

- 2.2.2 An extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the Site was undertaken using guidelines set out in the 'Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a Technique for Environmental Audit'. The survey was undertaken on 2nd, 4th and 9th September and 3rd and 4th November 2015, and provides a broad overview of the habitats within the Site and their potential to support species protected by law or of conservation concern.
- 2.2.3 The field survey was mainly undertaken from Public Rights of Way due to limited access to private land. Habitats and features at a distance from these were viewed through binoculars, and this was used to judge the most appropriate Phase 1 Habitat category to assign them. However, this does introduce a degree of uncertainty in discerning different habitats and features, for example the differences between species-rich and species-poor hedgerows, broadleaved semi-natural woodland and broadleaved plantation, scrub and developing broadleaved plantation and between different grassland types. Where some areas could not be viewed from Rights of Way, these gaps are highlighted in the Phase 1 Habitat Plan (**Figure 2.1**). Overall, these Site survey constraints are not considered to be a significant limitation on the robustness of this preliminary appraisal of ecological constraints and opportunities for development.

2.3 Existing Conditions

Desk Study

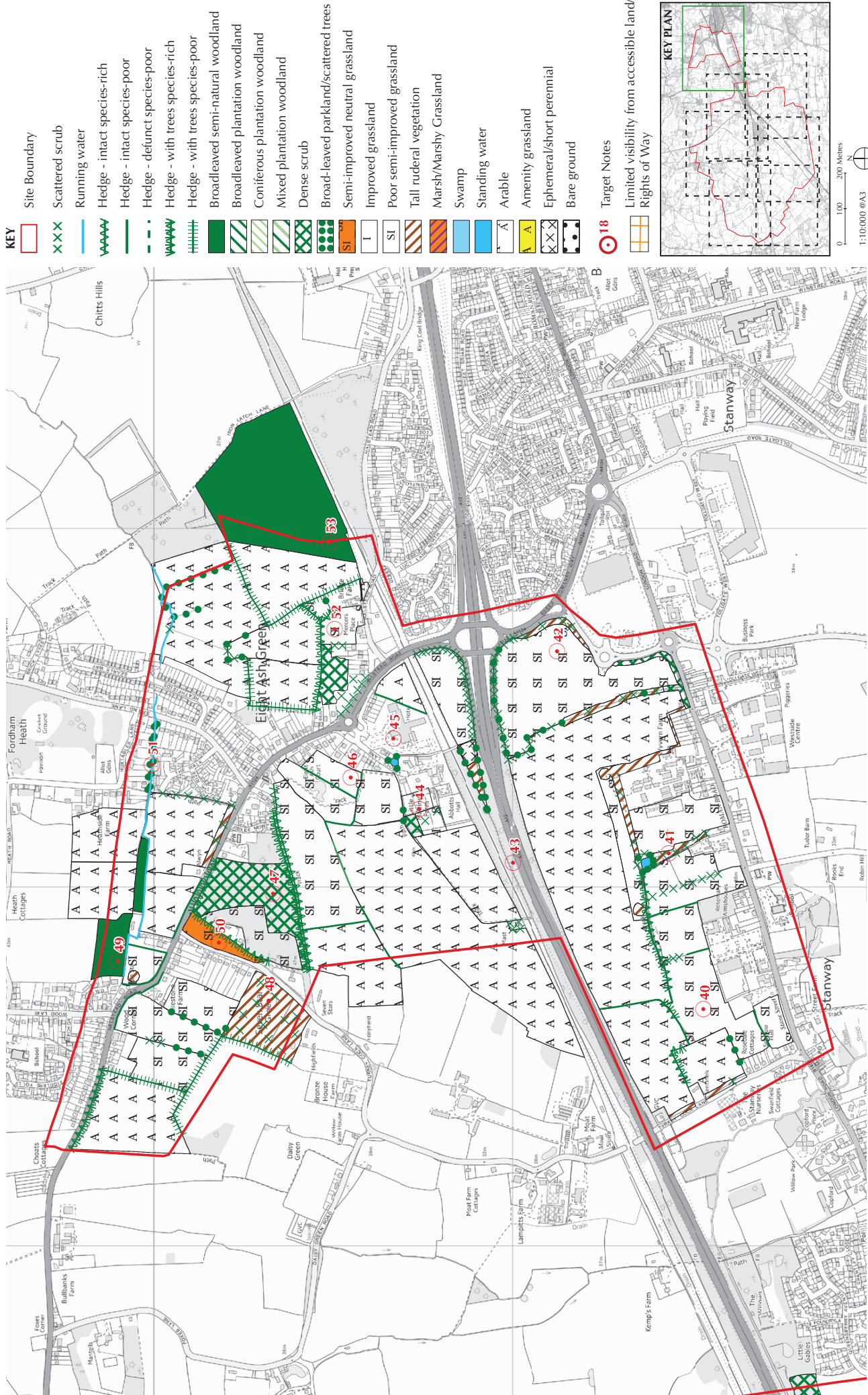
Designated Sites

- 2.3.1 The locations of designated sites within the 2km Study Area are illustrated on **Figure 2.2**.

Statutory Sites

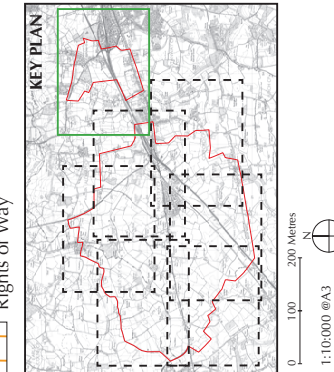
International Sites

- 2.3.2 There are no internationally designated sites within the Site. The nearest site is Abberton Reservoir Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated under the Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), which lies approximately 5km to the south east of the Site. This is designated for the migratory waterbirds it supports in autumn and for wintering waterbirds.



- KEY**
- Site Boundary
 - Scattered scrub
 - Running water
 - Hedge - intact species-rich
 - Hedge - intact species-poor
 - Hedge - defunct species-poor
 - Hedge - with trees species-rich
 - Hedge - with trees species-poor
 - Broadleaved semi-natural woodland
 - Broadleaved plantation woodland
 - Coniferous plantation woodland
 - Mixed plantation woodland
 - Dense scrub
 - Broad-leaved parkland/scattered trees
 - Semi-improved neutral grassland
 - Improved grassland
 - Poor semi-improved grassland
 - Tall ruderal vegetation
 - Marsh/Marshy Grassland
 - Swamp
 - Standing water
 - Arable
 - Amenity grassland
 - Ephemeral/short perennial
 - Bare ground

- Target Notes
- Limited visibility from accessible land/ Rights of Way



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WEST COLCHESTER GROWTH AREA OPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT
COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

FIGURE 2.1
PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN
1 OF 7

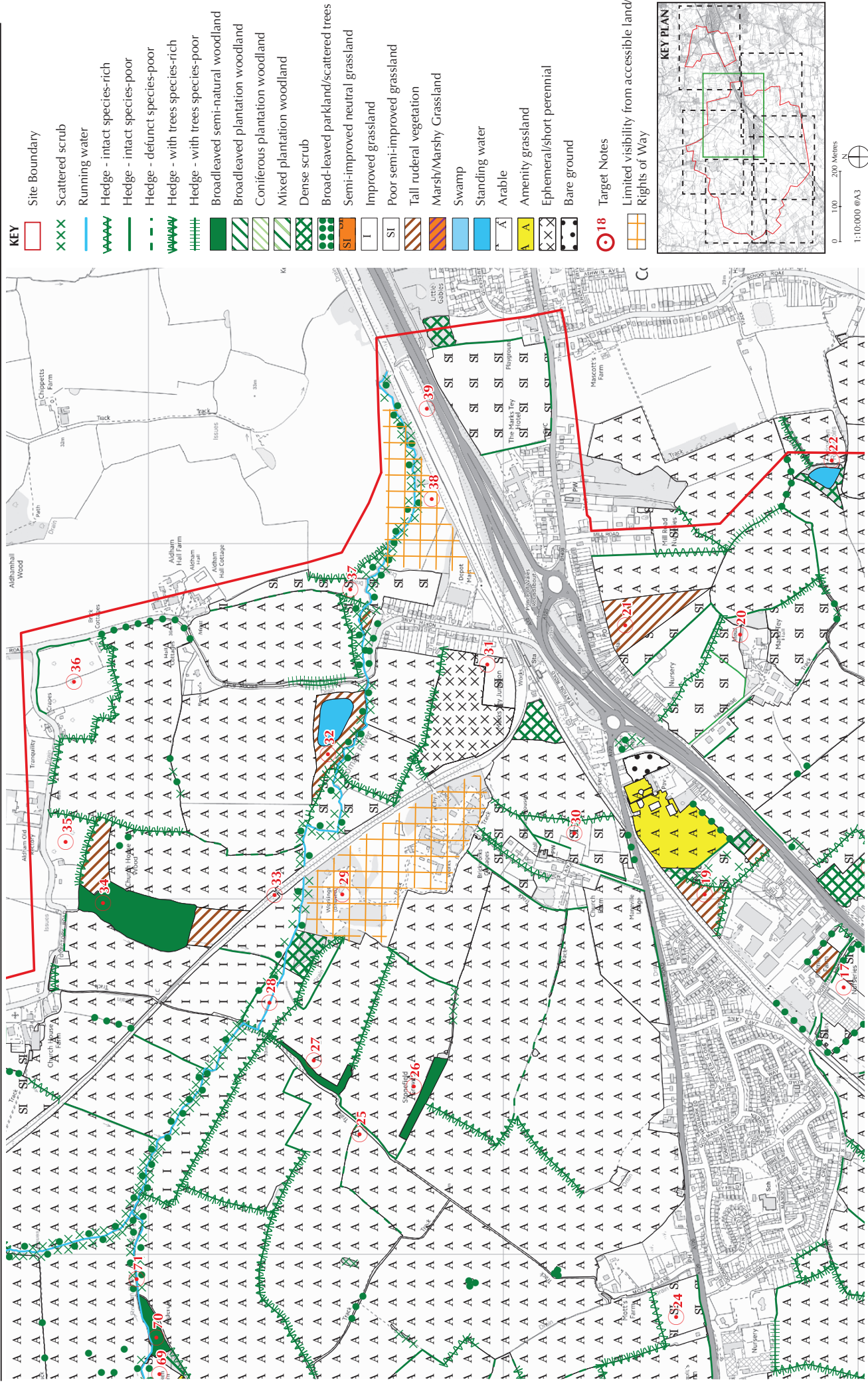


FIGURE 2.1
PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN
2 OF 7

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ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT
COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

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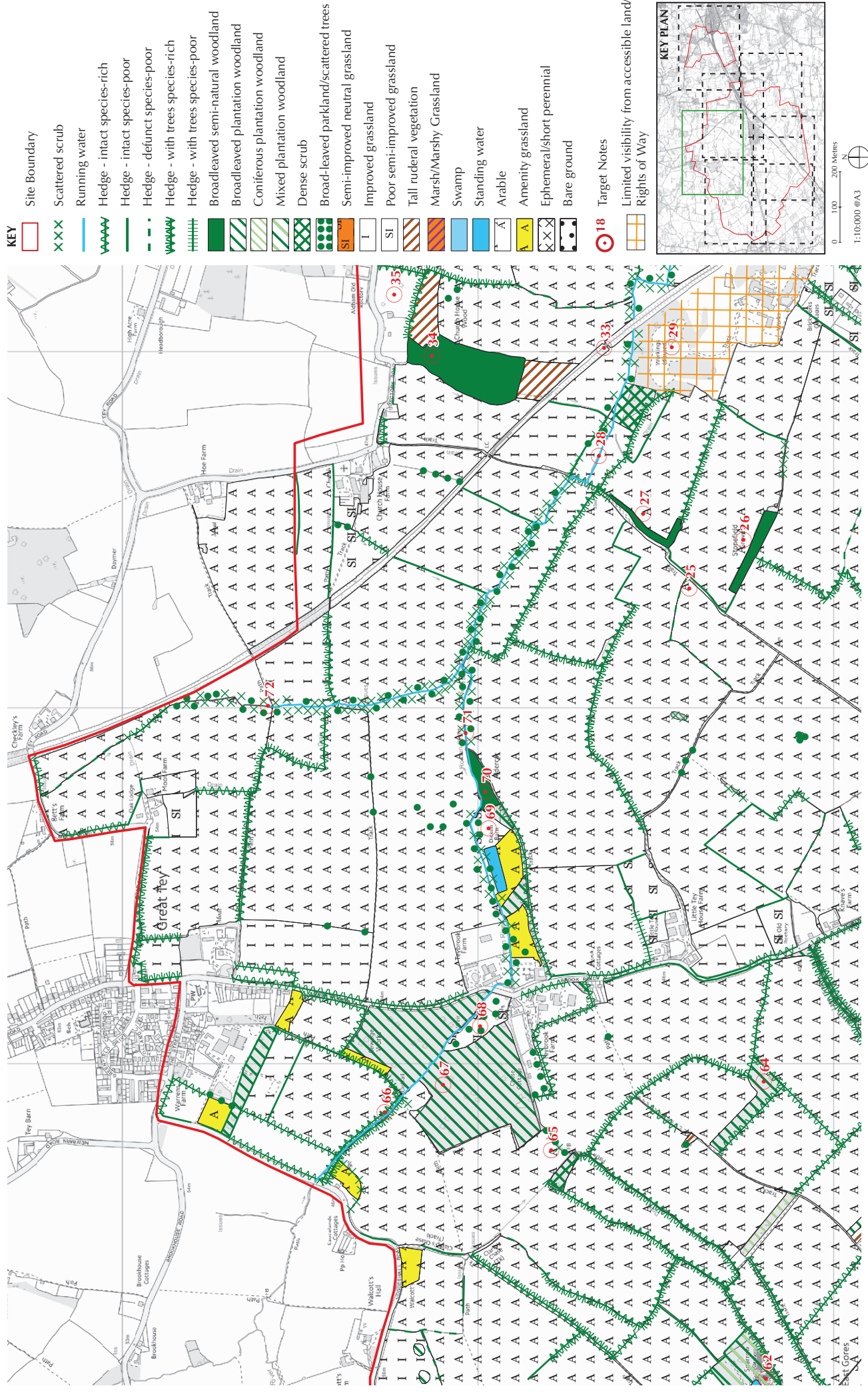


FIGURE 2.1
PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN
 3 OF 7

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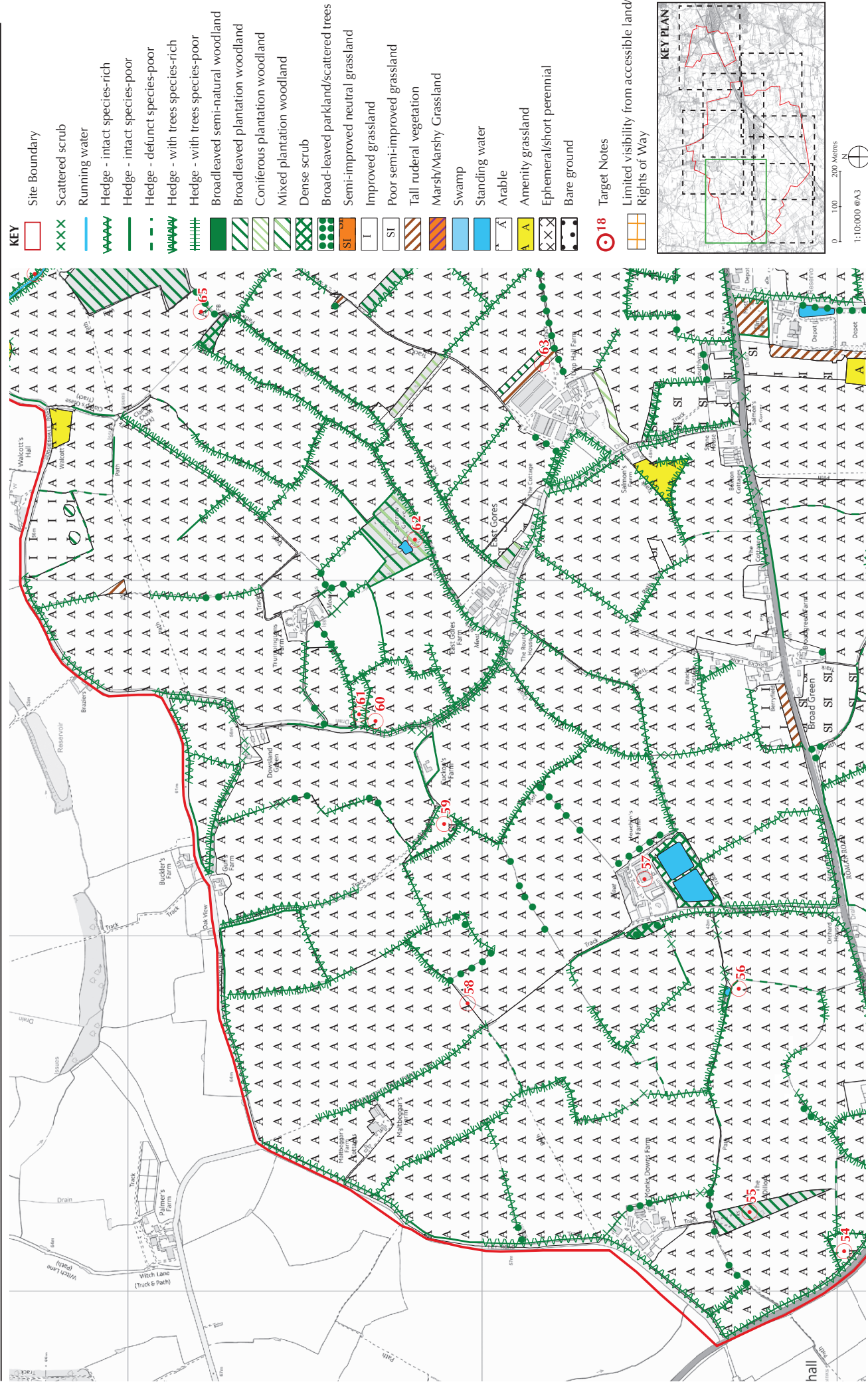
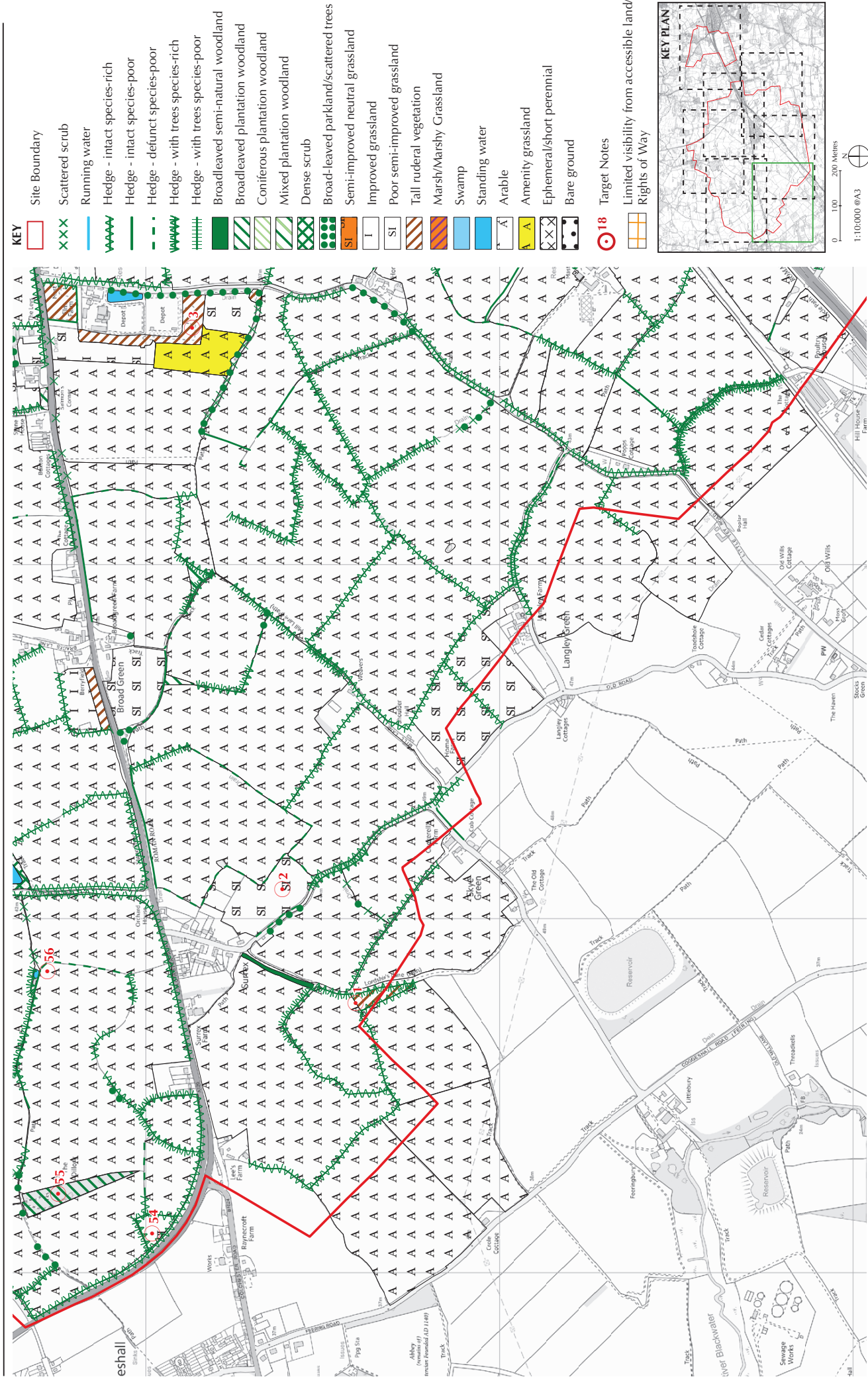


FIGURE 2.1
PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN
4 OF 7

WEST COLCHESTER GROWTH AREA OPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT
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KEY

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- Target Notes
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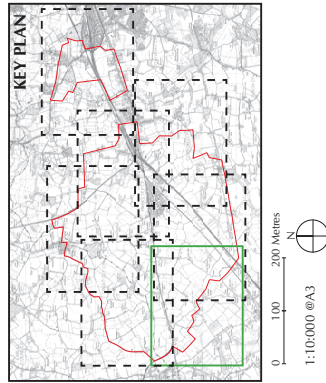
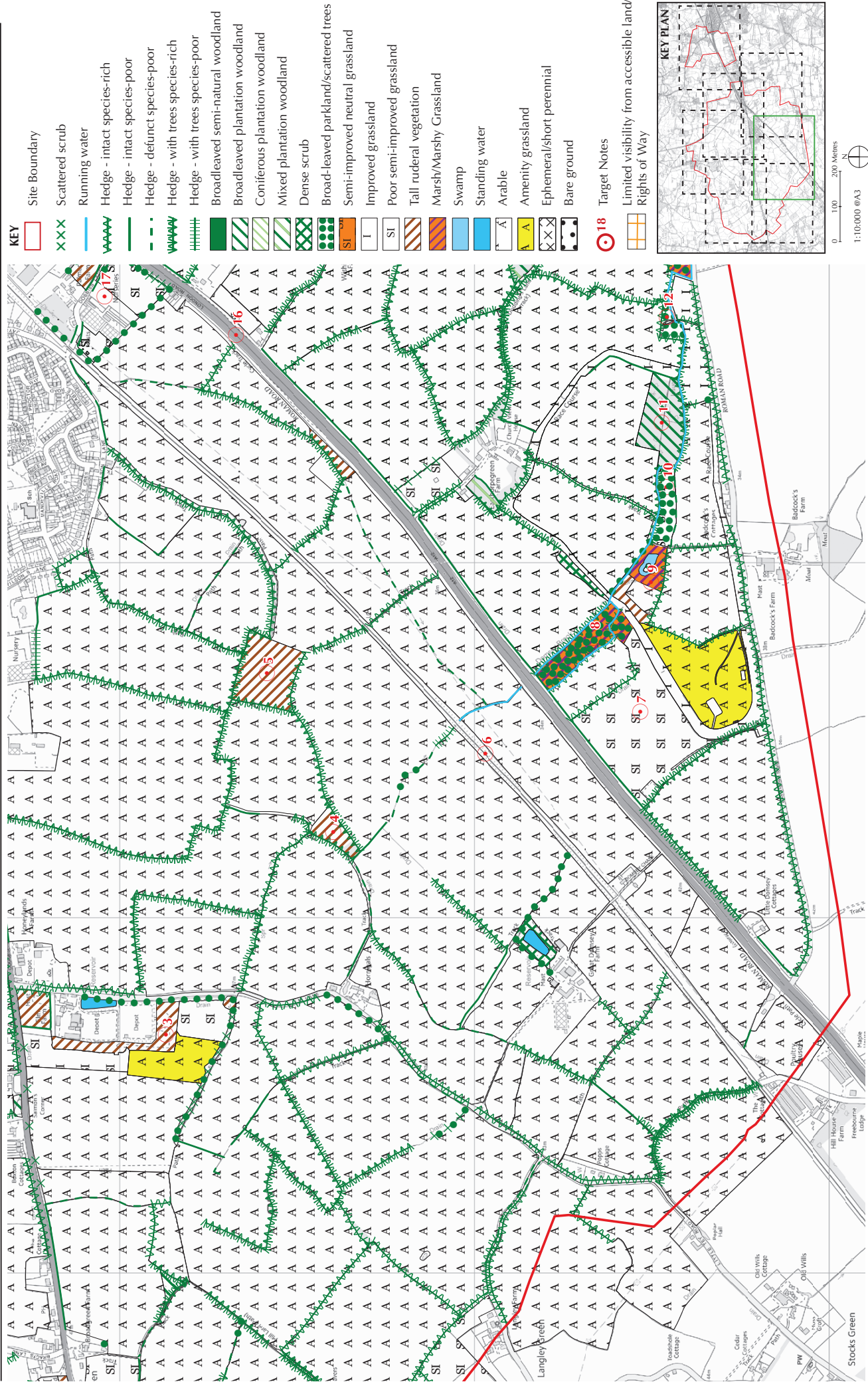


FIGURE 2.1
PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN
5 OF 7

WEST COLCHESTER GROWTH AREA OPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT
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- Target Notes
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KEY PLAN

0 100 200 Metres

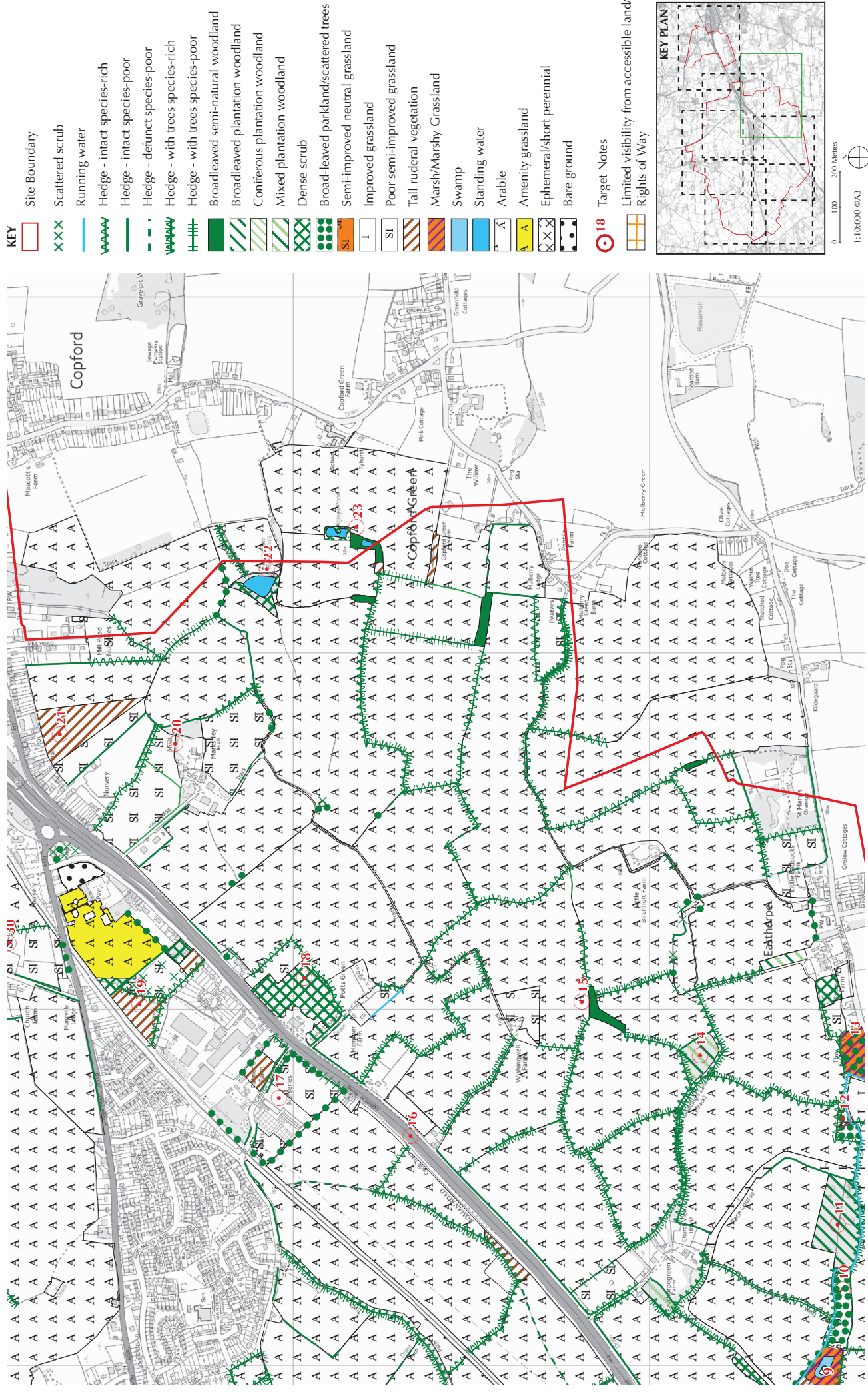
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**WEST COLCHESTER GROWTH AREA OPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT
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**FIGURE 2.1
PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN
6 OF 7**



- KEY**
- Site Boundary
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 - Running water
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- Target Notes
- Limited visibility from accessible land/ Rights of Way

0 100 200 Metres
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KEY PLAN

**WEST COLCHESTER GROWTH AREA OPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT**

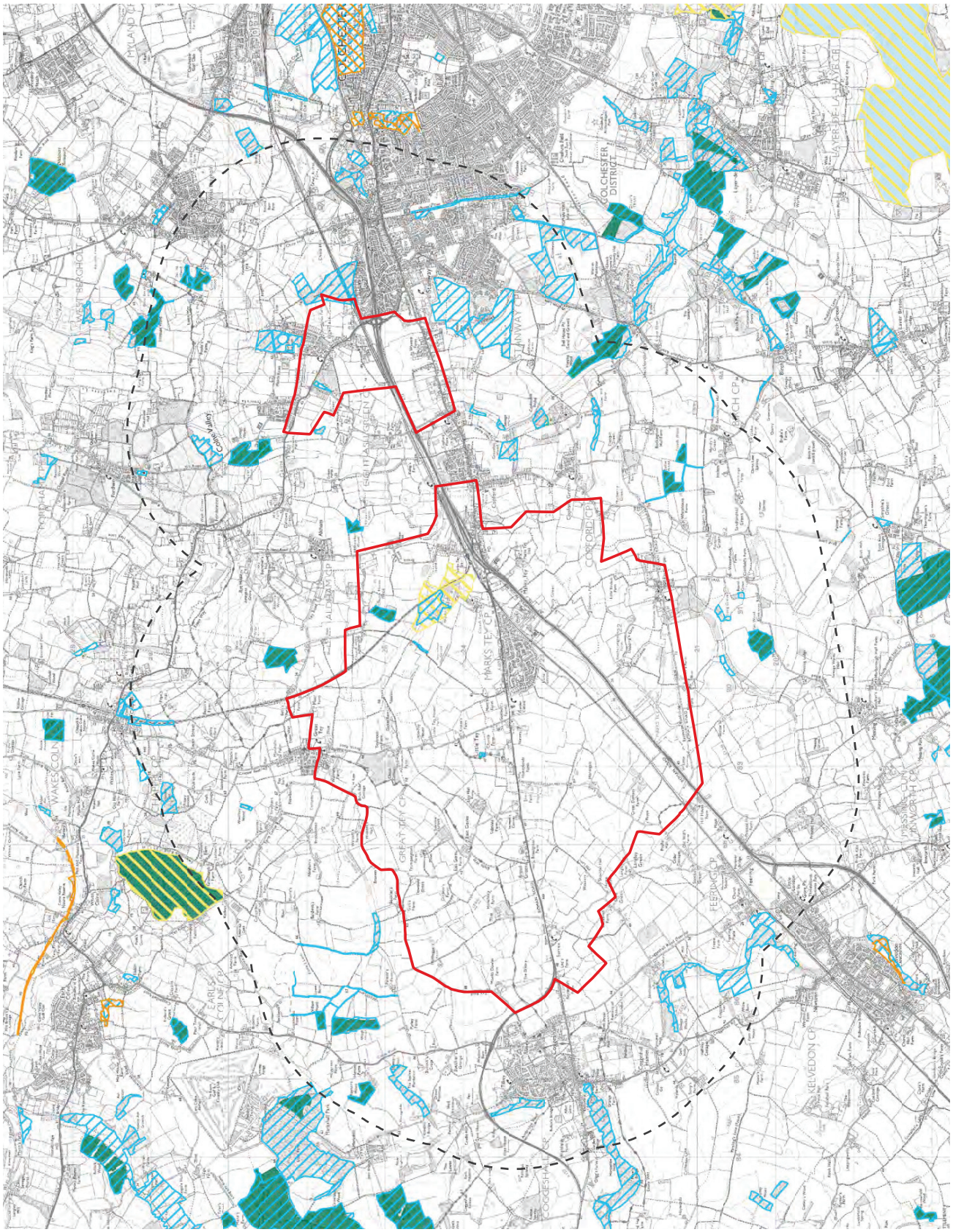
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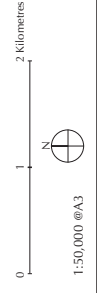
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KEY

- Site Boundary
- Study Area (2km distance from Site Boundary)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Ancient Woodland
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar/Special Protection Area



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Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

- 2.3.3 Marks Tey Pit SSSI is located in the centre of the Site and is a geological site designated for its exposures of Pleistocene sediments, which yield a continuous pollen record for the Hoxnian Interglacial.
- 2.3.4 Chalkney Wood SSSI lies approximately 1.8km north west of the Site. It is a relatively large Ancient Woodland with a number of stand types, including what are considered to be the best stands with small-leaved lime in Essex.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

- 2.3.5 There are no Local Nature Reserves within the Site. The nearest LNRs are Lexden Park (woodland, grassland and lake) and Spring Lane Nursery Meadow (grassland and trees) approximately 2.2 and 2.9km to the east respectively.

Non-statutory Sites

Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs)

- 2.3.6 The following six Local Wildlife Sites lie partly or wholly within the Site.
- Co14 Little Tey Churchyard – grassland and grassland plant species incl. Essex Red Data List species
 - Co27 Stonefield Strip – woodland, possibly Ancient Woodland fragment
 - Co30 Church House Wood – Ancient Woodland
 - Co31 MarksTey Brick Pit – open mosaic habitat, scrub and woodland with important invertebrates
 - Co55 Seven Star Green – species-rich grassland and grassland plant species incl. Essex Red Data List species
 - Co68 Iron Latch Lane Woods and Meadow – woodland and grassland
- 2.3.7 A further 41 Local Wildlife Sites lie within the 2km Study Area.
- Co1 – Florie’s Hedgerows - hedgerow
 - Co2 Buckler’s Farm Wood – woodland including wet woodland
 - Co8 Woolfney Wood – fragment of once much larger Ancient Woodland
 - Co11 – Hickmore Fen - woodland
 - Co17 – Chappel Ponds and Millennium Green – ponds, grassland. Great Crested Newt, reptiles, invertebrates, small mammals and birds.
 - Co20 Domsey Brook Pasture – grassland, including wet grassland and grassland plant species incl. Essex Red Data List species
 - Co22 Hoe Wood – Ancient Woodland
 - Co26 Fan Wood – Ancient Woodland