

**M42 Junction 6 Improvement  
Scheme Number TR010027  
Volume 6  
6.3 Environmental Statement  
Appendix 9.8 Dormouse Report**

Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

January 2019

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning  
(Applications: Prescribed Forms  
and Procedure) Regulations 2009**

**M42 Junction 6 Improvement  
Development Consent Order 202[-]**

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**6.3 Environmental Statement  
Appendix 9.8 Dormouse Report**

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<b>Regulation Number</b>	Regulation 5(2)(a)
<b>Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference</b>	TR010027
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<b>Author</b>	M42 Junction 6 Improvement Project Team and Highways England

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1	January 2019	DCO Application



Highways England

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# M42 JUNCTION 6 IMPROVEMENT

## Dormouse Survey Report







Highways England

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# **M42 JUNCTION 6 IMPROVEMENT**

Dormouse Survey Report

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**PROJECT NO. 62241010**

**OUR REF. NO. 001**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 2017**



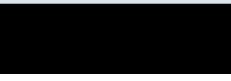
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# QUALITY CONTROL

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Checked by	Becky Bailey			
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# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	BACKGROUND	1
1.2	SCHEME LOCATION	1
1.3	STUDY AREA	1
1.4	STUDY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	1
<b>2</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	FIELD SURVEY	2
2.2	LIMITATIONS	2
<b>3</b>	<b>RESULTS AND EVALUATION</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	FIELD SURVEY	3
3.2	OVERVIEW OF RESULTS	3
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>4</b>

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## **TABLES**

Table 1 - Index of probability of finding dormice present in nest tubes in any one month (taken from Bright et al., 2006)	2
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## **FIGURES**

Figure 1 – Location of Dormouse Nest Tubes	5
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 BACKGROUND

1.1.1. WSP (formerly Mouchel) was commissioned by Highways England to undertake ecological surveys to inform the proposed M42 Junction 6 Improvement Scheme. Hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* surveys were undertaken between May and September 2017, the aim of which was to confirm the presence or likely absence of dormouse from suitable habitats within the Study Area. This report presents the results of the survey work undertaken.

## 1.2 SCHEME LOCATION

1.2.1. At the time of commission, three possible route options (Options 1, 2 and 3) were being considered. All three options are predominantly located to the south-west of Junction 6 close to the village of Bickenhill, although all route options also include improvements to the junction itself. The land within the proposed scheme is predominantly used for agriculture and pasture grazing, although the scheme is also close to the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham International Railway Station and Birmingham Airport as well as proposed developments including High Speed 2 (HS2) route and terminal, a Motorway Service Area (MSA) and UK Central development.

1.2.2. During the course of the surveys, Option 1 was selected as the preferred route. However, survey work continued across all three route options following this decision. This ensured that a comprehensive survey for dormouse, examining suitable habitat within the wider route options corridor, was undertaken allowing for a robust assessment of the impact of the preferred route on this species.

## 1.3 STUDY AREA

1.3.1. The Study Area included all suitable habitat located within and immediately adjacent to the three proposed route options. Surveys were focussed on habitats which were likely to be directly lost. This included areas of woodland, including Apsbury's Copse ancient woodland, and the network of hedgerows across the Study Area.

## 1.4 STUDY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.4.1. The aim of this study was to determine whether dormouse are present within the study area. In order to achieve this, field surveys were undertaken to confirm the presence or absence of dormice within suitable habitat in the survey area.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 FIELD SURVEY

- 2.1.1. Dormouse presence/absence surveys were undertaken in accordance with best practice guidance methods recommended in The Dormouse Conservation Handbook (Bright et al., 2006) and in accordance with standard methodology provided by Natural England (2011).
- 2.1.2. To ensure adequate survey effort, The Dormouse Conservation Handbook recommends using an index of probability of finding dormice, as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 - Index of probability of finding dormice present in nest tubes in any one month (taken from Bright et al., 2006)**

Month	Index of Probability
April	1
May	4
June	2
July	2
August	5
September	7
October	2
November	2

- 2.1.3. The 'score' should be no less than twenty; scores lower than this should not be taken as indicating absence. The index uses fifty nest tubes as a standard, placed at a density of one tube every 20m, but if twice as many tubes are used then the score can legitimately be doubled (Natural England, 2011).
- 2.1.4. A total of 275 tubes were deployed across areas of suitable habitat at a density of one tube every 20m. Suitable habitat includes areas of woodland and hedgerows, and surveys focussed on those habitats likely to be directly impacted by each of the three route options. Habitats which were isolated and in particular, hedgerows with large gaps along their length were discounted as they do not provide suitable habitat for dormice.
- 2.1.5. Tubes were deployed in May 2017 and left in situ until September 2017, sufficient to provide a score of 20 for survey effort. The placement of tubes across the Study Area is shown in Figure 1.
- 2.1.6. Every month, each tube was inspected for the presence of dormice or recently constructed dormice nests. The surveyors also looked for other evidence of dormice such as hazelnut shells showing evidence of having been eaten by dormice during these visits.

### 2.2 LIMITATIONS

- 2.2.1. There were no limitations to the work undertaken.

## **3 RESULTS AND EVALUATION**

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### **3.1 FIELD SURVEY**

3.1.1. No dormice or evidence of dormice were found during the nest tube surveys.

### **3.2 OVERVIEW OF RESULTS**

3.2.1. No records of dormice were identified from the desk study and no evidence of dormice was found within the survey area during field surveys applied with appropriate survey effort. It is therefore concluded that dormice are absent from the habitats within the survey area and are not an ecological constraint to the proposed works.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Bright, P., Morris, P. and Mitchell-Jones, T. (2006). The Dormouse Conservation Handbook. Second Edition. English Nature, Peterborough.
- JNCC (2010) UK priority species pages – *Muscardinus avellanarius*. Version 2.
- Natural England (2011) Species Information Note SIN005. Second edition.



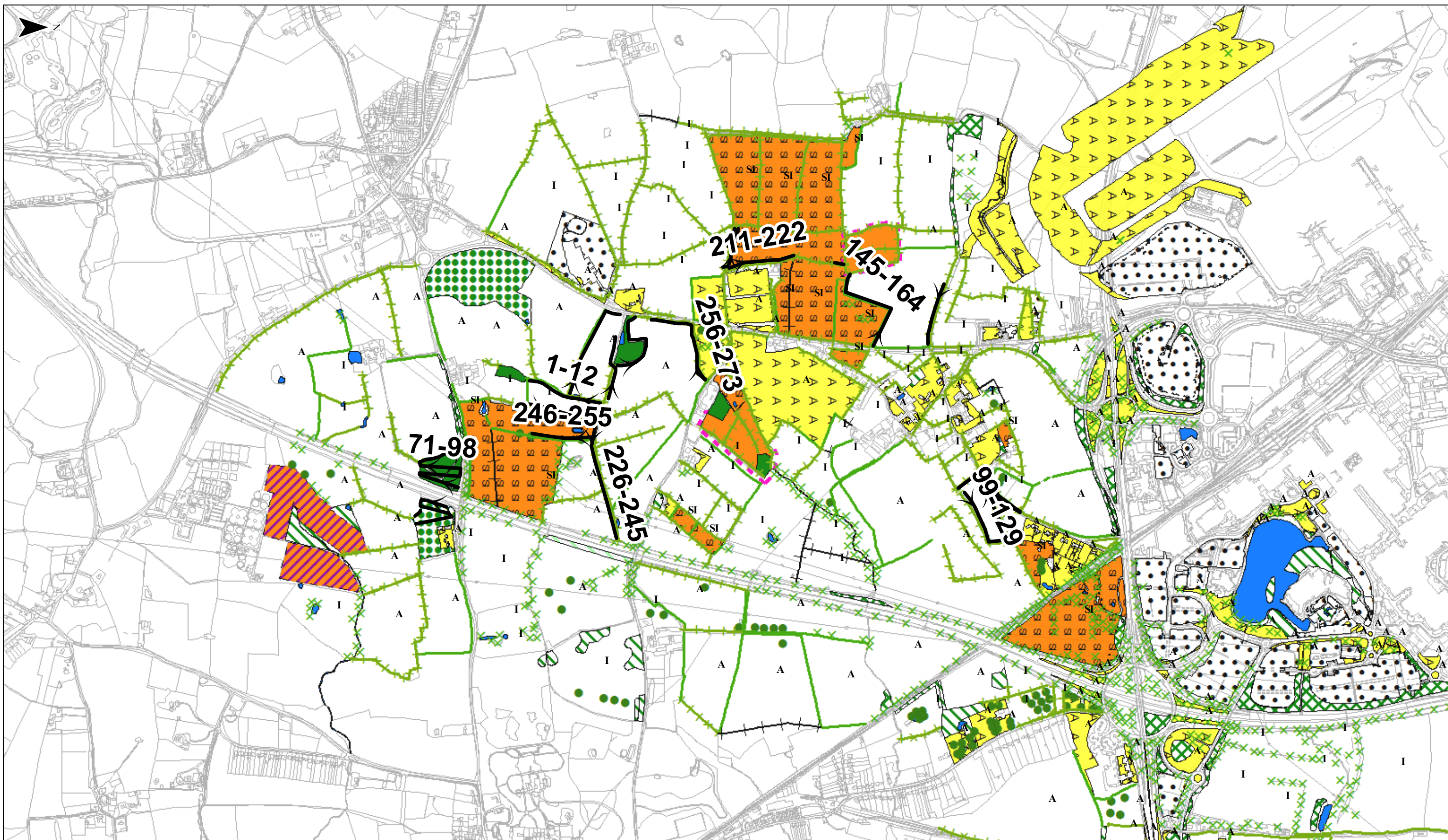
**Figure 1 – Location of Dormouse Nest Tubes**



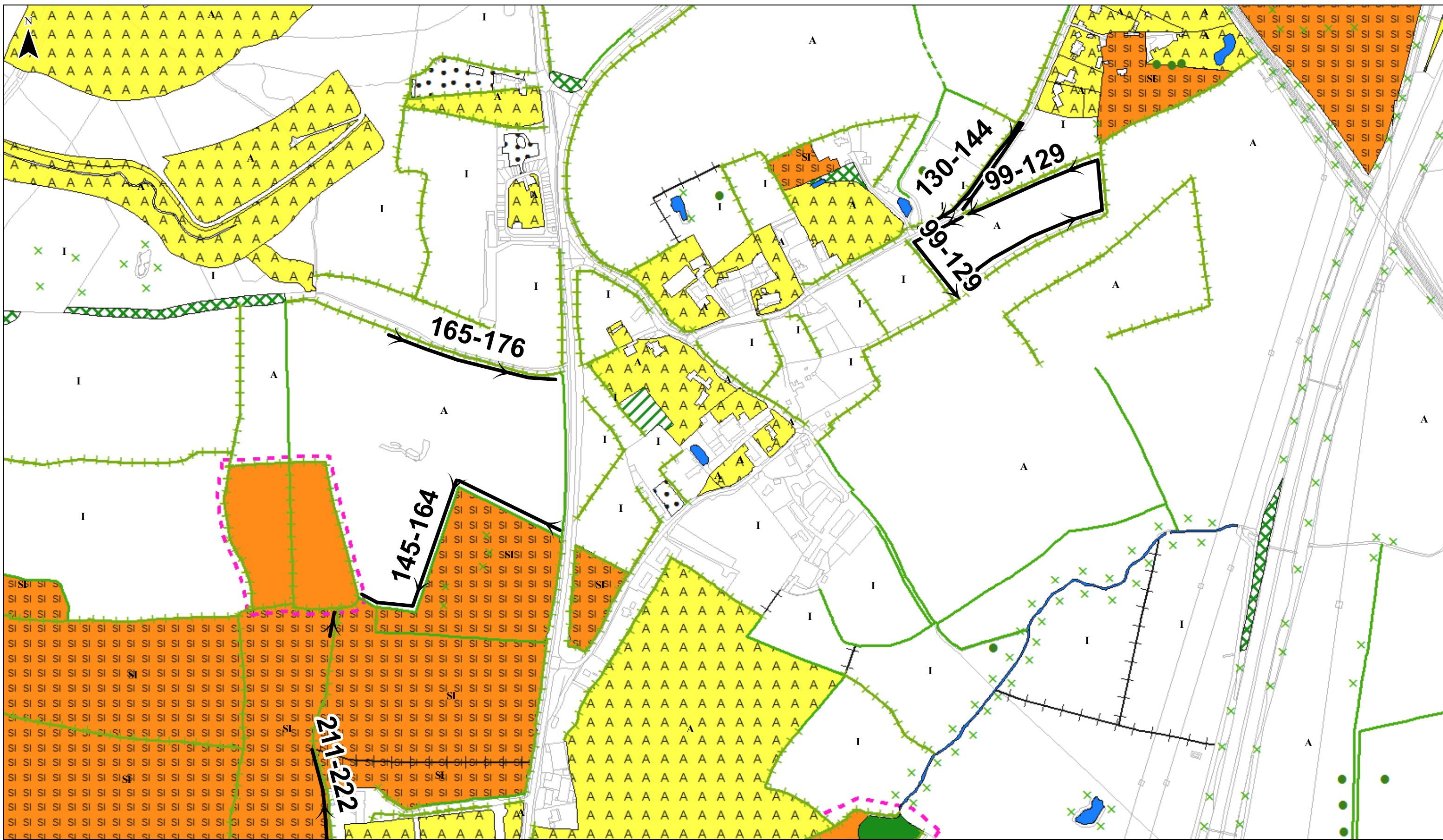
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<b>Legend</b>														
<b>Habitats</b> Amenity Grassland (A)rable/(I)mproved/(S)emi-(I)mproved Grassland Bare Ground Broad-leaved Plantation Woodland		Broad-leaved Semi-natural Woodland SSSI Coniferous Plantation Woodland Dense Scrub Marshy Grassland Mixed Semi-natural Woodland Semi-improved Grassland		Standing Water Unimproved Neutral Grassland Fence Species Poor Defunct Hedge Species Poor Hedge and Trees Species Poor Intact Hedge Watercourse		Scrub Tree								
<b>Client</b> Highways England		<b>Version</b> A		<b>Scale (at A3 size)</b> 1:12,500										
<b>Project</b> M42 J6 Improvement Scheme		<b>Amendment</b> First Issue		<b>Purpose of Issue</b> Information										
<b>Drawing Title</b> Dormice tube layout		<b>Office</b> Blackfriars		<b>Drawing Number</b> Page 1 of 4										
		<b>Revision History</b>		<b>Approval</b>										
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>15/05/17</td> <td>29/05/17</td> <td>12/05/17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JR</td> <td>LE</td> <td>AB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drawing Date</td> <td>Review Date</td> <td>Approved Date</td> </tr> </table>		15/05/17	29/05/17	12/05/17	JR	LE	AB	Drawing Date	Review Date	Approved Date		
15/05/17	29/05/17	12/05/17												
JR	LE	AB												
Drawing Date	Review Date	Approved Date												
		<b>Telephone</b> 020 7822 2497												



Legend	
Dormice tube numbers	Broad-leaved Semi-natural Woodland
<b>Habitats</b>	Standing Water
Amenity Grassland	Unimproved Neutral Grassland
(A)rable/(I)mproved/(S)emi-(I)mproved Grassland	Fenc e
Bare Ground	Species Poor Defunct Hedge
Broad-leaved Plantation Woodland	Species Poor Hedge and Trees
SSSI	Species Poor Intact Hedge
Coniferous Plantation Woodland	Watercourse
Dense Scrub	Scrub
Marshy Grassland	Tree
Mixed Semi-natural Woodland	
Semi-improved Grassland	

Client	Highways England		Scale (at A3 size)		1:4,500										
Project	M42 J6 Improvement Scheme		Purpose of Issue		Information										
Drawing Title	Dormice tube layout		Drawing Number		Page 2 of 4										
Version	A	First Issue	15/05/17 JR	29/05/17 LE	12/05/17 AB										
Office	Blackfriars	Tel	020 7822 2497												
			<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Version</th> <th>Amendment</th> <th>Drawing Date</th> <th>Review Date</th> <th>Approved Date</th> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>First Issue</td> <td>15/05/17 JR</td> <td>29/05/17 LE</td> <td>12/05/17 AB</td> </tr> </table>			Version	Amendment	Drawing Date	Review Date	Approved Date	A	First Issue	15/05/17 JR	29/05/17 LE	12/05/17 AB
			Version	Amendment	Drawing Date	Review Date	Approved Date								
A	First Issue	15/05/17 JR	29/05/17 LE	12/05/17 AB											

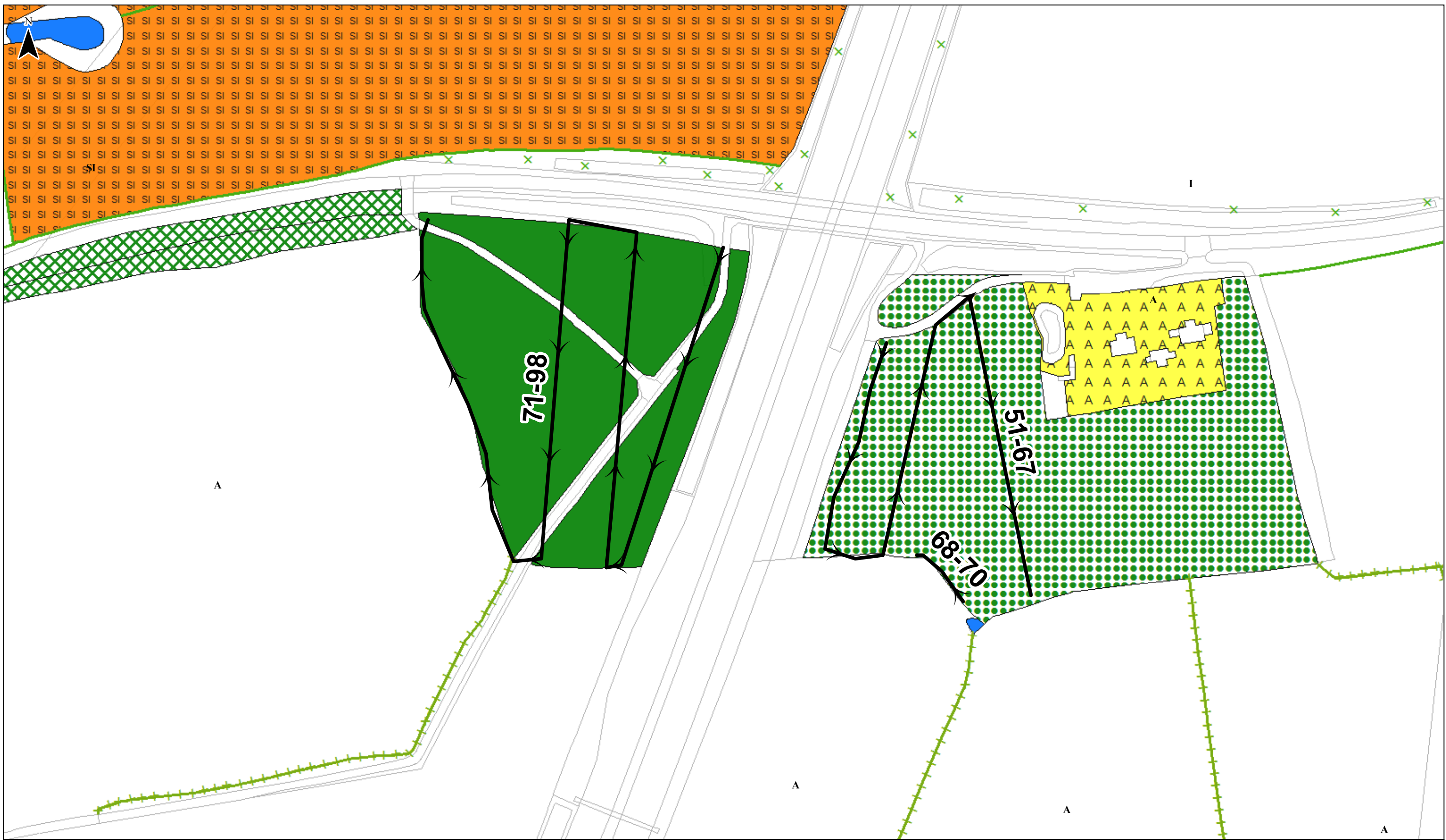


**Legend**

**Habitats**

- Amenity Grassland
- (A)menity/(I)mproved/(S)emi-(I)mproved Grassland
- Bare Ground
- Broad-leaved Plantation Woodland
- Broad-leaved Semi-natural Woodland
- SSSI
- Coniferous Plantation Woodland
- Dense Scrub
- Marshy Grassland
- Mixed Semi-natural Woodland
- Semi-improved Grassland
- Standing Water
- Unimproved Neutral Grassland
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- Species Poor Defunct Hedge
- Species Poor Hedge and Trees
- Species Poor Intact Hedge
- Watercourse
- Scrub
- Tree

	A	First Issue	15/05/17 JR	29/05/17 LE	12/05/17 AB
Version	Amendment	Drawing Date	Review Date	Approved Date	
Client	Highways England		Scale (at A3 size) 1:4,200		
Project	M42 J6 Improvement Scheme		Purpose of Issue Information		
Drawing Title	Dormice tube layout		Office Blackfriars	Tel 020 7822 2497	Drawing Number Page 3 of 4



<b>Legend</b>		
Dormice tube numbers	Broad-leaved Semi-natural Woodland	Standing Water
<b>Habitats</b>	SSSI	Unimproved Neutral Grassland
Amenity Grassland	Coniferous Plantation Woodland	Scrub
(A)menity/(I)mproved/(S)emi-(I)mproved Grassland	Dense Scrub	Tree
Bare Ground	Marshy Grassland	Fence
Broad-leaved Plantation Woodland	Mixed Semi-natural Woodland	Species Poor Defunct Hedge
Semi-improved Grassland	Species Poor Hedge and Trees	Species Poor Intact Hedge
	Watercourse	

Client	Highways England		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>First Issue</td> <td>15/05/17</td> <td>29/05/17</td> <td>12/05/17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Version</td> <td>Amendment</td> <td>Drawing Date</td> <td>Review Date</td> <td>Approved Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>AB</td> </tr> </table>			A	First Issue	15/05/17	29/05/17	12/05/17	Version	Amendment	Drawing Date	Review Date	Approved Date					AB
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