

Enhancing Biodiversity

Opportunities for the enhancement of biodiversity would be available as part of a new road scheme within the area. As well as enhancing the value of the area for the species known to be present other species not currently present within the area may also benefit.

Should ponds be required to control drainage from the road, these would be of value to species of invertebrate and amphibians. New and more diverse grassland would be provided along road verges which would enhance the value of the area. Not only would this increase plant species diversity within the area, it would also enhance the value of the area for insects and other invertebrates.

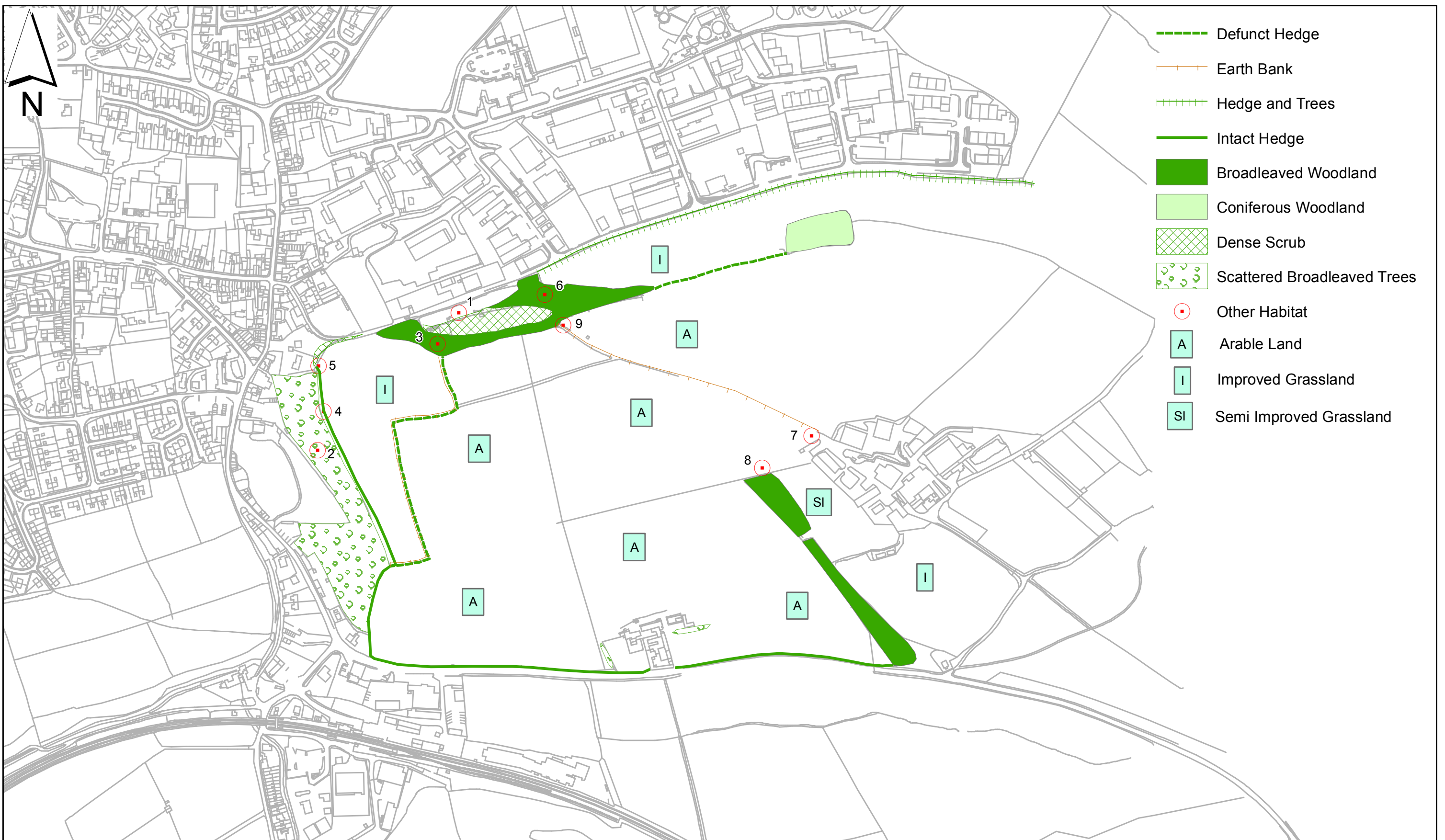
The restoring of the existing fragmented hedgerows within the area, and the introduction of a diversity of species into these hedgerows would also benefit animal species. No dormice have been recorded in the survey area, although they are relatively abundant within Devon.

Comparison of Options

Of the Options under consideration the Hillside Route, is considered to present lower impacts on ecology and biodiversity. It would avoid areas supporting badger setts and would not affect the orchard area. It would have a similar impact on deciduous woodland as the Western Route.

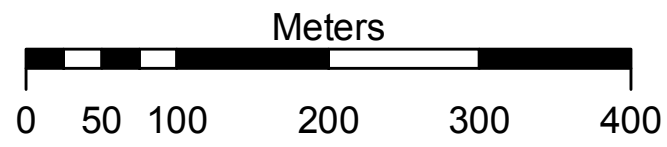
Conclusion

Either of the options would require ecological mitigation but it is considered that for both route options, through the implementation of a range of mitigating measures, the impacts could be reduced to neutral or near neutral levels through a combination of design measures, measures for species protection and compensatory habitat creation.



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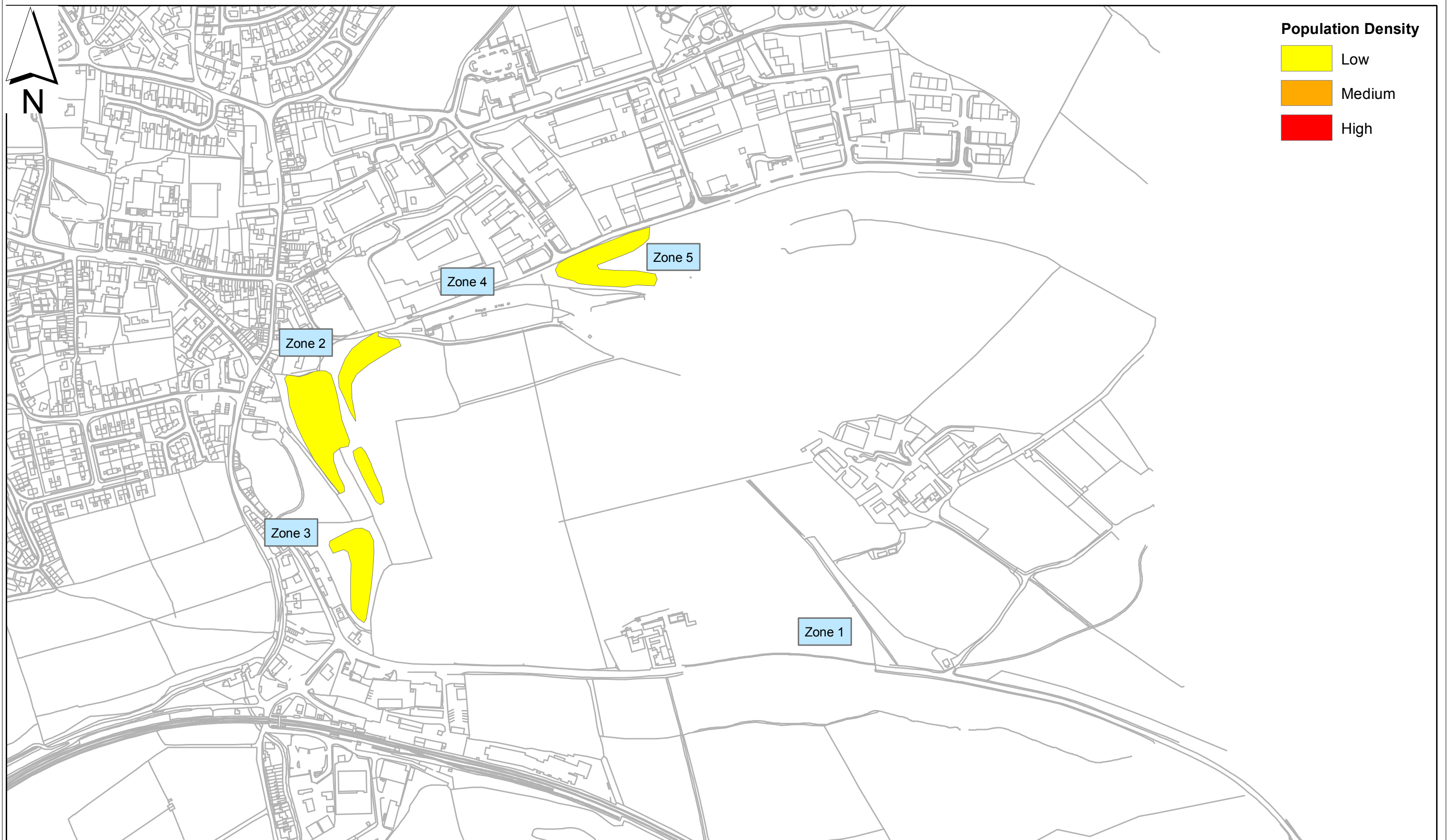
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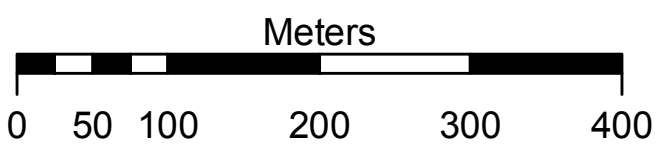
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Figure 1



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• TITLE
 Slow Worm Population Densities

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Figure 2



Bat Activity Levels

- Low
- Medium
- High

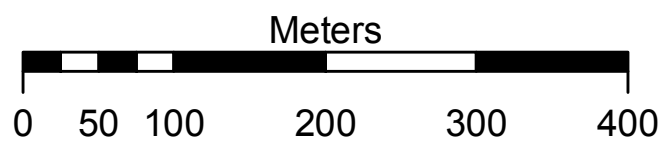
- General Flight Path
- Intact Hedge
- Hedge and Trees
- Defunct Hedge

Species

- Brown Long Eared
- Greater Horseshoe
- Myotis Species
- Noctule
- Serotine
- * Roost / Potential Roost
- Pipistrelle Bats
(Due to high abundance the locations have not been marked)

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 Recorded Bat Activity

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Figure 2a