



Funded by
UK Government

“Putting Peat on the Map”



Lowland Agricultural Peat Water Discovery Pilot

Project Summary – June 2026

Daniel Bowles

Partnerships & Development Coordinator



The Greensand Trust



Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants

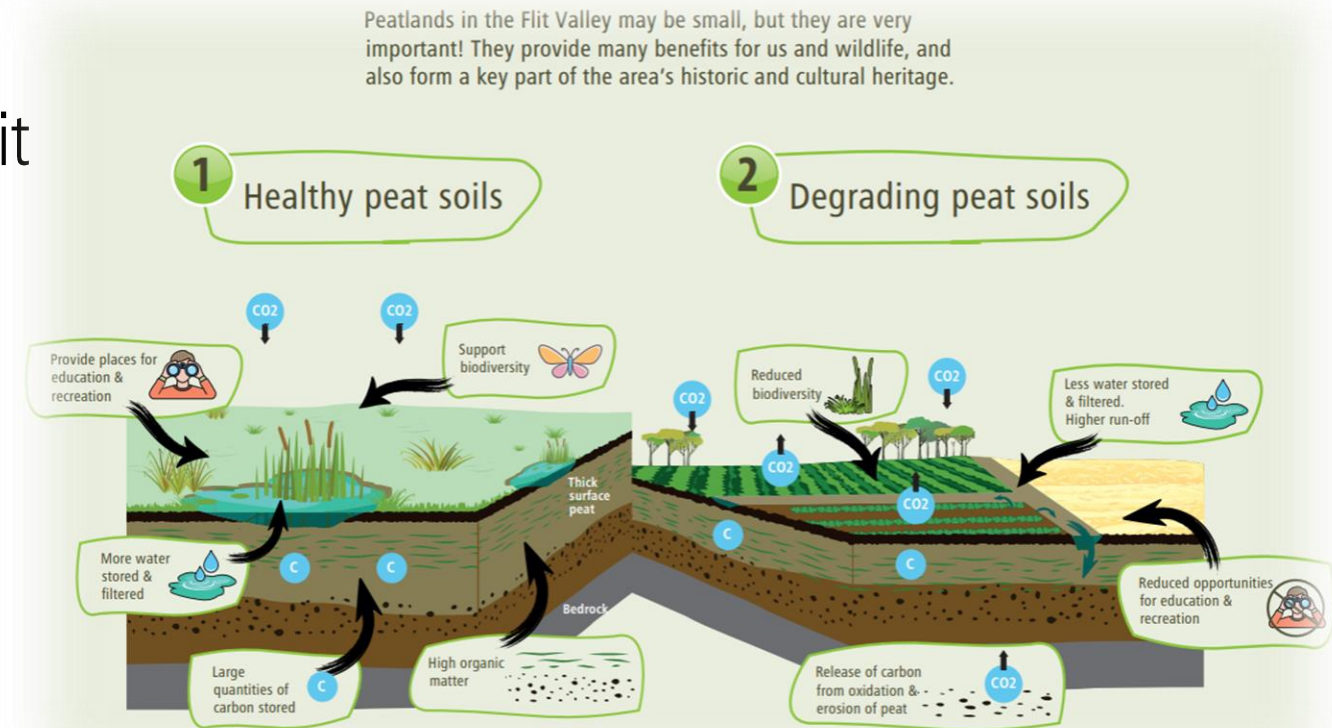


Greensand Country
Landscape Partnership



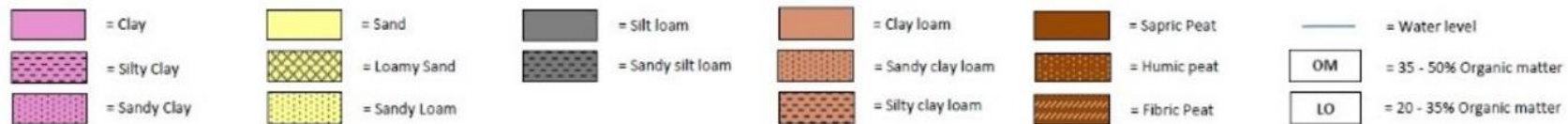
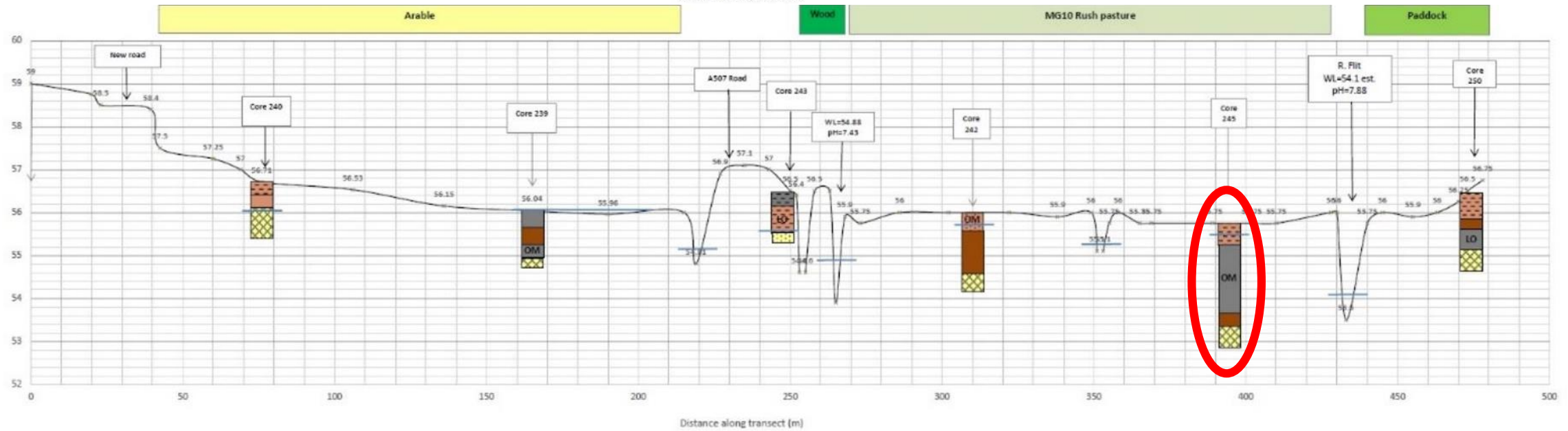
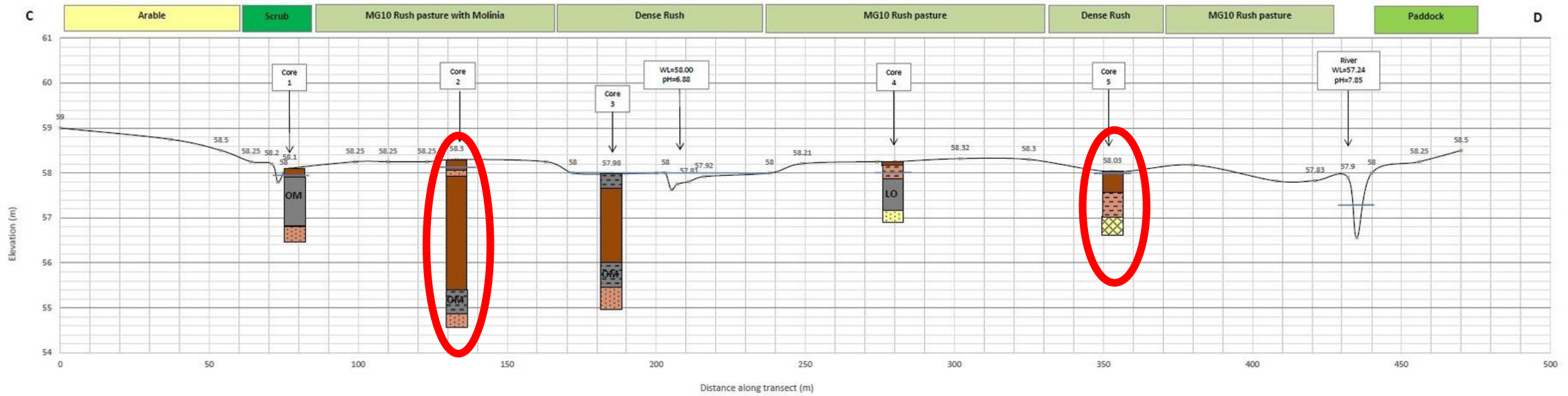
Putting Peat on the Map - Aim

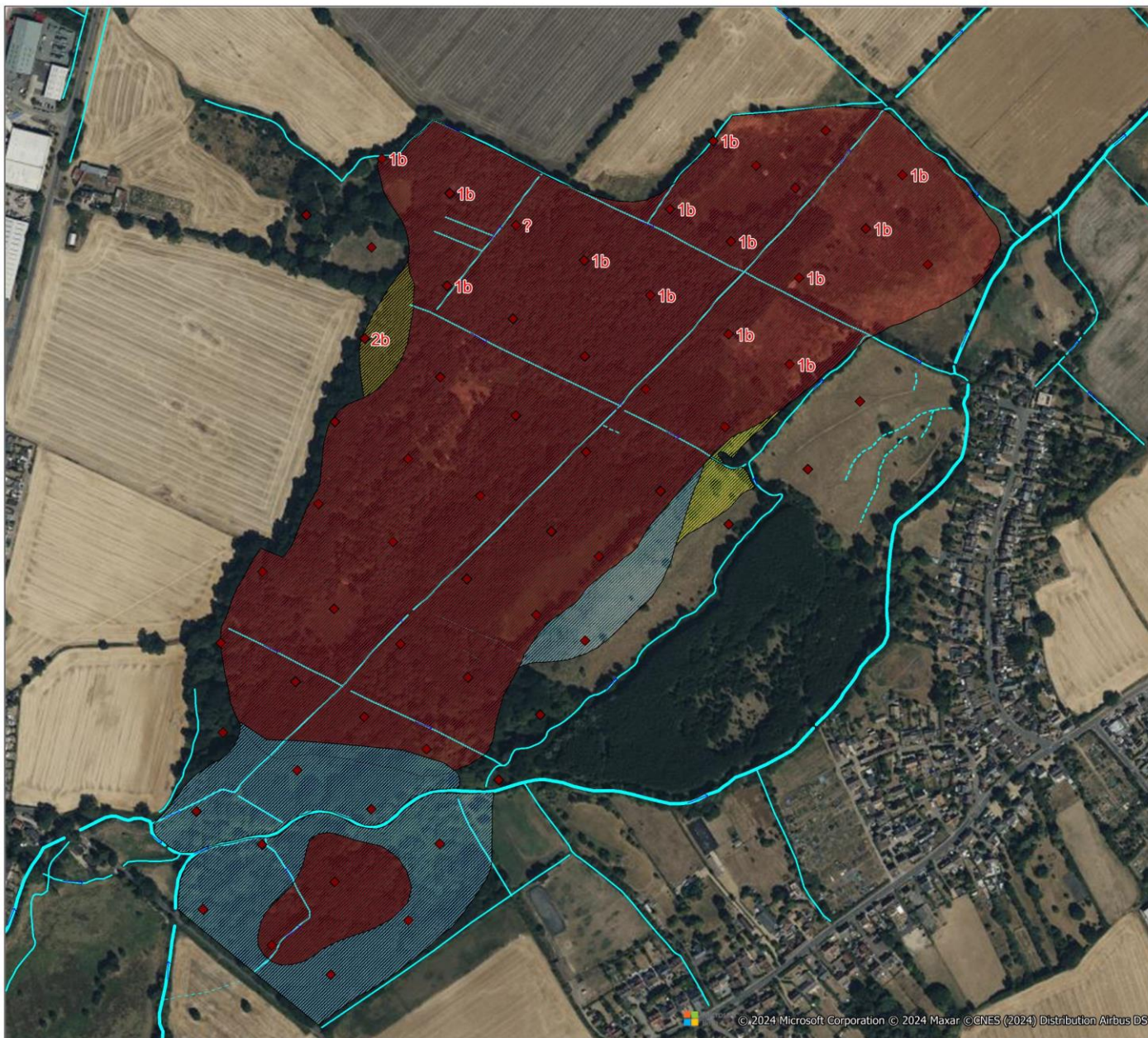
- Aim is to **increase knowledge** of extent and condition of peat in the Flit Valley
- Engage farmers, landowners & communities
- Create a mosaic approach to positive water level management



C

D





Putting Peat on the Map:

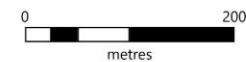
PRIORITY PEAT AREAS

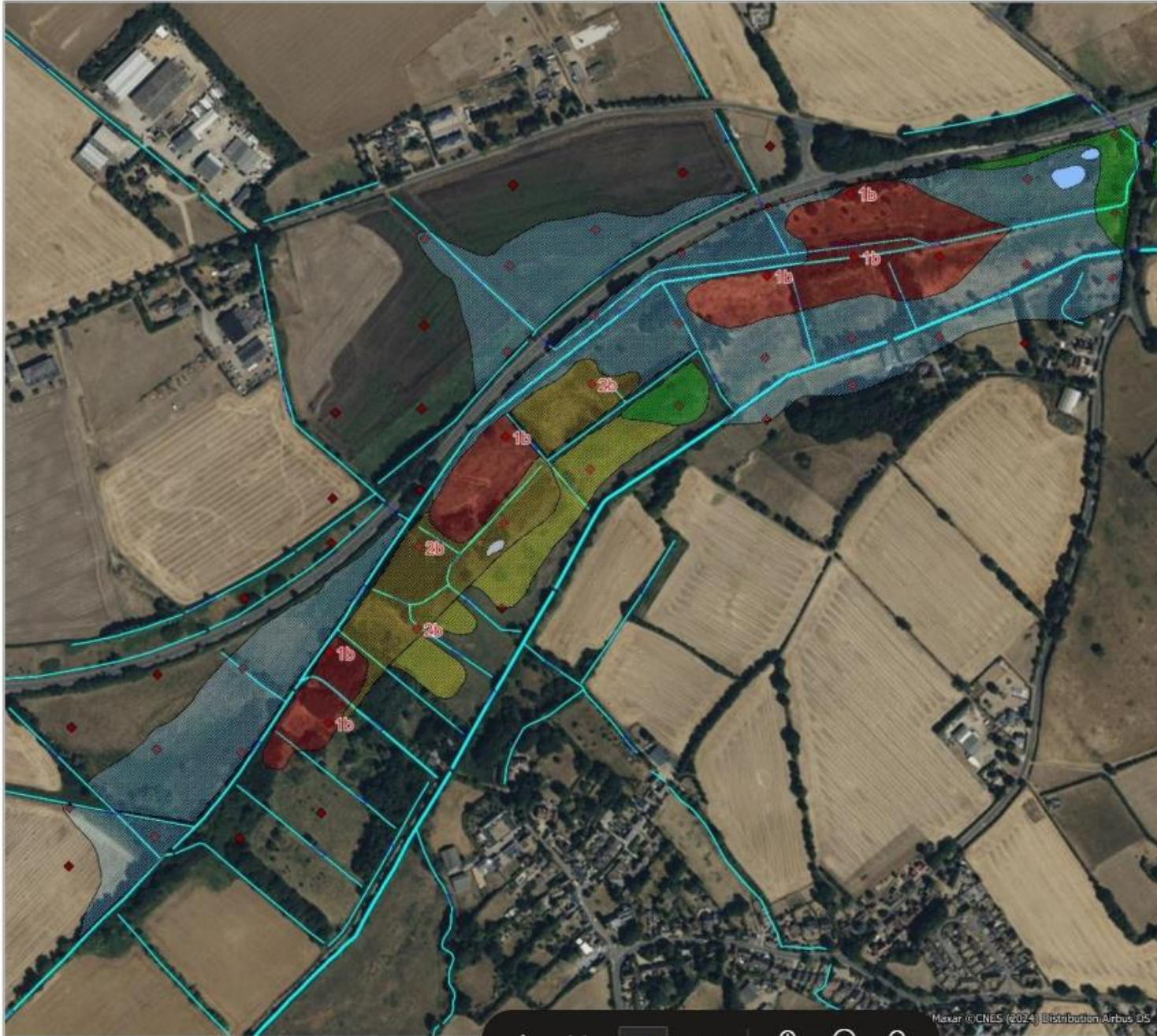
Key:

-  Priority 1 Peat at surface
-  Priority 2 Organic soils at surface
-  Priority 3 Buried peat or organic soils within 75cm bgl
-  Priority 4 Buried peat or organic soils >75cm bgl
-  Priority 5 Peat building opportunities

1b Surface peat soils above WT by 15cm or more

Date





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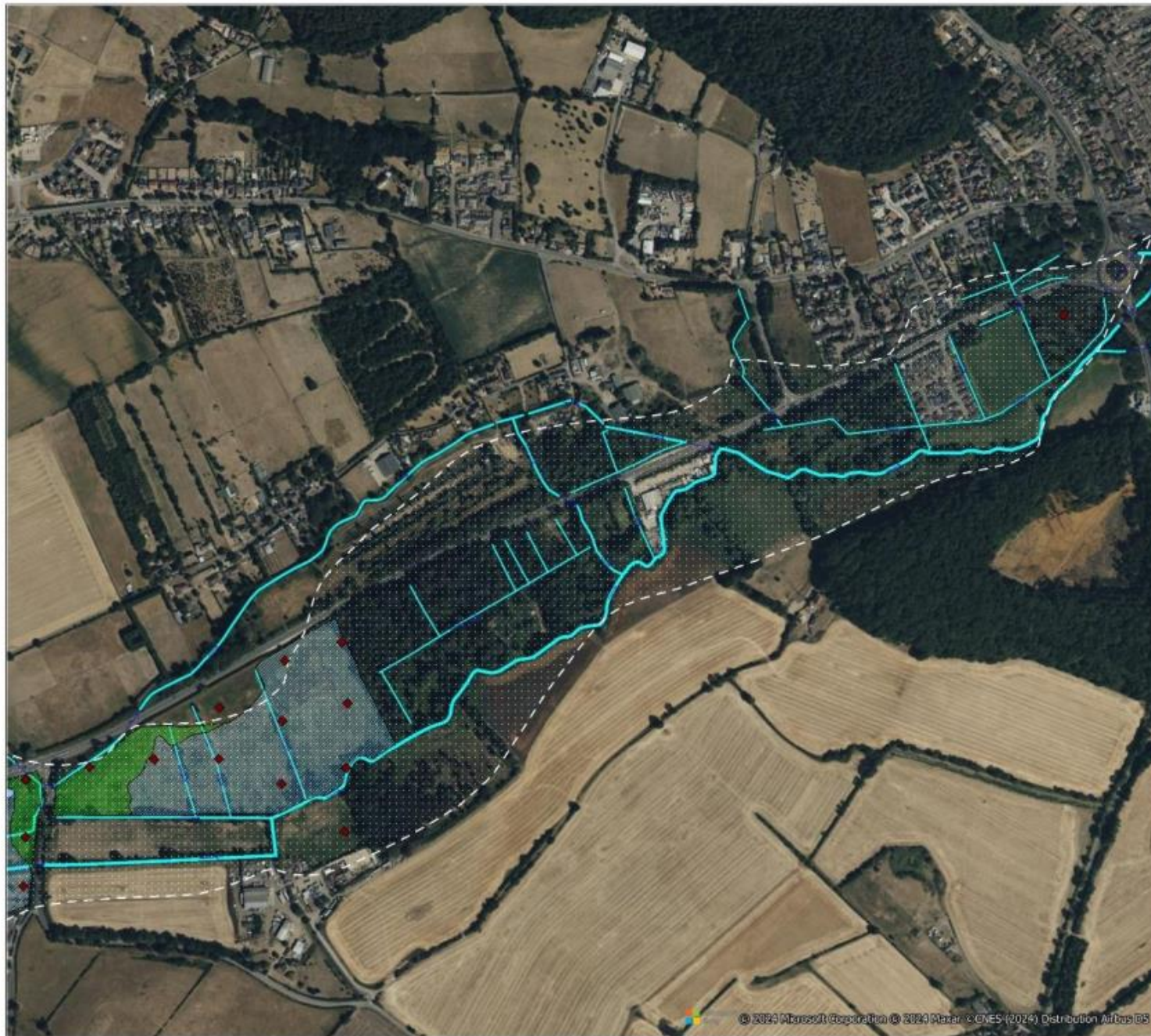
1b Surface peat soils above WT by 15cm or more.

2b Surface organic soils above WT by 15cm or more.

Date



Maxar © CNES (2024) Distribution Airbus DS

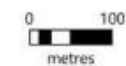


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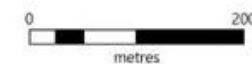
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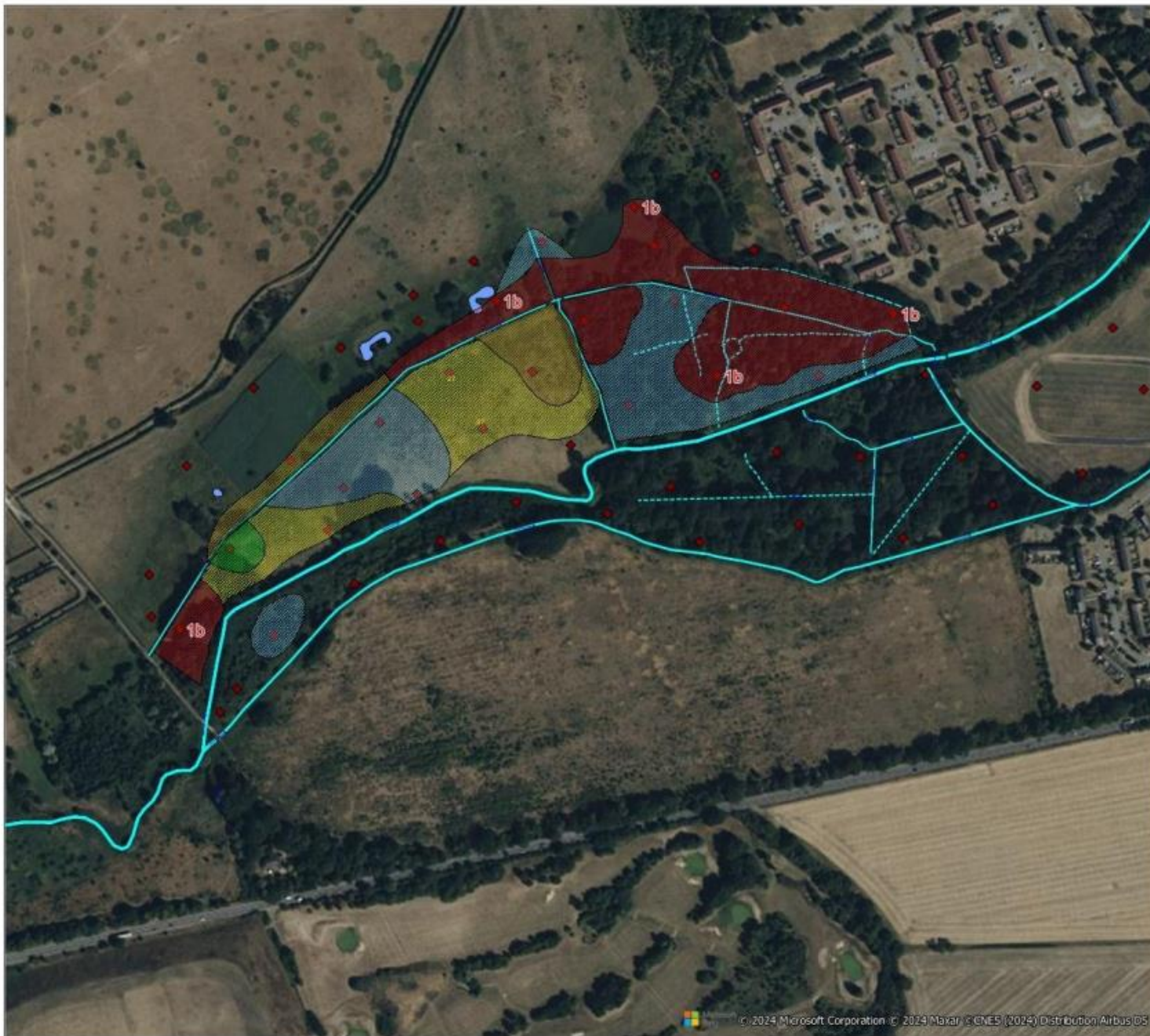
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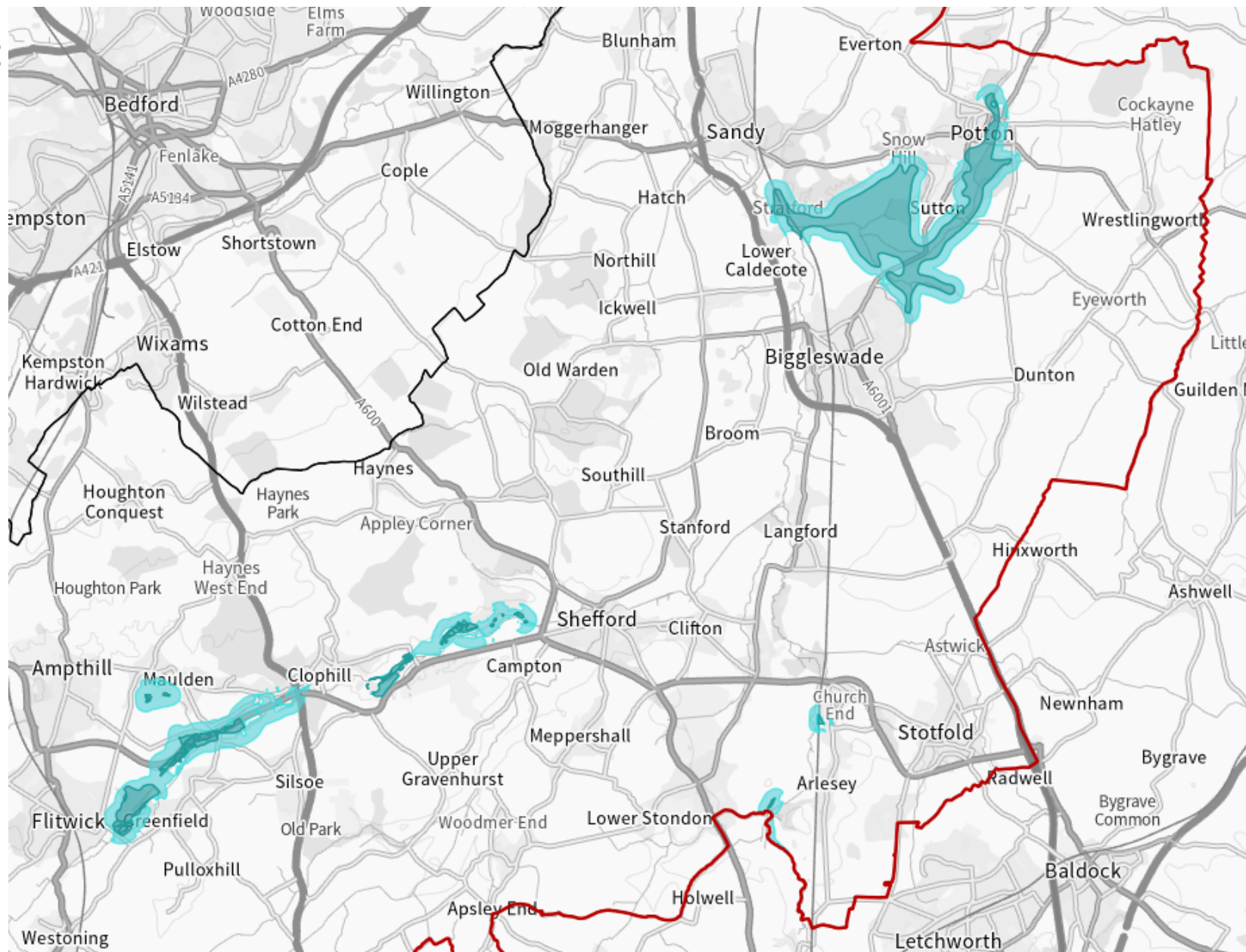
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Outcome R6 - The condition of peat resources and habitats has improved and now receive better recognition as valuable habitats and carbon stores.

Measures



R6a – Peatlands

Maintain and protect areas of peat and associated habitats through hydrological regulation and protecting water quality. Following restoration of the hydrology, re-vegetate areas of bare peat using best practice restoration techniques and appropriate plant species mixes. Initially, this should help to prevent or reduce further peat loss, but in the longer term will help to restore active peat formation.

Where sites may have recently dried out, or been colonised or planted with trees, remove up to 95% of native trees, and all invasive non-native species in line with Forestry Commission guidance. Keep water levels raised to reduce re-colonisation.

Mapped: Yes

R6b – Peatland Buffers

Review the hydrology of land surrounding the site to identify off-site drainage impacts, and also consider pressures such as abstraction, pollution and nutrient enrichment. Take action to reduce adverse impacts, for example through the creation of wetland to buffer the core area, or by diverting drains.

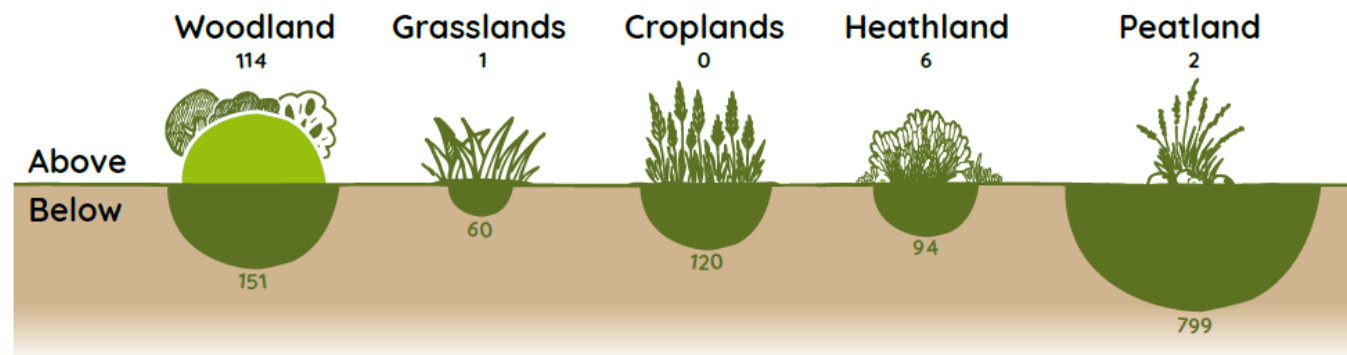
Mapped: Yes



Next Steps

- Further survey work
- Design and implementation of water level control structures
- Making sure development takes account of peat
- Getting peat into policy

How much carbon do habitats in Greensand Country store?



Average tonnes of carbon stored per hectare.