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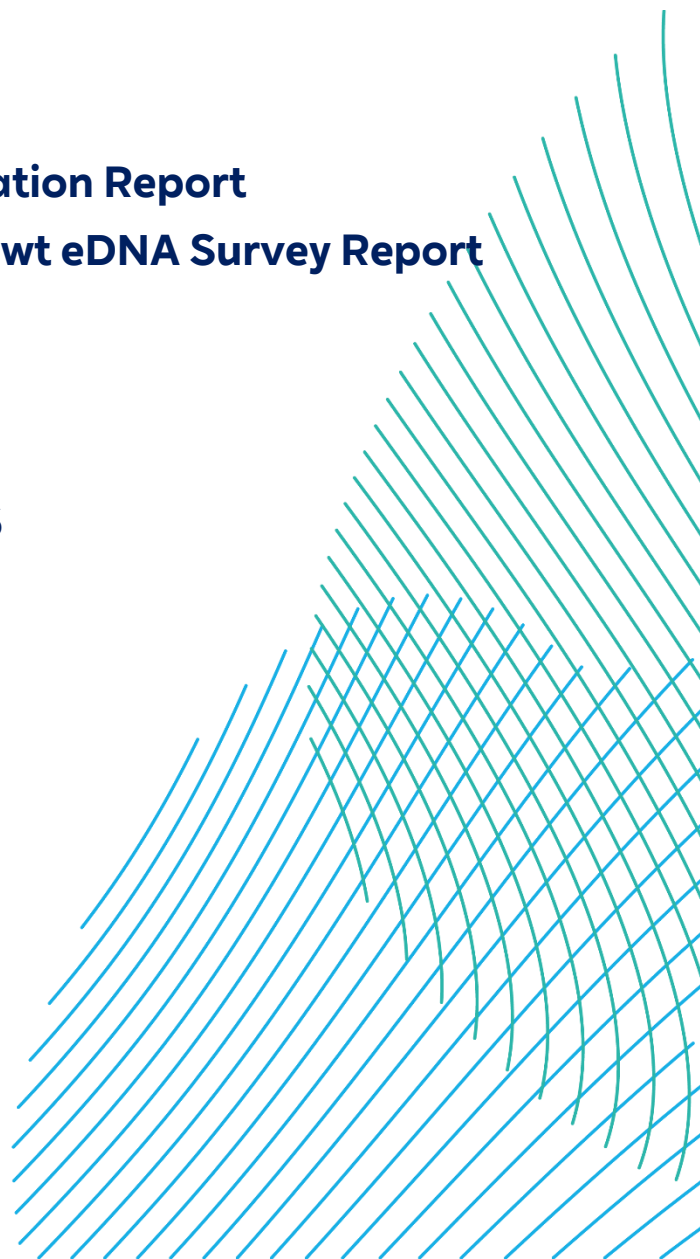
Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

**Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Appendix 18-3 – Great Crested Newt eDNA Survey Report**

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Appendix 18-3 Great Crested Newt eDNA Survey Report Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

This Report has been prepared by Peak Ecology Ltd, working with Royal HaskoningDHV on behalf of RWE Renewables. It provides the results of a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment and great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* eDNA analysis of ponds within a 250m buffer zone of the Onshore Study Area; this buffer was extended beyond 250m to include groups of ponds and ponds with good connectivity with the Onshore Study Area.

Prior to the start of the survey, a total of 41 ponds had been identified through a desk-based review of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and aerial photography, with an additional two ponds being identified during other onshore ecological surveys that were underway at the time of the eDNA survey effort.

Protected Species – Great Crested Newt

A desk-based review of GCN records obtained from the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC) was undertaken in April 2022. In addition, the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was accessed to check for the GCN licence returns from Natural England that were within the Onshore Study Area.

Daytime site visits to each identified pond were undertaken between the 27th and 29th of June 2022, with the aim of assessing each pond's potential to support GCN. All ponds, where accessible, were evaluated using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment protocol (Oldham *et al* 2000). As part of the 2022 GCN survey effort, a water sample was taken from all identified/accessible ponds within and up to 250m from the Onshore Study Area boundaries.

The results of the eDNA analysis returned a total five positive samples out of a total of the 29 ponds surveyed in 2022. Ponds; P3, P12, P13, P23 and P39 all returned a positive result for GCN eDNA. Historical records show that, Ponds; P27 and P28 have previously held populations of GCN, these records are from 2011.

The findings of both the HSI and the eDNA analysis indicate that GCN were present in several areas within the Onshore Study Area. Due to access constraints not all ponds were surveyed and additional survey effort will be required in 2023.

In that the event that the Projects could result in a breach of European and/or UK legislation then measures will need to be put in place to ensure legal compliance. Appropriate mitigation measures might be employed via one of the following mechanisms;

- Non-licenced Method Statement;
- European Protected Species Licence (EPS) for GCN, or
- GCN District Level Licensing scheme.

CONTENTS PAGE

1	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1	Scope of Report	4
1.2	Survey Area	5
1.3	Zone of Influence	5
1.4	Legislation	7
2	METHODOLOGY	7
2.1	Desk Study	7
2.2	Habitat Suitability Index	7
2.3	GCN Environmental DNA (eDNA)	8
2.4	Surveyors	8
2.5	Limitations	9
3	RESULTS	10
3.1	Great Crested Newts	10
3.2	Desk Study	10
3.3	Habitat Suitability Assessment	11
3.4	Great Created Newt Environmental DNA (eDNA)	11
4	NEXT STEPS	15
4.1	Summary	15
4.2	Avoidance and Mitigation Measures	15
5	REFERENCES	17
	Appendix A : Protected and Priority Species	18
	Appendix B: HSI Results	20
	Appendix C : Site Photographs	27
	Appendix D: Figures	41

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Summary of HSI assessment scale	8
Table 2: GCN records within the Onshore Study Area obtained from NEYEDC	10
Table 3: Pond description, HSI Score, suitability for GCN and eDNA result	11

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of Report

This Report has been prepared by Peak Ecology Ltd, working with Royal HaskoningDHV on behalf of RWE Renewables. It provides the results of a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment and great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* eDNA analysis of ponds within a 250m buffer zone of the Onshore Study Area; this buffer was extended beyond 250m to include groups of ponds and ponds with good connectivity with the Onshore Study Area.

RWE Renewables is intending to develop the proposed Dogger Bank South East and Dogger Bank South West offshore wind farm Projects, collectively known and referred to as Dogger Bank South (DBS) offshore wind farms (herein referred to as the Projects). The Projects will require an onshore export cable to be laid between the landfall location and the onshore grid connection points at Creyke Beck, south of Beverley, this area with associated infrastructure is referred to as the Onshore Study Area. At the time of the 2022 eDNA survey effort, the Onshore Study Area comprised several onshore export cable corridor route options, as shown in Appendix D, Figure 1.

All ponds subject to the 2022 eDNA survey effort are those identified to be within Onshore Study Area plus a 250m buffer. Consideration has been given to surveying ponds outside of this area where there is good terrestrial connectivity with the Onshore Study Area and/or groups of ponds which could support GCN metapopulations. For the purpose of this report the areas are based on those correct on the 1st September 2022.

This is a survey data report, and its findings will be used to inform the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA). Consequently, the purpose of this report is to:

- Detail the methods used to undertake the 2022 pond HSI Assessments and the eDNA sampling;
- Include the survey details; surveyors, weather conditions and any constraints to the 2022 eDNA survey effort;
- Provide the findings of the 2022 eDNA analysis, and
- Set out any need for additional survey work and outline recommendations for mitigation and/or avoidance measures where appropriate.

This report does not include an evaluation of impacts or detailed mitigation, as this will be further developed once a full baseline dataset has been obtained and the EclA has been completed.

The approach to this survey and report follows best practice published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2013) and the Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development (BSI, 2013). Details of individual survey methods and associated supporting information are provided in Section 2.

1.2 Survey Area

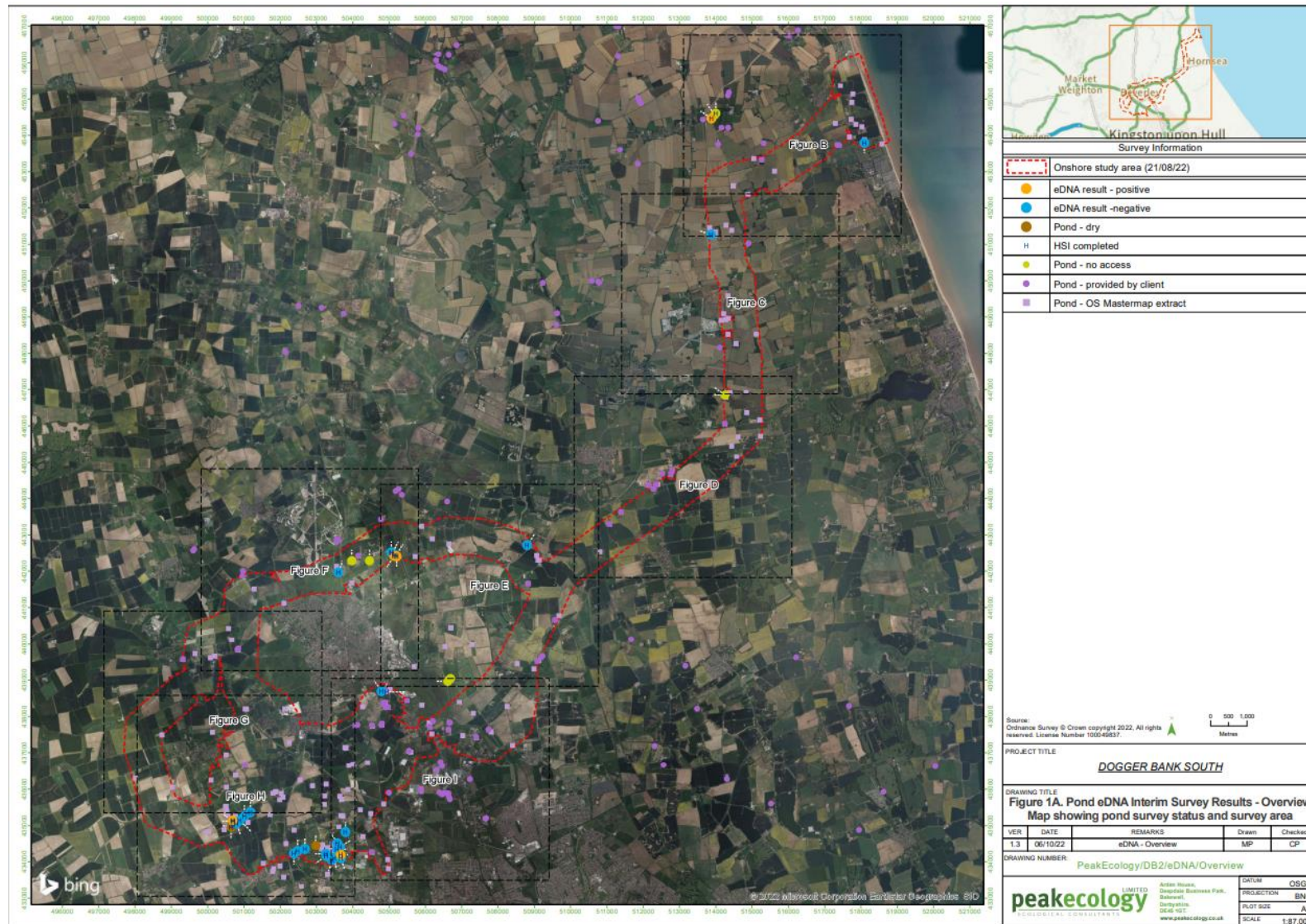
Prior to the start of the 2022 eDNA survey effort, a desk-based review identified a total of 41 ponds to be within and up to 250m from the Onshore Study Area. These 41 ponds were identified using Ordnance Survey (OS) and aerial mapping, with a further two ponds being identified from ground truthing forays, as part of the works. Therefore, a total of 43 ponds formed the basis of the 2022 eDNA survey effort. An overview map of the survey area including all 43 pond locations can be seen in Appendix D, Figure 1.

Ponds were located in a vast range of differing habitats, including; open farmland/pasture, dense woodland, amenity grassland as well as private estates, golf courses and within recreational commercial fisheries.

1.3 Zone of Influence

The geographical extent of the potential impact of a proposed development is known as the Zone of Influence (ZoI). The ZoI is determined by the nature of the development and also in relation to individual species, depending on their habitat requirements, mobility and distances indicated in any best practice guideline.

In relation to GCN the ZoI is considered to be 250m from the onshore export cable corridor, the onshore substation zones and the landfall locations. This may be extended in areas where there is good connectivity between ponds and the Onshore Study Area or there are groups of ponds which could support GCN metapopulations.



1.4 Legislation

GCN are a European Protected Species (EPS), listed under the EU Habitats Directive and Appendix II of the Bern Convention (1979). They are also listed under Schedule 2 of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 and Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As such, it is an offence to:

- Intentionally or deliberately capture, kill or injure a GCN;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or disturb a breeding site or resting place;
- Possess a GCN, or any part of it; and
- Sell, barter, exchange or transport GCN.

GCN are also listed as a Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study

A desk-based review of GCN records obtained from the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC) was undertaken in April 2022. In addition, the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was accessed to check for the GCN licence returns from Natural England that were within the Onshore Study Area. The desk study has been reported in a standalone document but relevant information to GCN has been included in this report.

2.2 Habitat Suitability Index

Daytime site visits were carried out between the 27th and 29th of June 2022, with the aim of assessing each pond's potential to support GCN. All ponds, where accessible and present, were evaluated using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment protocol as devised by Oldham *et al*, (2000). During each daytime visit, each accessible pond was assessed against ten key habitat criteria or Suitability Indices (SI), as listed below:

- SI1 Geographic area;
- SI2 Pond area;
- SI3 Pond drying;
- SI4 Water quality;
- SI5 % Shoreline shade;
- SI6 Presence of waterfowl;
- SI7 Presence of fish;
- SI8 Pond count within 1km;
- SI9 Terrestrial habitat quality; and,
- SI10 % Macrophyte cover.

Based on a standardised scoring system, each individual SI will produce a score of between 0 and 1, these scores are then used within a specific calculation to provide an overall score for each pond. The scores equate to a GCN habitat suitability rating as per Table 1, below.

Table 1: Summary of HSI assessment scale

HSI score	Pond Suitability	Occupancy Rate
<0.5	Poor	3%
0.5 – 0.59	Below average	20%
0.6 – 0.69	Average	55%
0.7 – 0.79	Good	79%
>0.8	Excellent	93%

In general, ponds with higher HSI scores are more likely to support GCN than those with lower scores, however this alone does not determine whether or not a pond should be subject to further survey, but rather provides an indication of habitat suitability to aid professional judgement on survey requirements and is a useful tool for informing mitigation or ecological enhancement proposals.

2.3 GCN Environmental DNA (eDNA)

Organisms release DNA into the environment constantly in urine, faeces, gametes, shed skin or hair etc. GCN are no exception to this and as a result GCN presence can be detected by extracting their DNA from the water in which live; GCN eDNA can be detected for up to three weeks after it has left the animal. Natural England now recognise this methodology as a tool for determining presence/absence of GCN from non-flowing waterbodies like ponds and lakes etc.

As part of this assessment, GCN eDNA sampling was carried out across all identified/accessible ponds within the 250m buffer of the proposed scheme alignment, in areas where access on to private land had been agreed. Consideration has been given to surveying ponds outside of this area where there is good terrestrial connectivity with the Onshore Study Area and/or groups of ponds which could support GCN metapopulations.

All water samples were collected by GCN licenced ecologists and in accordance with Natural England's WC1067 Advice Note for field and laboratory sampling of GCN eDNA (2014).

2.4 Surveyors

The survey teams were led by Senior Surveyor Darran Sharp BSc (Hons) Class Licence (2015-16963-CLC-CLS) and Ecologist Frank Marshall HND Class Licence (2018-33984-CLS-CLS). They were assisted by Field Ecologist Amy Wardle and Graduate Ecologist Eve Scott. All of the survey team are appropriately qualified for this type of survey based on the CIEEM competency framework (CIEEM, 2013).

2.5 Limitations

2.5.1 Access

Landowner access across the Onshore Study Area was limited; the number of ponds that could be accessed was 41.

Locked gates and dense vegetation limited access to ponds, P6, P7, P14, P15, P17 and P18, thus preventing several HSI and eDNA assessments from being undertaken. These sites will be revisited as part of the 2023 survey campaign.

In addition, ponds P2, P10, P27, P28, P31 and P35 were found to be dry at the time of survey and, therefore could not be assessed by eDNA analysis. These sites will be revisited as part of the 2023 survey campaign to check if they are still dry.

2.5.2 Survey Timing and Conditions

The survey was undertaken within the appropriate survey window, Mid-April to end of June, under suitable weather conditions.

2.5.3 Lifespan of Data

HSI and eDNA results could change at any time but it is generally considered unlikely. It is recommended that the need to repeat the survey effort is reviewed after a two-year period.

3 **RESULTS**

3.1 **Great Crested Newts**

A total of 41 ponds were identified from a desk-based review to form the basis of the 2022 eDNA survey effort; however, pond P14 was withdrawn prior to the HSI walkover assessments due to landowner access constraints. Two additional ponds, referenced PA and PB, were identified during the survey and included for HSI assessment and eDNA analysis. Maps showing specific locations of all ponds can be found in Appendix D, Figure 1.

3.2 **Desk Study**

Biological records obtained from North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC) showed that there were records of GCN within the Onshore Study Area; these are presented in Table 2 below and in Appendix D, Figure 2.

Table 2: GCN records within the Onshore Study Area obtained from NEYEDC

Location	Grid Reference	Date	Abundance
Beeford	TA1287354287	2014	2
Catwick	TA11804624	2018	40
Catwick	TA11814625	2018	127
Catwick	TA11814625	2018	121
Catwick	TA11814627	2018	64
Catwick	TA11814627	2018	101
Catwick	TA11814627	2018	121
Cottingham	TA048323	2013	1
Risby	TA0057035628	2013	8
Swine Moor Common	TA046408	2016	62
Swine Moor Common	TA047409	2016	194
Swine Moor Common	TA047409	2016	217
Swine Moor Common	TA047409	2016	17
Swine Moor Common	TA047409	2016	109
Swine Moor Common	TA047409	2016	198
Swine Moor Common	TA047409	2016	50
Tickton	TA066419	2009	1

Appendix D, Figure 2 shows the results of a search, using MAGIC, for the relevant Natural England GCN EPS licence information within the Onshore Study Area.

3.3 Habitat Suitability Assessment

Habitat suitability assessments were undertaken on 31 ponds, the results of which are presented within Table 3. The remaining 12 ponds could not be assessed; full assessment tables are included in Appendix B.

3.4 Great Crested Newt Environmental DNA (eDNA)

The results of the eDNA analysis returned a total of five positive samples (specifically for Ponds, P3, P12, P13, P23 and P39) out of the 29 ponds that were analysed; data is presented in Table 3 and also mapped in Appendix D, Figure 1.

Historical records show that, ponds P27 and P28 have previously held populations of GCN, these records are from 2011, both ponds were dry or almost dry at the time of the 2022 eDNA survey effort and therefore were not sampled.

Table 3: Pond description, HSI Score, suitability for GCN and eDNA result

Pond	OS grid ref	Description	HSI Score	Suitability for GCN	eDNA
P1	TA 13980 54611	Medium-sized Pond, approximately 80% of the pond was devoid of water. Deep mud surrounded a central pool of water, which prevented access for eDNA sampling. Woodland with dominant willow <i>Salix sp.</i> surrounded the full extent of pond defined by a high-water mark. Water present in the centre was dominated with duck weed <i>Lemnoideae</i> .	0.92	Excellent	No landowner access for eDNA in 2022
P2	TA 13952 54578	No HSI undertaken – No access to the pond was available at the time of the 2022 eDNA survey effort due to barbed wire fence and very dense vegetation. From a limited view the pond appeared completely dry with terrestrial vegetation growing in its place.			
P3	TA 13837 54466	Garden pond with thick marginal woodland vegetation, shaded by overhanging willows <i>Salix sp.</i> Area of water dominated with yellow flag iris <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> .	0.77	Good	Positive
P4	TA 18069 53812	Large pond on golf course containing patches of common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i> . High water fowl presence, including coot <i>Fulica atra</i> , mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> and Canada geese <i>Branta canadensis</i> . Fish stocking likely.	0.52	Below Average	Negative

Pond	OS grid ref	Description	HSI Score	Suitability for GCN	eDNA
P5	TA 13875 51243	Marginal vegetation surrounding pond including rushes (<i>Juncus</i> sp), large amount of duckweed <i>Lemna minor</i> and shoreline shade provided by ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> .	0.58	Below Average	Negative
P6	TA 14248 46876	No HSI undertaken – no landowner access.			
P7	TA 14238 46843	No HSI undertaken – no landowner access.			
P8	TA 08758 42720	Single elongate pond in two sections very turbid, containing large fish inc carp, with steep banks and little to no marginal vegetation.	0.29	Poor	Negative
P9	TA 05045 42518	Algae-dominated pond fringed by stands of common reed, depth approximately 50cm	0.65	Average	Negative
P10	TA 05072 42514	No HSI undertaken – pond dry, very ephemeral in nature.			
P11	TA 05165 42429	Small (<10m ²) shallow (<30cm) pond fringed with <i>Typha</i> , flag Iris <i>iris pseudacorus</i> , Water plantain <i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i> and Water forget-me-not <i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	0.54	Below Average	Negative
P12	TA 05123 42422	Small pond (<5m ²) in woodland clearing, no aquatic marginal vegetation and depth of <15cm.	0.38	Poor	Positive
P13	TA 05183 42408	Small woodland pond with dominant algae and common reed fringes.	0.45	Poor	Positive
P14	TA 03972 42281	No HSI undertaken – no landowner access granted.			
P15	TA 04475 42284	No HSI undertaken – no access to pond due to dense vegetation (nettles 2m high and dense common reed)			
P16	TA 03624 41962	Large man-made garden pond with planted marginal vegetation. Semi-abundant non-native invasive New Zealand pygmy weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i> identified. Fish stocked, minor wildfowl presence.	0.58	Below Average	Negative
P17	TA06674 39033	No HSI undertaken – no access through locked gates, (large fishing lake).			
P18	TA 06593 38979	No HSI undertaken – no access through locked gates, (large fishing lake).			

Pond	OS grid ref	Description	HSI Score	Suitability for GCN	eDNA
P19	TA 04779 38699	Shallow balancing pond adjacent to car-washing commercial unit fringed with small pockets of reedmace <i>Typha latifolia</i> .	0.56	Below Average	Negative
P20	TA 04918 38693	Irregular-shaped balancing lagoon, marginally dominated by stands of bullrush <i>Typha latifolia</i> , with stands of water plantain and broad-leaved pondweed <i>Potamogeton natans</i> HSI taken from adjacent land with binoculars – site boundary access to pond not granted.	0.83	Excellent	No landowner access for eDNA in 2022
P21	TA 01202 35389	Large fishing pond, marginal vegetation included; hairy willowherb <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> , flag iris and bramble <i>Rubus sp.</i>	0.49	Poor	Negative
P22	TA 01008 35275	Large fishing pond with marginal vegetation, including extensive stands of flag iris interspersed with the occasional immature willow.	0.49	Poor	Negative
P23	TA 00681 35161	Moderate sized, shallow woodland pond, featuring banks dominated by common herb communities interspersed with stands of bramble.	0.75	Good	Positive
P24	TA 00894 35149	Large fishing pond featuring an island with established willow and marginally dominated by flag iris.	0.49	Poor	Negative
P25	TA 00709 35142	Shaded woodland pond surrounded by extensive stands of dense bramble.	0.67	Average	Negative
P26	TA 00782 35055	Large open aspect pond with little to no marginal vegetation.	0.45	Poor	Negative
P27	TA 00682 34992	No HSI undertaken due to the pond being dry. GCN have been previously recorded in this pond in 2011.			
P28	TA 00643 34956	No HSI undertaken - the pond here was almost dry; previous knowledge of the pond suggests that it is extremely ephemeral.			
P29	TA 03787 34810	Small semi-shaded pond, approximately 25m ² in size, dominated centrally by stands of broad-leaved pondweed, fringed by dense stands of flag iris bordered by immature hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> woodland.	0.68	Average	Negative
P30	TA 03588 34517	Large pond on golf course, occasional bankside vegetation with occasional marginal lily pads. Significant wildfowl presence and significant fish stocked.	0.35	Poor	Negative

Pond	OS grid ref	Description	HSI Score	Suitability for GCN	eDNA
P31	TA 02969 34449	No HSI undertaken – the pond was completely dry at the time of the 2022 eDNA survey.			
P32	TA 03631 34413	Small pond on golf course. Steep banks with planted shrubs around 50% of the bank. Limited macrophytes in the water. Significant wildfowl presence and fish stocked.	0.75	Good	Negative
P33	TA 02675 34357	Large pond on golf course with island comprising woodland/scrub in centre. Vertical banks around 75% of the margins. Tall herb comprising surrounding vegetation. Significant wildfowl presence and fish stocked.	0.51	Below Average	Negative
P34	TA 03573 34356	Small pond with abundant common reed within the water. Planted woodland along 50% of margin. Significant wildfowl presence and significant fish stocked.	0.39	Poor	Negative
P35	TA 02438 34284	No HSI undertaken – pond dry and overgrown with terrestrial vegetation including dense scrub.			
P36	TA 02317 34232	Long wide ditch constituting a pond, marginal/bankside vegetation of tall herbs and ruderals. Water quality appeared affected by pollution. Small level of flow. Significant wildfowl presence and fish possible.	0.73	Good	Negative
P37	TA 02368 34228	Large pond on golf course with island comprising mature willow in centre. Vertical banks around 75% of the margins. Tall herb comprising surrounding vegetation. Significant wildfowl presence and numbers of fish stocked.	0.76	Good	Negative
P38	TA 03250 34220	Pond on golf course, almost fully dry and very shallow. Limited vegetation on banks and within water. Significant numbers of fish stocked.	0.53	Below Average	Negative
P39	TA 03649 34201	Elaborately shaped pond with areas of common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i> within the water. Planted woodland along 50% of margin. Wildfowl presence and fish likely present.	0.54	Below Average	Positive

Pond	OS grid ref	Description	HSI Score	Suitability for GCN	eDNA
P40	TA 03266 34176	Pond on golf course, partly dry and shallow. Woodland on 30% of the margin and occasional rush <i>Juncus effusus</i> on banks. Wildfowl presence and significant numbers of fish stock.	0.54	Below Average	Negative
P41	TA 03416 34063	Pond on golf course with planted shrubs on banks. Significant wildfowl presence and significant numbers of fish stocked.	0.58	Below Average	Negative
PA	TA 03480 34102	Pond on golf course with planted shrubs on banks, yellow flag iris and vegetation within water. Significant wildfowl presence and significant numbers of fish stocked.	0.55	Below Average	Negative
PB	TA 03665 34111	Small pond surrounded by dense woodland and scrub vegetation, and dominant common reed. Wildfowl presence and likely fish stocked.	0.78	Good	Negative

4 **NEXT STEPS**

4.1 **Summary**

The findings of both the 2022 HSI and the eDNA analysis indicate that GCN were present in five ponds within the Onshore Study Area. The HSI looks at the potential of the pond for GCN colonisation, it is only a tool used in conjunction with other more substantial methodologies including standard survey methods and eDNA sampling.

The eDNA analysis returned five positive records for GCN within the ponds surveyed. Only two of these ponds were assessed as being “Good” according to the HSI (P3 and P23 - 0.77, 0.75 respectively). The remaining three positive records came from ponds assessed as being “Poor or below average” (P12 and P13, 0.38, 0.45 respectively and P39 at 0.54 (according to HSI criteria).

Ponds P1 and P20 had the highest individual HSI values of the surveyed ponds with 0.92 and 0.83 respectively, however these two ponds were not subject to eDNA sampling due the pond edges being inaccessible at the time of the 2022 eDNA survey effort.

4.2 **Avoidance and Mitigation Measures**

Should the Projects be likely to cause an offence under either European or UK legislation (See Appendix A) mitigation and/or licensing measures will need to be put in place to ensure legal compliance. Under some circumstances, where potential impacts are temporary and unlikely, it may be appropriate to undertake works under a non-licensed method statement. However, a formal licencing route may be necessary and there are two options which are outlined below.

4.2.1 *District Level Licensing*

District level licensing, administered by Natural England (UK Gov, 2022), is an alternative approach to securing (and delivering) GCN mitigation to the traditional EPS licensing route as it has a reduced requirement for GCN data, i.e., eDNA survey data is typically only required rather than full standard GCN survey data. Natural England hold information on GCN populations which are used to predict GCN risk zones; this is then used to inform a GCN licensing strategy. In order to use district licensing the area affected by development has to be a risk zone of Amber or Green. A Red risk zone indicates a GCN population of regional, national or international importance and in this case a District Licence is not applicable. The Onshore Study Area falls within Green and Amber Zones.

4.2.2 *European Protected Species Licensing for GCN*

A EPS mitigation licence is a second option. With this licence Natural England require more detail on the GCN population(s) and on what mitigation is being put in place; the method statement is a key aspect of the licence. In addition, the impacts of the proposed work on GCN and a detailed work schedule will also need to be submitted with the application. Further to this, a statement showing there is no other satisfactory alternative for licensing as well as references to show the ecological consultant has the necessary experience to hold a GCN mitigation licence, are required. Although not a statutory determination period, Natural England typically respond within 30 working days from the date of the application submission.

In the case of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) a draft licence is submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application and, if it is acceptable, Natural England will issue a 'Letter of no Impediment' which indicates that the licence application is acceptable in principle and a formal licence would be issued at a later date.

5 **REFERENCES**

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APPENDICES

Appendix A : Protected and Priority Species	18
Appendix B: HSI Results.....	20
Appendix C : Site Photographs	27
Appendix D: Figures.....	41

Appendix A : Protected and Priority Species

Legal protection is afforded to particular habitats and species (as well as designated sites). The legislation, and the habitats and species listed, vary between the different jurisdictions. Certain habitats and species are also considered to have some level of nature conservation importance, due to factors such as their rarity, vulnerability or declining population/status. This document uses the term 'priority habitats' and 'priority species', as they are those which should be considered as priorities for conservation (it should not be confused with priority habitats and species as listed in the EU Habitats Directive). Priority habitats and species are defined as those which are:

- 1) listed as a national priority for conservation (such as those listed as habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity);
- 2) listed as a local priority for conservation, for example in the relevant local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP);

Most protected species are also considered to be priority species, although there are some exceptions. There are numerous priority habitats and species which do not receive any legal protection.

Note that the terms 'priority habitat' and 'priority species' used in this document differ from the following uses of the same terms:

- a) These terms were previously used to denote those habitats and species afforded the highest level of priority for conservation under the UK BAP; this has been superseded by the lists of habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, or their equivalents in Scotland (Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy and the Scottish Biodiversity List¹⁵) and Ireland (Actions for Biodiversity – Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan 2017 -2021¹⁶; and Valuing Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020).
- b) The terms 'Priority Natural Habitat Type' and 'Priority Species' are used to denote specific lists of habitats and species under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; these are defined in Articles 1(d) and 1(h) respectively of the Habitats Directive.

Species-Specific Legislation

Species specific legislation is listed below.

Species-Specific Wildlife Legislation

Feature/Species	Legislation	It is an offence to:
Common amphibians	Sch. 5 and Sch. 9 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	• Sell; • Transport; and • Advertise for sale.
GCN	Sch. 5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.	• Kill; • Injure; • Disturb • Destroy any place used for rest or shelter.

In addition, species and habitats listed on the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (formally the UK BAP) are also considered. Details on these species and habitats can be found at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5705>.

Appendix B: HSI Results

Pond Number	P1		P3		P4		P5		P8	
SI ₁ - Location	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0
SI ₂ - Pond Area (m ²)	300	0.6	200	0.40	1000	0.95	1000	0.95	300	0.60
SI ₃ - Pond Drying	Rarely	1.0	Never	0.90	Never	0.90	Never	0.90	Never	0.90
SI ₄ - Water Quality	Good	1.0	Good	1.00	Good	1.00	Good	1.00	Poor	0.33
SI ₅ - Shoreline Shade (1m from the shore) (%)	50	1.0	85	0.50	10	1.0	65	0.90	0	1.0
SI ₆ - Fowl	Absent	1.0	Minor	0.67	Major	0.01	Major	0.01	Major	0.01
SI ₇ - Fish	Absent	1.0	Possible	0.67	Minor	0.33	Possible	0.67	Major	0.01
SI ₈ - Pond Count	8	0.88	8	0.88	8	0.88	7	0.85	9	0.92
SI ₉ - Terrestrial habitat	Good	1.0	Good	1.00	Moderate	0.67	Good	1.00	Good	1.0
SI ₁₀ - Macrophytes (% of the pond surface area occupied by macrophyte cover)	95	0.85	75	1.00	85	0.95	90	0.90	0	0.30
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI Score)	0.92		0.77		0.52		0.58		0.29	
Pond Suitability	Excellent		Good		Below average		Below average		Poor	

Pond Number	P9		P11		P12		P13		P16	
SI ₁ - Location	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0
SI ₂ - Pond Area (m ²)	25	0.05	70	0.14	3	0.01	4	0.01	1000	0.95
SI ₃ - Pond Drying	Rarely	1.0	Annually	0.10	Annually	0.10	Annually	0.10	Never	0.90
SI ₄ - Water Quality	Moderate	0.67	Poor	0.33	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Good	1.0
SI ₅ - Shoreline Shade (1m from the shore) (%)	50	1.0	5	1.0	10	1.0	30	1.0	25	1.0
SI ₆ - Fowl	Absent	1	Absent	1.0	Absent	1.0	Absent	1.0	Minor	0.67
SI ₇ - Fish	Absent	1	Absent	1.0	Absent	1.0	Absent	1.0	Major	0.01
SI ₈ - Pond Count	8	0.88	4	0.88	8	0.88	8	0.88	6	0.80
SI ₉ - Terrestrial habitat	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Good	1.00
SI ₁₀ - Macrophytes (% of the pond surface area occupied by macrophyte cover)	35	0.67	70	1.0	0	0.3	80	1.0	90	0.90
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI Score)	0.65		0.54		0.38		0.45		0.58	
Pond Suitability	Average		Below Average		Poor		Poor		Below Average	

Pond Number	P19		P20		P21		P22		P23	
SI ₁ - Location	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0
SI ₂ - Pond Area (m ²)	100	0.20	400	0.80	2000	0.80	2000	0.80	900	0.97
SI ₃ - Pond Drying	Sometimes	0.50	Never	0.90	Never	0.90	Never	0.90	Rarely	1.0
SI ₄ - Water Quality	Moderate	0.67	Good	1.00	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67
SI ₅ - Shoreline Shade (1m from the shore) (%)	5	1.0	5	1.0	0	1.0	0	1.0	10	1.0
SI ₆ - Fowl	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67
SI ₇ - Fish	Possible	0.67	Possible	0.67	Major	0.01	Major	0.01	Possible	0.67
SI ₈ - Pond Count	6	0.80	6	0.80	>12	1.00	>12	1.0	>12	1.0
SI ₉ - Terrestrial habitat	Poor	0.33	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67
SI ₁₀ - Macrophytes (% of the pond surface area occupied by macrophyte cover)	10	0.40	60	0.90	5	0.35	5	0.35	0	0.3
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI Score)	0.56		0.83		0.49		0.49		0.75	
Pond Suitability	Below Average		Excellent		Poor		Poor		Good	

Pond Number	P24		P25		P26		P29		P30	
Sl ₁ - Location	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0
Sl ₂ - Pond Area (m ²)	2000	0.80	400	0.80	1500	0.88	100	0.20	600	1.0
Sl ₃ - Pond Drying	Never	0.90	Sometimes	0.50	Never	0.90	Rarely	1.0	Never	0.9
Sl ₄ - Water Quality	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Poor	0.33	Moderate	0.67	Good	1.0
Sl ₅ - Shoreline Shade (1m from the shore) (%)	5	1.0	75	0.70	0	1.0	40	1.0	5	1.0
Sl ₆ - Fowl	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67	Major	0.01
Sl ₇ - Fish	Major	0.01	Possible	0.67	Major	0.01	Possible	0.67	Major	0.01
Sl ₈ - Pond Count	>12	1.0	>12	1.0	>12	1.0	>12	1.00	>12	1.0
Sl ₉ - Terrestrial habitat	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67
Sl ₁₀ - Macrophytes (% of the pond surface area occupied by macrophyte cover)	10	0.40	0	0.3	0	0.30	20	0.50	10	0.4
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI Score)	0.49		0.67		0.45		0.68		0.35	
Pond Suitability	Poor		Average		Poor		Average		Poor	

Pond Number	P32		P33		P34		P36		P37	
Sl ₁ - Location	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0
Sl ₂ - Pond Area (m ²)	200	0.40	550	1.0	700	1.0	100	0.20	450	0.90
Sl ₃ - Pond Drying	Never	0.90	Never	0.90	Never	0.90	Rarely	1.0	Never	0.90
Sl ₄ - Water Quality	Good	1.0	Good	1.0	Good	1.00	Moderate	0.67	Good	1.0
Sl ₅ - Shoreline Shade (1m from the shore) (%)	40	1.0	0	1.0	40	1.0	5	1.0	20	1.0
Sl ₆ - Fowl	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67	Major	0.01	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67
Sl ₇ - Fish	Possible	0.67	Major	0.01	Major	0.01	Possible	0.67	Minor	0.33
Sl ₈ - Pond Count	>12	1.00	>12	1.0	>12	1.0	>12	1.0	>12	1.0
Sl ₉ - Terrestrial habitat	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Good	1.0	Good	1.0	Good	1.0
Sl ₁₀ - Macrophytes (% of the pond surface area occupied by macrophyte cover)	20	0.5	0	0.30	60	0.90	40	0.70	5	0.35
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI Score)	0.75		0.51		0.39		0.73		0.76	
Pond Suitability	Good		Below Average		Poor		Good		Good	

Pond Number	P38		P39		P40		P41	
SI ₁ - Location	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0	A	1.0
SI ₂ - Pond Area (m ²)	200	0.40	400	0.80	300	0.60	600	1.0
SI ₃ - Pond Drying	Rarely	1.0	Never	0.90	Never	0.90	Never	0.90
SI ₄ - Water Quality	Good	1.0	Good	1.0	Good	1.0	Good	1.0
SI ₅ - Shoreline Shade (1m from the shore) (%)	0	1.0	50	1.0	5	1.0	5	1.0
SI ₆ - Fowl	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67
SI ₇ - Fish	Major	0.01	Major	0.01	Major	0.01	Major	0.01
SI ₈ - Pond Count	>12	1.0	>12	1.0	>12	1.0	>12	1.0
SI ₉ - Terrestrial habitat	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67
SI ₁₀ - Macrophytes (% of the pond surface area occupied by macrophyte cover)	70	1.0	30	0.60	60	0.90	70	1.0
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI Score)	0.53		0.54		0.54		0.58	
Pond Suitability	Below Average		Below Average		Below Average		Below Average	

Pond Number	PA		PB	
SI ₁ - Location	A	1.0	A	1.0
SI ₂ - Pond Area (m ²)	300	0.60	200	0.40
SI ₃ - Pond Drying	Rarely	1.0	Never	0.90
SI ₄ - Water Quality	Good	1.0	Good	1.0
SI ₅ - Shoreline Shade (1m from the shore) (%)	5	1.0	40	1.0
SI ₆ - Fowl	Minor	0.67	Minor	0.67
SI ₇ - Fish	Major	0.01	Possible	0.67
SI ₈ - Pond Count	>12	1.0	>12	1.0
SI ₉ - Terrestrial habitat	Moderate	0.67	Moderate	0.67
SI ₁₀ - Macrophytes (% of the pond surface area occupied by macrophyte cover)	80	1.0	100	0.8
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI Score)	0.55		0.78	
Pond Suitability	Below Average		Good	

Appendix C : Site Photographs

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P1	
P2	
P3	

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P4	
P5	
P6	

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P7	
P8	
P9	

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P10	
P11	
P12	

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P13	
P14	No landowner access granted to land parcel and therefore no photograph could be taken.
P15	
P16	

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P17 & P18 Access to these ponds was not possible	
P19	
P20	

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P21	
P22	
P23	

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P24	
P25	
P26	

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P27	
P288	
P29	

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P30	
P31	
P32	Photograph not taken

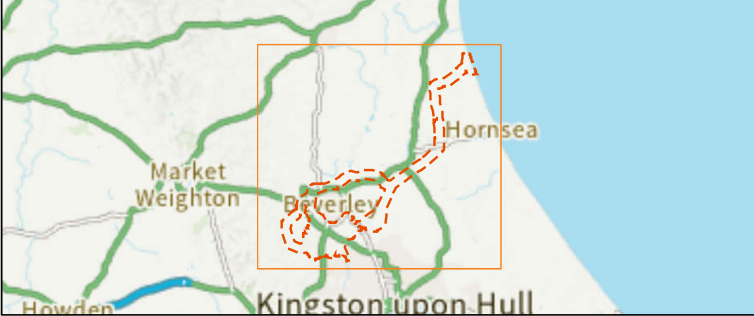
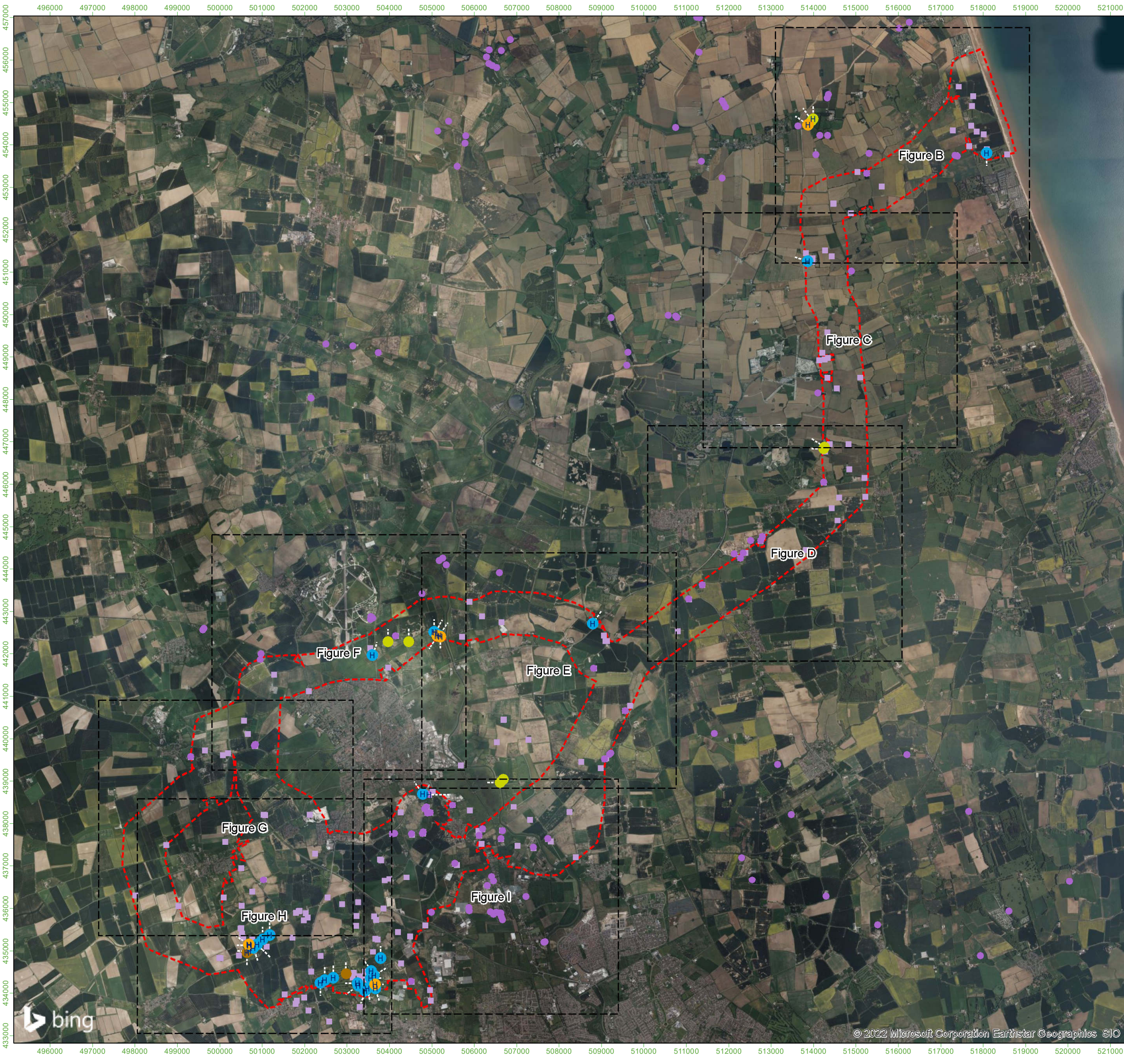
Pond Reference.	Photograph
P33	
P34	
P35	Dry at time of the 2022 survey. Photograph not taken.

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P36	
P37	

Pond Reference.	Photograph
P386	
P39	Photograph not taken.
P40	
P41	Photograph not taken.
PA	Photograph not taken.

Pond Reference.	Photograph
PB	

Appendix D: Figures



Survey Information	
	Onshore study area (21/08/22)
	eDNA result - positive
	eDNA result -negative
	Pond - dry
	HSI completed
	Pond - no access
	Pond - provided by client
	Pond - OS Mastermap extract

Source:
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N

0 500 1,000
Metres

PROJECT TITLE

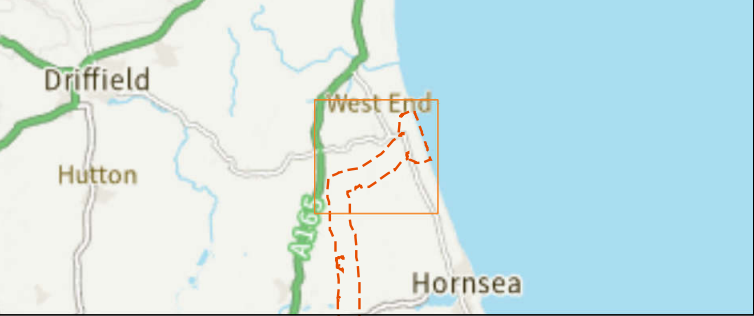
DOGGER BANK SOUTH

DRAWING TITLE				
Figure 1A. Pond eDNA Interim Survey Results - Overview				
Map showing pond survey status and survey area				
VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.3	06/10/22	eDNA - Overview	MP	CP
DRAWING NUMBER:				
PeakEcology/DB2/eDNA/Overview				

ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

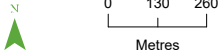
Arden House,
Deepdale Business Park,
Bakewell,
Derbyshire,
DE45 1GT.
www.peakecology.co.uk

DATUM	OSGB
PROJECTION	BNG
PLOT SIZE	A3
SCALE	1:87,000



Survey Information	
	Onshore study area (21/08/22)
	eDNA result - positive
	eDNA result -negative
	Pond - dry
	HSI completed
	Pond - no access
	Pond - provided by client
	Pond - OS Mastermap extract

Source:
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PROJECT TITLE

DOGGER BANK SOUTH

DRAWING TITLE

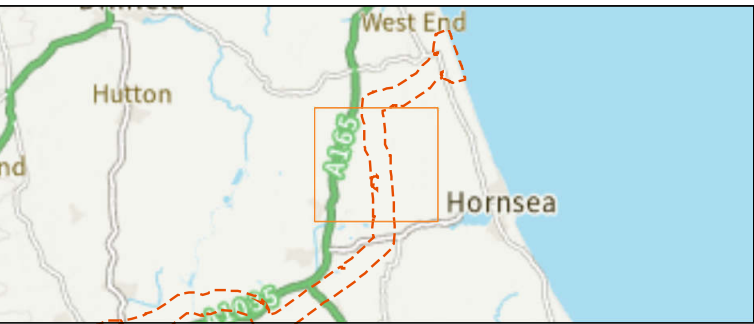
Figure 1B. Pond eDNA Interim Survey Results - Section 1

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
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DRAWING NUMBER:

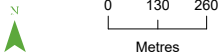
PeakEcology/DB2/eDNA/Section 1

 ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS	Arden House, Deepdale Business Park, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1GT. www.peakecology.co.uk	
	DATUM	OSGB
	PROJECTION	BNG
	PLOT SIZE	A3
SCALE		1:20,000



Survey Information	
	Onshore study area (21/08/22)
	eDNA result - positive
	eDNA result -negative
	Pond - dry
H	HSI completed
	Pond - no access
	Pond - provided by client
	Pond - OS Mastermap extract

Source:
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PROJECT TITLE

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DRAWING TITLE

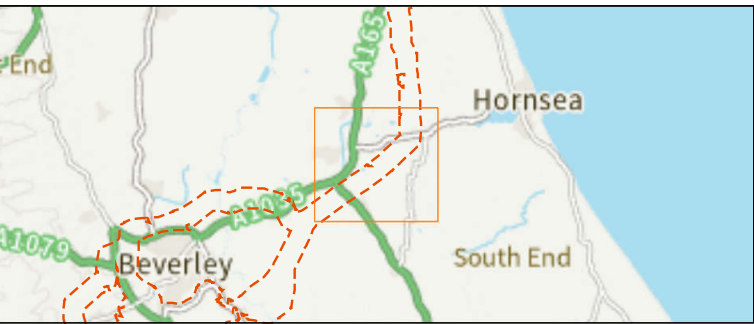
Figure 1C. Pond eDNA Interim Survey Results - Section 2

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
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DRAWING NUMBER:

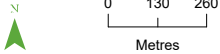
PeakEcology/DB2/eDNA/Section 2

peakecology ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS Arden House, Deepdale Business Park, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1GT. www.peakecology.co.uk	DATUM	OSGB
	PROJECTION	BNG
	PLOT SIZE	A3
	SCALE	1:20,000



Survey Information	
	Onshore study area (21/08/22)
	eDNA result - positive
	eDNA result -negative
	Pond - dry
H	HSI completed
	Pond - no access
	Pond - provided by client
	Pond - OS Mastermap extract

Source:
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PROJECT TITLE

DOGGER BANK SOUTH

DRAWING TITLE

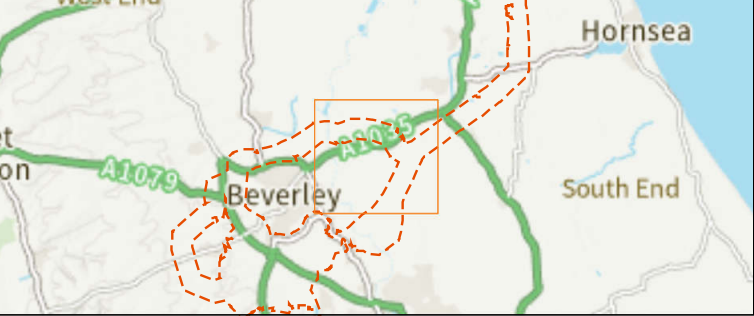
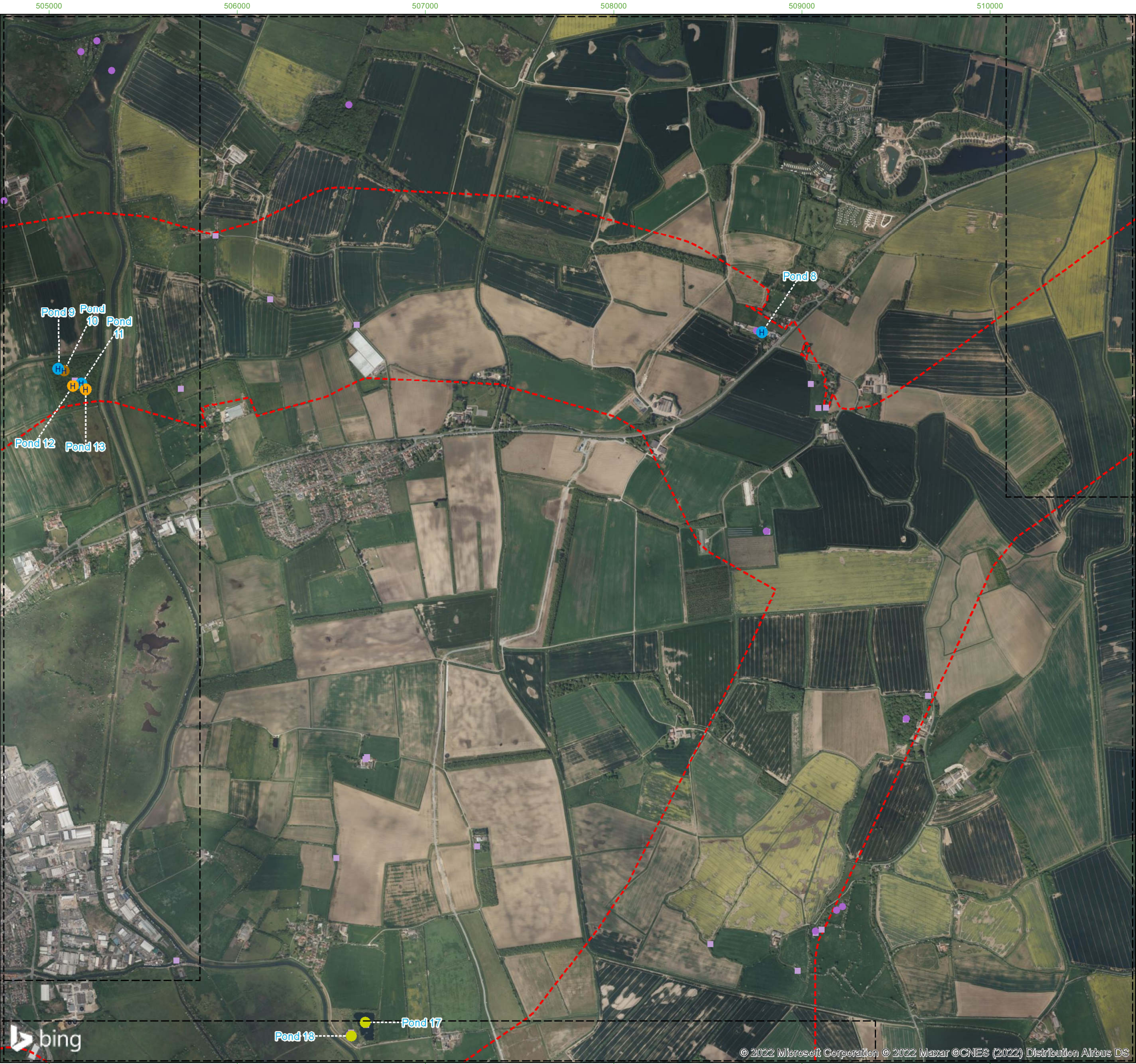
Figure 1D. Pond eDNA Interim Survey Results - Section 3

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
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DRAWING NUMBER:

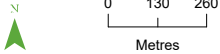
PeakEcology/DB2/eDNA/Section 3

peakecology LIMITED ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS	Arden House, Deepdale Business Park, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1GT. www.peakecology.co.uk		DATUM	OSGB
			PROJECTION	BNG
			PLOT SIZE	A3
			SCALE	1:20,000



Survey Information	
	Onshore study area (21/08/22)
	eDNA result - positive
	eDNA result -negative
	Pond - dry
H	HSI completed
	Pond - no access
	Pond - provided by client
	Pond - OS Mastermap extract

Source:
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PROJECT TITLE

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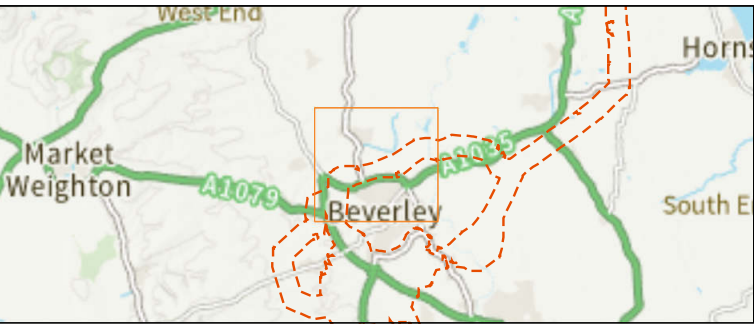
Figure 1E. Pond eDNA Interim Survey Results - Section 4

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
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DRAWING NUMBER:

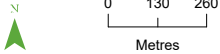
PeakEcology/DB2/eDNA/Section 4

peakecology LIMITED ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS	Arden House, Deepdale Business Park, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1GT. www.peakecology.co.uk		DATUM	OSGB
			PROJECTION	BNG
			PLOT SIZE	A3
			SCALE	1:20,000



Survey Information	
	Onshore study area (21/08/22)
	eDNA result - positive
	eDNA result -negative
	Pond - dry
	HSI completed
	Pond - no access
	Pond - provided by client
	Pond - OS Mastermap extract

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PROJECT TITLE

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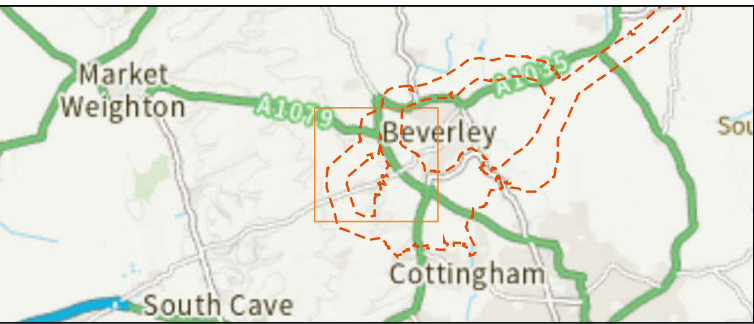
Figure 1F. Pond eDNA Interim Survey Results - Section 5

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.3	06/10/22	eDNA - Section 5	MP	CP

DRAWING NUMBER:

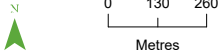
PeakEcology/DB2/eDNA/Section 5

 LIMITED ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS	Arden House, Deepdale Business Park, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1GT. www.peakecology.co.uk	
	DATUM	OSGB
	PROJECTION	BNG
	PLOT SIZE	A3
SCALE		1:20,000



Survey Information	
	Onshore study area (21/08/22)
	eDNA result - positive
	eDNA result -negative
	Pond - dry
H	HSI completed
	Pond - no access
	Pond - provided by client
	Pond - OS Mastermap extract

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PROJECT TITLE

DOGGER BANK SOUTH

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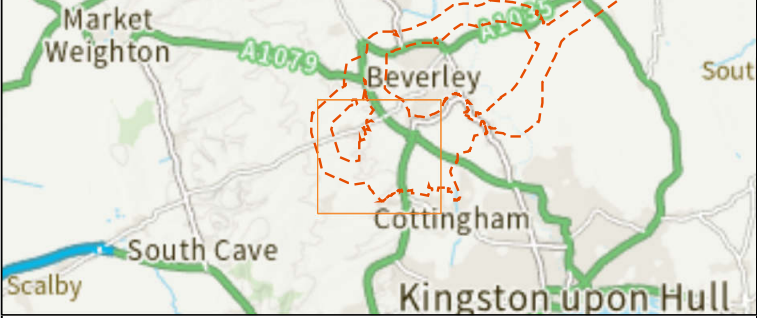
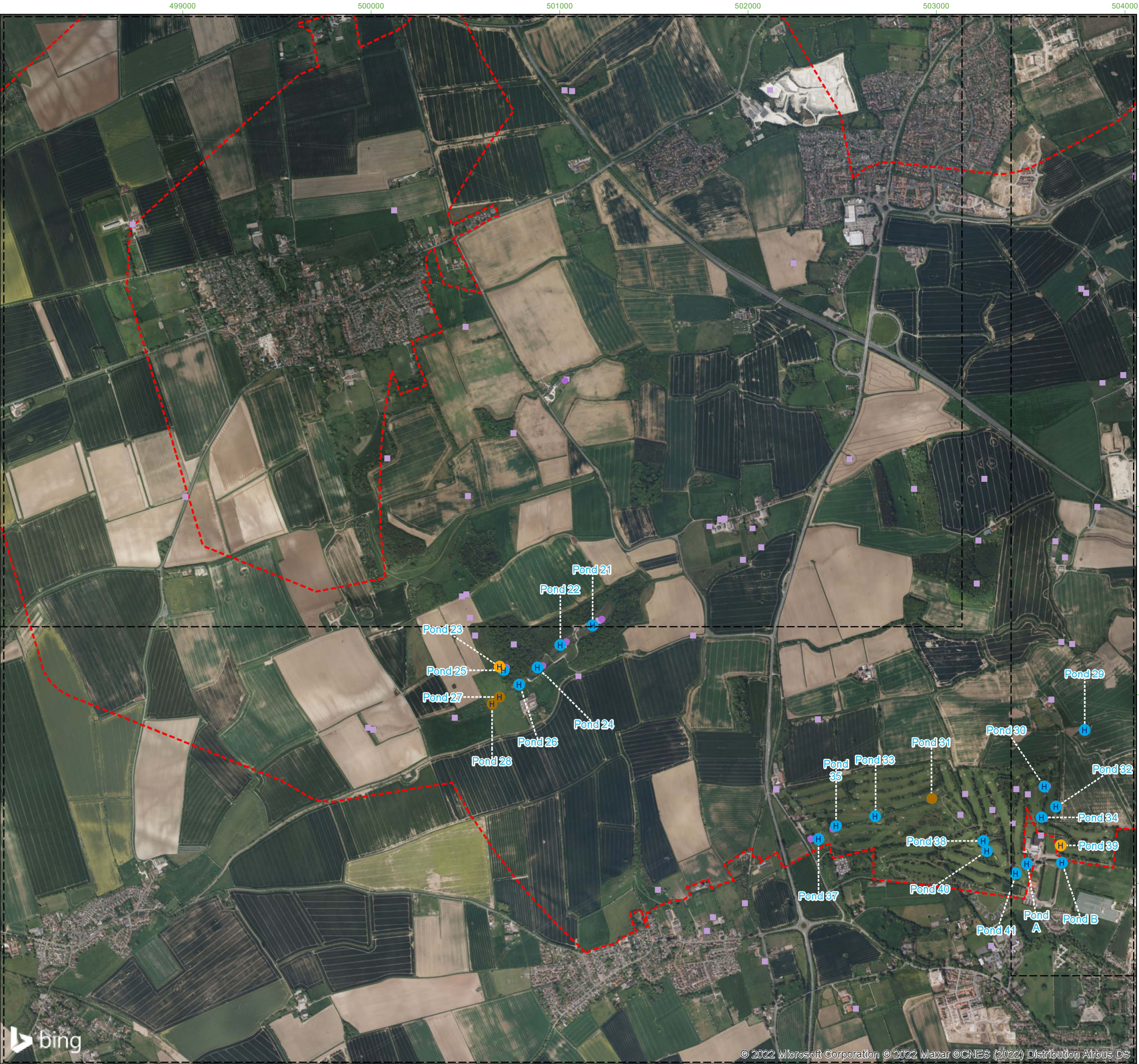
Figure 1G. Pond eDNA Interim Survey Results - Section 6

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.3	06/10/22	eDNA - Section 6	MP	CP

DRAWING NUMBER:

PeakEcology/DB2/eDNA/Section 6

peakecology ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS LIMITED Arden House, Deepdale Business Park, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1GT. www.peakecology.co.uk	DATUM	OSGB
	PROJECTION	BNG
	PLOT SIZE	A3
	SCALE	1:20,000



Survey Information	
	Onshore study area (21/08/22)
	eDNA result - positive
	eDNA result -negative
	Pond - dry
	HSI completed
	Pond - no access
	Pond - provided by client
	Pond - OS Mastermap extract

Source:
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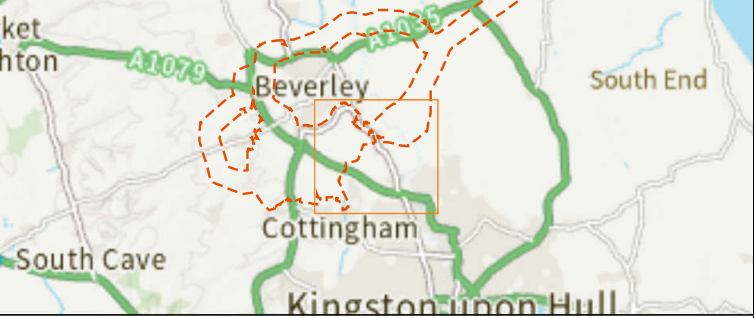
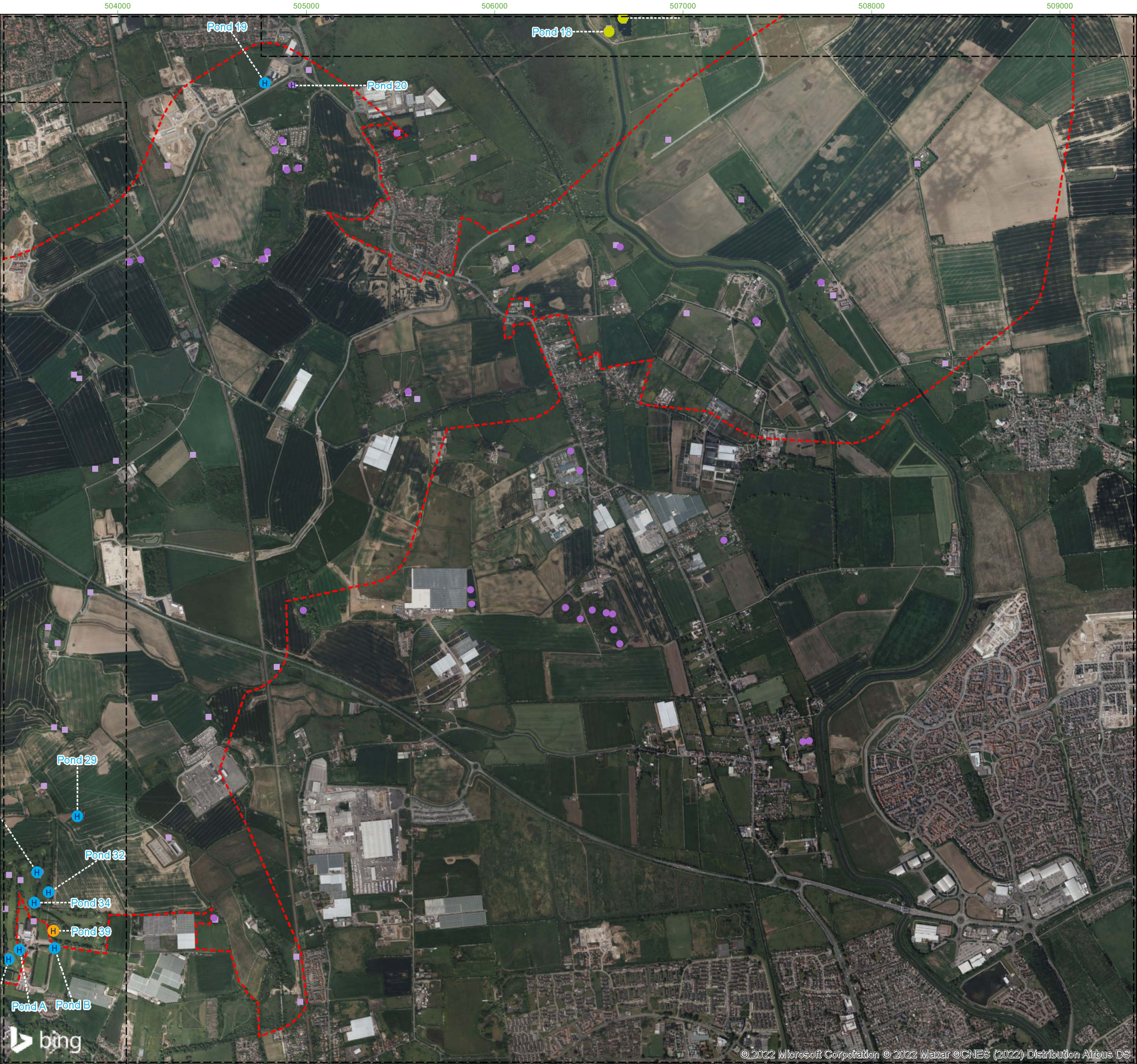
PROJECT TITLE
DOGGER BANK SOUTH

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 1H. Pond eDNA Interim Survey Results - Section 7

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.3	06/10/22	eDNA - Section 7	MP	CP

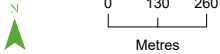
DRAWING NUMBER:
PeakEcology/DB2/eDNA/Section 7

 LIMITED ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS	Arden House, Deepdale Business Park, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1GT. www.peakecology.co.uk	
	DATUM	OSGB
	PROJECTION	BNG
	PLOT SIZE	A3
SCALE		1:20,000



Survey Information	
	Onshore study area (21/08/22)
	eDNA result - positive
	eDNA result -negative
	Pond - dry
	HSI completed
	Pond - no access
	Pond - provided by client
	Pond - OS Mastermap extract

Source:
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2022, All rights reserved. License Number 100049837.



PROJECT TITLE

DOGGER BANK SOUTH

DRAWING TITLE

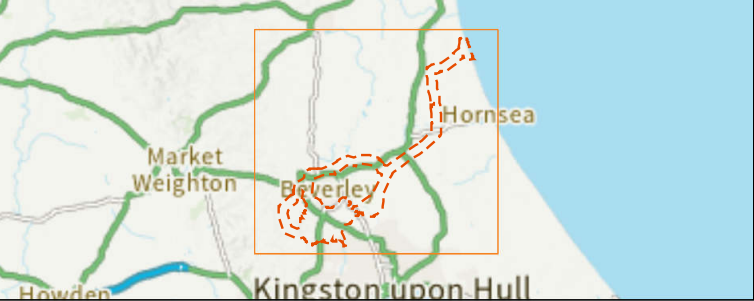
Figure 11. Pond eDNA Interim Survey Results - Section 8

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.3	06/10/22	eDNA - Section 8	MP	CP

DRAWING NUMBER:

PeakEcology/DB2/eDNA/Section 8

 ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS	Arden House, Deepdale Business Park, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1GT. www.peakecology.co.uk	
	DATUM	OSGB
	PROJECTION	BNG
	PLOT SIZE	A3
SCALE		1:20,000



Survey Information	
	Onshore study area (21/08/22)
	1 GCN Licenece
	2-3 GCN licences
	4-5 GCN licences
	6-10 GCN licences
	>10 GCN licences

Additional Information:

Only records within 2km of the onshore study area (21/08/22) are shown.

Number associated with a point refer to the number of licences and are only shown for locations with greater than 10 licences.

Source:
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PROJECT TITLE

DOGGER BANK SOUTH

DRAWING TITLE				
Figure 2. Great Crested Newt European Protected Species Licence information				
VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.1	06/10/22	GCN Class Survey Licence Returns	MP	CP

DRAWING NUMBER:

PeakEcology/DB2/GCN/Returns

peakecology LIMITED ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS	Arden House, Deepdale Business Park, Bakewell, Derbyshire. DE45 1GT. www.peakecology.co.uk		DATUM	OSGB
			PROJECTION	BNG
			PLOT SIZE	A3
			SCALE	1:87,000