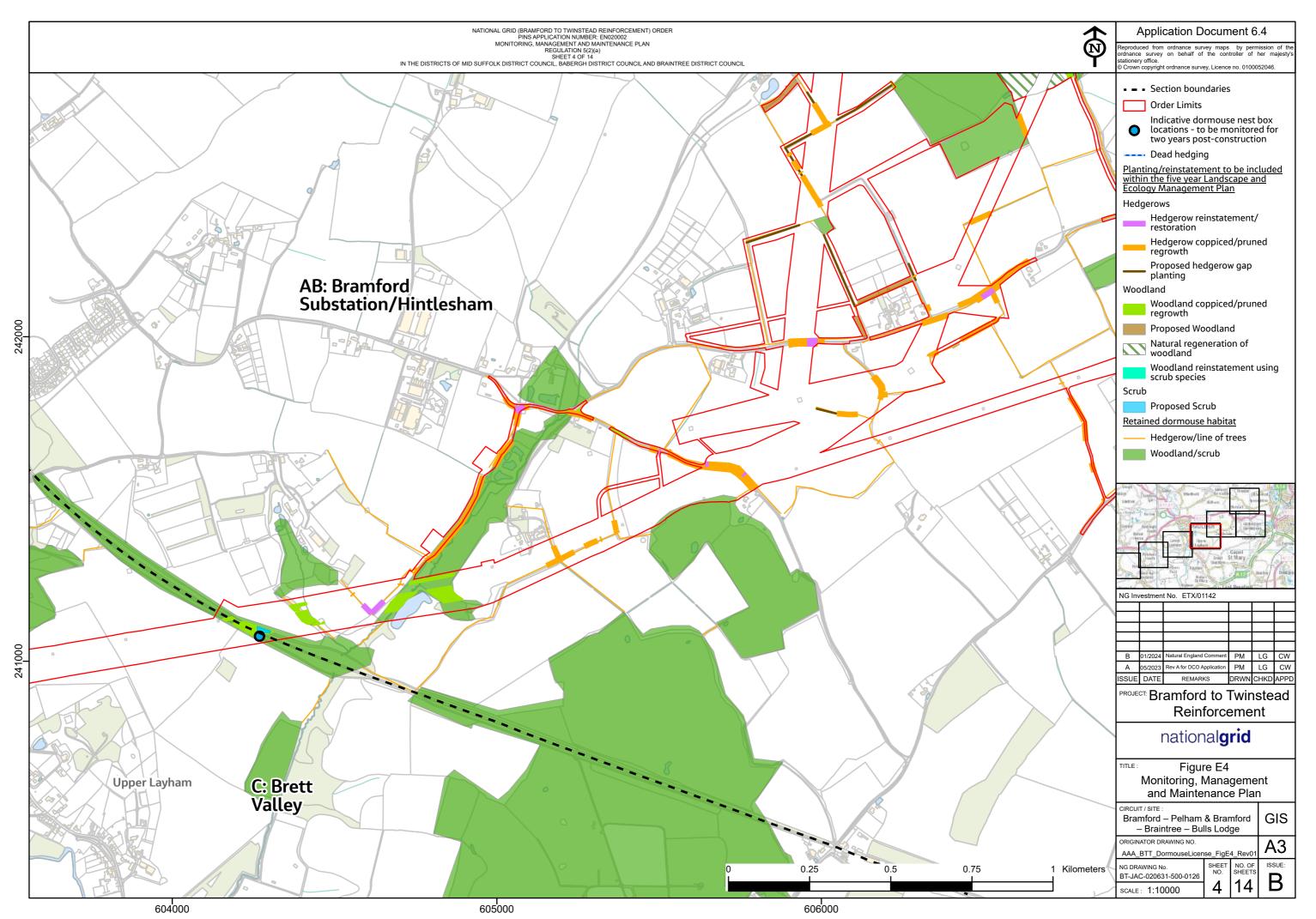


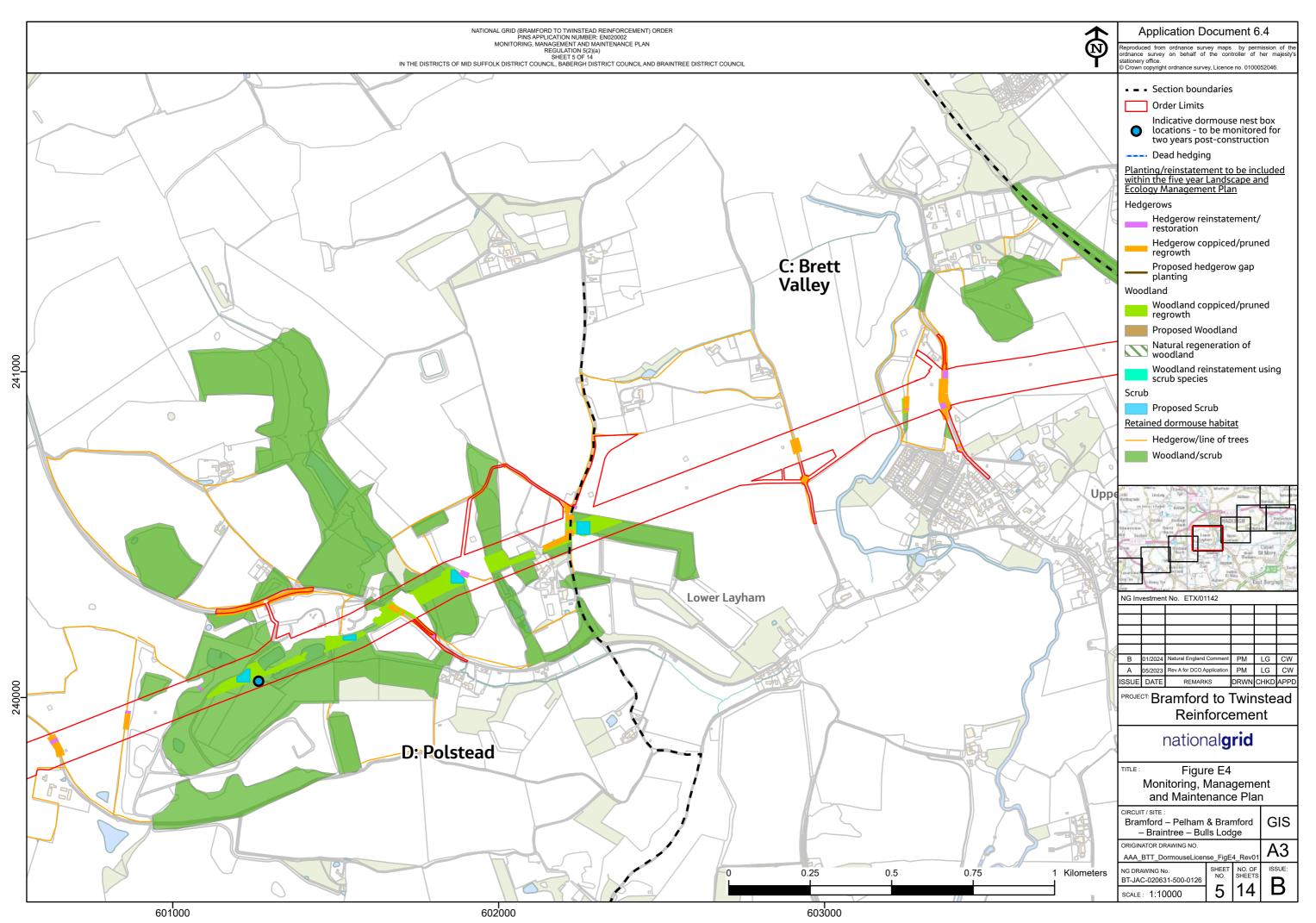


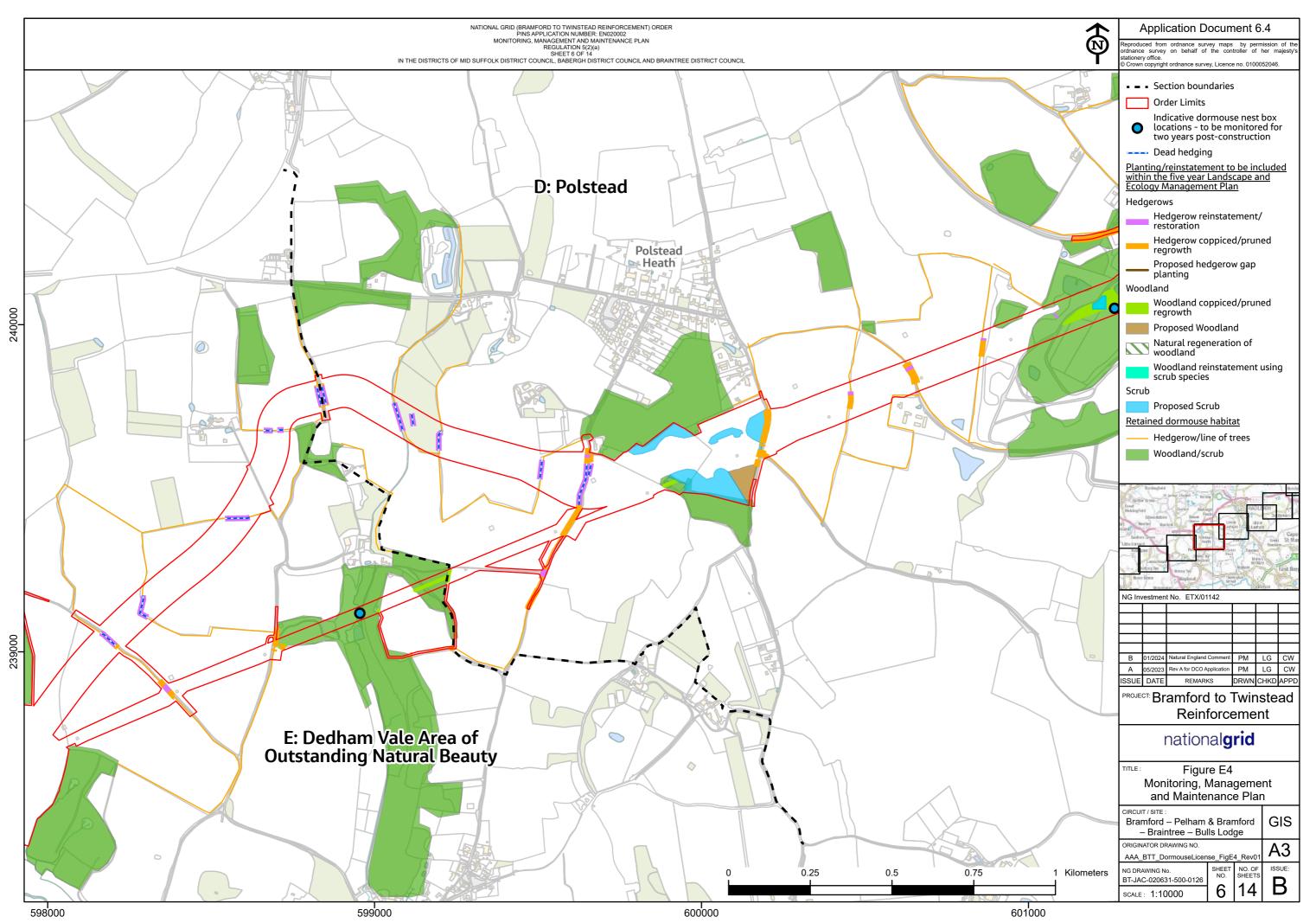


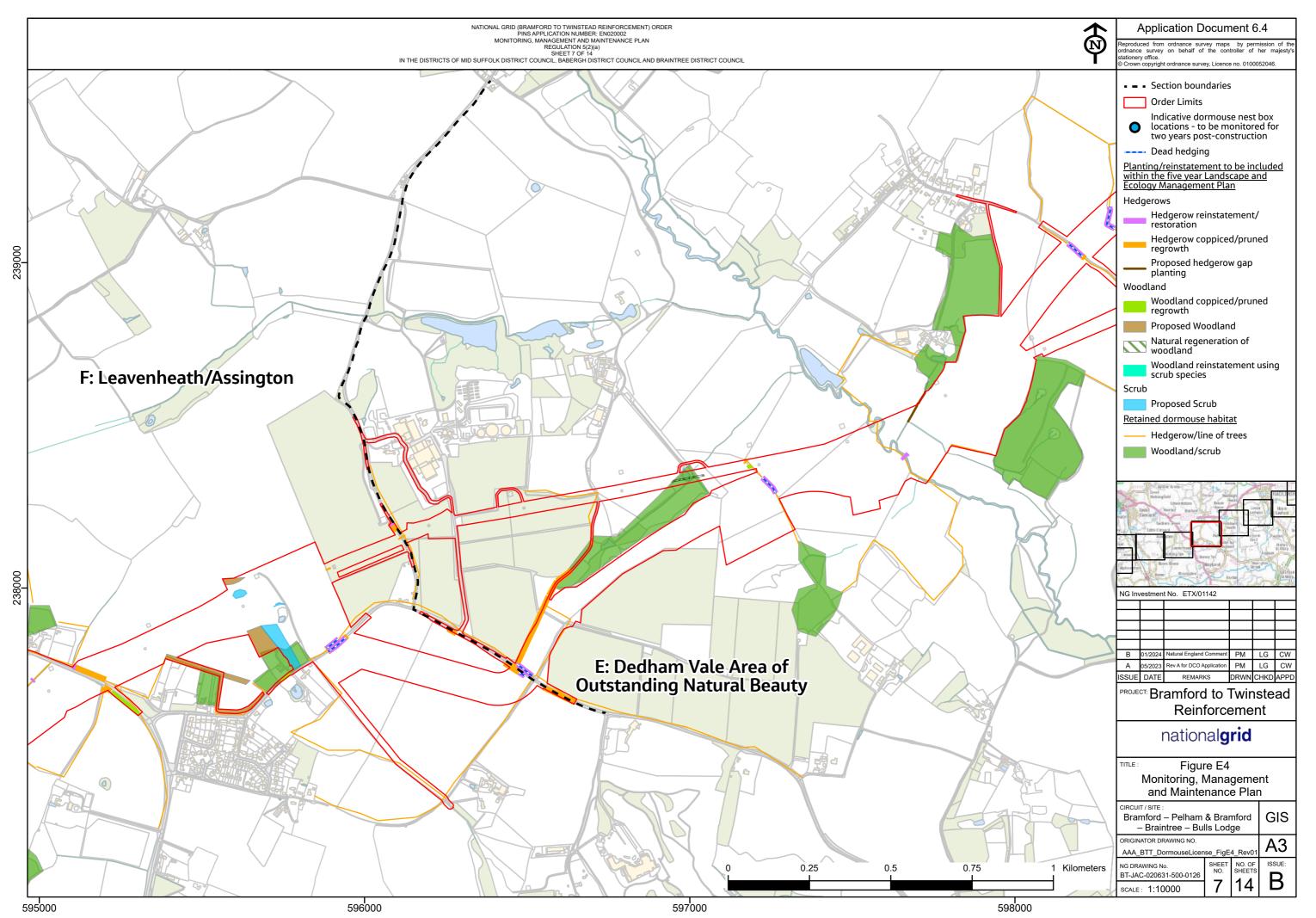


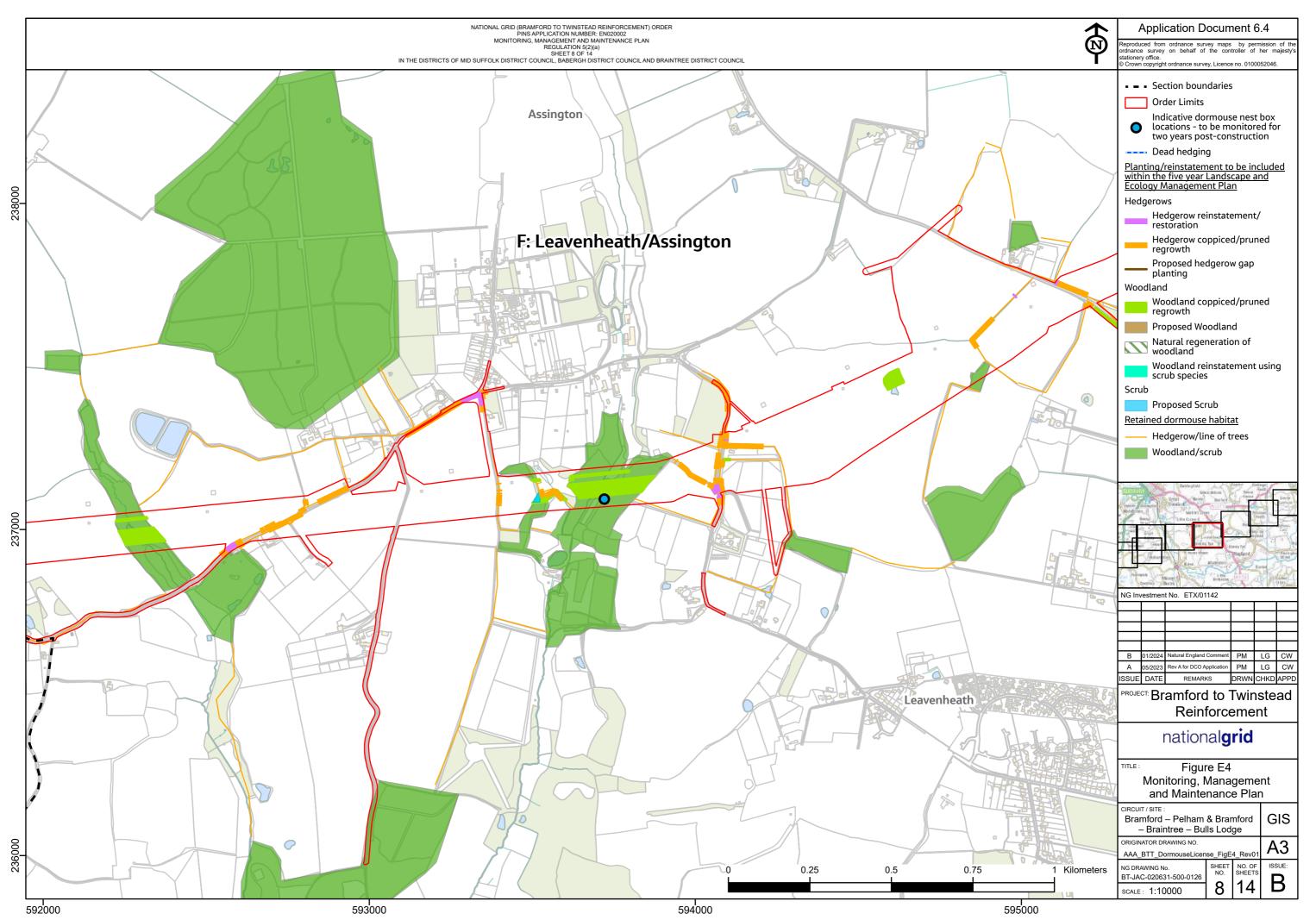


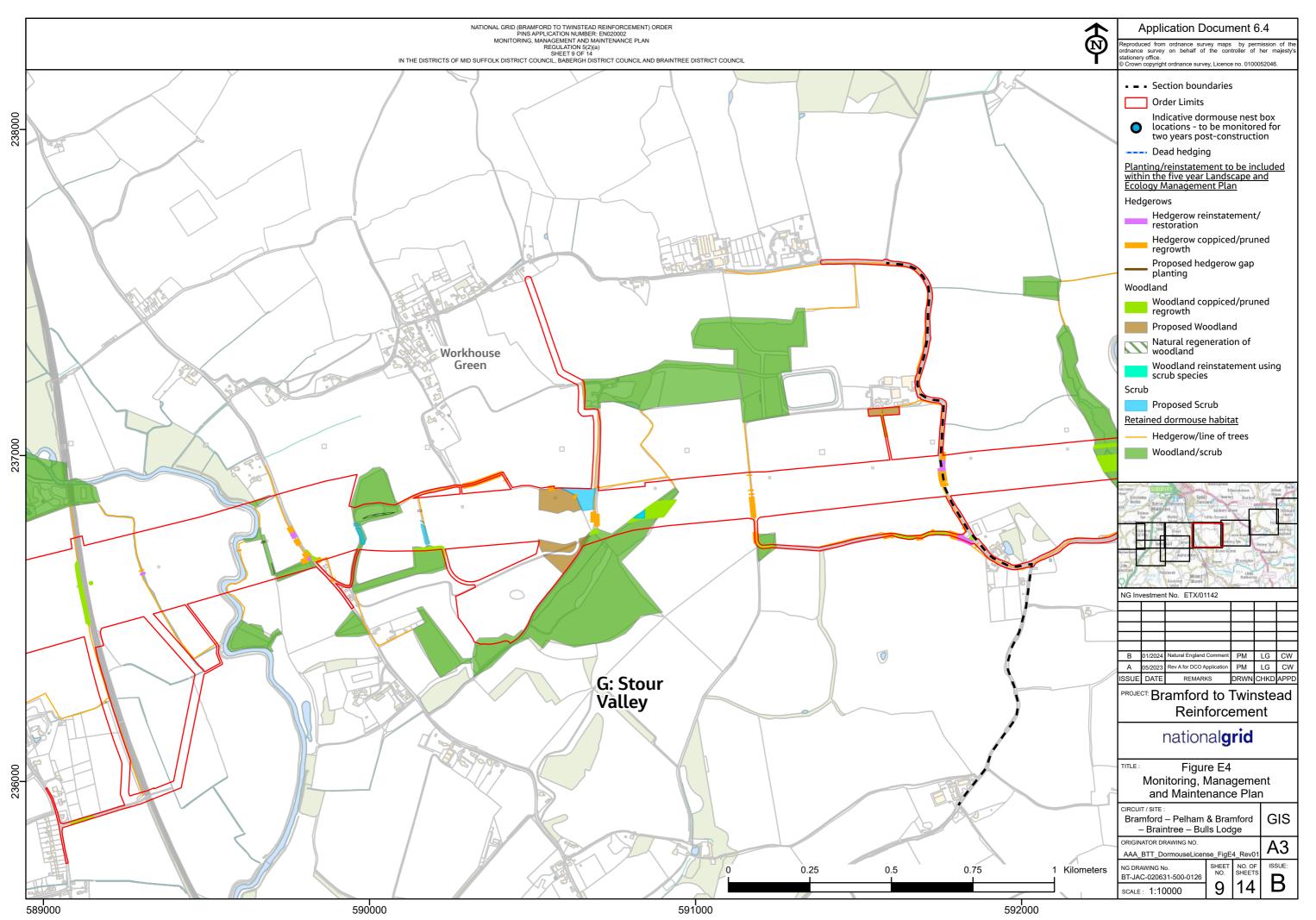


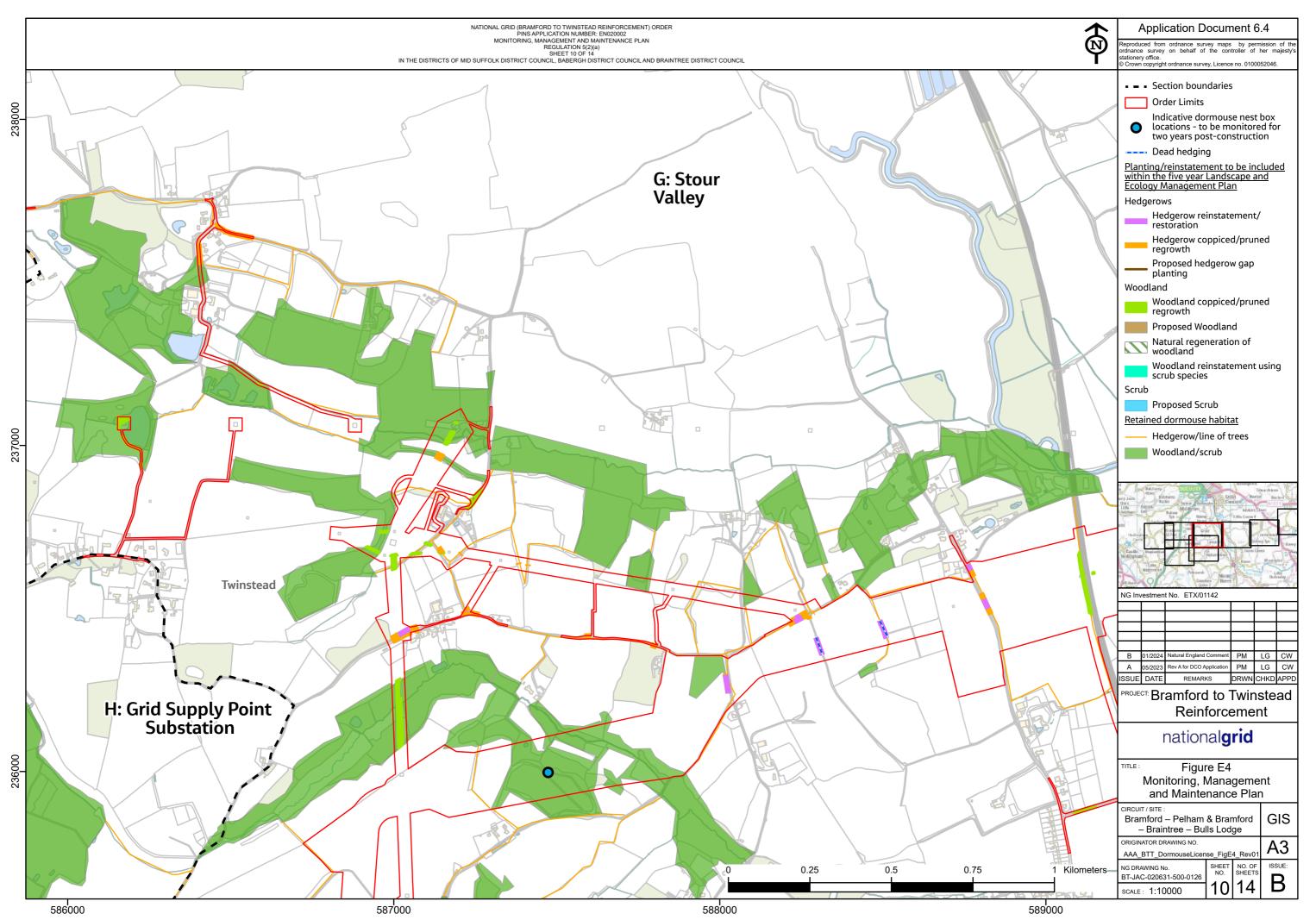


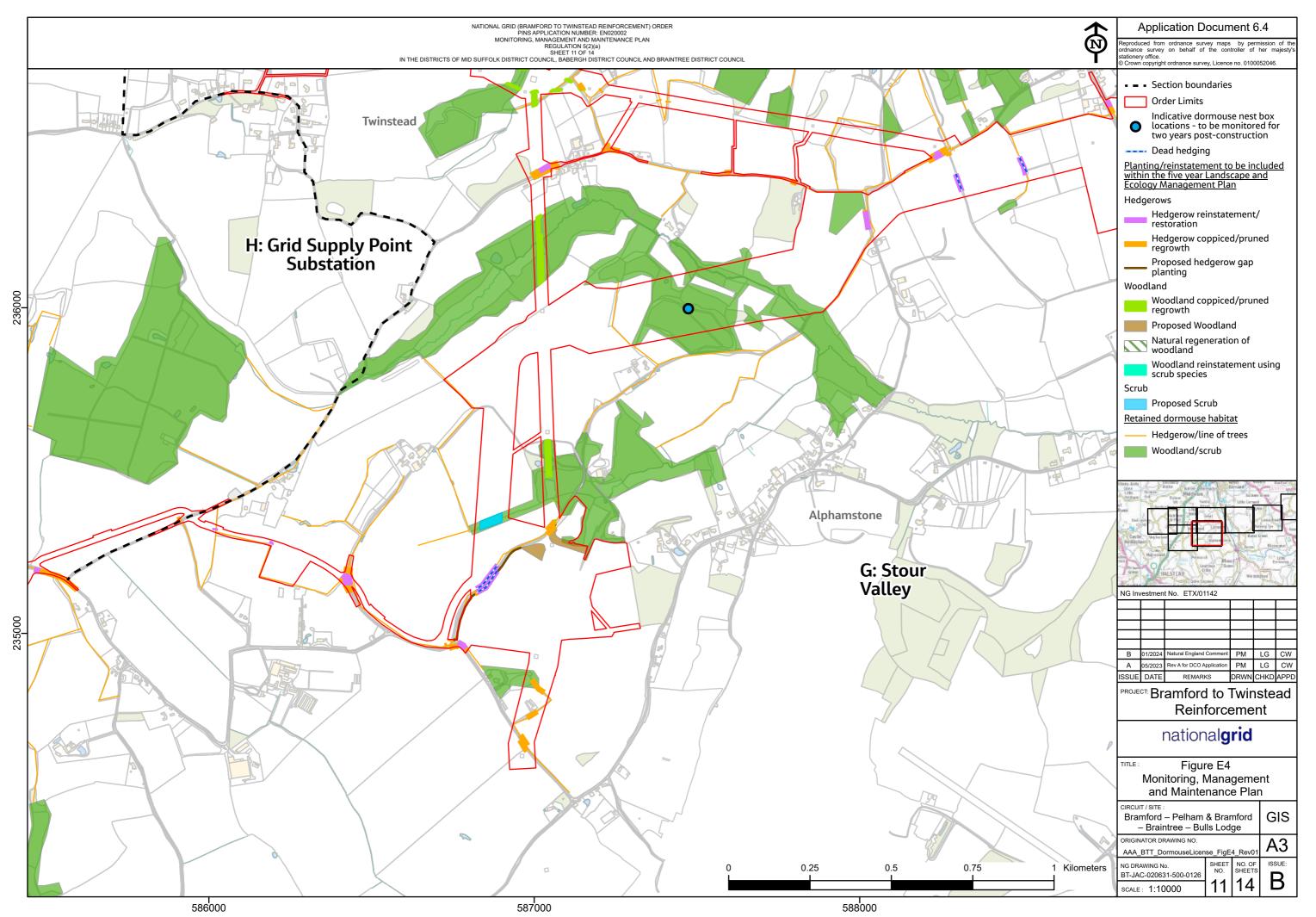


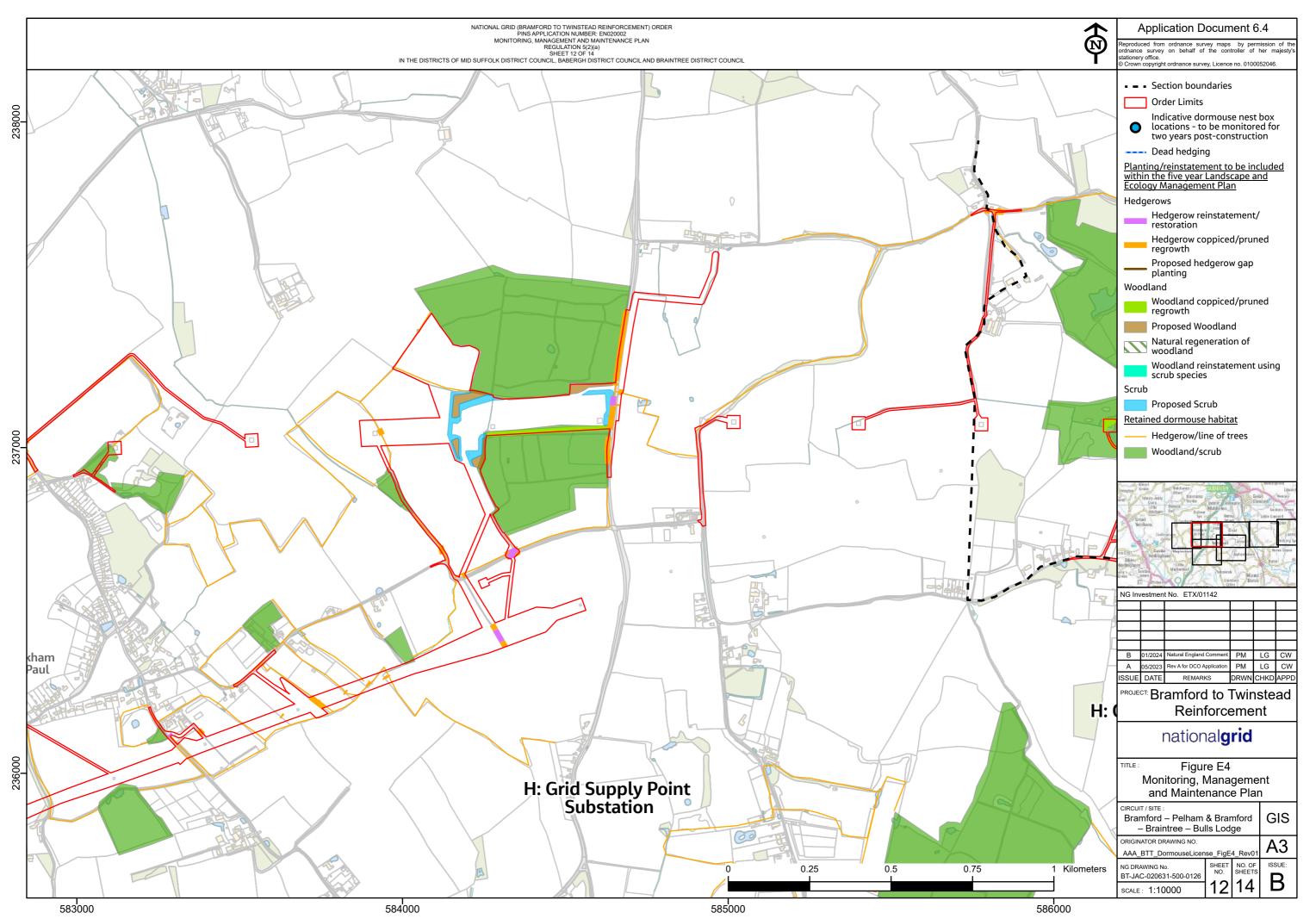


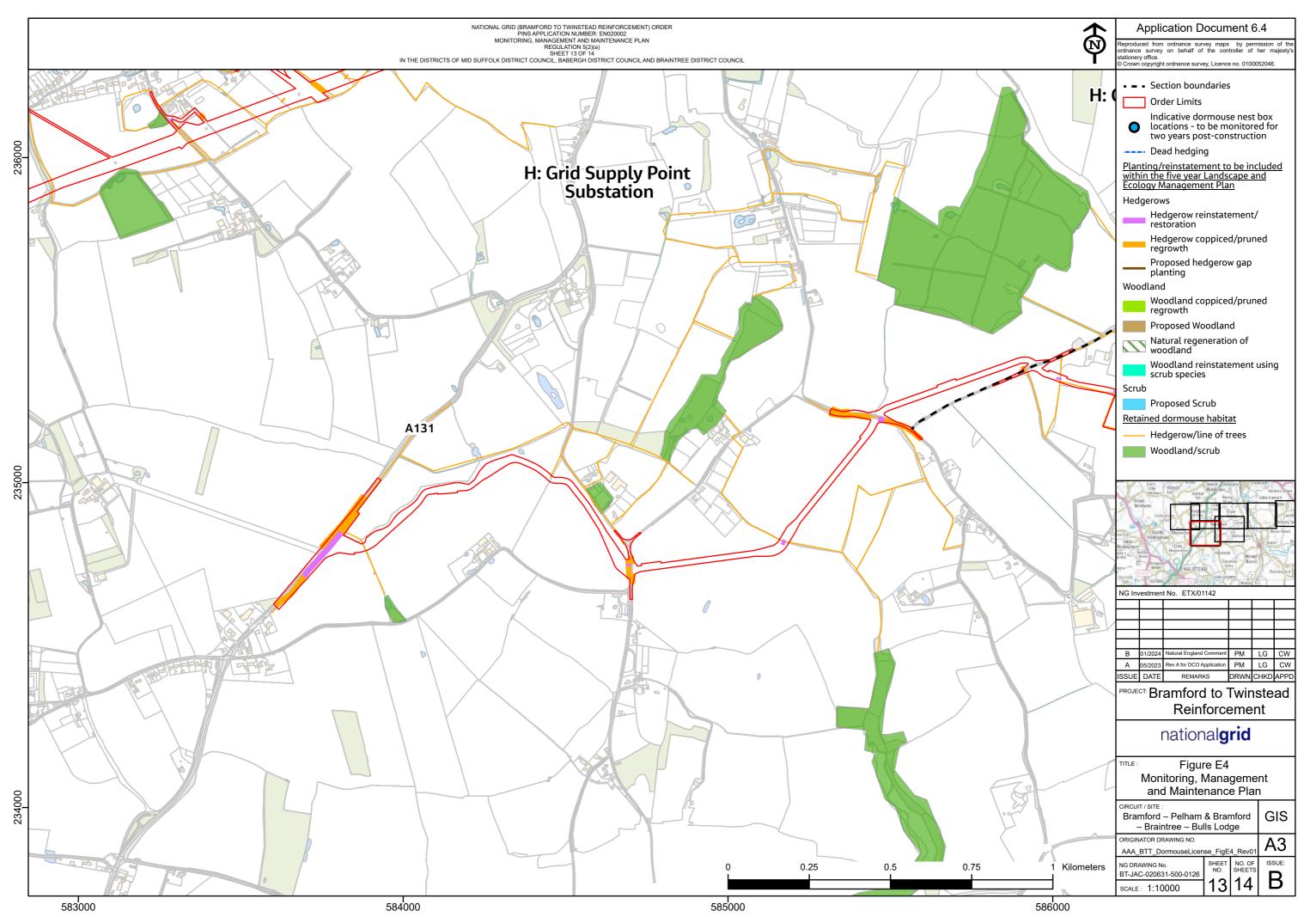


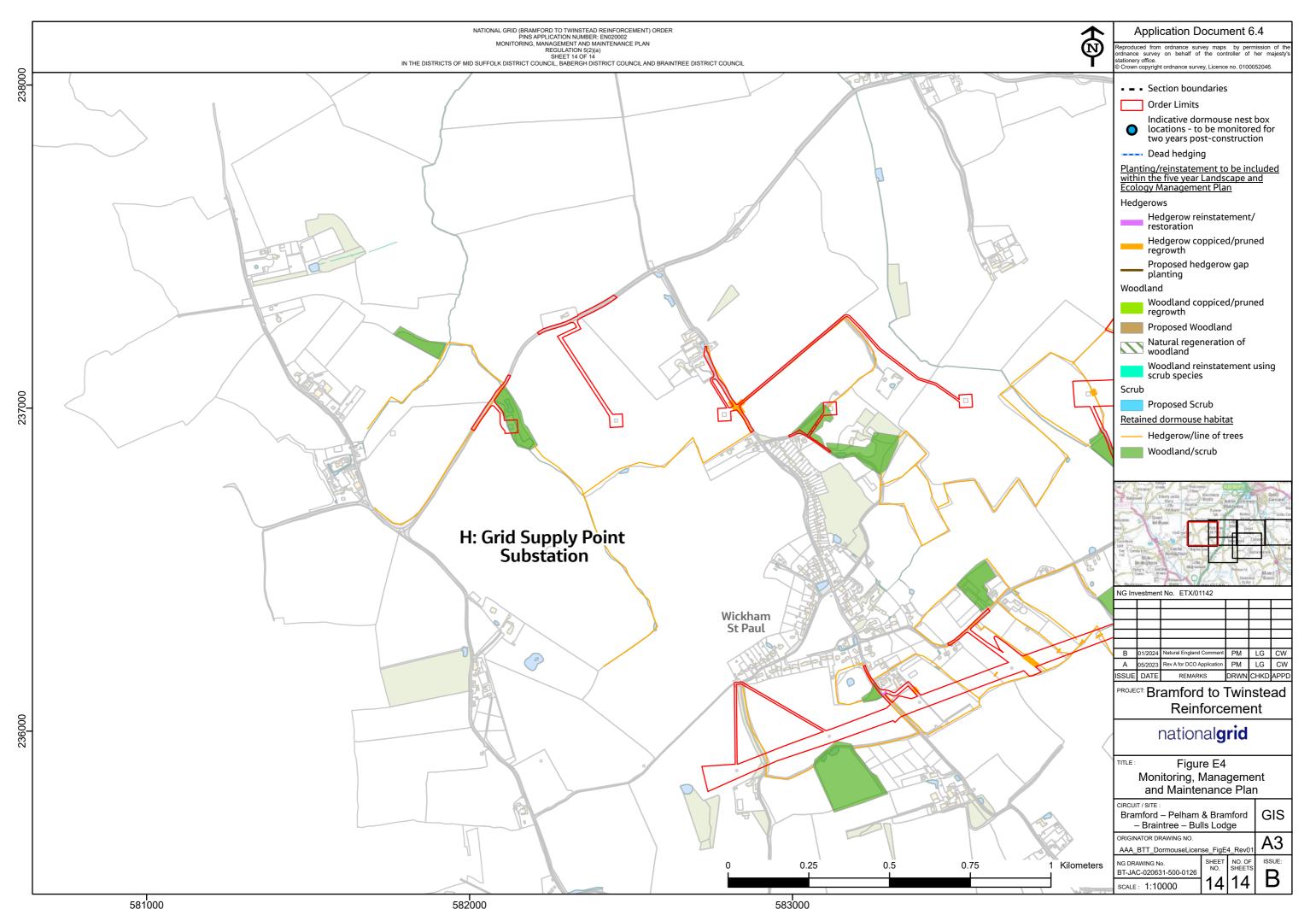












Page intentionally blank

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