

Code - Species
H. Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)
OC. Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)
RK. Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)
SA. Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)
TT. Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)



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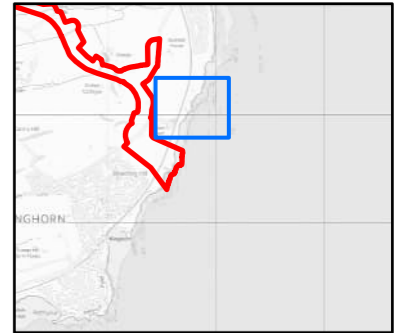
PROJECT
Eastern Green Link 4

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SP Energy Networks

CONSULTANT
AECOM Limited
One Trinity Gardens
Newcastle
NE1 2HF
www.aecom.com

LEGEND

- Planning Application Boundary
- 500m Survey Area
- Coastal Bird Location - Feeding
- December 2024
- January 2025
- February 2025
- March 2025
- April 2025



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ISSUE PURPOSE
EIA REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER
60707131

FIGURE TITLE
Coastal Wintering Bird Survey Results - Foraging

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 7.9 (Sheet 1 of 3)

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Code - Species
BA. Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)
CA. Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)
CU. Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)
H. Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)
HG. Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)
OC. Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)
RK. Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)
SA. Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)
TT. Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)



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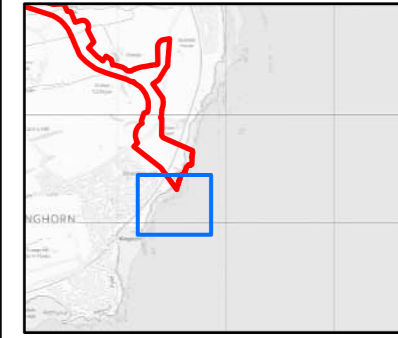
LEGEND

Planning Application Boundary

500m Survey Area

Coastal Bird Location - Feeding

- December 2024
- January 2025
- February 2025
- March 2025
- April 2025



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FIGURE TITLE

Coastal Wintering Bird Survey Results - Foraging

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 7.9 (Sheet 3 of 3)

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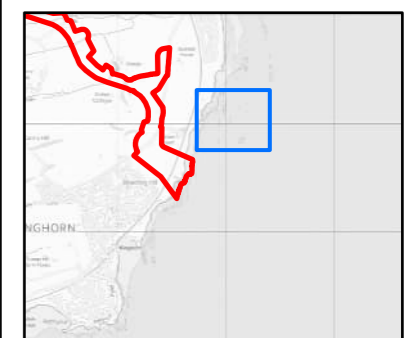
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Code - Species	
CA. Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	HG. Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)
CU. Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	OC. Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)
E. Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	RK. Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)
GB. Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)	SA. Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)
H. Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	



LEGEND

	Planning Application Boundary
	500m Survey Area
Coastal Bird Location Resting	
	November 2024
	December 2024
	January 2025
	February 2025
	March 2025



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ISSUE PURPOSE
EIA REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER
60707131

FIGURE TITLE
Coastal Wintering Bird Survey Results - Resting

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 7.12 (Sheet 1 of 4)

Code - Species	
BH. Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	LB. Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)
CU. Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	ML. Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)
E. Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	OC. Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)
GB. Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)	RK. Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)
H. Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	SA. Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)
HG. Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	TT. Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)

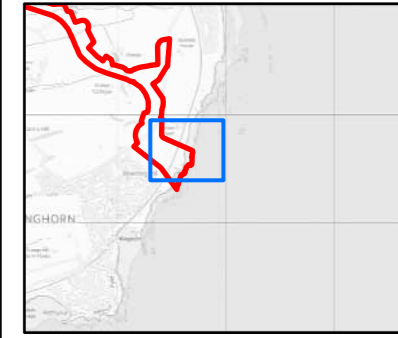


Planning Application Boundary

500m Survey Area

Coastal Bird Location Resting

- November 2024
- December 2024
- January 2025
- February 2025
- March 2025



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ISSUE PURPOSE

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PROJECT NUMBER

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FIGURE TITLE

Coastal Wintering Bird Survey Results - Resting

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 7.12 (Sheet 2 of 4)



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Code - Species
E. Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)
HG. Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)
LN. Long-tailed Duck (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>)



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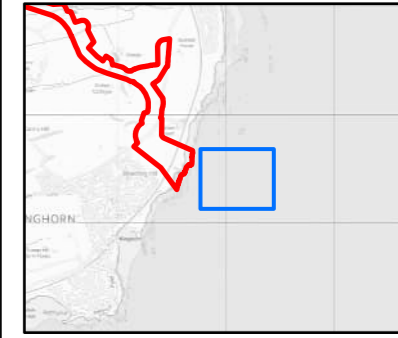
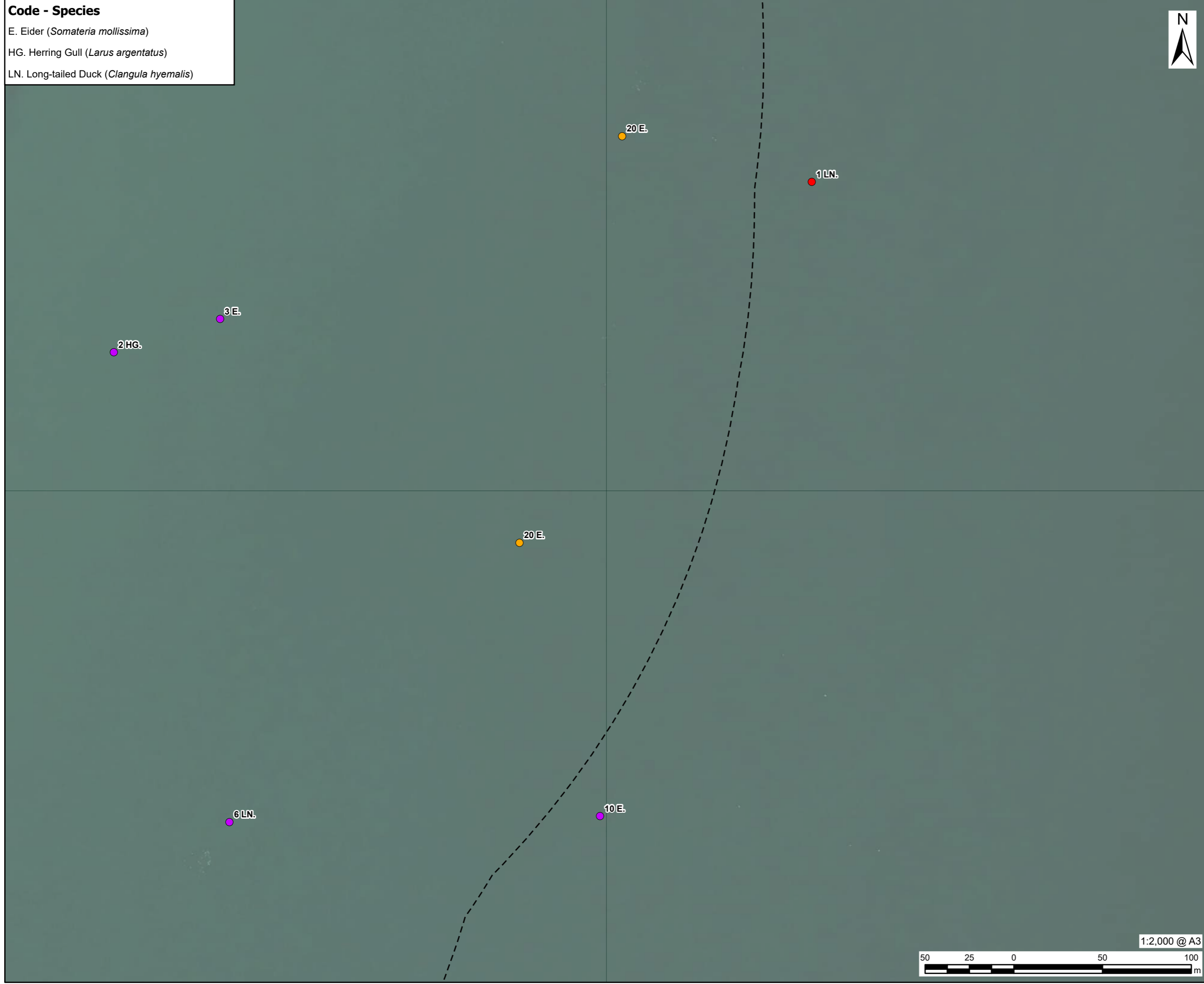
LEGEND

Planning Application Boundary

500m Survey Area

Coastal Bird Location Resting

- November 2024
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- January 2025
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ISSUE PURPOSE

EIA REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER

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FIGURE TITLE

Coastal Wintering Bird Survey Results - Resting

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 7.12 (Sheet 3 of 4)



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Code - Species	
BH. Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	LB. Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)
E. Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	PS. Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>)
GB. Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)	RK. Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)
H. Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	SA. Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)
HG. Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	TT. Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)



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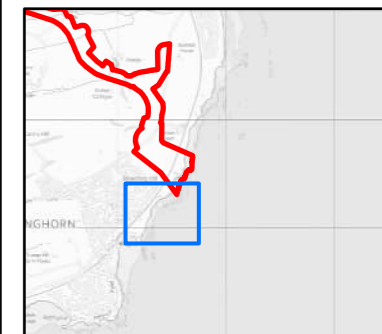
LEGEND

Planning Application Boundary

500m Survey Area

Coastal Bird Location Resting

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PROJECT NUMBER

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FIGURE TITLE

Coastal Wintering Bird Survey Results - Resting

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 7.12 (Sheet 4 of 4)



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Birds

Full details of the desk study and field survey results relating to birds are available within **Appendix 7.4 Ornithology (Volume 4 Appendices)** and shown on **Figures 7.7 – 7.10** above, and a summary of results is provided below.

Recent records of 71 notable bird species were identified during the desk study, provided by Fife Nature Records Centre, eight of which were also recorded during the wintering bird surveys. No data was returned by the Fife RSG. There is no suitable nesting habitat close to the Application Boundary for any of the Schedule 1 species returned by the desk study.

During the field surveys a total of 22 species of waterbird were recorded, 12 of which are qualifying species of SPAs within 10 km of the Scottish Onshore Scheme. Of the qualifying species – pink-footed goose, herring gull, cormorant, eider, long-tailed duck, shag and turnstone were all recorded in numbers representing more than 1% of their respective SPA population.

The fields within the Converter Station are used regularly by greylag and pink-footed geese, particularly pink-footed geese, with a peak count of 500 birds recorded. The Converter Station surveys also recorded four species of gull and one wader species (oystercatcher).

The fields surrounding the Landfall are used occasionally by low numbers of geese, gulls and waders.

The shoreline at the Landfall is used consistently by low numbers of waders and gulls for both foraging and resting. Oystercatcher, redshank, curlew and turnstone were recorded on almost all visits whereas bar-tailed godwit and purple sandpiper were only recorded once. Eider, long-tailed duck, cormorants and shags were also recorded during the Landfall coastal surveys.

All field survey results are shown in **Figures 7.7-7.10**.

Great Crested Newt

A single great crested newt record of two individuals associated with Auchterderan quarry pool (approximately 950 m east of the Application Boundary) was identified during the desk study, provided by Fife Nature Records Centre. The closest record available via RecordPool is located within OS grid square NT18; the edge of which is approximately 2.5 km west of the Application Boundary.

The desk study pond search identified 26 waterbodies within 250 m of the Application Boundary. One large unvegetated reservoir at Westfield separated from the Application Boundary by the B9097, three water treatment ponds, and a heavily trampled muddy puddle in a livestock pasture field were scoped out of further survey due to their being unsuitable. One large private pond was not surveyed due to land access constraints.

Results of the HSI assessment and eDNA sampling are provided in **Table 7-9 Summary of great crested newt HSI assessment and eDNA survey results**; additional detail is provided in **Appendix 7.5 Great Crested Newts (Volume 4 Appendices)** and the location of each pond is shown on **Figure 7.11 GCN Survey Results**.

Great crested newts were absent from all ponds tested for the presence of eDNA. All other ponds, except EGL20, were either scoped out due to isolation and/or unsuitability. Great

crested newts live in a metapopulation structure (multiple small populations connected via dispersal) typically across a group of ponds within 500 m of one another. EGL20 is highly isolated by arable fields that are unsuitable for great crested newt and the species is absent from the only known pond within 1 km (EGL19). Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude great crested newts are absent from the surveyed area.

Table 7-9. Summary of great crested newt HSI assessment and eDNA survey results

Pond reference	Description	Relation to Application Boundary	HSI Score ¹³	HSI suitability category ¹³	eDNA analysis result ¹⁴
EGL01	Large artificial and unvegetated waterbody.	150 m northeast On the opposite side of the B9097.	Scoped out of further survey due to poor suitability and isolation from the Scottish Onshore Scheme.		
EGL02	Small pond in clearing of conifer woodland at the edge of livestock pasture.	5 m southwest	0.76 / 0.66	Good / Average ¹⁵	Negative
EGL03	Unvegetated flooded area within coniferous woodland.	40 m west	0.34	Poor	Negative
EGL04	Deep pond in agricultural setting surrounded by scrub and marginal vegetation.	160 m west	0.42	Poor	Negative
EGL05	Ephemeral depression with dense swamp vegetation.	50 m west	0.64	Average	Not sampled; unsuitable as dry in spring
EGL06a	Densely vegetated artificial waterbody associated with Coal Authority workings.	180 m east On the opposite side of the B981.	0.46	Poor	Negative
EGL06b	Densely vegetated artificial waterbody associated with	110 m east On the opposite side of the B981.	0.46	Poor	Negative

¹³ As calculated/assigned following HSI methodology.

¹⁴ As provided by SureScreen following water sample analysis

¹⁵ The suitability of this pond drastically decreased between initial HSI survey and subsequent eDNA collection.

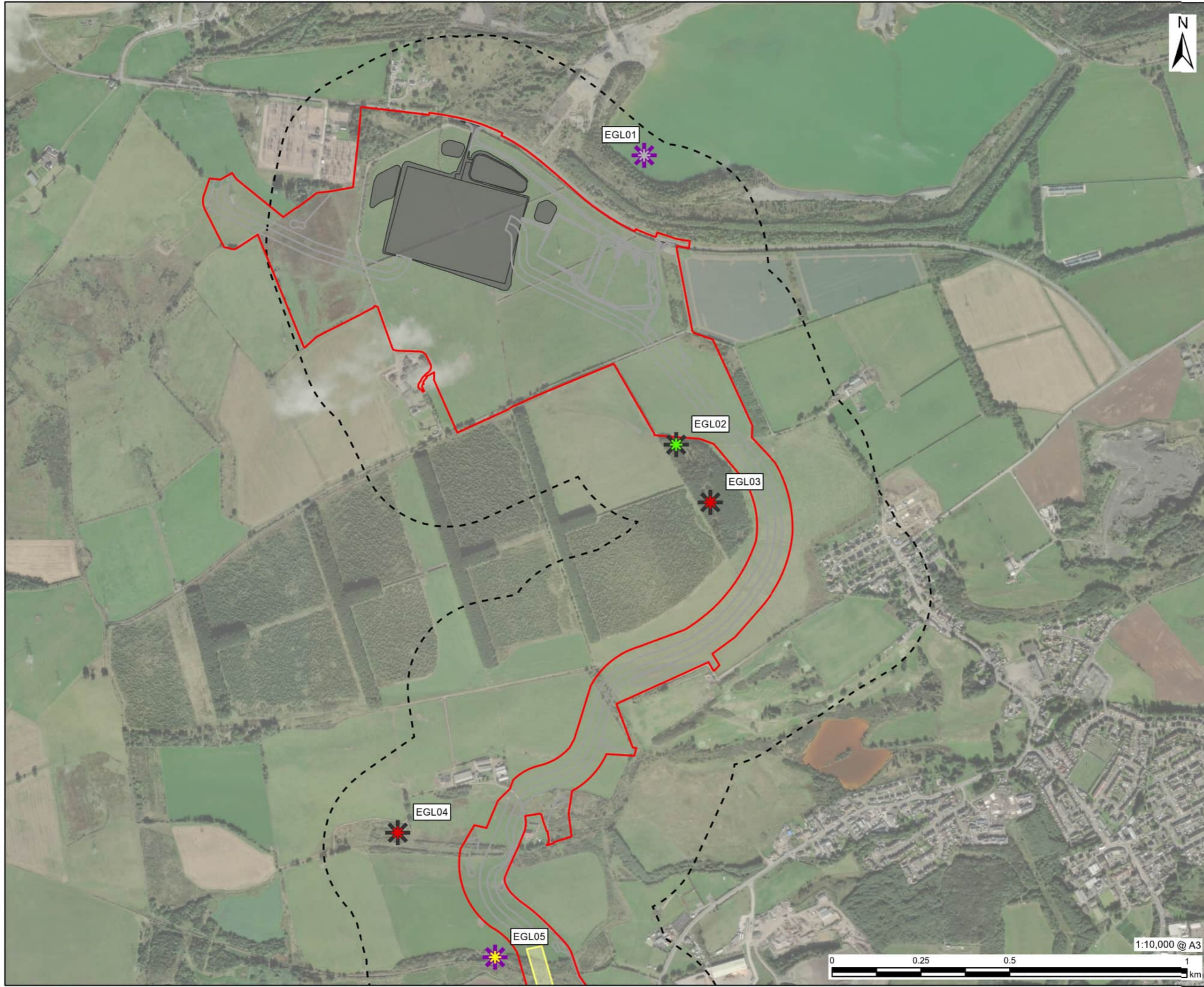
Pond reference	Description	Relation to Application Boundary	HSI Score ¹³	HSI suitability category ¹³	eDNA analysis result ¹⁴
	Coal Authority workings.				
EGL06c	Puddle in depression, downslope of EGL06a&b.	150 m east On the opposite side of the B981.	0.46	Poor	Negative
EGL07	Shallow marshy pond at base of railway embankment.	225 m northeast	0.67	Average	Negative
EGL08	Muddy pond situated centrally within livestock pasture field.	220 m west	0.46	Poor	Negative
EGL09	Ephemeral depression with dense swamp vegetation in coniferous woodland.	Within	0.56	Below average	Not sampled; unsuitable as dry in spring
EGL10	Very large private pond.	210 m west	0.43	Poor	Negative
EGL11	Ephemeral depression in livestock pasture field.	100 m west	0.60	Below average	Not sampled; unsuitable as dry in spring
EGL12	Camilla Loch designated as a SSSI primarily for the extensive and diverse area of freshwater transition mire at the western end; bound by livestock pasture to the east.	40 m west.	0.35	Poor	Negative
EGL13a&b	Shallow depressions in livestock pasture field which discharge through	30 m north	0.69	Average	Negative

Pond reference	Description	Relation to Application Boundary	HSI Score ¹³	HSI suitability category ¹³	eDNA analysis result ¹⁴
	marginal vegetation.				
EGL13c	Very muddy and trampled puddle adjacent to gate of livestock pasture field.	Within			Scoped out of further survey due to extremely poor habitat suitability and excessive poaching.
EGL14	Three artificial waterbodies apparently associated with water treatment.	160 m north Separated by the Tiel Burn.			Scoped out of further survey due to being inhospitable for great crested newts.
EGL15	Very large private pond.	95 m southeast	0.45	Poor	Negative
EGL16	Very large private pond.	25 m south	0.69	Average	Negative
EGL17	Recently drained or ephemeral depression with dense swamp vegetation.	170 m north Separated by the Tiel Burn.	0.69	Average	Not sampled; unsuitable as dry in spring
EGL18	Very large private pond.	20 m south	0.46	Poor	Negative
EGL19	Very large private pond.	340 m northwest	0.38	Poor	Negative
EGL20	Very large private pond.	10 m north			Not assessed or sampled due to land access constraints.

Other Common Amphibians

Records of other amphibians including common toad *Bufo bufo*, common frog *Rana temporaria*, and palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus* are available on Record Pool within the hectads which overlap the Application Boundary. Additionally, Fife Nature Records Centre returned one recent record of common toad associated with Kinghorn Loch.

Common amphibians may occur within suitable habitats throughout the Application Boundary, including rough grassland, woodland and scrub; particularly in proximity to wetland habitats such as ditches, ponds and swamp. Intensively farmed arable fields and heavily grazed pastures are generally unsuitable for common amphibians.



- LEGEND**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - GCN Survey Area (250m buffer of the site boundary as it was understood at the time of survey)
 - Indicative Infrastructure Layout**
 - Permanent Infrastructure
 - Temporary Infrastructure
 - Horizontal Direction Drilling (HDD) Section
 - Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) Category**
 - * Average
 - * Below average
 - * Good / Average
 - * Not surveyed
 - * Poor
 - eDNA Result**
 - * Negative
 - * Not sampled



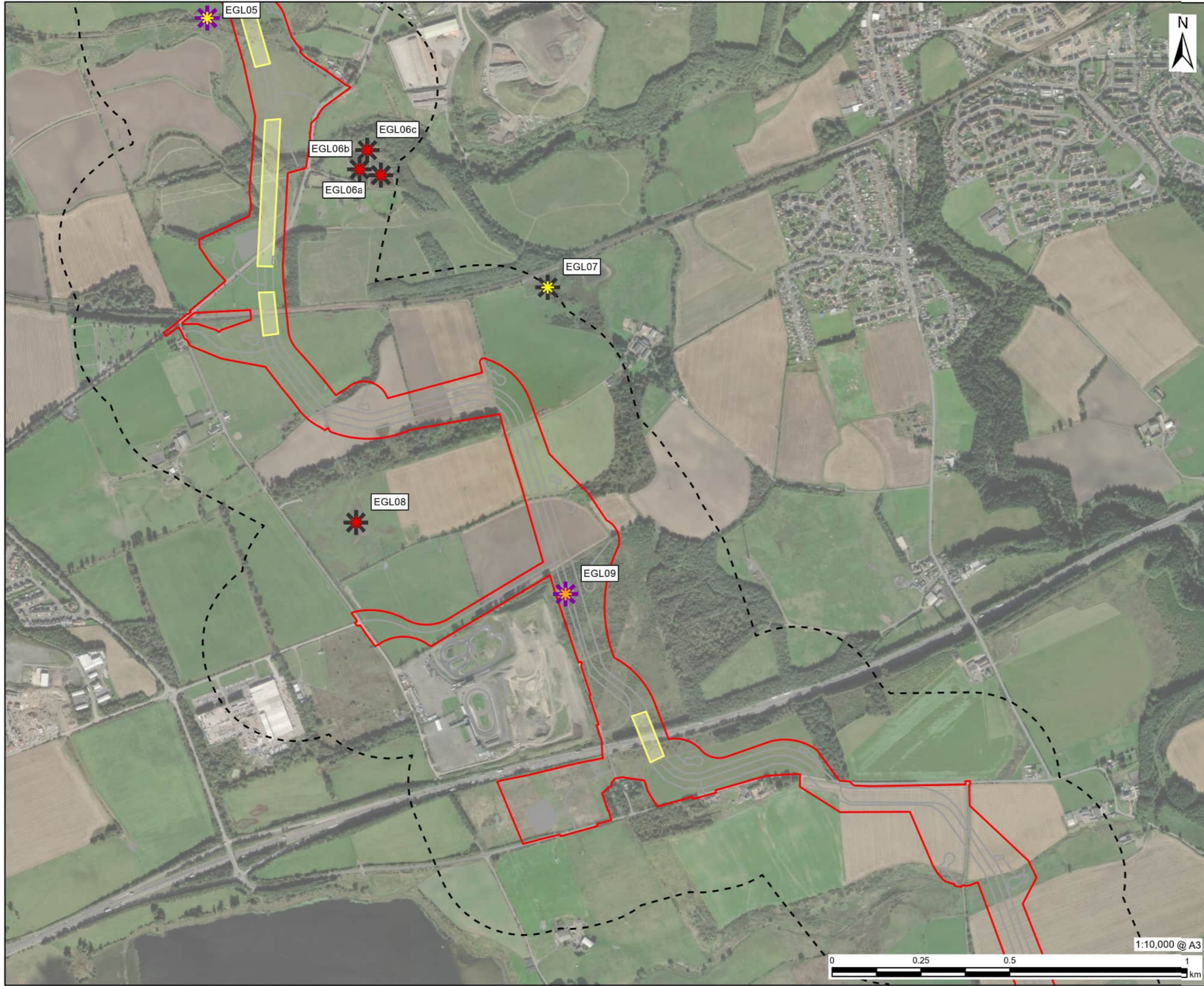
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60707131

FIGURE TITLE
Great Crested Newt Survey Results

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 7.11 (Page 1 of 5)



- LEGEND**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - GCN Survey Area (250m buffer of the site boundary as it was understood at the time of survey)
 - Indicative Infrastructure Layout
 - Temporary Infrastructure
 - Horizontal Direction Drilling (HDD) Section
 - Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) Category
 - ★ Average
 - ★ Below average
 - ★ Good / Average
 - ★ Not surveyed
 - ★ Poor
 - eDNA Result
 - ★ Negative
 - ★ Not sampled



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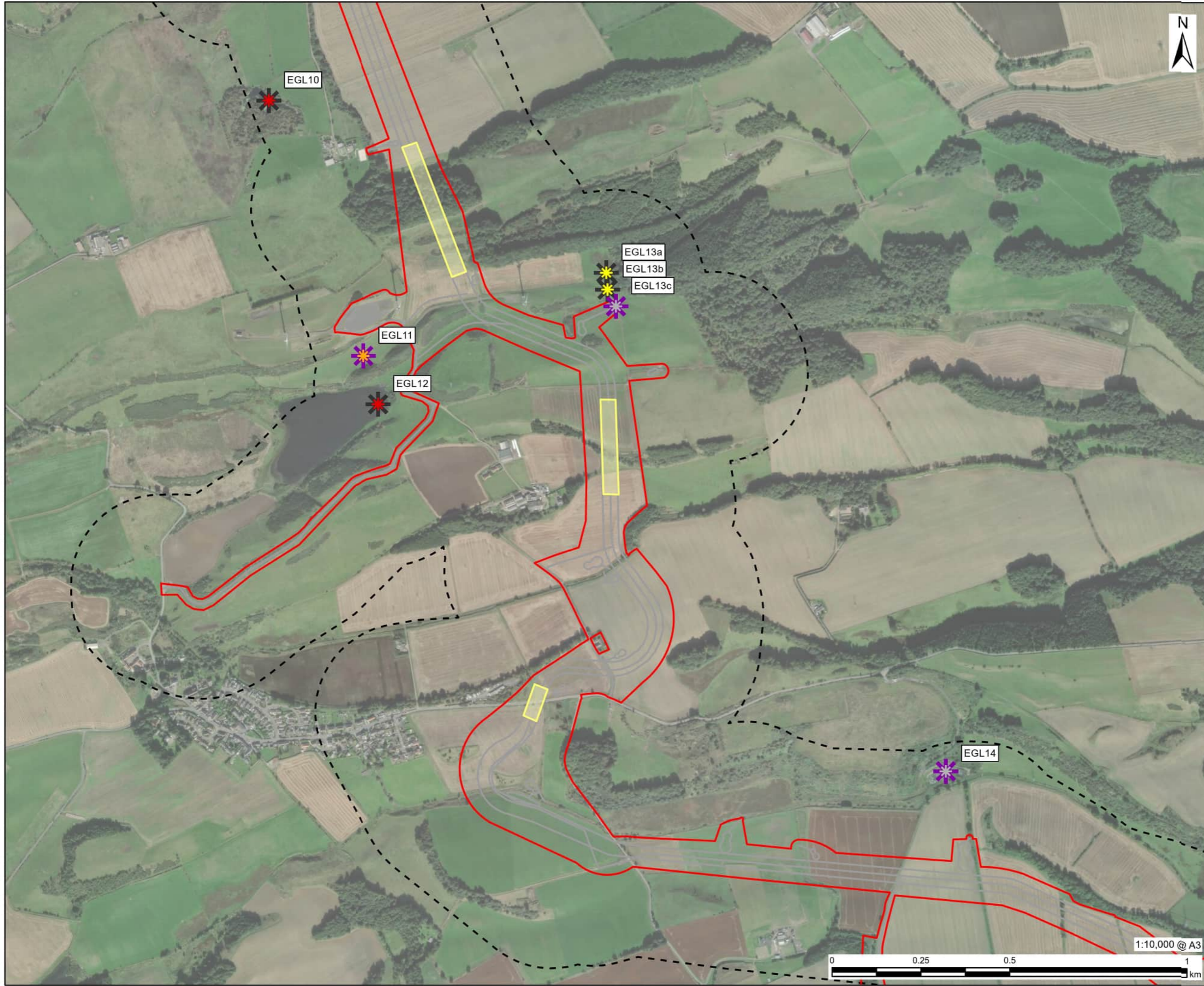
ISSUE PURPOSE
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FIGURE TITLE
Great Crested Newt Survey Results

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 7.11 (Page 2 of 5)

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- LEGEND**
- Planning Application Boundary
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FIGURE TITLE
Great Crested Newt Survey Results

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 7.11 (Page 3 of 5)

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