

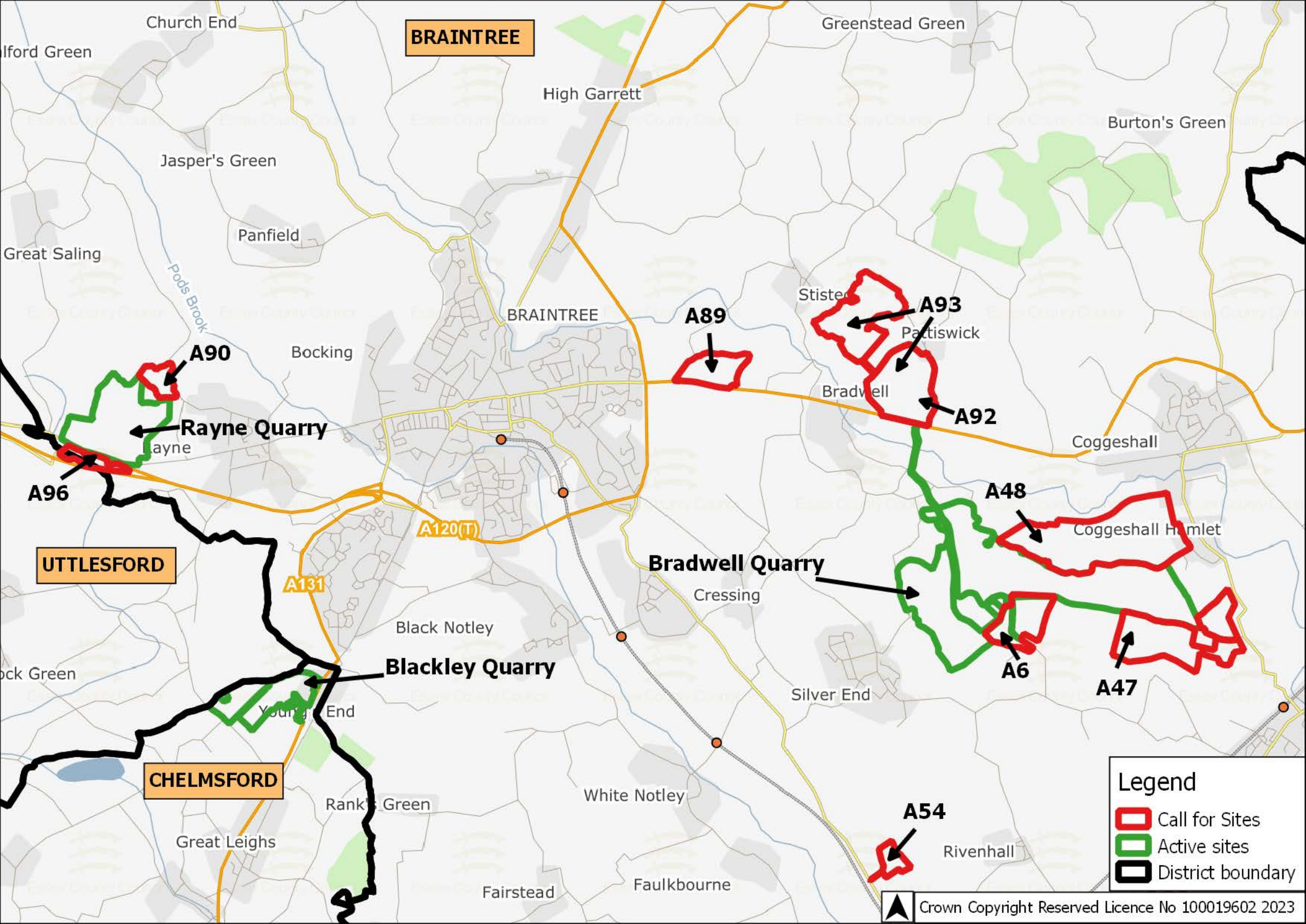
**Bradwell Quarry  
A48**

**Legend**

 Site Boundaries



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**BRAINTREE**

**UTTLESFORD**

**CHELMSFORD**

**Legend**

- Call for Sites
- Active sites
- District boundary

<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>
<b>A48</b>	<b>Bradwell – Grange Farm</b>	<b>Braintree</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>143.15</b>	<b>12.2</b>

The Site is promoted as an extension to existing mineral site (Bradwell Quarry) and is located to the north east of Bradwell Quarry. The Site area is approximately 143.15 ha and is proposed for 12.2 million tonnes of sand and gravel extraction which would be processed through the existing on-Site washing and screening plant located within Bradwell Quarry. The submission notes that the Site’s mineral extraction operations would commence in a planned and systematic manner consecutively to the existing mineral site. The adjoining uses include agricultural fields, residential and farm buildings and Bradwell Quarry. The small town of Coggeshall is located north east of the Site. The Site would be accessed using the existing access from the A120 and the internal haul road would be extended, crossing Cuthedge Lane. 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	Red/Amber	Red/Amber	Amber	Amber /Green	Green	Red/Amber	Red/Amber	Green	Red/Amber	Green	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Green

Key findings of the assessment are as follows:

- The Site possesses few characteristic features of the Blackwater/Brain/Lower Chelmer Valleys (C6) Landscape Character Area (LCA), which includes the predominantly arable farmland and well hedged fields. However, the River Blackwater and associated valley features run along the northern boundary of the Site, separated by The Essex Way public footpath. The extensive linear poplar and willow plantations are a distinctive feature within the setting of ‘The Essex Way’ and northern areas of the Site. Particular consideration must be held for providing an adequate buffer to The Essex Way.
- Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate the visual impacts affecting PRow’s travelling through and adjacent to the Site.
- There is a veteran Oak tree located just beyond the northern boundary of the Site A48. Veteran trees are irreplaceable habitat.

- The closest Local Wildlife Site (LoWS) is Blackwater Plantation (Bra186) which is 80m to the north, downhill in the Blackwater valley. This forms an important wildlife corridor along the Blackwater valley and comprises a variety of valuable habitats. There is hydrological and habitat connectivity between site A48 and the LoWS. There are a number of other designated sites downriver, which are designated for their riparian/ valley habitats; Upney Wood LoWS is c.355 metres to the south and is an ancient woodland, and therefore irreplaceable habitat.
- This Site comprises a number of arable fields with numerous boundary and internal Hedgerows and lines of mature trees and associated (predominantly dry) ditches and ponds, which are Priority habitats. There is a patch of deciduous plantation woodland and two small clusters of mature trees within the Site. A number of Priority species are present on Site.
- The Site is graded Red/Amber because it could have a serious impact upon the natural environment including local designations and priority habitats and species; this includes potential impacts to the River Blackwater and its associated riparian habitats which have been designated as Local Wildlife Sites. In addition, the Site could have moderate impacts upon irreplaceable habitats, i.e. the veteran tree situated just beyond the northern boundary. There would also be a direct loss of a number of Hedgerows, mature trees and watercourses and potential hydrological impacts to retained habitats and loss of, and disturbance to, habitats for Priority farmland species.
- Mitigation is likely to include prevention of hydrological changes to the River Blackwater and its associated habitats, and to retained habitats; adequate and appropriate buffers between the Quarry and the veteran tree, Hedgerows and LoWS; and prevention of deterioration of water quality to watercourses. In addition, phasing to minimise impacts and rapid restoration and creation of new replacement habitats, ensuring that hedgerows and other newly created habitats connect with existing and historic habitat networks. Adequate and appropriate compensation would be required for the loss of Hedgerows, trees, woodland, watercourses, and loss of habitat for Priority farmland species.
- The allocation will affect the setting of the following designated heritage assets:
  - Curd Hall (Grade II, List UID: 1123140)
  - Scrip's Cottage At Rear of Scrip's House (Grade II, List UID: 1169367)
- The Site will have no direct impact to any heritage assets; the impact will be indirect, due to a change to the assets' settings.
- Due to the proximity of the Site to the listed buildings identified above, and the contribution the Site makes to the significance of these buildings, the proposed Site is considered to cause either a mid or a low level of harm to their significance.

- The effect on Curd Hall will be higher than the effect on the significance of Scrip's Cottage, due to the location of the Site. Whilst the Site is part of the wider setting of Scrip's Cottage, the Site is part of the immediate setting of Curd Hall and will immediately abut the southern extent of the listed building's curtilage. The Site will affect the setting of Curds Hall in a way which is considered to cause a mid-level of less than substantial harm to the significance of the asset. The harm to the significance of Scrips Cottage is at the lower end of less than substantial.
- The Site lies within an area of archaeological features as identified through aerial photographic evidence and archaeological trial trenching evaluation, which has identified various concentrations of remains, indicative of archaeological sites of local to regional significance within the Site.
- There are no identified sites within the area of archaeological evaluation which would require preservation in situ.
- A Scheduled Monument lies within 1km 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.
- Access is proposed via the existing junction with the A120 which consists of single lane dual carriageway with central reservation to accommodate right turning HGVs exiting the Site and right turn facility for right turning vehicles entering the Site. This is acceptable in principle.
- To export materials by dump truck to the processing plant would require a crossing of the local road network (Cuthedge Lane). No details provided.
- The A120 Trunk Road forms part of the Strategic Road Network managed by National Highways. Whilst an initial conversation has taken place with National Highways to inform this RAG grade it is imperative that they are formerly consulted at the appropriate time.
- 4 Public Rights of Way cross the Site. 5 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 and high levels of mitigation may be required which is likely to include diversion especially with regard to those Public Rights of Way crossing the Site.
- The Site lies within Zone III Total Catchment Groundwater SPZ and has 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 watercourse (River Blackwater) is 180m north of the Site and four small water bodies are located within the Site boundary. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate potential impacts on hydrology, hydrogeology, and drainage – high levels of mitigation may be required.

- The Site contains Grade 2 quality soil (very good quality agricultural 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 33kV electric overhead lines and 11kV overhead lines within the Site boundary. Openreach BT power lines are present within the Site boundary. Further investigation and consultation would be needed to determine appropriate mitigation measures to make the Site acceptable which may include diversion and/or protection of services and utilities.
- One farm building, one residential building and one sports facility (cricket ground) are present within the Site boundary. Two residential buildings and one sports facility (sports pavilion) are outside the Site boundary less than or equal to 20m from the Site. Four residential buildings are more than 20m and less than or equal to 50m from the Site. Ninety seven residential buildings and one community facility (allotments) are more than 50m but less than or equal to 250m from the Site. Given the proximity of sensitive receptors, mitigation would be required, however, the levels of mitigation required to ensure that there are no serious impacts on health and amenity would likely be difficult to achieve.

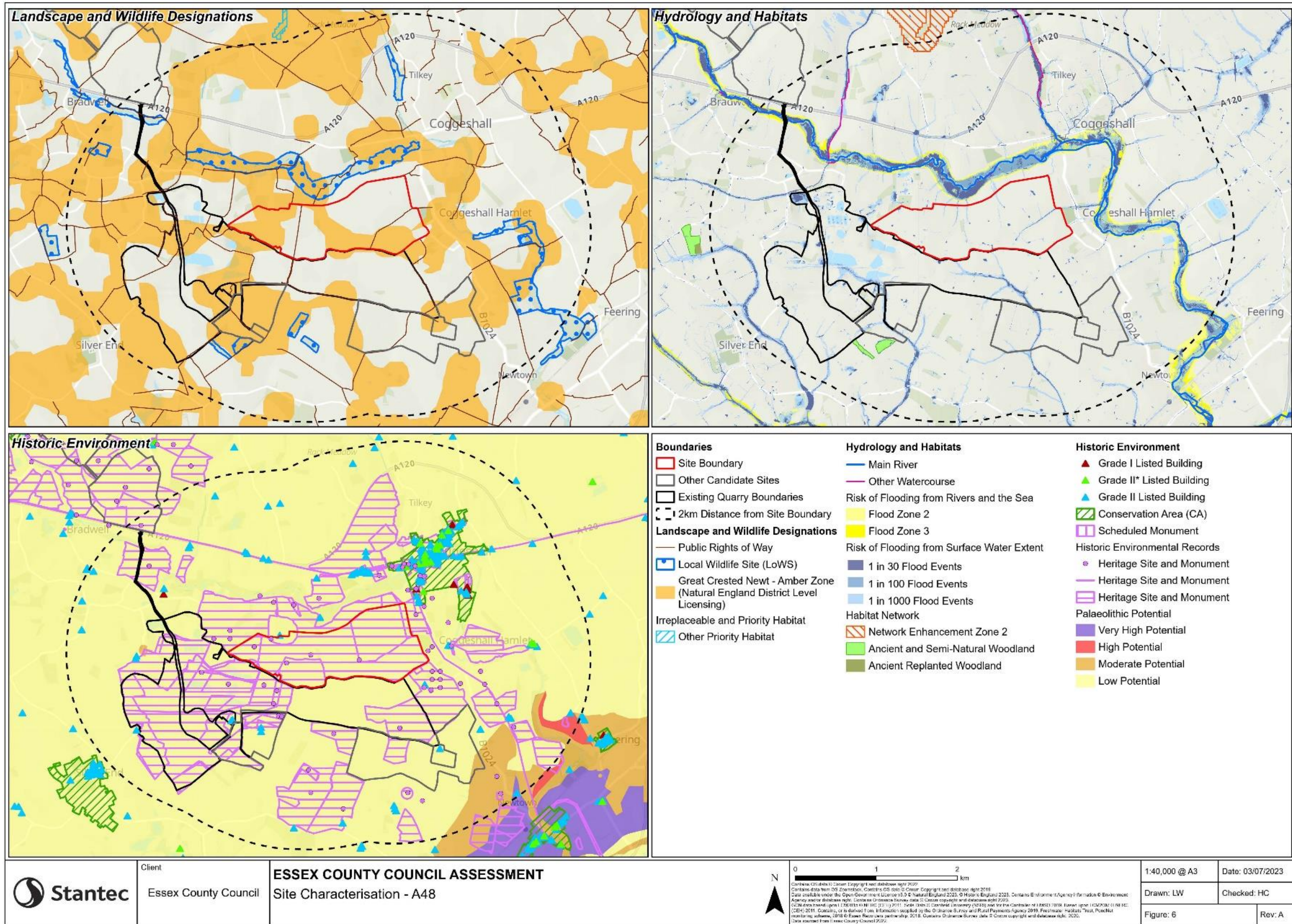


Figure 3.6: A48 - Bradwell – Grange Farm

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](http://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