

Date: 20 April 2022
Our ref: 383836
Your ref: TR010039



National Infrastructure Planning
The Planning Inspectorate

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/Madam,

NSIP Reference Name / Code: TR010039 A47 Wansford to Sutton
User Code: 20029797

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

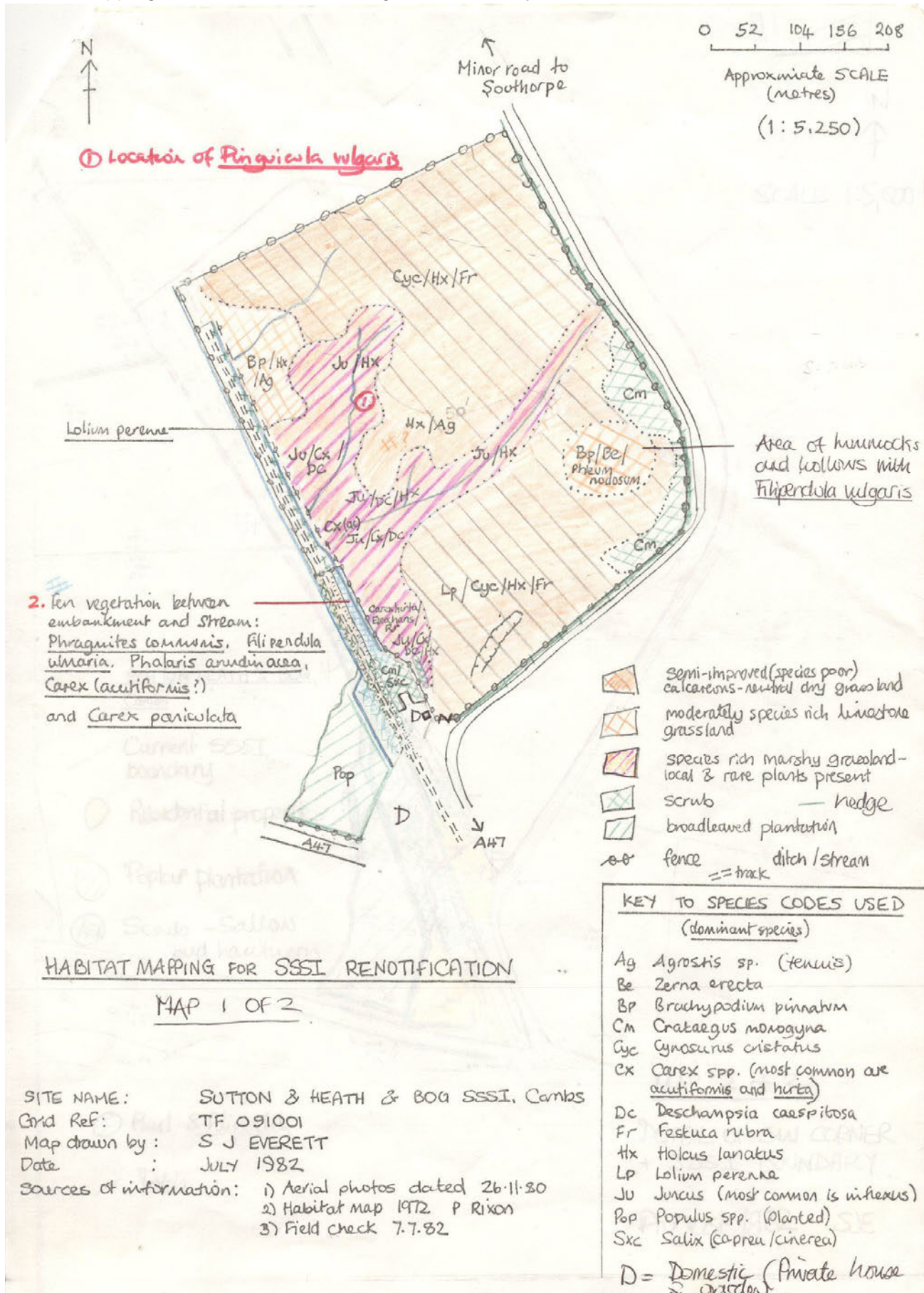
Please find below our responses to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) further written questions and requests for information – ExQ2.

<p>2.2.1. Standing advice On 14 January 2022 Natural England and the Forestry Commission updated their standing advice in respect of protected species and ancient woodland, ancient trees, and veteran trees. Could the Applicant, NE and PCC please make any comments they feel appropriate in light of these revisions.</p>	<p>Natural England has no further comments to make regarding the updated standing advice for protected species and ancient woodland, ancient trees, and veteran trees.</p>
<p>2.2.2. Sutton Heath and Bog SSSI In its response to ExQ1.2.8 the Applicant indicates that “the habitat 40m into the SSSI is largely deciduous woodland containing species which are not sensitive to nitrogen deposition”. a) Is NE satisfied with this statement and able to confirm this? b) If not, could NE provide evidence to show that the Applicant’s approach is not appropriate.</p>	<p>a) The information available to Natural England concurs that the habitat referenced is largely deciduous woodland. The degree to which this habitat is sensitive to nitrogen deposition is not considered relevant to our remit as deciduous woodland is not a designated feature of the SSSI.</p> <p>Further information relating to the designation of Sutton Heath and Bog SSSI is provided below. Whilst this does not definitively clear up the reason for designation of this area of woodland, the applicant may consider this useful in supporting their position that it was included because of its hydrological importance. Natural England confirmed at</p>

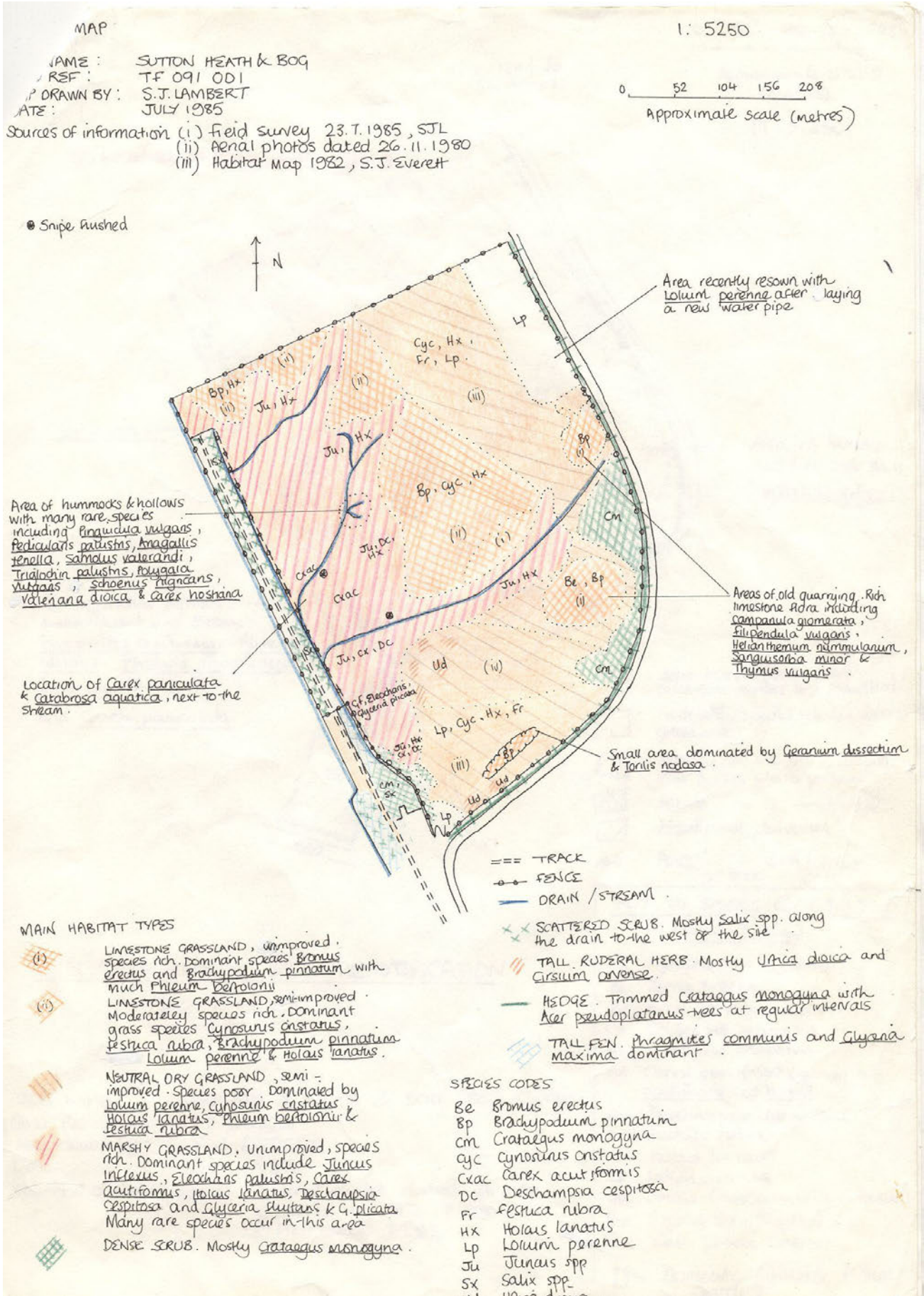
	<p>examination that this seemed a logical conclusion.</p> <p>Whilst a hydrological connection between the affected area and the designated feature provides an additional pathway for pollutants Natural England is of the view that this is unlikely to be sufficient to cause an adverse effect on the SSSI.</p>
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Information on why Sutton Heath and Bog SSSI was designated

Habitat mapping of Sutton Heath and Bog SSSI from July 1982



Habitat mapping of Sutton Heath and Bog SSSI from July 1985



COUNTY: CAMBRIDGESHIRE **SITE NAME:** SUTTON HEATH AND BOG

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authorities: Peterborough City Council

National Grid Reference: TF 090000

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 142 **1:10,000:** TF 00 SE, TL 09 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1955 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 **Date of Last Revision:**

Area: 17.9 ha 44 ac

Other information: A boundary reduction has been made at this revision to exclude an area of poplar plantation.

Description and Reasons for Notification

This area supports grassland communities of two main types, namely calcareous grassland of the Jurassic limestone type and neutral grassland of the base-poor marsh type. The former grassland communities are restricted to the belt of countryside running from the western Cotswolds through Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough to eastern Lincolnshire where the Jurassic limestone outcrops occur. The base-poor marsh communities hold species more typical of a northern distribution. In a Cambridgeshire context these marsh and grassland community types are uncommon and their conservation is especially important in retaining the range of distribution of these types. The management is traditionally sheep and cattle grazing and this maintains the variety of plants by suppressing the more vigorously growing species which might otherwise predominate.

The Jurassic limestone grassland communities are characteristically species-rich. They are further characterised by the dominance of such grasses as sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and upright brome *Zerna erecta*. A variety of other grasses and associated herbs are present. These include the grasses Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea* together with a variety of sedges and other marsh plants. The base-poor marsh communities occur along spring flushes and support a rich flora including a number of plants uncommon in the region.

Criteria for selection of Sutton Heath and Bog SSSI

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SSSI

WCS/287

SI	NAME: SUTTON HEATH & BOG	Selection Area: Combs.
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Criteria for Selection (Biology) (PPG /83-II)

Notable Features		PPG Ref
A/B Habitat Type: CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND A.5 Eastern Jurassic limestone		AS(i)
MESOTROPHIC GRASSLAND B.20 Flush (containing <i>Rhynchospora vulgaris</i>)		AS(f)
C Species/Groups:		
C Indices: (only where greater than PPG value)		Invertebrates:
Ci(b) Vascular Plants	: —	Cii(c) :
Civ(c) Amphibia	: ND	Cii(c) N.D.:
Cvii(e) BTO Index	: —	Cii(c) :

~~Criteria for Selection (Geological and Physiographic)~~

A	B	C	D	E	F	GCR Block Code:
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Remarks:

Signed



Region

East Midlands

Date

May 1984