



Elm Springs

Little Braxted
Hall Cottages

Little Braxted

LEA LANE

Wood Lodge

Lea Lane Wood

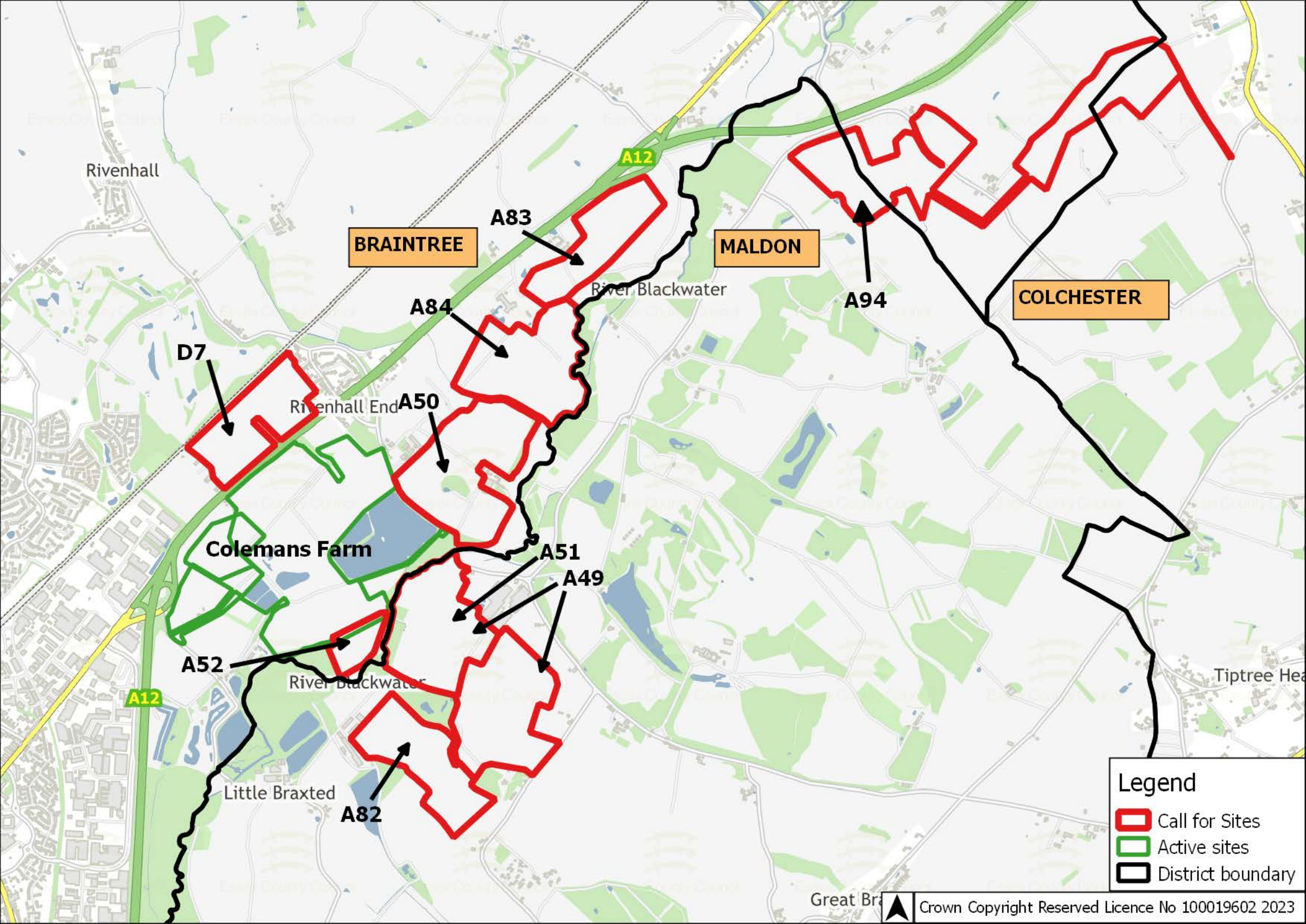
Orchard



**Colemans Farm
Elm Springs Extension
A82**

Legend
Site Boundary

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Rivenhall

BRAINTREE

MALDON

COLCHESTER

A12

A83

A94

River Blackwater

A84

D7

Rivenhall End

A50

Coleman's Farm

A51

A49

River Blackwater

A52




A12

Little Braxted

A82

Tiptree Head

Legend

-  Call for Sites
-  Active sites
-  District boundary

Great Bra



<i>Candidate Site Reference</i>	<i>Candidate Site Name</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Existing use</i>	<i>Site Area (ha)</i>	<i>Potential Yield (million tonnes)</i>
A82	Colemans Farm – Elm Springs Extension	Braintree	Agricultural	15.42	1

The Site is promoted as an extension to an existing mineral Site (Colemans Farm Quarry) and is located south of Colemans Farm Quarry immediately adjacent to Site A49. The Site is proposed as a further extension (in addition to Site A49). The Site area is approximately 15.42 ha and is proposed for approximately 1 million tonnes of sand and gravel extraction which would be transported internally to an existing plant Site at Colemans Farm Quarry, where it will be washed, graded, and stocked prior to export off Site. It is proposed that once granted consent mineral extraction would follow on from the consented extraction activities at Colemans Farm Quarry and could be worked prior to Site A49. Infrastructure needed includes a field conveyor network/ADT compatible bailey bridge for transport of sand and gravel over the River Blackwater to the plant via Site A49. In addition, a supporting network of haul roads would be needed for the import of inert materials for the restoration of the Site. The adjoining uses include agricultural fields, woodland, a waterbody, and residential and commercial buildings. The town of Witham is located to the west of the Site. Access to the Site is through the access arrangements for the existing workings at Colemans Farm Quarry, including crossing over the River Blackwater via Site A49 for connection to the plant site. See Appendix J for a detailed map of the Site.

Summary of RAG Assessment

The results of the technical and desktop RAG assessment are detailed below.

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity	Biodiversity	Historic Buildings	Archaeology	Flooding	Transport	Access	Public Rights of Way	Geo-Environmental	Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Drainage	Air Quality	Soil Quality	Services & Utilities	Health & Amenity	Green Belt	Airport Safeguarding Zones
Amber /Green	Amber	Amber	Amber /Green	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Amber /Green	Red/ Amber	Green	Green

Key findings of the assessment are as follows:

- The Site is significantly characteristic of the Blackwater/Brain/Lower Chelmer Valleys (C6) Landscape Character Area. The Site itself is arable farmland with well hedged boundaries, located on the valley side of the River Blackwater. Linear poplar and willow plantations are visible from the Site towards the north-west, where the valley floor runs close to the boundary. Appropriate consideration is required to protect the characteristic features of the LCA, particularly on the setting of the River Blackwater valley floor, and mitigate the impacts on the landscape.

- The River Blackwater valley is located 0.1km to the north, with strong intervisibility between the Site and the river. Consideration for the visual impact on the River Blackwater valley landscape will also need to be considered.
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW) run along the south-western boundary and to the north-west of the Site. Footpath 1 (Little Braxted) provides occasional views into the Site in field entrances although is largely separated from the Site by established hedgerows. Footpath 2 (Great Braxted) has open views of the Site from the valley floor, although is partially screened owed to the elevation changes.
- The River Blackwater is situated 140 metres from the northwest of Site A82 and there are watercourses near to the Site's boundaries which feed into the River. These create a potential pollution pathway for water quality between the proposed mineral Site and a number of statutory wildlife sites. The potential for Likely Significant Effects, particularly to the Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area and Ramsar site and the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation will need to be considered through a plan-level Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- The Site is situated on sloping land and comprises two arable fields. Several areas of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority habitat are situated on the boundaries of the Site. A section of Elm Springs Woodland Priority habitat will require removal to allow access from Site A49.
- The Site is graded Amber because ecological impacts could be moderate and are likely to require medium levels of mitigation to make the Site acceptable. The Site's groundwater may be affected, which in turn could affect the hydrology of the nearby habitats. Substantial buffers are likely to be required near to the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority habitat and watercourses to prevent water quantity impacts; their water quality must not be affected by the proposals. The Priority woodland habitat and watercourse directly affected would need to be adequately and appropriately compensated.
- There is the potential for a low-level of less than substantial harm to the important group of heritage assets at Little Braxted (including the Grade I listed Church of St Nicholas), due to environmental impacts on the tranquillity of their setting.
- There is the potential for low level of less than substantial harm to other nearby heritage assets, resulting from the movement of traffic.
- The results of the assessment assume that all materials would be transported via Site A49 and that there would be no Site access via Little Braxted Road (as proposed by the Site promoter). The cumulative impact of Site A82 and A49 is therefore an important consideration in this case.

- There are no designated or non-designated heritage assets recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) within the Site and little archaeological investigation has taken place within the area to inform on the potential for archaeological remains.
- The Site lies within an area of archaeological features as identified through aerial photographic evidence. These may indicate ritual and agricultural activity associated with nearby settlement.
- Palaeolithic archaeological remains and Pleistocene faunal remains have been recovered from river gravels within the vicinity of the Site.
- The Site is assessed as having a 'medium' potential for surface water flood risk as identified within the SFRA.
- The Site has been identified as having a 'low' groundwater flood risk.
- The Site is entirely within Flood Risk Zone 1 and therefore is not at risk from fluvial flooding.
- One Public Right of Way borders the Site. Two Public Rights of Way are within 100m of the Site. Appropriate consideration would be needed to mitigate potential impacts on these Public Rights of Way which could include diversion.
- The Site has unproductive/low/medium to low groundwater vulnerability. The Site is within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (Surface Water) and is within Drinking Water Protection Areas (Surface Water). A water course is present within the Site boundary, another is 50m north east of the Site and an additional water course (River Blackwater) is 140m north. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate potential impacts on hydrology, hydrogeology, and drainage.
- The Site contains Grade 2 quality soil (very good quality agricultural land) and Grade 3 quality soil (good to moderate quality land), which is BMV land. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate the impacts on soil quality and agricultural land – this is likely to include removal of soils for stockpiling prior to reuse, potentially in site restoration.
- The Site contains 11kV overhead electricity lines within the Site boundary. Further investigation and consultation would be needed to determine whether mitigation measures are needed to avoid any impact on the electricity lines. Such mitigation may include diversion and/or protection.
- Commercial activity (industrial estate) is less than or equal to 20m from the Site. Commercial activity (industrial estate) is more than 20m but less than or equal to 50m from the Site. Seven residential buildings, one farm building and commercial activity (industrial estate) are more than 50m but less than or

equal to 250m from the Site. Given the proximity of sensitive receptors, high levels of mitigation are likely to be required to make the Site acceptable in terms of impacts on health and amenity e.g. high level noise screening and extensive dust suppression measures.

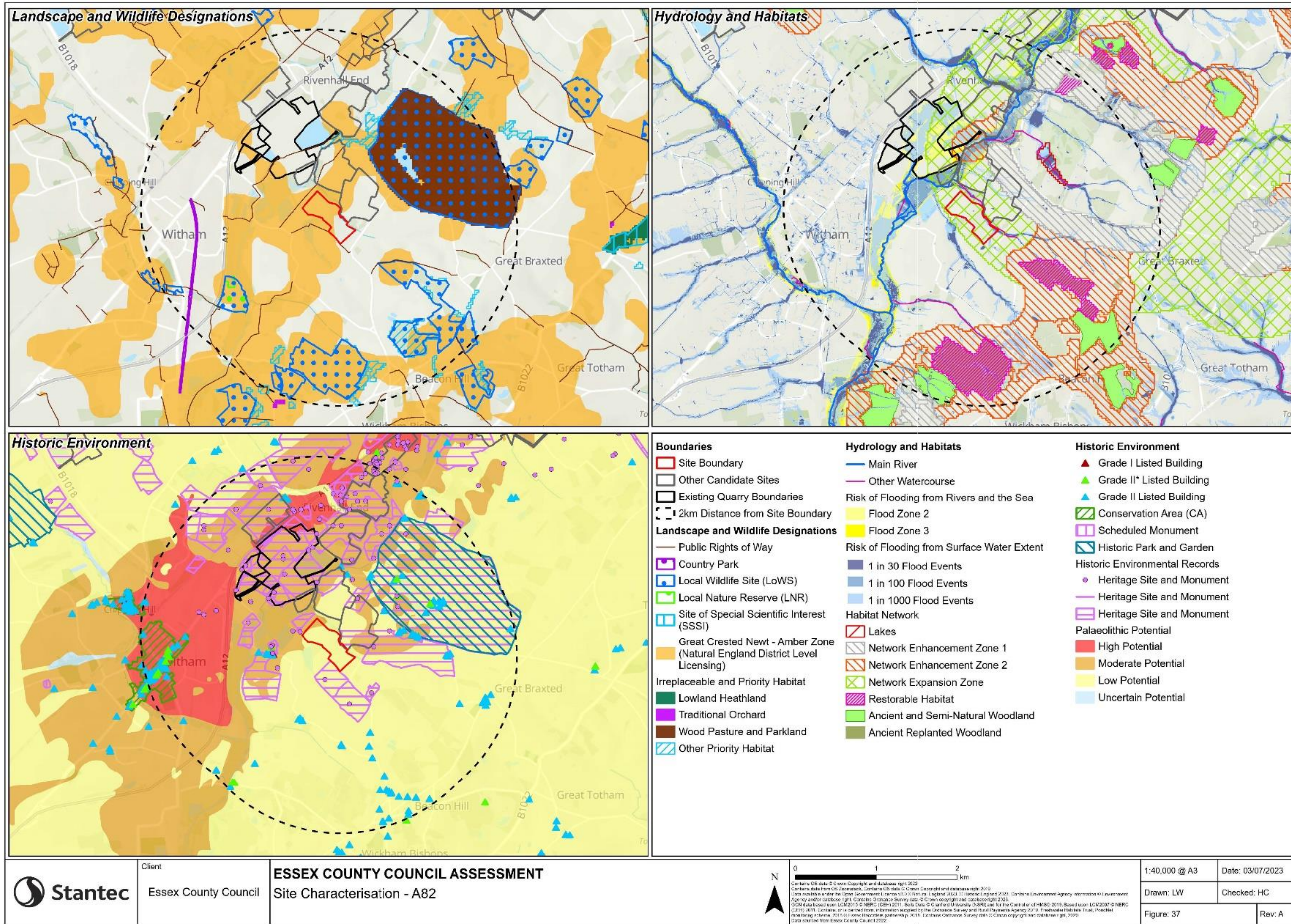


Figure 3.37: A82 - Colemans Farm – Elm Springs Extension

The information and maps above represent a summary of the site assessment. You are encouraged to view the methodology and more detailed assessment for each site within appendices B-I. These can be found on the Candidate Sites Assessment webpage on our consultation pages:

www.essex.gov.uk/minerals-review

Appendix B - Landscape and Visual Sensitivity

Appendix C - Biodiversity

Appendix D - Historic Buildings

Appendix E - Archaeology

Appendix F - Flooding

Appendix G - Transport

Appendix H – Access

Appendix I - Public Rights of Way, Geo-Environmental, Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Drainage, Air Quality, Soil Quality, Services & Utilities, Health & Amenity, Green Belt, and Airport Safeguarding Zones