

# A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down

**Applicant's provision of technical reports supporting the  
Environmental Information Review**

Invasive Non-Native Species Report (2020)

Document reference: Redetermination 2.3

Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

February 2022



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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 An Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) assessment was required to determine the presence of any INNS plants within the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down Scheme (hereafter referred to as ‘the Scheme’), and to satisfy the requirements outlined within PW-BIO1, MW-BIO5 and MW-BIO6 of the Outline Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) (Highways England, 2019)<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.1.2 An INNS survey (refer to Chapter 2) was undertaken in order to identify any INNS listed on Schedule 9 Part II of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), or plants listed under Invasive Alien Species of Union concern (as per EU IAS Regulation 1143/2014) that might be affected by the construction of the Scheme.
- 1.1.3 This report supersedes the Invasive Non-Native Species Report and Management Plan (2019). The survey data contained within this report remains the same as that provided in the 2019 report. In accordance with PW-BIO1, MW-BIO5 and MW-BIO6, the management measures set out in the 2019 report are to be developed in consultation with Natural England, and will be provided in an INNS Management Plan incorporated into the Construction Environmental Management Plans implemented for the Scheme.

## 1.2 Key Legislation

- 1.2.1 INNS are species that do not occur naturally in Great Britain, but have been introduced and have become invasive, causing adverse effects on biodiversity and potential adverse economic effects, such as impacts on agriculture and increased flood risk.
- 1.2.2 Schedule 9 Part II of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) lists a number of INNS plant species that are established in England and Wales. This legislation makes it an offence to cause Schedule 9 plant species to grow in the wild and, if transported off-site, there is a duty of care with regard to the disposal of any part of the plant that may facilitate establishment in the wild and cause environmental harm, including, whole plants, seeds, rhizomes, bulbs, corms and cuttings.
- 1.2.3 The Infrastructure Act 2015 amended the WCA to put in place powers to issue species control agreements and species control orders. Schedule 9 was updated in 2019 by the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 to include certain INNS which are listed as Invasive Alien Species of Union concern under EU IAS Regulation 1143/2014, which sets out measures to prevent and minimise the impact of the introduction and spread of invasive non-native animals and plants including prevention, early detection/rapid eradication and appropriate management. Alerts about any new INNS are coordinated by the Non-Native Species Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the final draft OEMP submitted May 2020 is available on the Planning Inspectorate Website [here](#)

## 2 Method

- 2.1.1 The INNS survey was undertaken within the Survey Area between the 6th and 8th August 2019, and on the 18th September 2019 by two appropriately experienced ecologists. The Survey Area included all land within and immediately adjacent (up to 30m where access and visibility allowed) to the Order limits and 50m up and downstream of the Order limits along the River Till and the banks of the River Avon (Appendix A). All terrestrial plant INNS were recorded if present, with a focus on:
- i. INNS listed in Schedule 9 part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); and
  - ii. Plants listed under Invasive Alien Species of Union concern (as per EU IAS Regulation 1143/2014).
- 2.1.2 The INNS survey was undertaken in accordance with current good practice published by the Environment Agency<sup>2</sup>, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors<sup>3</sup> and the Property Care Association<sup>4</sup>.
- 2.1.3 The survey consisted of:
- a) a thorough walked survey of the Survey Area where access was provided; and
  - b) an inspection of immediate surroundings (where accessible).
- 2.1.4 The location of any INNS observed was recorded along with a description of its growth, size and extent, location (including habitat present within), possible pathways of introduction, evidence of any management/ control of the species, disturbance impacts and photographs as a record of the inspection (refer to Appendix B).

## 2.2 Limitations and assumptions

- 2.2.1 The surveys were undertaken within the months of August and early September 2019, within the main growing season (May-September inclusive). The surveys are therefore considered to have been undertaken at an appropriate time, as all INNS should have been visible, if present.
- 2.2.2 Some arable fields within the Survey Area were not accessed due to land access issues (refer to Appendix A). Where this was the case, the land was surveyed from the field boundaries, assisted by close-focusing binoculars, whenever possible. This is not considered a limitation, as the presence of INNS is unlikely within arable fields due to their continuous management, with INNS more likely to be present around the edges of fields. Although

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<sup>2</sup> Environment Agency. (2013). Managing Japanese knotweed on Development Proposed Developments: The knotweed Code of Practice. Environment Agency, Bristol.

<sup>3</sup> RICS (2012). Japanese knotweed and Residential Property. RICS Information Paper JP 27/2012. RICS, London

<sup>4</sup> Property Care Association (2013). Code of Practice for the Management of Japanese knotweed. PCA.

these fields were not physically accessed, it was still possible to visually survey the areas from field margins.

- 2.2.3 The survey did not cover aquatic plant INNS. This is not considered a significant limitation to the survey, as no construction works will occur within the river channel of either the River Till or River Avon. The only works within 8m of the river bank are landscape planting, resurfacing works on the existing A303 River Avon bridge and construction of the River Till viaduct<sup>5</sup>, which are unlikely to cause the spread of any aquatic INNS.

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<sup>5</sup> Resurfacing of the River Avon bridge and construction of the River Till viaduct will within 8m above the river channels, hence unlikely to spread aquatic INNS.

### 3 Results

- 3.1.1 Three stands of variegated yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon argentatum*) were recorded within the Survey Area. Details of these stands are shown in Table 3-1.
- 3.1.2 Appendix A shows the locations of the stands of variegated yellow archangel. Two of the stands are in areas where they may be disturbed by the Scheme, while the third is outside of the Order limits.
- 3.1.3 No other plant INNS were recorded within the Survey Area during the survey.

**Table 3-1: Summary of INNS within the Survey Area**

INNS reference	Species	Location	Approximate area of stand	Description	Photograph reference (Appendix B)
INNS-1	Variegated yellow archangel	SU 18174 42652	1.5 x 0.5 m	Located within a plantation woodland on bark chippings that appeared to have been brought into the area.	Photograph 1 and 2
INNS-2	Variegated yellow archangel	SU 18163 42659	5 x 0.5 m	Located adjacent to track within woodland. Area seemed fairly disturbed.	Photograph 3 and 4
INNS-3	Variegated yellow archangel	SU 06760 40839	0.5 x 0.5 m	Located adjacent to a layby of the A303.	Photograph 5

## 4 Control Options and Recommendations

- 4.1.1 Two control options are suitable for this species, these are treating the plants with herbicide or removal by excavation.
- 4.1.2 To satisfy the requirements outlined within items PW-BIO1, MW-BIO5 and MW-BIO6 of the OEMP, an INNS Management Plan, detailing control measures, will be prepared for works affecting, or in close proximity to, the recorded stands<sup>6</sup>. The INNS Management Plan will be incorporated into the Construction Environmental Management Plan to be implemented during the construction period of the relevant works. The INNS Management Plan will be updated as necessary during the construction period, should pre-construction surveys record previously unidentified INNS.

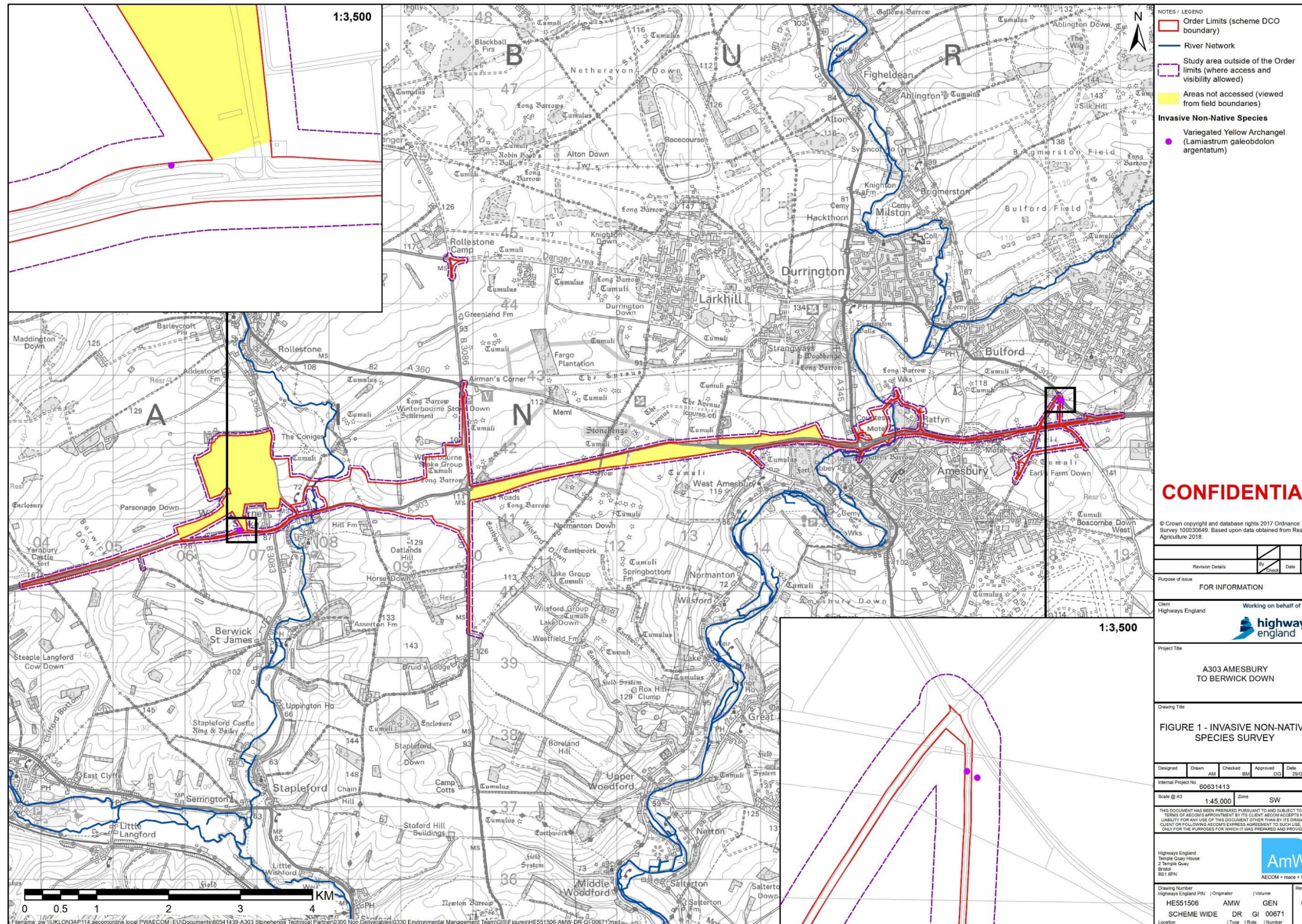
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<sup>6</sup> The preliminary works highways works are in proximity to the recorded stands, therefore an INNS Management Plan will be produced for these works. No other preliminary works packages require an INNS Management Plan.

# Appendices



## Appendix A Survey area and INNS records



- NOTES / LEGEND
- Order Limits (scheme DCO boundary)
  - River Network
  - Study area outside of the Order limits (where access and visibility allowed)
  - Areas not accessed (viewed from field boundaries)
- Invasive Non-Native Species**
- Variegated Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon argentatum*)

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Revision	Details	By	Check	Date	Diff

Purpose of Issue: FOR INFORMATION

Client: Highways England  
Working on behalf of:

Project Title: A303 AMESBURY TO BERWICK DOWN

Drawing Title: FIGURE 1 - INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES SURVEY

Designed	Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
AM	BM	DD		29/07/20

Internal Project No: 60631413  
Scale @ A3: 1:45,000 Zone: SW

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# Appendix B Photographs



**Photograph 1: INNS-1, variegated yellow archangel on wood chippings pile**



**Photograph 2: INNS-1, zoomed out view of variegated yellow archangel**



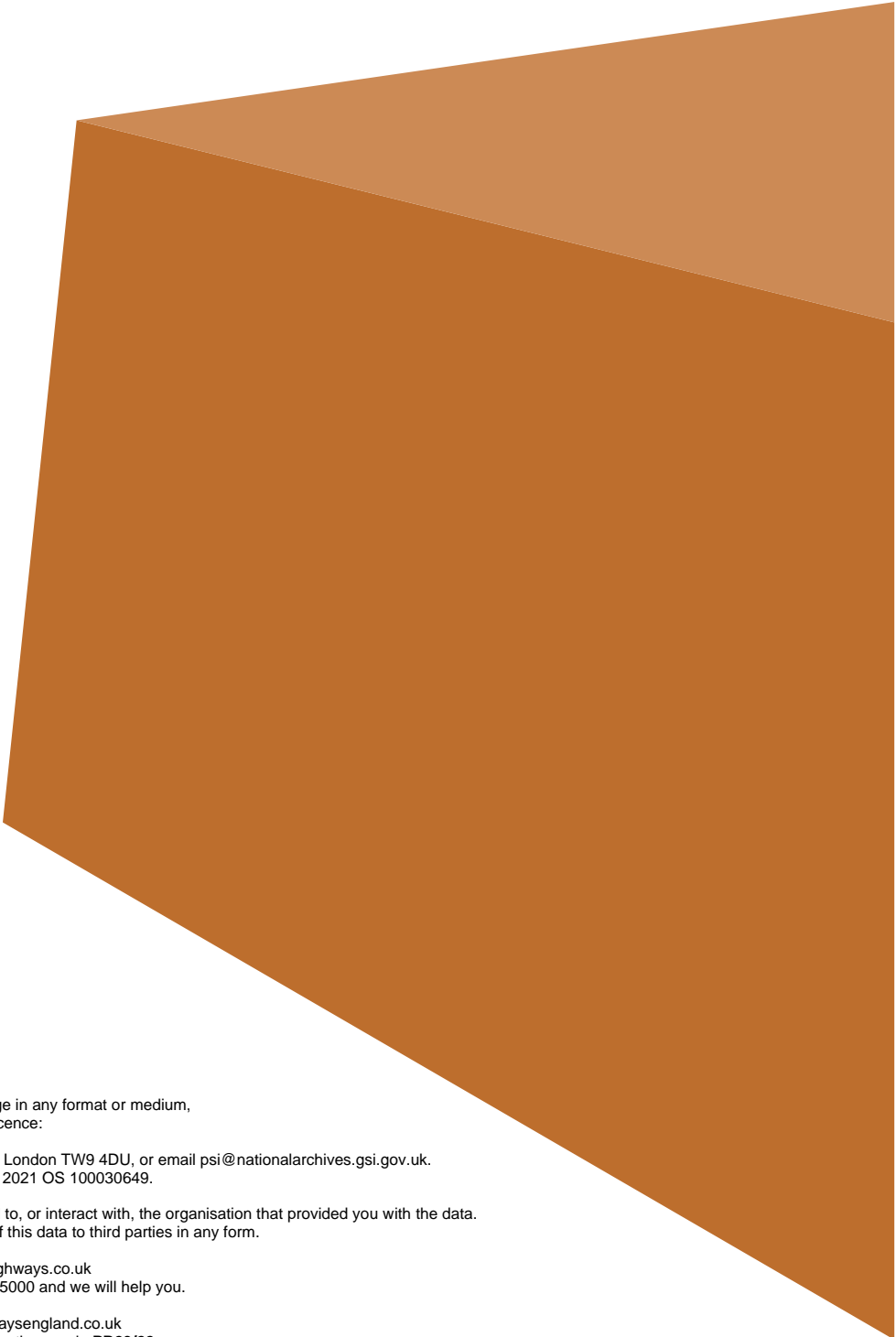
**Photograph 3: INNS-2, variegated yellow archangel adjacent to byway track in plantation woodland**



**Photograph 4: INNS-2, zoomed out view of variegated yellow archangel**



**Photograph 5: INN-3, variegated yellow archangel located adjacent to layby.**



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