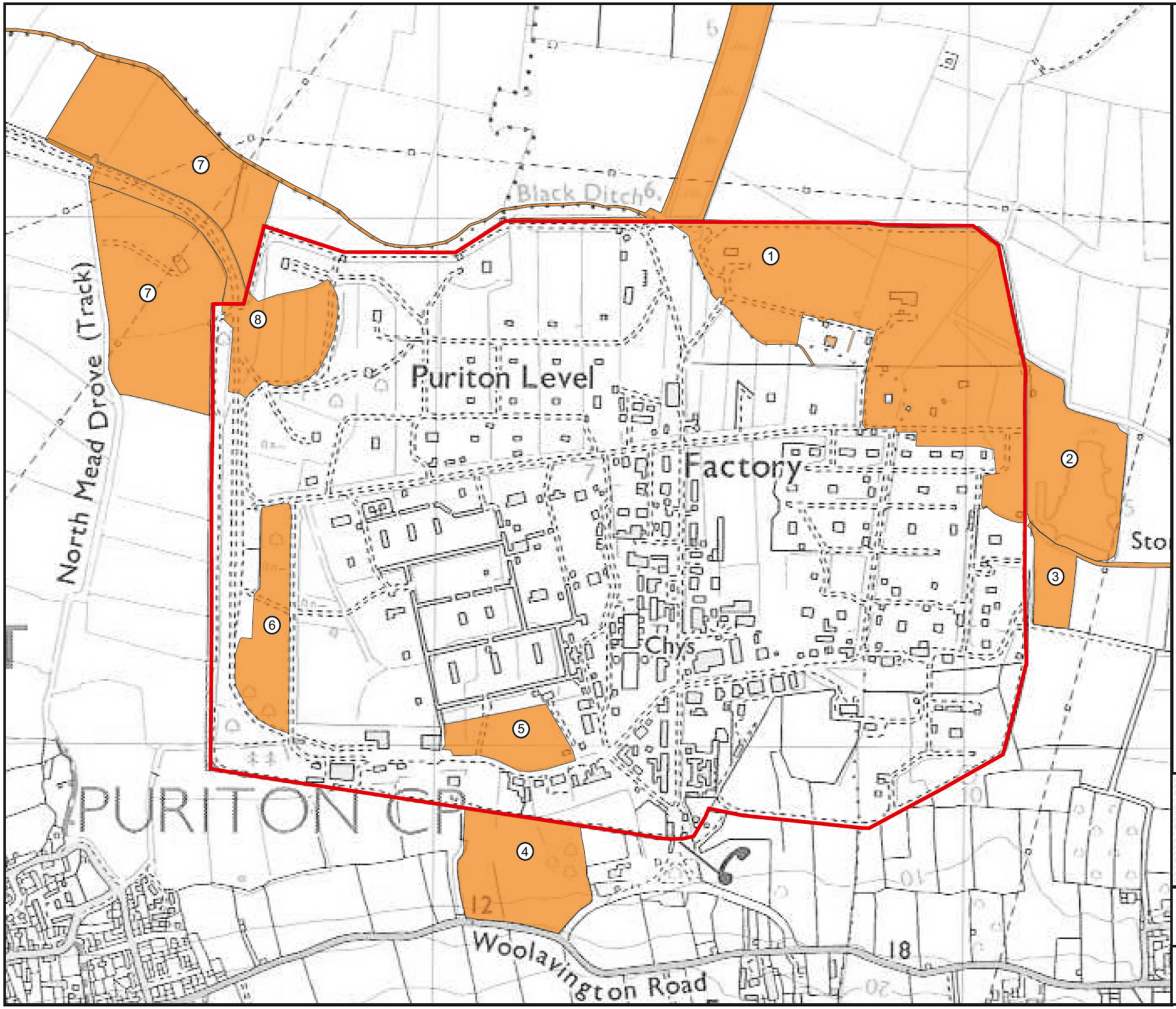
PLAN ECO3

Protected Species Constraints

PLAN ECO4

Designated Sites Plan



SITE LOCATION

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE (LWS)

1. PURITON RHYNES & PONDS
2. BORROW PIT, PURITON
3. STONING POUND FIELD SOUTH & STONING POUND RHYNE
4. WOOLAVINGTON ROAD & FIELDS NORTH
5. PURITON COWSLIP FIELD
6. PURITON ASH GROUND
7. NORTH MEAD DROVE FIELDS
8. PURITON MEADOWS & RAIL SPUR

N

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7761: GRAVITY

PLAN ECO4: DESIGNATED SITES PLAN

Rev: B

Aug 2021

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Great Crested Newt Maintenance and Management Plan

ecology solutions ltd

BAE SYSTEMS

REMEDIATION APPLICATION
(BAE BRIDGEWATER)
PURITON

Great Crested Newt Management and Maintenance Plan

January 2013
5106.GCNMMP.vf2

ecology solutions for planners and developers

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PLAN ECO2 Location of Receptor Sites

PLAN ECO3 Development Site Ecological Features

PLAN ECO4 Area A Receptor Site Mitigation Strategy

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 Pond Designs

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* Management and Maintenance Plan (GCNMMP) has been prepared by Ecology Solutions Ltd on behalf of BAE Systems to accompany a Great Crested Newt licence application submitted to Natural England in respect of the permitted decontamination and remediation works to facilitate forthcoming development proposals for an energy park at the former explosives factory in Puriton, Bridgwater (the 'development site'). The location of the development site is shown on Plan ECO1.

1.2 Permitted remediation works relate to the decommissioning and decontamination of the former explosives factory buildings and associated land along with re-profiling and earthworks to deliver development plots, primary access roads, landscape features and new planting to facilitate the forthcoming energy park. The majority of buildings on the development site have already been decommissioned and subsequently demolished, with necessary precautions taken for Great Crested Newts, as well as other projected species such as [redacted] bats. The forthcoming energy park planning application to be submitted in due course will simply detail built form, internal access and landscaping planting within the development plots.

1.3 A number of waterbodies within the southwest part of the development site which support a small population of Great Crested Newts would be lost to the remediation proposals. Loss of a small component of terrestrial habitat within the southeast part of the development site which provides opportunities for a separate off-site population which utilise a range of ponds (the closest of which is 135m from the development site boundary), would also be lost.

1.4 A dedicated mitigation area (known as Area A receptor site) will be provided in the northeast part of the development site where there is no contamination and a mosaic of existing habitats already considered suitable to support the relocated on-site Great Crested Newt population. To provide mitigation for loss of terrestrial habitat in the southeast part of the development site, an in-filled off-site pond (Area B receptor site) will be restored and enhanced for the benefit of the off-site population.

1.5 This GCNMMP sets out specific management objectives and prescriptions within the Area A and Area B receptor sites in order to provide the necessary comfort that immediate and longer term conservation status of the relocated Great Crested Newt population would be maintained. The location of the receptor sites are shown on Plan ECO2.

1.6 Regardless of whether the forthcoming energy park development is given planning consent, this GCNMMP serves as providing the initial mechanism for ensuring the favourable conservation status of the relocated population with all objectives and management and monitoring commitments to be delivered by BAE Systems. Management in perpetuity would be transferred to future occupiers of the energy park upon any forthcoming planning consent (as part of a S106 agreement).

2. BASELINE AND EVALUATION

2.1 Specific surveys for Great Crested Newts were undertaken previously by EnvironPlus International Ltd in 2008 and 2009 and subsequently updated by Ecology Solutions in 2011 and 2012. All suitable ponds and ditches within and close to the development site (within 500m) were surveyed. A number of ditches were not surveyed as they were not considered suitable for breeding amphibians as they either only held water during periods of high rainfall or had strong flows.

2.2 Great Crested Newts were confirmed to be utilising two waterbodies within the development site (pond P3 and ditch P4) as well as five ponds located to the southeast of the development site (ponds P32, P36 and P37) in 2011. Ditch P2 within the development site and off-site ponds P31, P33 and P34 were also seen to support Great Crested Newts in 2008 and 2009 respectively (but none were found during the latest surveys in 2011). The location of the waterbodies are shown on Plan ECO3.

2.3 Great Crested Newts associated with the on-site population are considered to be utilising terrestrial habitat in close proximity to the waterbodies such as rank/tussocky grassland, scrub, ditches and ruderal areas, however, more distant areas of habitat (principally previously managed amenity grassland) are also likely to be utilised.

2.4 The on-site Great Crested Newt population is considered to represent a small meta-population restricted to terrestrial habitat around pond P3 and ditch P4 (and potentially ditch P2) and is constrained within the development site itself given the presence of barriers to dispersal (flowing ditches). In addition, the area of distant suitable terrestrial habitat within the southwest part of the development site is considered to be utilised by a medium meta-population (low end of this size class) in association with off-site ponds to the southeast of the development site. It is considered that this is a separate meta-population given its distance from the small on-site meta-population and intervening habitats which are dominated by large areas of hardstanding and sub-optimal habitats which are considered offer little opportunities for dispersal.