



**Somerset**  
Wildlife Trust

Invitation to tender for:

**Reedbed cutting across three Somerset Wildlife Trust reserves**

The deadline for responses to this tender is **5pm 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**.

The final output from the work must be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

Tenders should be e-mailed to Finlay Clothier at  
[finlay.clothier@somersetwildlife.org](mailto:finlay.clothier@somersetwildlife.org).

**SPECIES  
SURVIVAL  
FUND**



Funded by  
UK Government

Heritage  
Fund

As an ongoing process of reedbed management to create and maintain diverse habitat for a variety of species and viewing opportunities for visitors, Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) invite you to tender for **reedbed cutting** across three reserves on the Avalon Marshes. These include former peat extraction sites at Westhay Moor, Westhay Heath and Catcott Nature Reserves. These are all part of the Somerset Wetlands National Nature Reserve.

## Background

### About Somerset Wildlife Trust

SWT is a local independent charity and the only organisation uniquely focused on improving the natural environment of Somerset for the benefit of wildlife and people. We champion Somerset's stunning, diverse, and important natural environment, making the case for nature to the public and politicians. We protect wildlife and lead the recovery of the environment by example, including on our nature reserves.

SWT is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts across Britain which together with the *Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts* collectively form *The Wildlife Trusts*. We are the biggest charity movement in the UK working solely for nature and we believe that restoring nature on a landscape scale is essential for tackling climate change and biodiversity loss.

The climate and ecological crises require comprehensive, ambitious solutions and urgent action across all sections of society. The crises are also inexorably linked so it is vital that our strategy, '[Wilder Somerset 2030](#)' is delivered with both at its core. We recognise that people are part of the solution and everyone has a role to play in restoring nature and averting the worst of the climate change. Research suggests that if 1 in 4 people in society take action then social tipping points can be achieved and widespread positive change can happen. This underpins one of our key strategic goals and Team Wilder is our delivery approach to inspiring and empowering others to help nature recover.

### Our New Vision

To deliver a Somerset wide nature recovery network creating more space for wildlife, benefiting everyone, and playing its part in helping us reverse biodiversity loss and tackle the climate crisis.

### Our New Mission

To champion the change needed to rebalance our relationship with wildlife and the natural world.



### Our Goals for 2030:

To ensure that nature is improving across the county, supported by restored natural processes, and is connected and protected through a Nature Recovery Network, with at least 30% of land and sea managed positively for nature.

For nature to be valued and protected by everyone, building a movement with at least 1 in 4 people taking action for nature's recovery across Somerset.

By 2030 to tell the story of nature's recovery in Somerset through a shared, live online State of Nature tool that monitors progress and informs action.

## About the Project

### Funding by the Government's Species Survival Fund

This project is funded by the Government's Species Survival Fund. The Species Survival Fund supports the creation and restoration of wildlife-rich habitats in England to support species abundance at a landscape, catchment or local scale, either within or outside of protected sites.

The fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

### Species Survival Fund – Bogs and Bitterns: Somerset wetland restoration NL-23\_00073

The primary aim is to create, restore and enhance 54ha of wetland habitats establishing seven (7) key stepping stone sites in the Avalon Marshes between Westhay village and Glastonbury to support species abundance and to balance local hydrologies to mitigate a changing climate.

The project runs from April 2024 until 28 February 2026.

The project will deliver habitat creation, restoration/enhancement capital works at seven (7) sites:

*Table 1: Habitat creation, restoration/ enhancement sites*

Ref	Project site	Ownership	Designation	Area to create/restore
1	Westhay South (former maize fields)	SWT owned land - purchased July 2023	currently not designated.	14ha
2	Westhay Moor	SWT owned site	National Nature Reserve, SSSI.	Approx. 3ha of 106ha site
3	Catcott reserves	SWT owned site	Nature Reserve, SSSI	Approx. 4ha of 73ha site
4	Westhay Heath	SWT owned site	Nature Reserve complex, SSSI	5.5ha
5	Tealham Moor	SWT owned site	Nature Reserve, SSSI	Approx. 3ha of 44.81ha site
6	Honeygar	SWT owned site	undesigned former dairy-farm under restoration.	11.76ha
7	Beckery Fields	Land owned by Somerset County Council & Friends of St Brides Mound	no nature designation, contains scheduled monument managed by South West Heritage Trust.	13ha

## The Brief

- The work for 2025 will include **12 days** of cutting split across the three sites, delivered between 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- You will be asked to GPS the routes/areas cut for our management records.
- This work will include opening off channels and blocks to be cut for age structure. A *Truxor* reedbed cutting boat or similar will be required to deliver these works as units of reedbed cannot be pumped down.
- Cutting but no raking of cut material will be required.
- Reeds need to be cut higher than water level to ensure that stems do not flood and die.

## Timescales

Milestone	Deadline
Deadline of proposal submission	5pm 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
Tender decision	w/c 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
12 days of reedbed cutting	20 <sup>th</sup> August – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2025

A **site visit** can be organised with the Reserves Manager if required prior to tendering or start of works. Payment will be made on completion of works.

# Proposal Considerations

Proposals will be assessed on the following criteria (in no particular order):

- Experience
- Value for money
- Ability to deliver in the timeframe

## Key Contacts

The main point of contact for the reedbed cutting will be Mark Blake, Senior Reserves Manager. For any queries, please email Mark at [mark.blake@somersetwildlife.org](mailto:mark.blake@somersetwildlife.org).

A secondary point of contact is Finlay Clothier, Species Survival Fund Project Coordinator, who can be contacted at [Finlay.clothier@somersetwildlife.org](mailto:Finlay.clothier@somersetwildlife.org) – please **submit tenders** here.

Please expect a delay in responses w/c 21<sup>st</sup> April due to annual leave.

## Proposal Requirements

You are invited to submit a document outlining your proposal – in Word, PDF, or PowerPoint. The following elements should be included in your proposal:

- A brief overview of your experience and details of the individuals who will be taking part in the reedbed cutting.
- Details of the proposed methodology.
- Breakdown of the costs for undertaking the works, including day rate and number of days for each team member.
- Copy of your organisation's Health and Safety at work policy.
- Copy of your Public Liability Insurance (including name of insurer, policy number, expiry date and limits for any one accident and excesses under the policy)
- An assessment of the key risks facing yourselves, sub-contractor, Somerset Wildlife Trust and Natural England, and how you propose to, and can support us, to minimise or mitigate these risks

# Supporting information

## 1. Location data

### **Westhay Moor**

Location: 2.5 km northeast of Westhay village and 4 km from Wedmore. Accessed from Westhay Moor Drove to the south.

Grid Ref: Centred on ST 452 435.

### **Catcott**

Location: Between Catcott and Burtle villages towards the western edge of the Brue Valley, part of the Somerset Moors (commonly Somerset Levels) north of the Polden Hills. Accessed via Higher Ropes Drove.

Grid Ref: ST 405 415 (approximate centre of reserve), ST 399 414 (car park).

### **Westhay Heath**

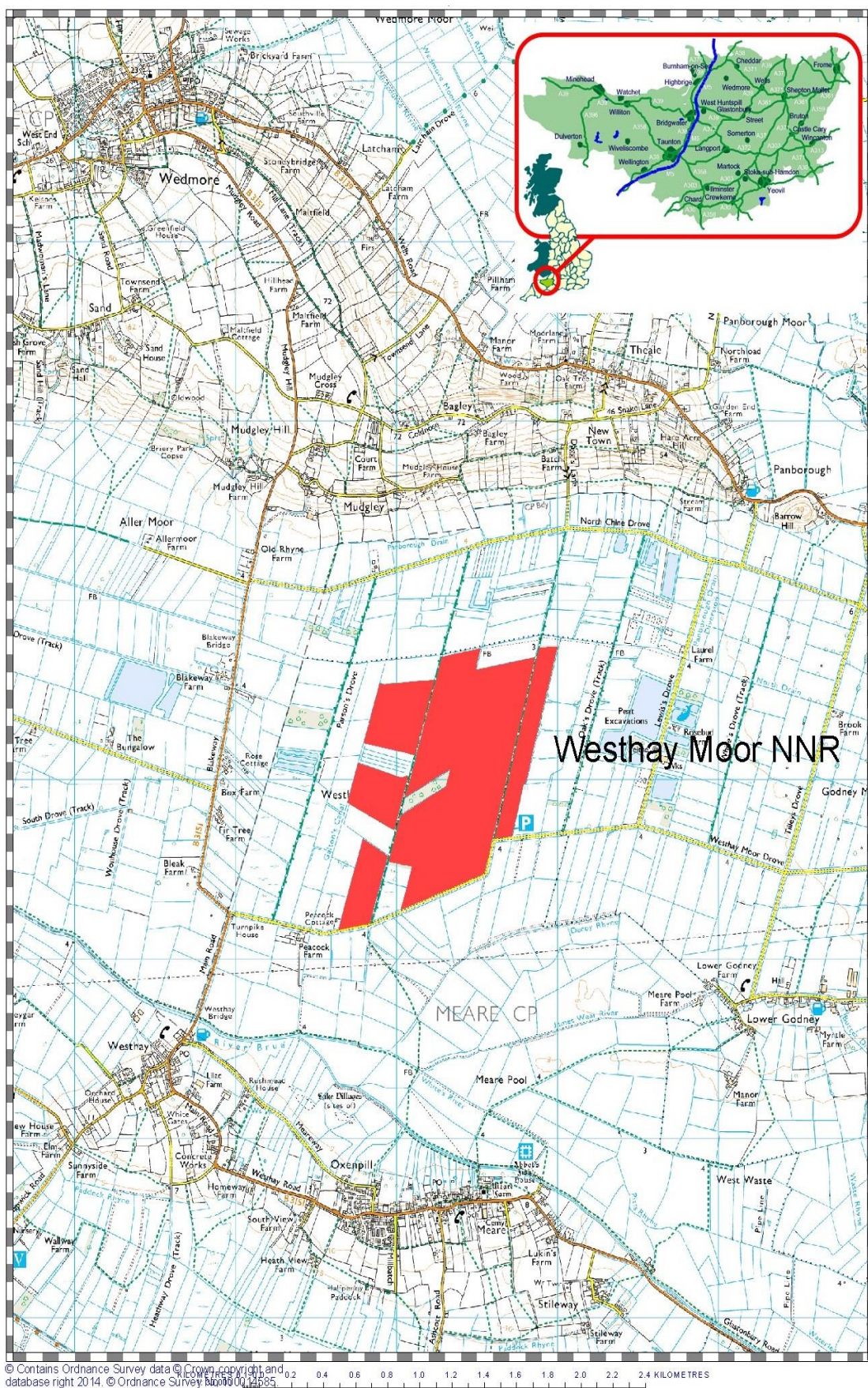
Location: 2 km west of Westhay Village

Grid Ref: ST 416 421 (centre)

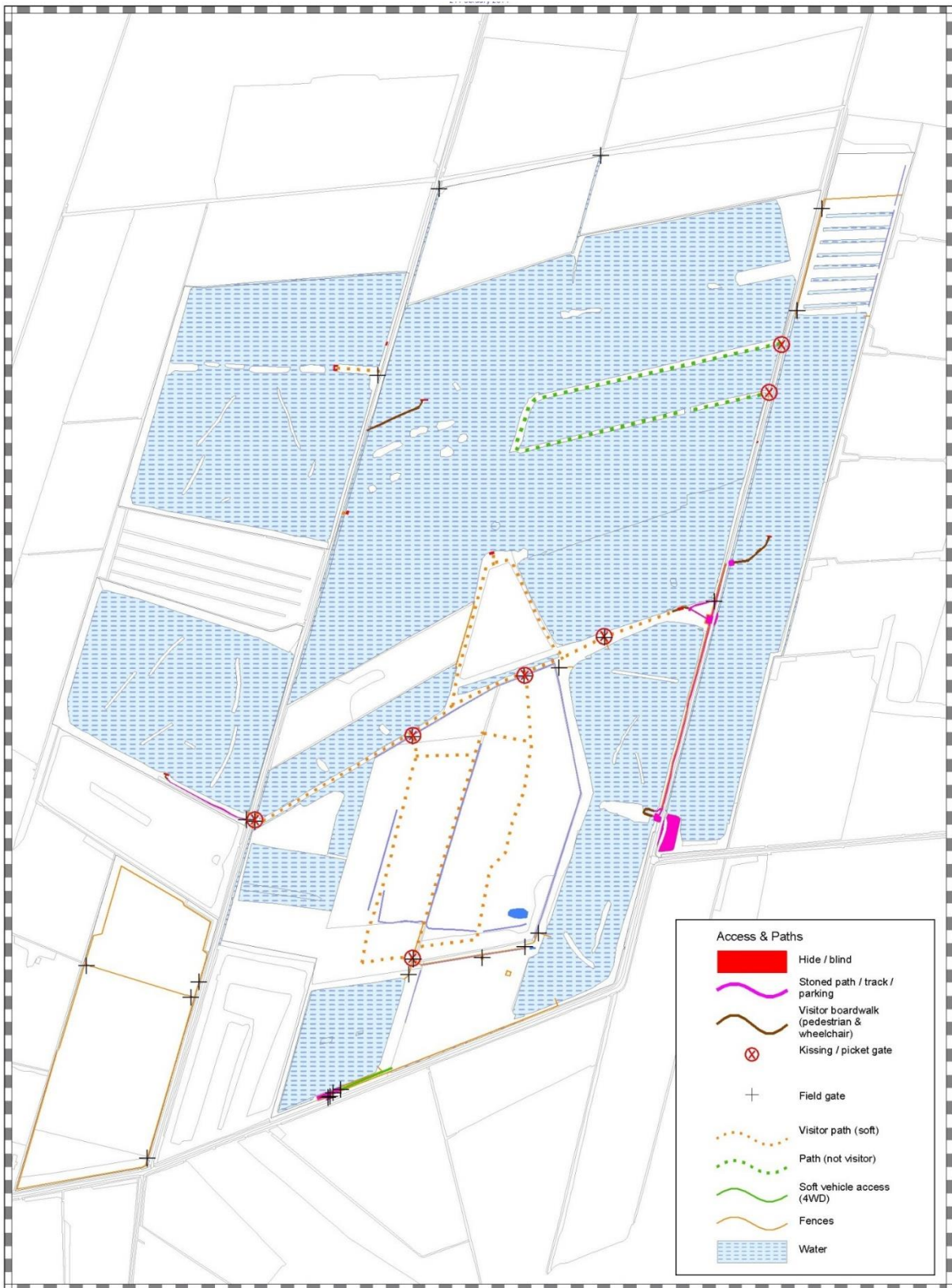


## 2. Area maps of the reserves

*Please note that further information can be provided upon request.*



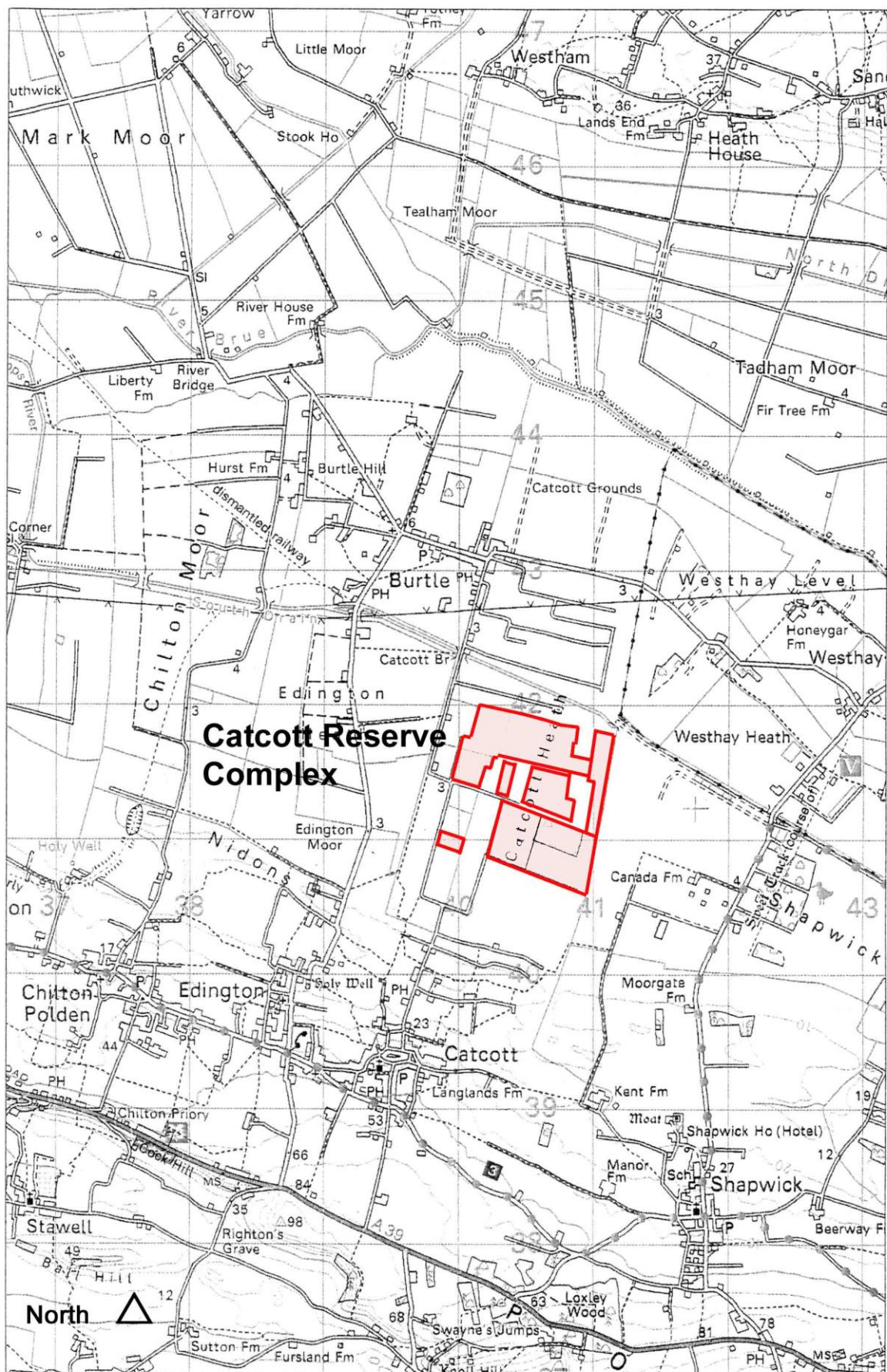




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**Catcott Great Fen**



**Westhay Heath**