



Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Appendix 5Q: Arboricultural Desk Study





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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.2	PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT	3
1.3	VALIDITY PERIOD	3
1.4	LIMITATIONS	3
1.5	INFORMATION PROVIDED	4
1.6	STUDY AREA	4
2	DESKTOP STUDY	5
2.1	METHOD	5
3	RESULTS	6
4	DISCUSSION	7
5	SUMMARY	10

TABLES

Table 4-1 – AWI Summary	8
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FIGURES

Plate 1-1 - Study Area (not to scale) - sketched in Google Earth	4
Plate 4-1 - Extracts from OS historic maps (not to scale) - Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland	7

ANNEXES



ANNEX 5R.1: TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. WSP UK Ltd (hereafter 'WSP') has been instructed to support the proposed Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt, comprising up to 11 wind turbines, battery energy storage (BESS) and associated infrastructure for Wind2 Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development') on land near Caersws in the county of Powys (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- 1.1.2. This document does not constitute a complete British Standard BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations¹ (BS5837) survey of all trees on the Site.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 1.2.1. WSP's instruction includes an arboriculture task to collect baseline constraints data by desktop study for a proposed access road, comprising existing highway from the A470 via the B4568 to Pontdolgoch and then new road along 3.81km from Pontdolgoch north to Bwlch y Garreg and lastly an existing minor road for a further 1.5km north to Llyn Mawr, which requires widening. To carry anticipated loading, an engineered sub-base of 600mm depth will be required for a running width of 5.5m.
- 1.2.2. It is envisaged that this baseline arboriculture constraints data will serve as sufficient to inform Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) where impacts to receptors can be identified. Subsequently, this data might also serve as a baseline to assist the scoping of additional tasks to ensure trees are considered in accordance with good practice, as well as design development, aligned with relevant statutes, regulations, policies and guidance.
- 1.2.3. This document presents the method used and the result of a desktop study to assess statutory and non-statutory arboriculture constraints present on the Site.
- 1.2.4. Summary findings are visualised on the Tree Constraints Plan (TCP) provided on the last page.

1.3 VALIDITY PERIOD

- 1.3.1. Trees are dynamic organisms which are influenced by a variety of environmental variables and whose health and condition can rapidly change. As a result of this any findings within this document are valid for a period of 24 months from the date of issue.

1.4 LIMITATIONS

- 1.4.1. WSP arboriculturists have not visited the Site to produce this document.
- 1.4.2. This document does not constitute a health and safety survey. Where concerns for tree health and safety exist, then suitable and sufficient tree inspections should be carried out.
- 1.4.3. The conservation value of the trees and the Site are assessed by other suitably qualified and experienced professionals in the relevant ES Chapters.

¹ British Standards Institution (2012). *British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations*. British Standards Institution, London.

1.5 INFORMATION PROVIDED

1.5.1. The following documents have been used to inform this desktop study:

- “Calon y Gwynt Energy Park – Access Route” plan (internal WSP), dated May 2026, unreferenced; and
- Final Access Route Design, ref: 2971-KIL-ZZ-ZZ-DR-C-0200-0201-P01-CyG Access, Kiloh, dated 24 April 2026.

1.6 STUDY AREA

1.6.1. The indicative study area location is shown in **Plate 1-1** below:



Plate 1-1 - Study Area (not to scale) - sketched in Google Earth

2 DESKTOP STUDY

2.1 METHOD

- 2.1.1. A study area covering 42.9 Hectares (Ha) was generated by buffering the access road Site boundary provided by 15 metres on all sides to ensure significant trees within influencing distance were considered.
- 2.1.2. WSP's arboriculturist carried out a desktop study and checked the following online data sources (as of May 2026):
- Ancient Woodland Inventory²;
 - Ancient Tree Inventory³;
 - Ordnance Survey (OS) 'Epoch' historic maps⁴;
 - Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and Conservation Area Map viewer⁵; and
 - Google Earth – satellite and Street View imagery⁶.
- 2.1.3. Satellite imagery and Google Street View were used to give an indication of tree size, species, condition and quality.
- 2.1.4. National Tree Map (NTM) canopy polygons from Bluesky⁷ were added to the TCP figure for additional clarity, indicating the locations of tree canopy as at 23 April 2021.

² Data Map Wales [online]. Available at: https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/new?layer=inspire-nrw:NRW_ANCIENT_WOODLAND_INVENTORY_2021#/ Accessed 18/05/2026

³ Ancient Tree Inventory [online]. Available at: <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/tree-search/?v=3028661&ml=map&z=14.874784580302418&nwLat=51.45043676175541&nwLng=-0.7137450432815626&seLat=51.4352515593267&seLng=-0.6538327191184123> Accessed 18/05/2026

⁴ National Library of Scotland – Map Images [online]. Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/> Accessed 18/05/2026

⁵ Powys County Council [online]. Available at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/treepreservationorders> Accessed 18/05/2026

⁶ Google Maps and StreetView [online]. Available at: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/i4xizrJ1JthPcLMe6> Accessed 18/05/2026

⁷ Bluesky National Tree Map [online]. Available at: <https://bluesky-world.com/ntm/> Accessed 18/05/2026

3 RESULTS

- 3.1.1. The desktop study confirmed the absence of any records at the Site for:
- Conservation Areas;
 - Tree Preservation Orders;
 - Traditional Orchards or Wood Pasture; and
 - Ancient Trees⁸.
- 3.1.2. The desktop study confirmed the presence at the Site of:
- 4.19Ha of tree canopy cover, equating to 9.7% of the study area; and
 - Ancient Woodland.
- 3.1.3. The desk study found records of Ancient Woodland within the study area. Four polygons are mapped in the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) of National Resource Wales with the unique IDs 27686 and 30477 at Coed yr Henblas, and 27688 and 30983 at Coed Neuadd-newydd. Ancient Woodland is shown on the Tree Constraints Plan (TCP) of **Annex 5R.1** green crosshatch, labelled by Unique ID and is discussed further in Section 4.1.3 below.

⁸ It should be noted that records held on the Ancient Tree Inventory are collected on a voluntary basis; the absence of records does not therefore demonstrate the absence of ancient or veteran trees but may simply indicate a gap in recording coverage. It is possible that there are some trees of significant age present that have not been recorded.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1. The desktop study confirmed the presence of trees throughout the Site. Within the Site itself, large areas are clear of trees as would be expected where land use is agricultural, with some trees along internal field boundaries. Imagery suggests that trees comprise a mixture of semi-natural native broadleaves with occasional planted exotics associated with scattered dwellings in the northern extents.
- 4.1.2. Historic OS mapping dated 1885 indicates that trees featured 131 years ago more or less exactly where trees can be seen today, as illustrated in **Plate 4-1**.

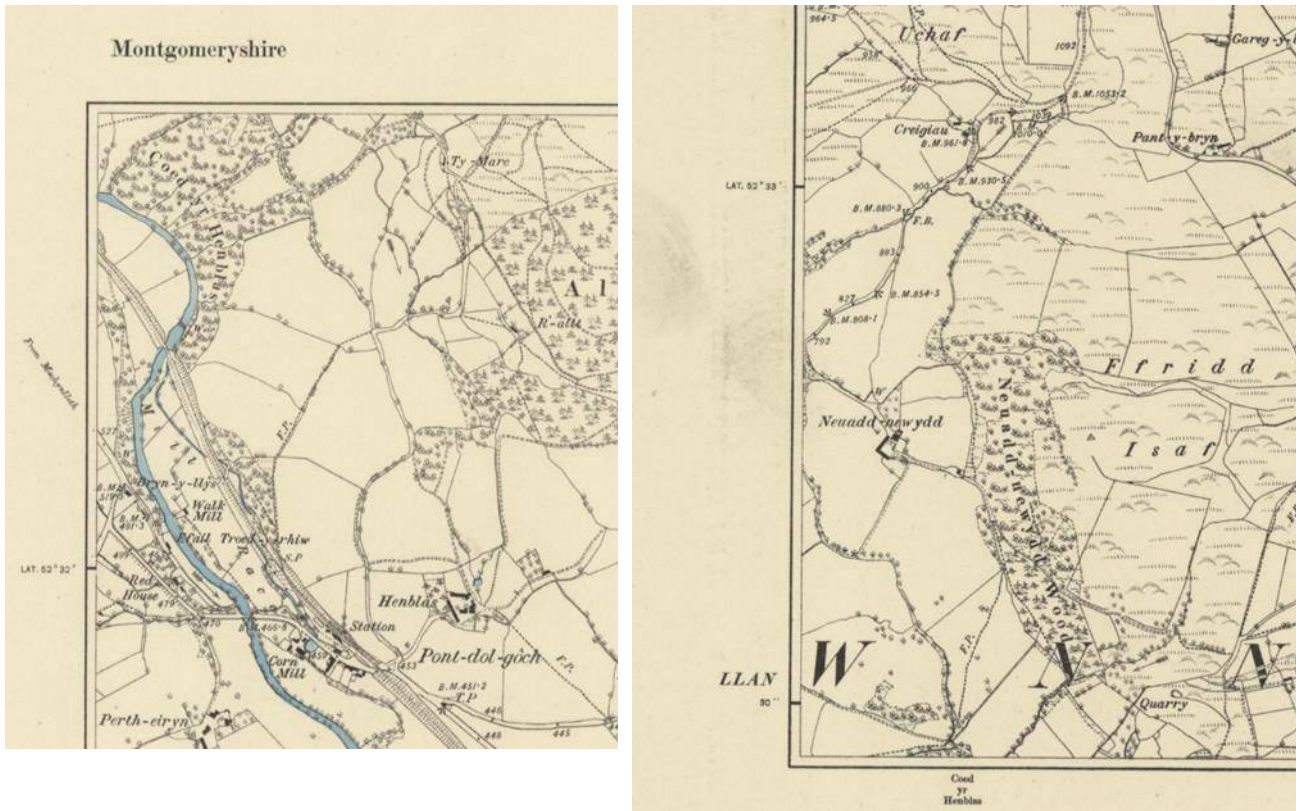


Plate 4-1 - Extracts from OS historic maps (not to scale) - Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

- 4.1.3. **Table 4-1** summarises the records of Ancient Woodland in the study area.

Table 4-1 – AWI Summary

Wood	Unique ID	Type	Area (Ha)
Coed yr Henblas	27686	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)	6.3
	30477	ASNW	0.4
Coed Neuadd-newydd	27688	ASNW	4.0
	30983	ASNW	0.2

- 4.1.4. The desk study notes that the area remains covered by established trees in contemporary maps, aerial imagery and NTM. However, Ancient Woodland is primarily important as habitat for the flora and fauna found in undisturbed woodland soils, typically a specialist matter for competent Ecologists. The Welsh Government updated its Planning Policy Wales in February 2024⁹, which states at paragraph 6.4.43:
- “Ancient woodland, semi-natural woodlands, individual ancient, veteran and heritage trees and ancient hedgerows are irreplaceable natural resources, and have significant landscape, biodiversity and cultural value. Such trees, woodlands and hedgerows are to be afforded protection from development which would result in their loss or deterioration unless very exceptionally there are significant and clearly defined public benefits; this protection must prevent potentially damaging operations and their unnecessary loss.”*
- 4.1.5. Of the AWI found at the Site, it would appear that NRW added polygons 30477 and 30983 to their AWI in 2021, following refinements to their methodology to include parcels smaller (>0.5Ha) than had been the case previously (> 2.0Ha). Identification as smaller polygons may suggest that some map or Site feature indicates separation from adjacent larger polygons, possibly where informal agricultural tracking has been located.
- 4.1.6. Typically, AWI is generated from a desktop exercise to compare aerial imagery with historic Ordnance Survey (OS) ‘Epoch’ maps from the late 19th century: if the Site was woodland then, and there are still trees on it today, then there is a good chance of continuous use as woodland for the last 400 years, meriting inclusion in the inventory as Ancient Woodland. Some sample AWI Sites are visited for ground-truthing: it is not known whether this applies to this location.
- 4.1.7. The Applicant will engage in dialogue with NRW to verify Ancient Woodland status here within the Access Route boundary.
- 4.1.8. From the images and information available, the desktop study suggests that there may be trees of particularly high quality within the Site boundary, and that a detailed Site survey, of trees in proximity of proposed infrastructure would be likely to record the majority of arboricultural features as BS5837:2012 Category B (trees of moderate quality) with some meriting Category A (trees of high

⁹ <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-07/planning-policy-wales-edition-12.pdf>

quality). BS5837:2012 applies to trees with a stem diameter of 75mm or more, measured at 1.5m above highest adjacent ground level.

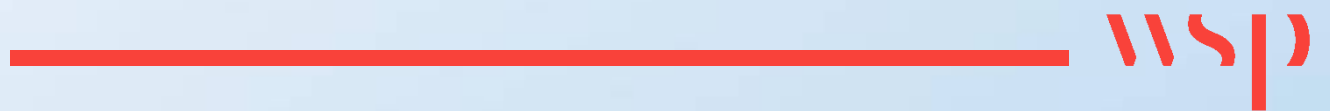
- 4.1.9. Some third-party trees are present in gardens adjacent to the Site boundary. These cannot be accurately assessed using the desktop methods and so their quality and condition are largely unknown. Some trees in gardens may be challenging to survey in detail without permission to access from private owners.
- 4.1.10. NTM canopy data is derived from remote sensing LiDAR imagery and is typically usefully accurate. Given the data was generated in April 2021, some changes may have occurred with some trees no longer present. Coverage at 10% of Site area is below average but within normal range for a fertile lowland Site in Wales with a long history of human activity. The potential for additional tree planting nearby, desirable for improved biodiversity and amenity value locally, will be considered by the Applicant as appropriate.

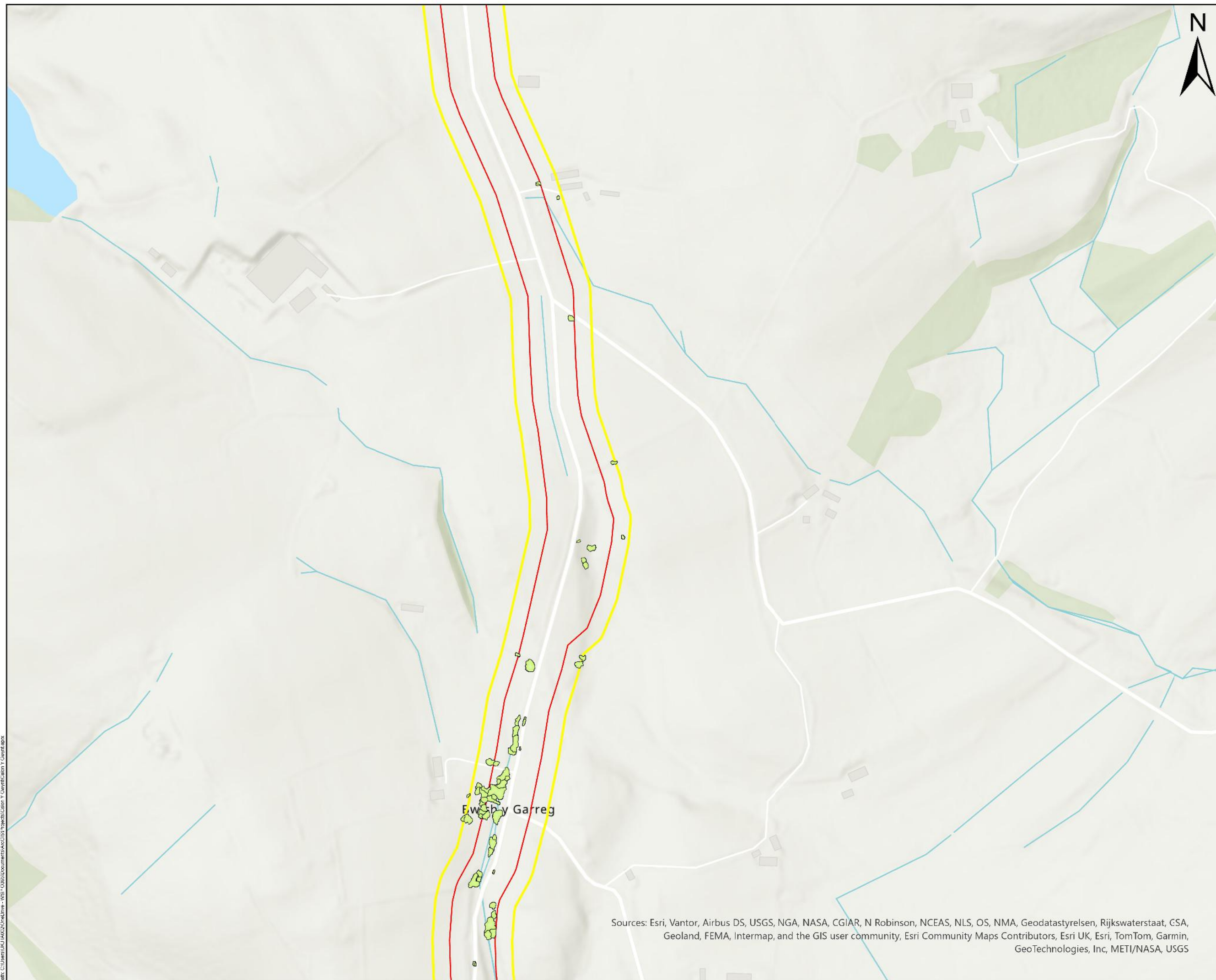
5 SUMMARY

- 5.1.1. The desk study has identified areas recorded as Ancient Woodland within the Site. Where loss or deterioration of Ancient Woodland is unavoidable, compensatory planting is required. The Applicant will engage with NRW to discuss definitive status as Ancient Woodland. Should consent be granted, a survey of this area will also be undertaken to verify whether any veteran trees are present, given their significance as 'irreplaceable habitat' under Planning Policy Wales.
- 5.1.2. It is assumed that some removal of trees will be necessary to enable the Proposed Development. Lost Ancient Woodland must be replaced, by area and type: semi-natural native broadleaf planting should be stocked at a minimum density of 1,600 stems per hectare.
- 5.1.3. In the absence of detailed 3D design, the need for pruning to facilitate access is unknown but is likely to be necessary. Spatial working requirements of the contractor should be assessed when construction phasing is known to inform tree work.
- 5.1.4. All trees will be surveyed as per BS5837:2012 to inform the detailed design of the access road post-consent.
- 5.1.5. Detailed designs for any approved development should incorporate existing trees where possible, but where this is not reasonably practicable the losses could be mitigated by suitable post-construction landscape design including a Tree Replacement Strategy.
- 5.1.6. A TCP figure illustrating indicative locations of tree canopies and TPOs is provided in **Annex 5R.1**.

Annex 5R.1

TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN



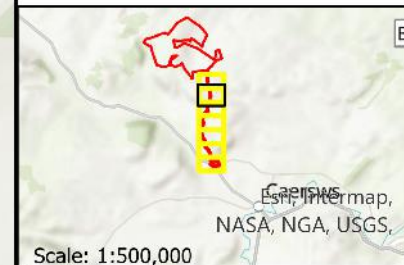


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Key

-  Red Line Boundary
-  Study Area
-  Earthworks Extent
-  Bluesky NTM Canopy
- NRW Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Category
-  Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
-  Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
-  Restored Ancient Woodland Site



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Page 2 of 7

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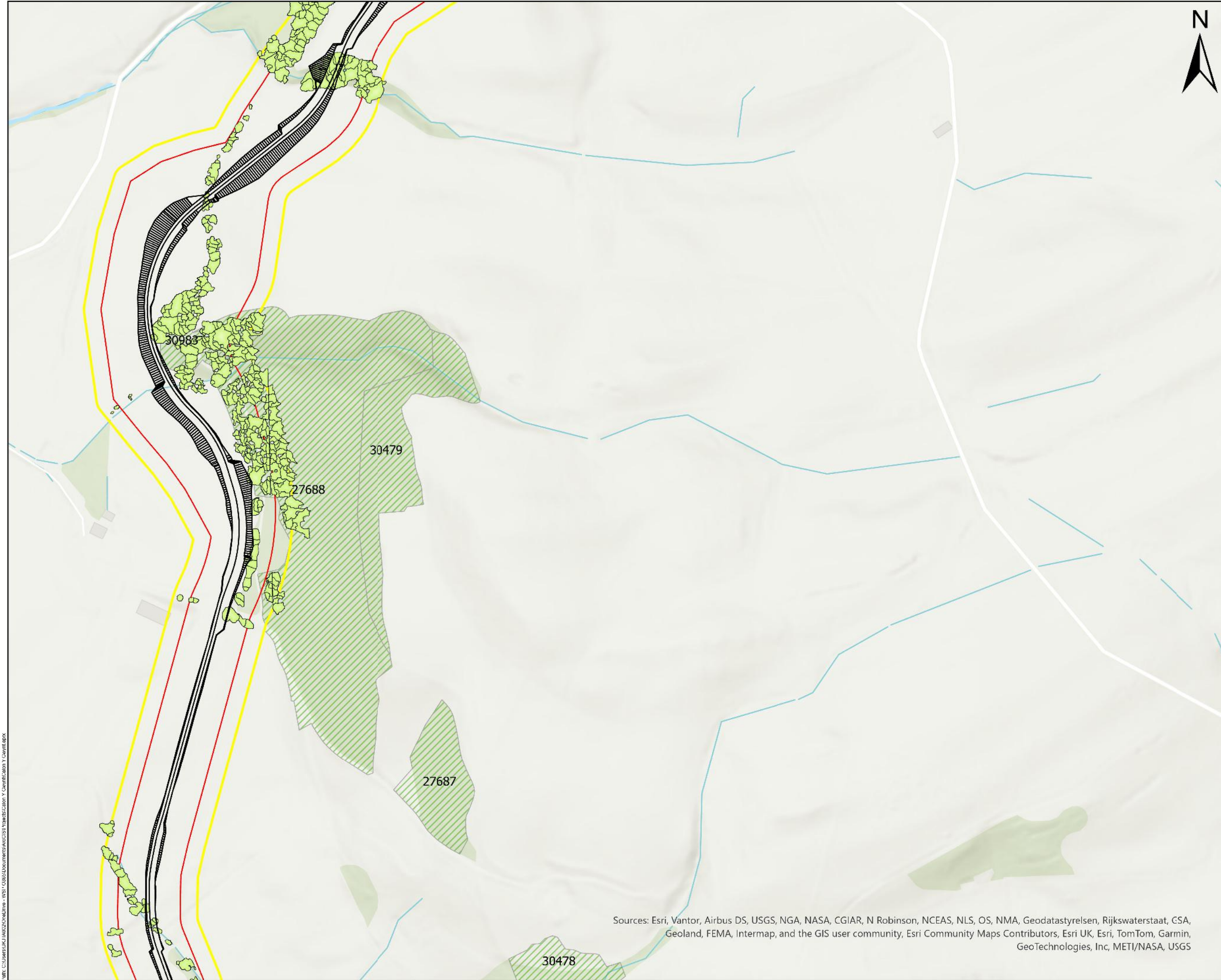
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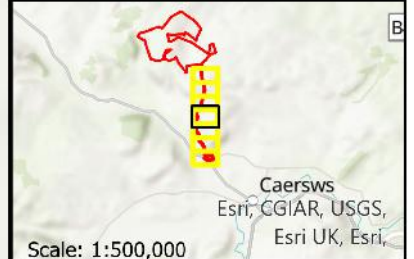
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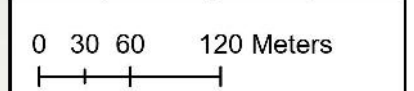
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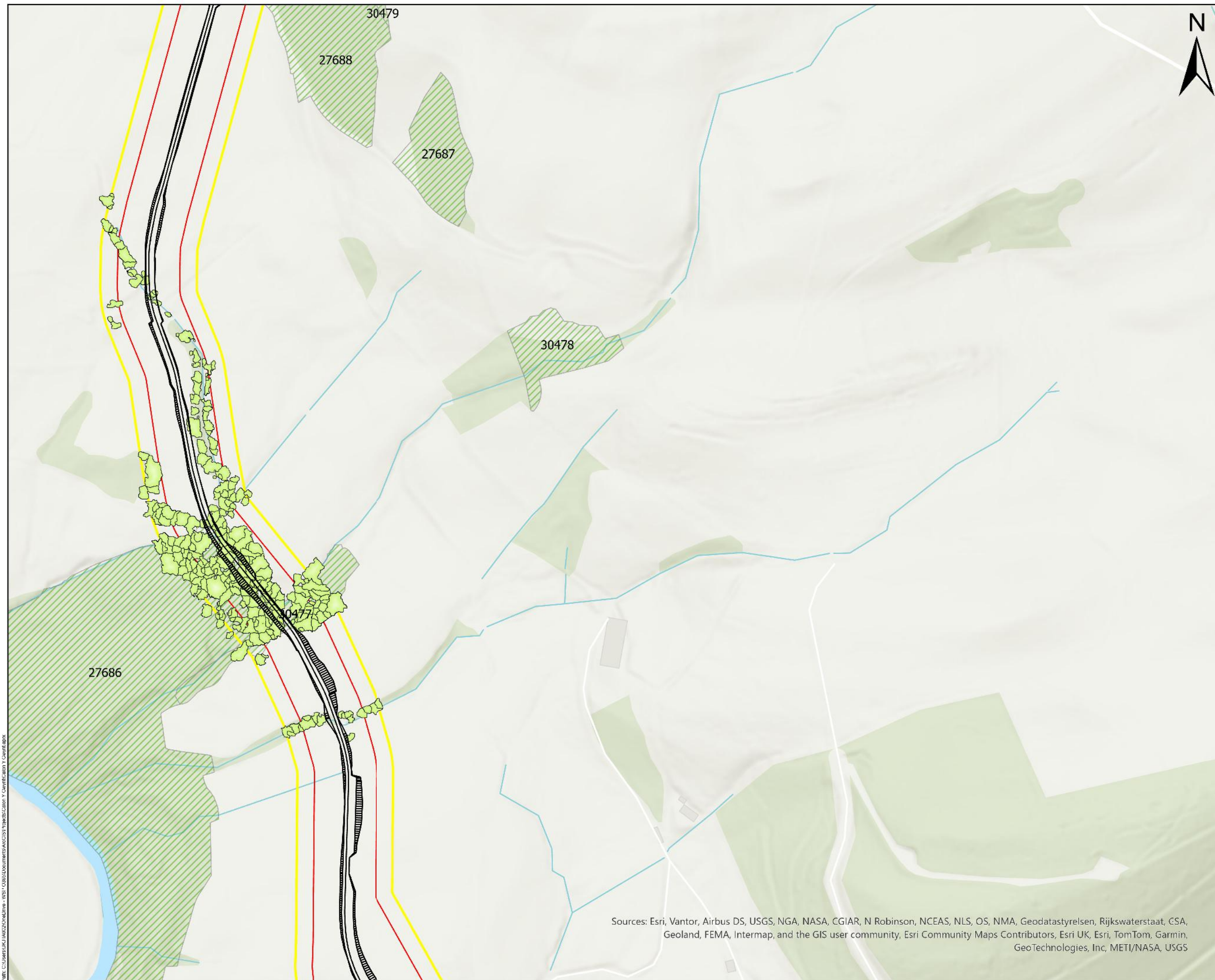
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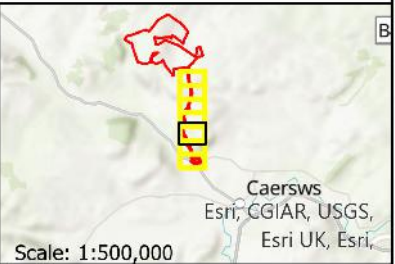
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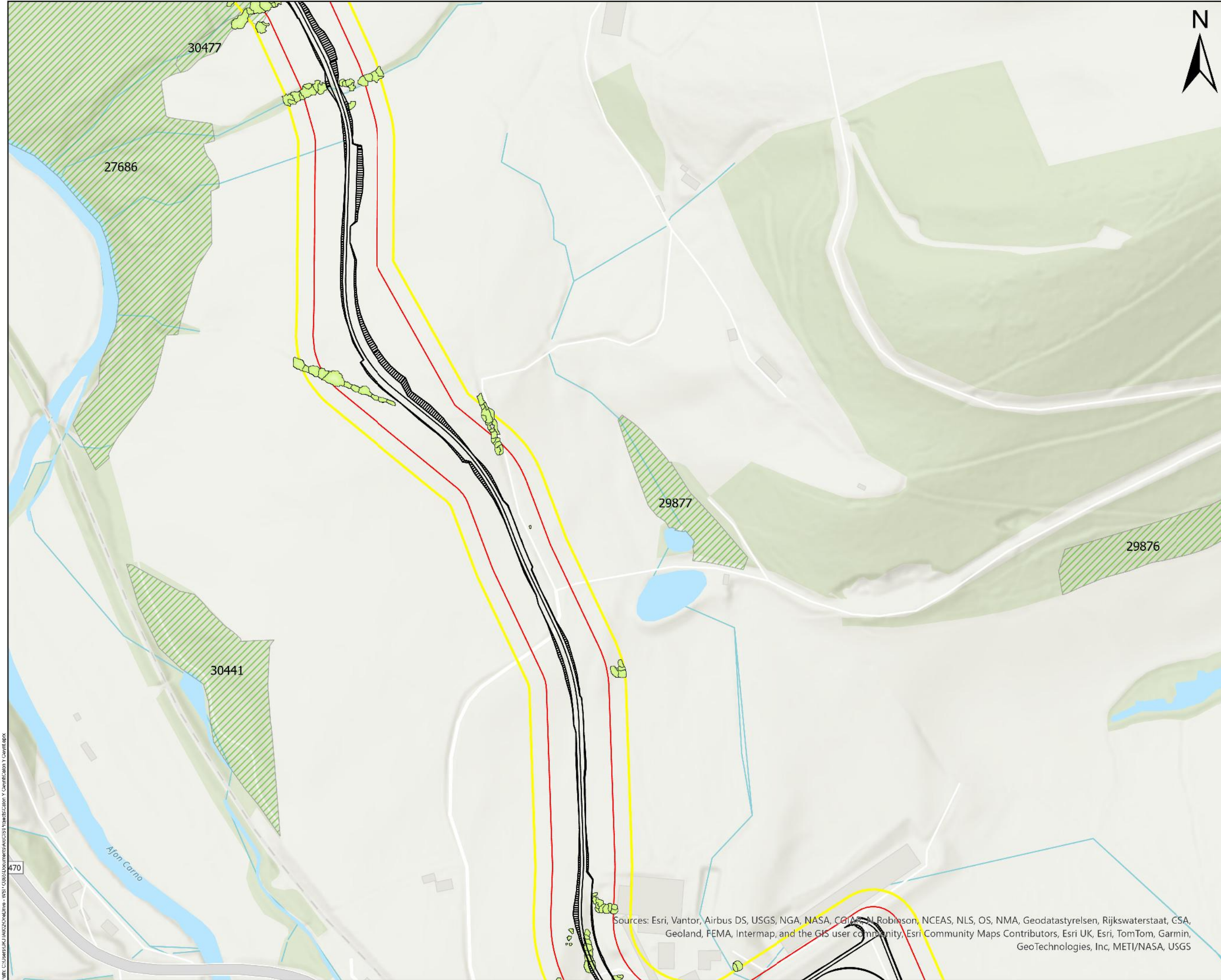


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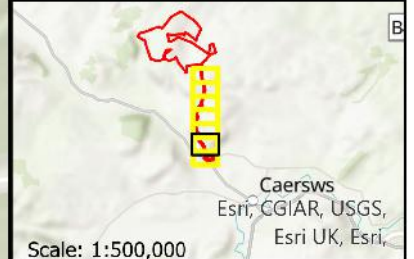
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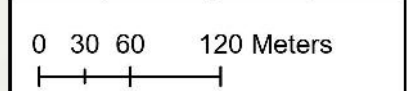
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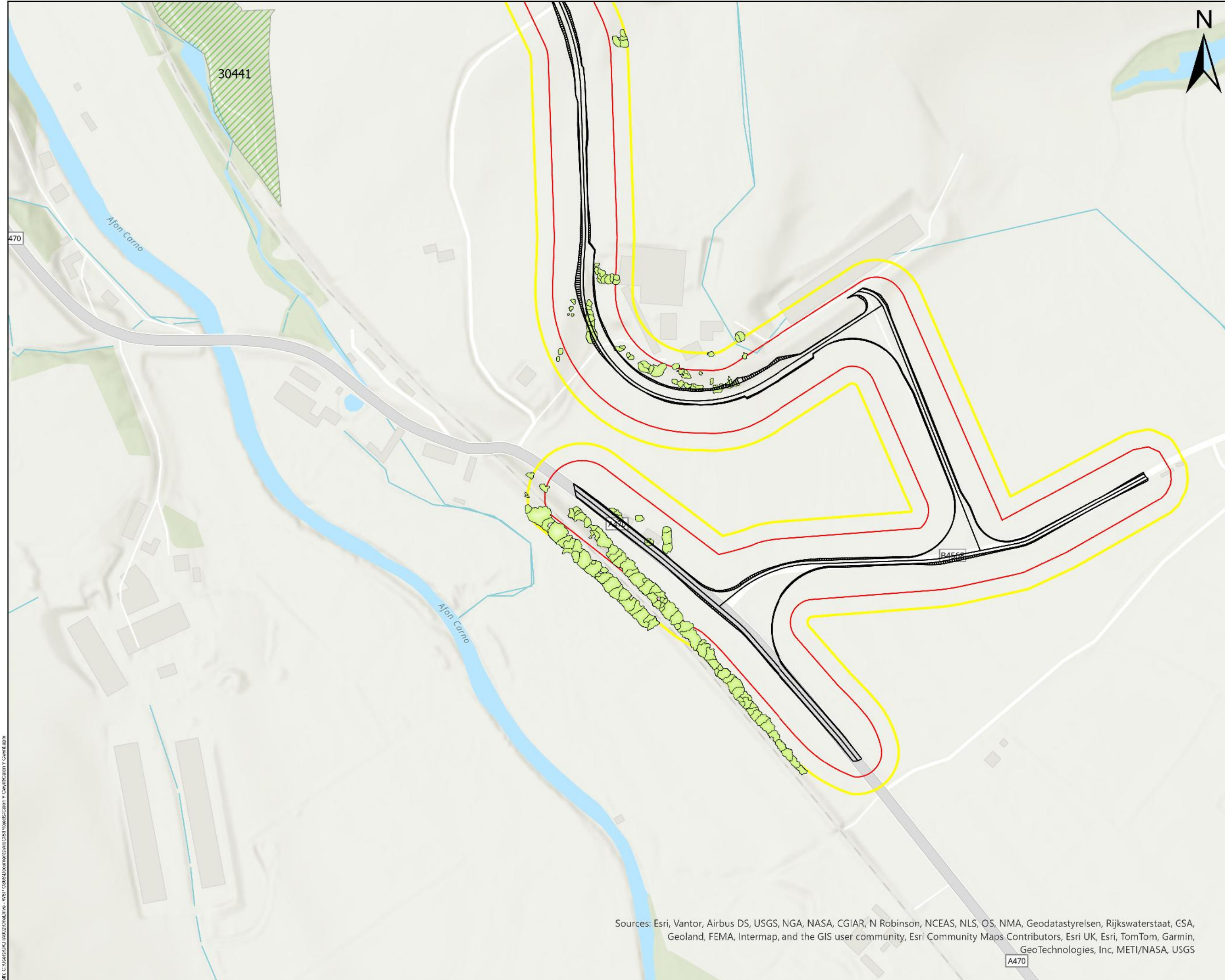
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