

**Intermodal Logistics Park North Ltd**

## **INTERMODAL LOGISTICS PARK NORTH (ILPN)**

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**Intermodal Logistics Park North (ILPN) Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI)**

**Project reference TR510001**

### **Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)**

#### **Appendix 11.7: Reptile Report**

**October 2025**

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**Planning Act 2008**

**The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017**

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**This document forms a part of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the Intermodal Logistics Park North (ILPN) project.**

A PEIR presents environmental information to assist consultees to form an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed development and provide feedback.

This PEIR has been prepared by the project promoter, Intermodal Logistics Park North Ltd. The Proposed Development is described in Chapter 3 of the PEIR and is the subject of a public consultation.

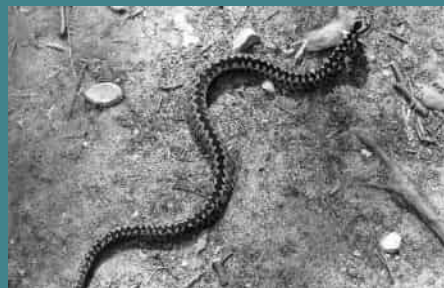
**Details of how to respond to the public consultation are provided at the end of Chapter 1 of the PEIR and on the project website:**

**<https://www.tritaxbigbox.co.uk/our-spaces/intermodal-logistics-park-north/>**

This feedback will be taken into account by Intermodal Logistics Park North Ltd in the preparation of its application for a Development Consent Order for the project.

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& design



# Reptile Survey Report

Client

**Intermodal Logistics Park North Limited**

Project

**ILPN**

Date

**September 2025**

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|     |              |                  |                  |

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Reptile Report has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd. on behalf of Intermodal Logistics Park North Ltd., to support a Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the development of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), Intermodal Logistics Park North, located to the east of Newton-Le-Willows (Central OS Grid Ref: SJ 6129 9507). The Proposed Development covers a number of areas in the wider DCO Site including; the Main Site (the strategic rail freight terminal and logistics park); the Western Rail Chord (a railway spur to the west of the Main Site), the Northern Mitigation Area (land north of the existing railway line to be used for compensatory habitat creation the 'Lane Head Relief Road' (located to the north-east of the Main Site); 'Remote Highway Works' including a number of options for highway improvement in the wider locality; and 'Soils Reuse Area' which includes agricultural land to the east of Winwick Lane. The entire area of the Proposed Development is herein referred to as 'the DCO Site'.
- 1.2 The area assessed by the surveys contained within this report includes the Main Site, and the Western Rail Chord. Herein referred to as 'the Survey Area'.
- 1.3 Note that the Remote Highway Works have been assessed at a high level in a separate highways mitigation options document. The Soils Reuse Area was not accessible for survey at the time of writing this report.
- 1.4 This Reptile Report supports an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) provided within the Ecology chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the DCO application.

### Site Location Context

- 1.5 The DCO Main Site is a roughly triangular area of approximately 198ha, bound by the Liverpool to Manchester railway line and Highfield Moss SSSI to the north, Winwick Lane (A579) to the east and south-east, the M6 motorway to the south-west, and an area of woodland and scrub and the M6 Motorway to the west. The Main Site also includes a small area of roughly triangular land north of the railway line bound by Parkside Road to the west and railway lines on all other aspects.
- 1.6 Of note is Highfield Moss SSSI, directly north of the Main Site. This SSSI is designated for raised mire habitats but also includes areas of scrub, woodland and lowland acid grassland, bounded by a ditch to the south which holds water except in periods of extreme dry weather.
- 1.7 The Western Rail Chord is a thin curved area of land that connects to the Liverpool to Manchester railway line in the north (just west of the M6). The Chord runs in an arc from the north-east to south-east through an area of mixed woodland, scrub and grassland on land which was formerly occupied by Parkside Colliery. At the south-eastern point of the arc the boundary of the area runs directly northwards (for a proposed access road).
- 1.8 The Main Site is predominantly occupied by land in agricultural cultivation. A small area of woodland is located in the north-east of the area, with two small, isolated stands of woodland located in the central area of the Main Site. An area of modified grassland is located in the north-central area associated with the runway and facility areas of Kenyon Hall Farm Airstrip. There are a number of ponds located across the Main Site, including recently constructed balancing ponds associated with Parkside Link Road East. There are a number of buildings

within the Main Site including Highfield Farm and associated barn in the north of the Main Site, Parkside Farm and associated buildings in the central area adjacent to Parkside Road, and a scrap/storage yard in the north-east of the Main Site.

- 1.9 The Western Rail Chord extends through areas of woodland, scrub and grassland associated with the former Parkside Colliery.

### **Site Proposals**

- 1.10 The Main Site is proposed to be developed as a Strategic Rail Freight Terminal and logistics park with large commercial/industrial buildings and associated access and landscaping. It is assumed that all habitats within the Main Site will be cleared during the Proposed Development with the exception of boundary hedgerows and trees (where present).
- 1.11 The Western Rail Chord is proposed to be developed as a railway line spur which, in the future will serve a separate proposed development (Parkside West). It is assumed that the majority of habitats within the footprint of the railway chord will be lost to the development with the exception of a small area of woodland and grassland in the south-western area.

### **Report Aims and Objectives**

- 1.12 The report has been prepared to achieve the following objectives:
- Summarise the survey and assessment methodologies employed in order to assess the importance of the Site for reptile species
  - Provide the desk study records of reptiles within a 1km radius of the Main Site and Western Rail Chord
  - Provide the results of reptile surveys undertaken
  - Assess the likelihood of reptiles being present within the study area.
  - Provide recommendations for avoidance, mitigation, compensation and/or enhancement to mitigate impacts of the proposals on reptiles

## 2.0 LEGISLATION

2.1 All widespread reptile species, including slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, adder *Vipera berus*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and grass snake *Natrix helvetica* are partially protected under Sections 9(1) and 9(5) of Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This legislation protects these animals from:

- Intentional killing and injury; and
- Selling, offering for sale, possessing, or transporting for the purpose of sale or publishing advertisements to buy or sell a protected species.

2.2 The impact that this legislation has on the Planning system is outlined in ODPM 06/2005 Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System, this states:

*'The presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat. Local authorities should consult English Nature [now Natural England] before granting planning permission. They should consider attaching appropriate planning conditions or entering into planning obligations under which the developer would take steps to secure the long-term protection of the species. They should also advise developers that they must comply with any statutory species' protection provisions affecting the site concerned.'*

2.3 This partial protection does not directly protect the habitat of these reptile species. Where these animals are present on land that is to be affected by development, the implications of legislation are that providing that killing can reasonably be avoided then an operation is legal. Guidance provided by Natural England and the Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK recommends that this should be achieved by ensuring that:

- the animals are protected from injury or killing;
- mitigation is provided to maintain the conservation status of the species; and
- population monitoring is carried out subsequent to operations.

2.4 Reptiles native to the UK are also classified as a Species of Principle Importance (SPIs) under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC).

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

#### Desk Study

- 3.1 To compile existing baseline information, relevant ecological information was requested from both statutory and non-statutory nature conservation organisations including:
- Greater Manchester Local Records Centre (GMLRC);
  - Record (Biological Records Centre for Cheshire and the Wirral);
  - Merseyside Biobank; and
  - Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC - <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.html>)
- 3.2 Further inspection of colour 1:25,000 OS base maps ([www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)) and aerial photographs from Google Earth ([www.maps.google.co.uk](http://www.maps.google.co.uk)) was also undertaken in order to provide additional context and identify any features of potential importance for nature conservation in the wider countryside.

#### Reptile Presence/Likely Absence Surveys

- 3.3 Artificial refugia (0.5m<sup>2</sup> sections of roofing felt) were placed throughout the survey area, where possible at a density of 10 refugia per hectare of suitable reptile habitat. These habitats included the arable field margin (scrub, tall forbs, grasses) adjacent to south of woodland in the north-west of the Main Site; margins of hedgerows in the west and south-west of the Main Site, the embankment and adjacent hedgerow margins along Barrow Lane through the south/central area of the Main Site; the embankment and scrub to the east of Parkside Road in the south/central area of the Main Site, hedgerows to the north of Parkside Farm in the Main Site; the grassland margins along the northern area of the Main Site (directly south of the railway); the southern boundary of Highfield Moss SSSI (mainly modified but tall grassland areas); suitable edge habitats around the isolated woodlands in the central area of the Main Site; the southern boundary of the scrap yard in the north-east of the Main Site; suitable woodland edge and scrub habitats across the Western Rail Chord. Refugia locations are shown in *Figure 1*.
- 3.4 Refugia were left to bed in for a minimum of 1-2 weeks. Then seven survey visits were undertaken by experienced FPCR ecologists between April and September 2025, following current guidelines<sup>1,2</sup> and in suitable weather conditions (*Table 1*). These include air temperatures between 9-19°C in the absence of strong winds and heavy rain.
- 3.5 Each survey visit included the following:
- Checking all refugia within the survey area at least once.
  - Approaching refugia carefully from downwind and without casting a shadow so as not to disturb basking animals.
  - Lifting and replacing refugia with care to check for the presence of reptiles underneath.

<sup>1</sup> Gent, T. & Gibson, S. (eds.) (2003) *Herpetofauna Workers' Manual*. JNCC, Peterborough.

<sup>2</sup> Froglife (2016) *Surveying for reptiles: Tips, techniques and skills to help you survey for reptiles*. Froglife, Peterborough.



- Checking other suitable basking areas and resting places within the survey area, such as log piles.

**Table 1: Reptile Survey Dates and Weather Conditions**

| Date                                                    | Time  | Weather Conditions                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30 April 2025                                           | 07:44 | 0-10% cloud cover, clear and bright, 14°C, 1/2 Beaufort Scale (BF)    |
| 06 May 2025                                             | 09:21 | No cloud 0-10%, clear, bright and sunny, 9°C start temp, no wind 0 BF |
| 25 May 2025                                             | 08.00 | Cloudy 90-100%, clear and dry, 16°C, 1/2 BF.                          |
| 16 June 2025                                            | 08.30 | 10-20% cloud cover, bright and clear, 17 °C, no wind 0 BF             |
| 25 June 2025                                            | 08:49 | Cloudy 90-100%, 16°C, 1/2 BF.                                         |
| 12 August 2025<br>Replacing refugia (Parital PM survey) | 17.00 | 90-100% cloud cover, dry but rain earlier, 23°C, 1/2 BF               |
| 08 September 2025<br>PM survey                          | 14.45 | Cloudy 90-100%, scattered light showers, 17°C, 2 BF.                  |
| 30 September 2025                                       | 10.37 | 0-10% cloud cover, clear bright, sunshine, 13°C, 1/2 BF.              |

### Population Assessment

- 3.6 The reptile population was assessed in accordance with the Key Reptile Site Register criteria<sup>3</sup>. This system classifies populations of individual reptile species into three population categories according to importance (Table 2). These categories are based on the peak number of adults observed during individual surveys.

**Table 2: Key Reptile Site Survey Assessment Categories (HGBI 1998)**

| Species       | Low Population<br>(No. of individuals) | Good Population<br>(No. of individuals) | Exceptional Population<br>(No. of individuals) |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Adder         | <5                                     | 5 - 10                                  | >10                                            |
| Common lizard | <5                                     | 5 - 20                                  | >20                                            |
| Grass snake   | <5                                     | 5 - 10                                  | >10                                            |
| Slow worm     | <5                                     | 5 - 20                                  | >20                                            |

- 3.7 To qualify for the Key Reptile Site Register, the site in question must meet at least one of the following criteria:
- Supports three or more species
  - Supports two snake species
  - Supports an exceptional population of one species (see Table 2)
  - Supports an assemblage of species scoring at least 4 (see Table 2)

<sup>3</sup> Froglife (1999) *Reptile survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation*. Advice Sheet 10. Froglife, Peterborough.

- Does not satisfy the above four points but is of particular regional importance due to local rarity (for example e.g. adders are very rare in the East Midlands of England, therefore even 'low' populations should be designated as Key Sites).

### **Limitations**

- 3.8 During the period of surveys artificial refugia were removed or damaged. Where refugia were still present but had been moved these were replaced. Where artificial refugia had been taken or damaged beyond use these were replaced on at least one occasion in suitable habitats. Given the number of refugia initially deployed, the suitability of habitats present, replacement of missing mats, and level of survey effort, sufficient refugia were considered to remain and the loss of some refugia during the survey period is not considered to be significant to the assessment of presence or likely absence of reptiles within the Survey Area.
- 3.9 No other significant limitations were identified.

## 4.0 RESULTS

### Desktop Study

- 4.1 12 records of common lizards were identified within 1km of the Main Site and Western Rail Chord within the last 20 years. 10 of those records associated with Highfield Moss SSSI. One record was identified approximately 510m north of the Main Site on the edge of arable land and residential gardens. One record was identified approximately 815m south of the Main Site in agricultural land but beyond the M6 Motorway which is considered to be a major barrier to dispersal.
- 4.2 A single record of grass snake *Natrix helvetica* was identified associated with Highfield Moss directly north of the Main Site.
- 4.3 Records are summarised in Table 3 below:

**Table 3: Summary of Desktop Study Reptile Records.**

| Species       | Location             | Date of Most Recent Record | Description                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Lizard | 18m NE of Main Site  | 03.09.2014                 | 1 adult<br>Highfield Moss near south-western ditch                                                                                                            |
| Grass snake   | 55m NE of Main Site  | 05.09.2023                 | 1 adult, found by contractors cutting bracken                                                                                                                 |
| Common Lizard | 75m NE of Main Site  | 22.08.2022                 | 1 common lizard<br>Highfield Moss western grassland area                                                                                                      |
| Common Lizard | 110m NE of Main Site | 05.08.2015                 | 1 adult basking<br>Highfield Moss grassland/heath north of railway                                                                                            |
| Common Lizard | 140m NE of Main Site | 14.06.2024                 | 2 individuals near pond towards railway line<br>Highfield Moss near central pond                                                                              |
| Common Lizard | 145m NE of Main Site | 22.08.2014                 | 1 common lizard. In heathland at Lowton.<br>Highfield Moss grassland/heath north of railway                                                                   |
| Common Lizard | 155m NE of Main Site | 07.09.2018                 | 3 adults<br>Highfield Moss near central pond                                                                                                                  |
| Common Lizard | 175m NE of Main Site | 24.08.2020                 | Present (on information)<br>Highfield Moss near central pond                                                                                                  |
| Common Lizard | 180m NE of Main Site | 05.08.2015                 | 2 juvenile common lizard. Black juveniles basking.<br>Highfield Moss near central pond                                                                        |
| Common Lizard | 165m NW of Main Site | 22.08.2014                 | 1 common lizard, valley mire<br>Highfield Moss near central pond                                                                                              |
| Common Lizard | 100m NW of Main Site | 26.07.2011                 | Present, above pool (no further information)<br>Highfield Moss southern wetland area                                                                          |
| Common Lizard | 510m N of Main Site  | 05.07.2020                 | 1 common lizard (no further information)<br>Within arable land/boundary with residential gardens to north of railway line (Proposed Northern Mitigation Area) |
| Common Lizard | 815m SE of Main Site | 14.05.2008                 | Beyond M6 Motorway                                                                                                                                            |

### Previous Survey Information

- 4.4 A search of publicly available information identified a reptile survey report within publicly available planning documents, dated 2017 and related to the Proposed Parkside West Development (located immediately to the south and east of the Western Rail Chord, and to the west of the M6). According to the report seven surveys were completed in September 2017 and no reptiles were identified though habitats in this area were reported to be suitable.

### Habitat Suitability Assessment

- 4.5 The majority of the Main Site comprised agricultural cultivated arable land considered to be sub-optimal for reptiles.
- 4.6 The area directly adjacent to the south-east of Highfield Moss SSSI in the northern area of the Main Site was noted to comprise grassland with a species composition and structure indicating it is a modified grassland but left relatively unmanaged and presenting with a tall sward. This habitat is in direct connectivity with the habitats of Highfield Moss to the north, including the banks of the boundary ditch and the grassland and wetland habitats within the SSSI. This habitat is therefore considered to be suitable for reptiles, particularly for foraging or dispersal though lacked any significant features providing suitable habitat for refuge or hibernation.
- 4.7 Small areas of woodland in the central area of the Main Site are considered to be provide some potential reptile habitat, particularly on the edges. However, these woodland areas are not in direct connectivity with other suitable areas of habitat.
- 4.8 Parkside Road in the western area of the Main Site exhibits a significant barrier to reptile dispersal, and though it is not likely not a complete barrier it is considered likely to deter movement of reptiles in east/west directions.
- 4.9 Woodland and woodland edge habitat in the north-west of the Main Site provides some suitable habitat for reptiles, however the ground flora was noted to be sparse and the woodland somewhat isolated by Parkside Road to the east and the M6 motorway to the west.
- 4.10 Hedgerows throughout the Main Site provided some potential habitat for reptiles, however in many cases the hedgerows were gappy and provided limited shelter and opportunities for foraging and refuge. Those more established and well maintained hedgerows in the vicinity of Highfield Moss provided most suitable habitat for reptiles as well as connectivity from suitable habitats.
- 4.11 The Western Rail Chord was noted to provide a range of suitable habitats including woodland (with occasional wet areas), scrub, and grassland (including a small area of wet grassland). However, this area is relatively isolated due to the railway lines to the north and west and the M6 motorway to the east.

### Field Surveys

- 4.12 Locations of reptile refugia deployed are provided in *Figure 1* while the results of reptile surveys are summarised in *Table 4* below.
- 4.13 Reptile presence/absence surveys have identified the presence of a single reptile species, common lizard. The numbers identified indicate a good population within the northern central area of the Main Site, likely extending into Highfield Moss SSSI to the north of the Main Site.

- 4.14 Although the desk study identified a single grass snake within Highfield Moss to the north of the Main Site, no grass snakes were recorded during the surveys within the Main Site. It is therefore considered that grass snakes are likely absent from the Main Site.
- 4.15 *Figure 2* shows that all reptile sightings occurred within the area of taller modified grassland associated with Kenyon Hall Farm Airstrip, immediately to the south-east of Highfield Moss SSSI and in the northern central area of the Main Site.
- 4.16 In accordance with *Table 2* and associated Key Reptile Sites criteria, surveys have concluded that this site does not qualify as a Key Reptile Site.

**Table 4: Summary of Reptile Survey Results**

| Date                        | Survey Results                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Peak Count (Adults) | Other Species Recorded                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30 April 2025               | 2 female common lizard (gravid) Main Site (south-east of SSSI)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2 common lizards    | Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i> under reptile refugia mat (to the west of Western Rail Chord outside Order Limits)                          |
| 06 May 2025                 | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | N/A                 | A shrew <i>Sorex araneus</i> under reptile refugia mat in north of the Main Site (proposed community area north of railway)              |
| 25 May 2025                 | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | N/A                 | N/A                                                                                                                                      |
| 16 June 2025                | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | N/A                 | N/A                                                                                                                                      |
| 25 June 2025                | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | N/A                 | N/A                                                                                                                                      |
| 11 July 2025                | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | N/A                 | Incidental record of 3 common toad under reptile refugia mat in Western Rail Chord. Checked incidentally during other ecological survey. |
| 12 August 2025              | Incidental findings during visit to replace lost refugia<br>1 adult common lizard, 1 juvenile common lizard (south-east of SSSI)<br>1 adult common lizard, 1 juvenile common lizard (south-east of SSSI)<br>2 adult common lizard (south-east of SSSI)<br>1 adult common lizard (south-east of SSSI)<br>1 adult common lizard (south-east of SSSI)<br>1 adult common lizard (south-east of SSSI)<br>1 adult common lizard (south-east of SSSI) | 8 common lizards    | None                                                                                                                                     |
| 08 September 2025 PM survey | 1 adult common lizard (south-east of SSSI)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | N/A                 | None                                                                                                                                     |
| 30 September 2025           | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | N/A                 | None                                                                                                                                     |

## 5.0 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The desk study indicated that a low population of common lizard may be present within Highfield Moss SSSI.
- 5.2 Field surveys have identified the presence of common lizard within the Main Site and that the boundary habitats in the north of Main Site (adjacent to the SSSI). It is considered that this area supports a good population of common lizard (5 adults identified in the area directly south-east of Highfield Moss SSSI).
- 5.3 The field surveys and desk study information indicate that the population range likely includes Highfield Moss SSSI, and boundary habitats, with the potential for individuals to occasionally range over greater distances. Overall, this population is considered to be of *Local Level ecological value*.

### Proposals

- 5.4 The Proposed Development will include the loss of the majority of habitats across the Main Site. Some retained habitats will be present in the Western Rail Chord in the south-west (grassland and woodland). The area directly south of Highfield Moss SSSI will be subject to habitat creation to create the Highfield Moss Protection Zone. The existing habitats within the Protection Zone will be at least disturbed if not cleared for habitat creation.
- 5.5 Habitat creation in the Western Rail Chord will include areas of grassland, scrub and limited woodland planting.

### Potential Impacts

- 5.6 The following section provides an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposals upon reptiles.
- 5.7 Given previous records of common lizard within Highfield Moss SSSI, it is considered likely that the population is present in habitats in this vicinity both within the Main Site and within Highfield Moss. The population identified falls short of the threshold for a Key Reptile Site.

#### Habitat Loss

- 5.8 It is assumed that the habitat within the north of the Main Site in which this population of common lizard was identified (tall, modified grassland adjacent to south of Highfield Moss SSSI) will be cleared or disturbed during habitat creation works associated with the Proposed Development. These works are considered to be temporary in nature.

#### Direct Harm/Disturbance

- 5.9 Habitat clearance and creation works have the potential to directly disturb and displace, harm, or potentially kill individual common lizard. Lizards are for the most part mobile animals and will avoid areas of ongoing activity and disturbance.
- 5.10 To ensure the development is completed in accordance with the requirements of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the requirements of the NERC Act (2006), appropriate mitigation measures will be adopted as outlined in the following section.

## Mitigation

- 5.11 The majority of the Main Site and all of the Western Rail Chord were found to be likely absent of reptiles. As such, no mitigation measures are proposed for these areas. Should any reptiles be encountered in these areas during clearance or construction they will be considered as unexpected finds. The CEMP will include provisions for unexpected ecological finds.
- 5.12 The areas of grassland to be lost will be replaced with wet grasslands with scrapes, patches of scrub, a mound designed to enhance habitats for reptiles and an area of wet woodland on the boundary of the Highfield Moss Protection Zone. This will provide habitat with increased suitability for common lizard in the longer term and retained habitats outside of the Order Limits will continue to be accessible to the population. Therefore compensatory habitat is not considered to be required. Furthermore, the proposals include the creation of further areas of grassland, ponds, scrub and woodland to the north of the railway line which have the potential to support reptiles and allow of the expansion of the population in the local area.
- 5.13 While the proposed habitats establish there may be a short-term adverse effect from the temporary reduction/loss of suitable reptile habitats and temporary displacement of common lizard from the existing population range. Construction activities could disturb or harm individual lizards though for the most part lizards are mobile and will avoid areas of disturbance.

## Passive Displacement

- 5.14 Habitats located directly adjacent to Highfield Moss SSSI will be subject to precautionary measures that will be included in the CEMP. These measures will be further refined by on the ground observations made by the appointed Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) immediately prior to any habitat clearance.
- 5.15 As the proposals will for the most part result in only small losses of grassland, a passive displacement exercise is considered appropriate and proportionate mitigation.
- 5.16 Highfield Moss immediately north of the Main Site is considered to be likely part of range of the existing population of common lizard present within the Main Site. As such, Highfield Moss will act as the receptor area for any common lizard displaced from the Main Site or captured and translocated from the Main Site prior to habitat clearance/disturbance.
- 5.17 In order to avoid breaching legislation that protects reptile species, a passive displacement exercise will be undertaken during the clearance of areas of grassland with the Main Site and immediately to the south of Highfield Moss. These habitats are connected to Highfield Moss and the vegetated banks of the ditch bounding Highfield Moss to the north of the Main Site, which will be retained and protected to allow reptiles to find refuge during construction.
- 5.18 The passive displacement exercise will include the following measures to minimise the risk of harm to any undetected reptiles:
- Clearance will be carried out in two stages: initially cutting vegetation to approximately 15–20 cm height, followed by a 24–48 hour pause before completing clearance to ground level. This allows any reptiles present to move away voluntarily.
  - Where possible habitat clearance and disturbance works will be scheduled during the reptile active season, ideally in mid-summer (July–August), when reptiles are most mobile and able to relocate safely.

- Vegetation will be cleared directionally, moving from the south towards retained or habitat areas to the north to encourage natural dispersal.
- An ecologist will be available on-call during clearance to provide guidance if reptiles are encountered.
- No trapping or translocation exercise is proposed, although should any reptiles be encountered during clearance or construction, they will be encouraged to move towards the receptor area (Highfield Moss and boundary habitats) to the north, or if safe to do so will be captured and safely translocated into the receptor area.

#### Fencing

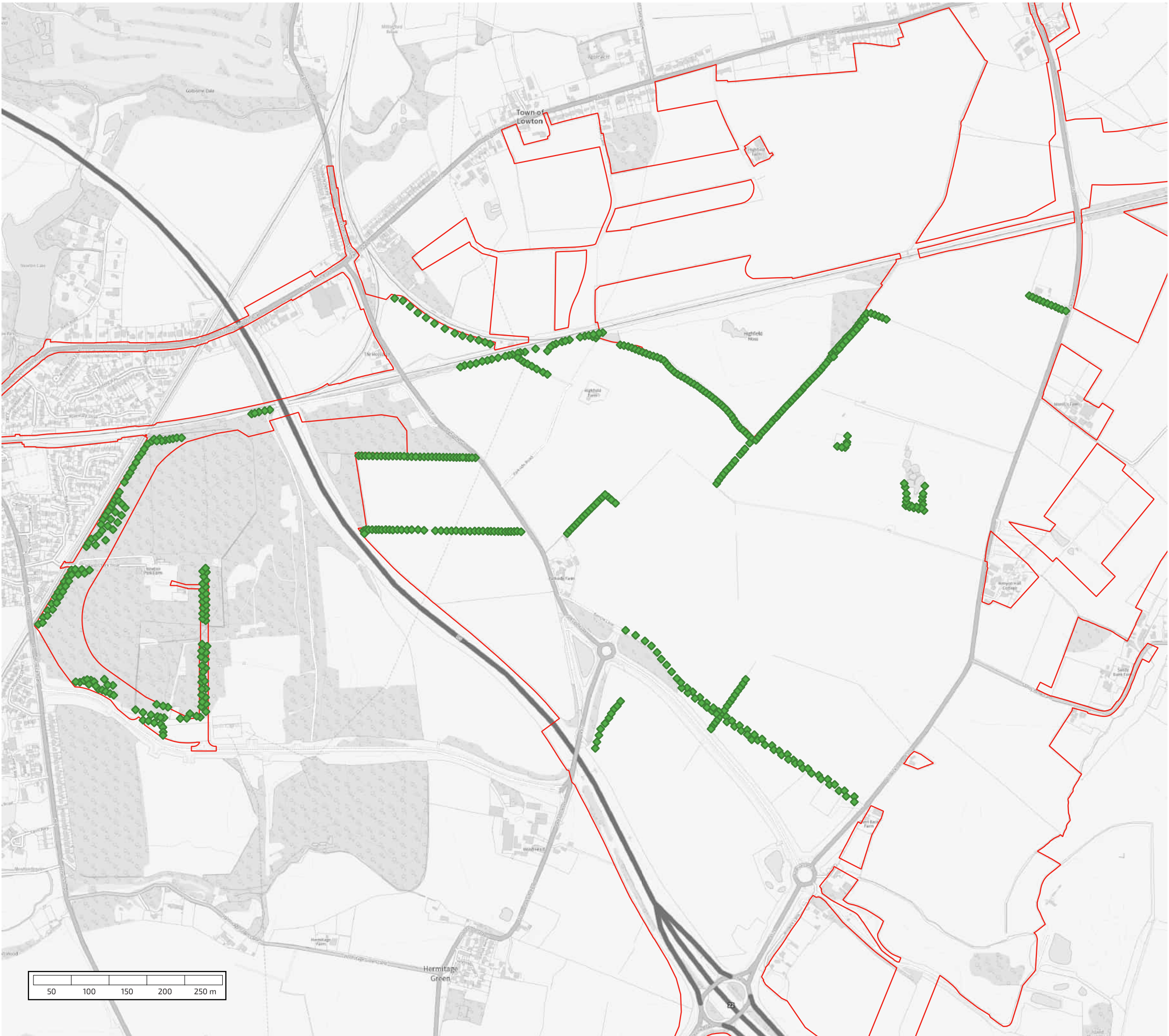
- 5.19 The Highfield Moss Protection Zone will provide suitable habitat for reptiles and act as a natural buffer between the Proposed Development and Highfield Moss SSSI. Once created these habitats will be suitable for reptiles and there may be potential for reptiles to further migrate into construction areas beyond the Protection Zone.
- 5.20 During the construction period Highfield Moss Protection Zone will be defined as a Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ) that will be bound by appropriate fencing to prevent construction activities encroaching into the area of habitat creation. This fencing will also be provided with Temporary Amphibian Fencing (TAF) at low level and dug into the ground, which will be sufficient to prevent the movement of any reptiles (if present) into the construction area.
- 5.21 Over the construction period the TAF will be checked periodically by the appointed ECoW/ecologist to ensure that the fencing remains intact. Where areas of damage are observed, these will be reported to the Principal Contractor and the necessary repairs completed.
- 5.22 Once the construction phase is completed the TAF fence will be removed.

#### Enhancements

- 5.23 The Proposed Development includes significant areas of habitat creation and enhancement suitable for reptiles within the Highfield Moss Protection Zone and within the Northern Mitigation Area to the north of the Main Site. The habitat creation in these areas will provide a significant improvement in extent and quality of habitats suitable to support common lizard.
- 5.24 The Highfield Moss Protection Zone will include wet grassland areas with a diverse range of floral species and varied habitat structure providing opportunities for common lizard. In addition the south-western area of the Highfield Moss Protection Zone will include an embankment with south-west facing aspect including mixed scrub, areas of bare ground and features suitable to provide refuge for reptiles. This embankment will provide suitable refuge, forage habitat, and areas for basking.
- 5.25 The Northern Mitigation Area will include an area of wet grassland and ponds in the south-east, adjacent to the east and north of Highfield Moss SSSI. This area will provide a variety of habitats suitable for common lizard. Within the northern and central areas of the Northern Mitigation Area will be grasslands (some with limited public access), scrub, and woodland. These habitats will also provide suitable habitat for reptiles that will be connected via newly created hedgerows.



- 5.26 Across the DCO Site, where appropriate, log piles will be provided that will create habitat enhancements for a range of wildlife including reptiles and common lizard but also appropriate for invertebrates, amphibians, and small mammals.



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Key:

- Red Line Boundary
- Draft Order Limits
- Reptile mat locations

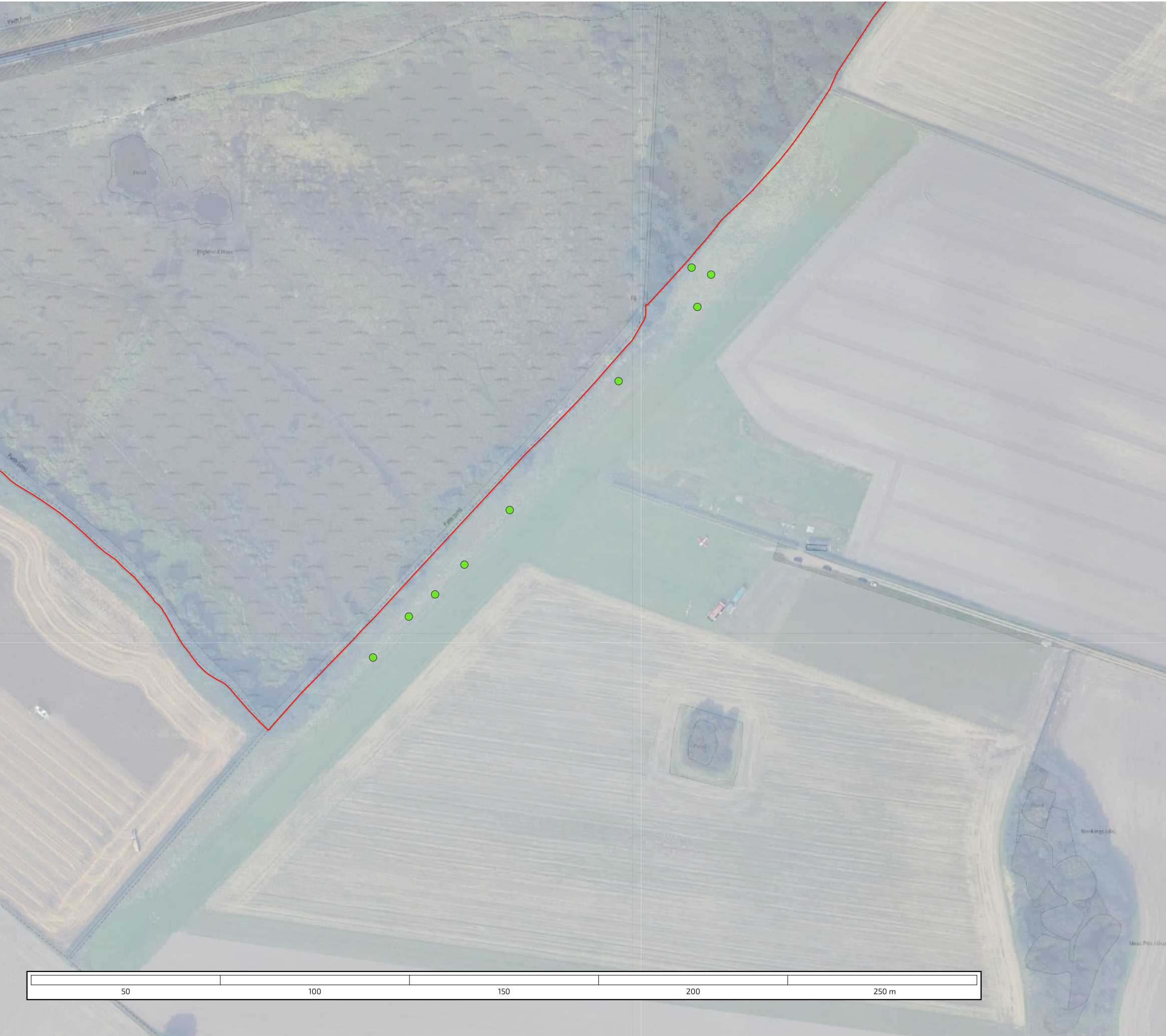
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| client  | Intermodal Logistics Park North Limited |
| project | ILPN                                    |

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|-------|---------------------------|-------|---------------|
| title | Reptile Mat Location Plan | scale | 1:10,000 @ A3 |
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Key:

 Draft Order Limits

Reptile Survey Results

 Common Lizard Observation

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| date     | drwn/chkd |
| 22/10/25 | PRA / PRA |

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| client                                         |
| <b>Intermodal Logistics Park North Limited</b> |
| project                                        |

ILPN

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| title                         | scale        |
| <b>Reptile Survey Results</b> | 1:2,000 @ A3 |

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| number          | rev |
| <b>FIGURE 2</b> | -   |

**FPCR Environment and Design Ltd**

Registered Office: Lockington Hall, Lockington, Derby DE74 2RH  
Company No. 07128076. [T] 01509 672772 [E] [mail@fpcr.co.uk](mailto:mail@fpcr.co.uk) [W] [www.fpcr.co.uk](http://www.fpcr.co.uk)

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