

Restoring the AONB



Biodiversity & No Net Loss



Biodiversity & No Net Loss



1.2 7-Feb-2024

Biodiversity Loss in the Chilterns AONB

AN EXAMINATION OF THE HS2 BIODIVERSITY CALCULATIONS -
PART 1

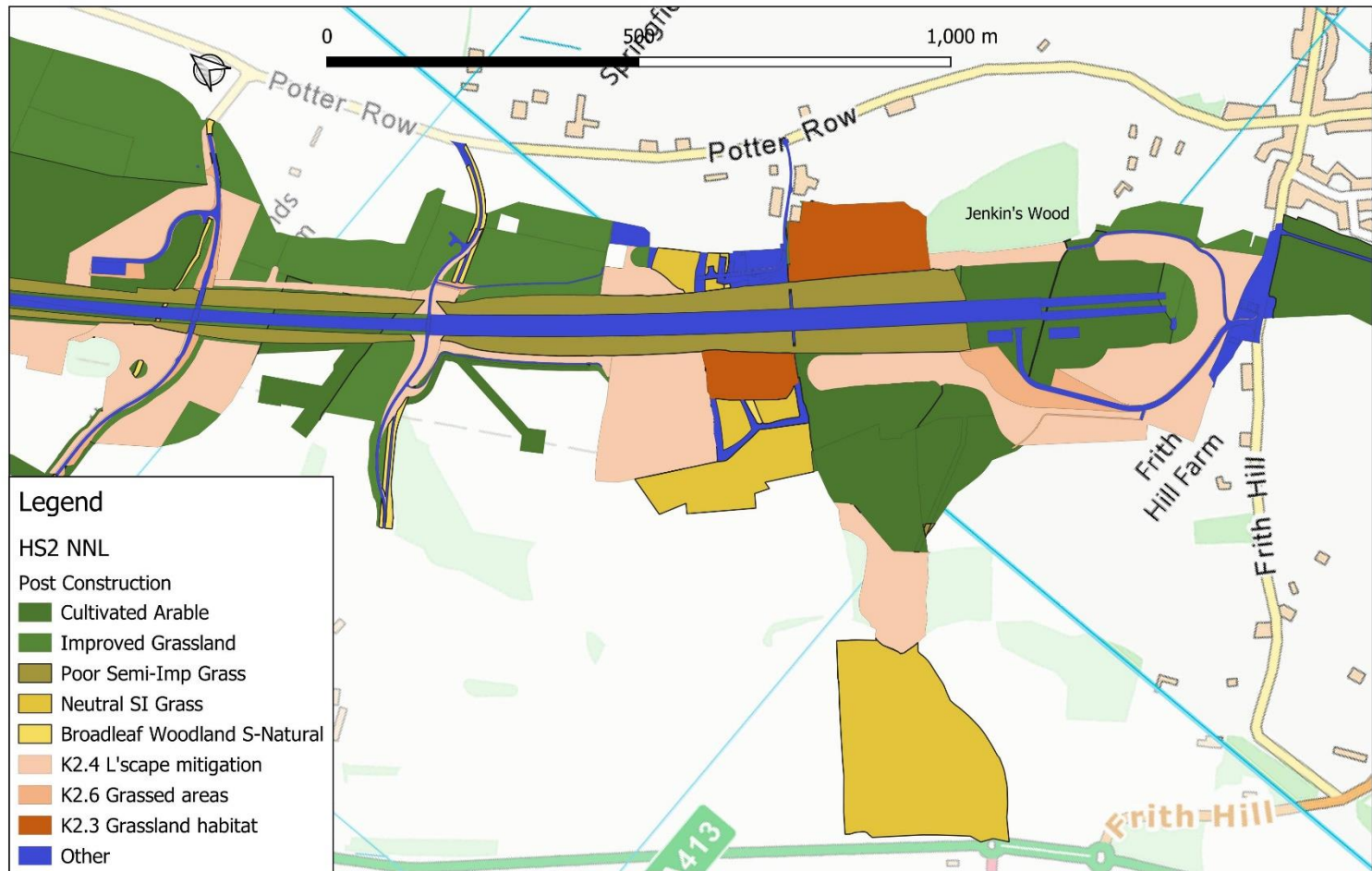


Great Missenden - Haul Road Construction

DR JIM CONBOY, C.PHYS, M.INST PHYS

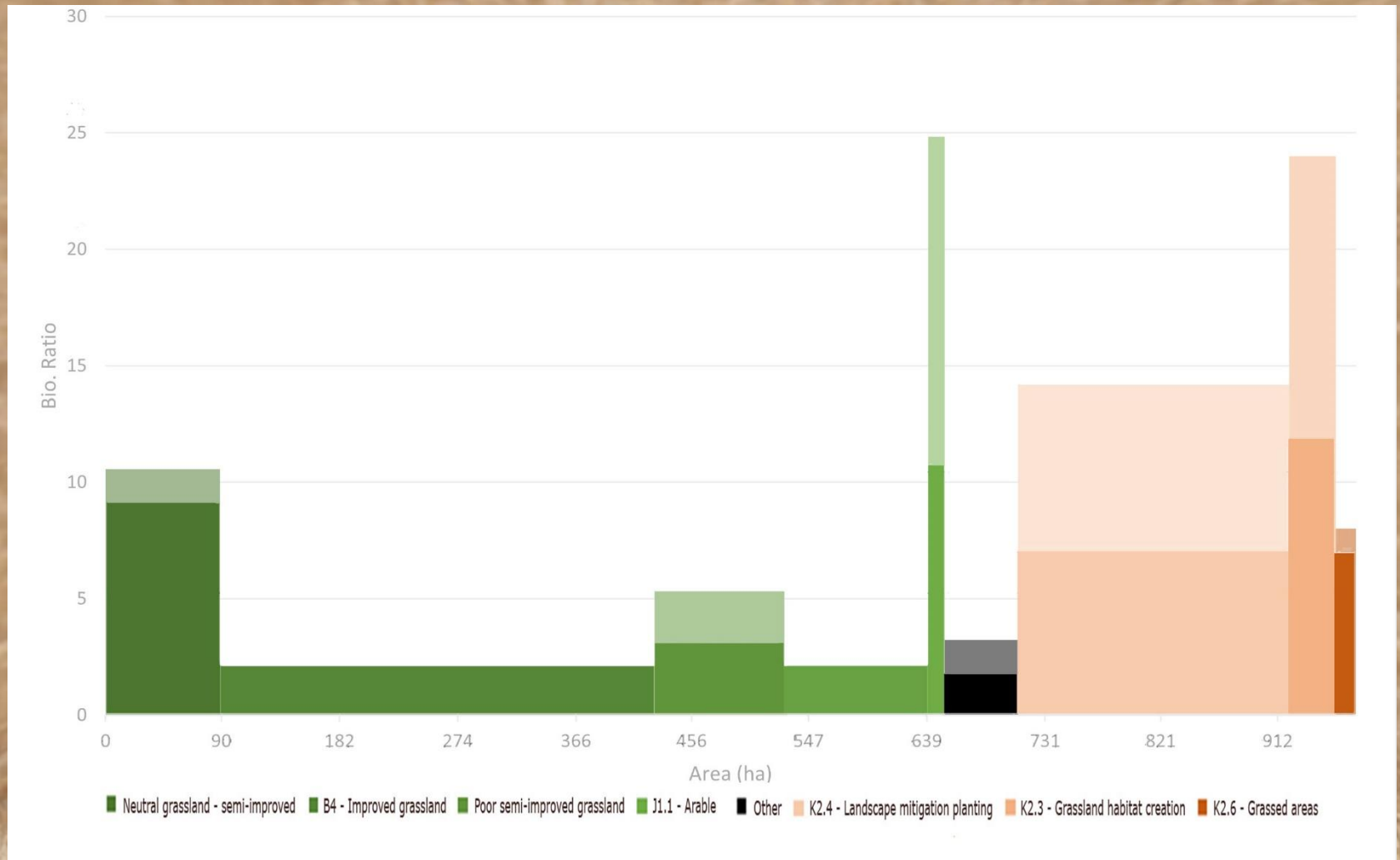
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- The amount of new or restored habitat is larger than it at first appears – 40% -> 75%



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The claimed biodiversity gain is also much larger than the 'headline' figure – due to the 10 yr discount; 110% > 180%



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- ❑ Can this significant increase in Biodiversity be achieved while retaining a similar range of habitats to those existing before construction ?
- ❑ If not – what new habitats are planned ?

Schedule 17 applications

- South Heath Cutting 'Landscape Design Vision' (for information) makes no reference to Biodiversity
- There is no reference to any unified overview of landscaping the entire AONB; the last overview appears to be in the Detailed Design Principles document – Nov. 2017
- Planting Plans (submitted 'for information') list the species to be planted – but not the proportion of each. An FOI to obtain more detail was refused – 'work in progress'
- Artists impressions are not reassuring -

Schedule 17 applications

North Portal – Year 15 (Artist's Impression)



Fig 4.1. Visualisation - Aerial view (Year 15)

Schedule 17 applications

Doesn't look much like Jenkin's Wood ...



Schedule 17 applications

State of advance planting areas does not inspire confidence
(Translocated ancient woodland & Jones Hill Wood)



Questions (for HS2) ...

- Do HS2 intend to restore the landscape to a similar mix of habitats as existed pre-construction? Or to some 'higher biodiversity' alternative ?
- Who sets the objectives for restoration in the AONB ?
- Are the Biodiversity gains claimed in 2015 still targeted ?
- If so, how are they to be achieved ?

Not much time left ...



North Portal programme of key construction activities

Dates	Activity
November 2023 to July 2024	Construction of batching plant (civils following by establishment/ commissioning)
February 2024 to September 2024	TBM arrival and dismantling
May 2024 to May 2025	Porous portal Construction (works stop during TBM breakout)
July 2024 to August 2025	Operation of the Batching Plant to service tunnel walkways
September 2025 to November 2025	Landscaping
February 2025 to November 2025	Demobilisation

*Dates are subject to change

Only 3 months ??

Supplementary Question

- What will become of the 'bits left over' – e.g. Leather Lane -

