



**Public Access
Strategy for
Ellenbrook Fields
Mineral Working
Proposal**
February 2026



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About this document

This plan has been created by Brett to help the local community and interest groups understand how the proposed quarry will integrate with Ellenbrook Fields. The establishment of a country park is provided for by a planning agreement made in December 2000. This agreement envisaged that phased mineral working and public access to the country park would go hand in hand.

This plan describes how walkers, cyclists and horse riders will discover new paths opened to them as the phased mineral extraction activity is progressively restored over time. It also describes how existing routes will be managed by Brett. Well maintained paths and bridleways will explore different sections of the land and provide ongoing access for all visitors to at least 85% of the 176.6 hectare parkland.

Prior to the commencement of mineral extraction in each phase a detailed 'Phase Working Plan' shall be submitted to Hertfordshire County Council for consultation.

For more information:

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Our plan has been created with input from local communities

We recognise that Ellenbrook Fields is currently used by residents for both recreation, and everyday travel and that the main routes provide direct connections between locations around the park.

To maintain and preserve these key routes as much as possible we have consulted with the County, District and Borough Public Rights of Way teams as well as with local communities.

What's more, before we commence each phase we will consult with the Ellenbrook Park Trust to understand where they would like existing paths rerouted, or where new paths should be created.

Together, we will maximise public access, keep communities connected and the park enjoyable throughout the project, while leaving long term improvements for future generations.



Our commitment to Ellenbrook Fields

We know how important the park is as a green space and as a safe, convenient way to move between communities, such as Smallford and Salisbury Village. We also understand that people want reassurance that they can continue to use the park in this way throughout the lifespan of the project.

Our commitment to Ellenbrook Fields is to not only preserve but, through the **creation of new paths, to increase access** across the park, **restoring as we go**. In doing so we will create high quality, accessible landscapes that **integrate with the rest of the park** during the project and **before completion**.

***85% of the park will be
accessible throughout
the proposed project***

Our plan will mean...
you will be able to move
easily across the park
from east to west and
north to south from
day one and during the
lifespan of the project

Our plan will ensure...
restored areas of the
park will be integrated
into the rest of the
park in a timely manner
and well before the
completion of the project

Our plan increases routes across the park



We know Ellenbrook Fields is a valuable asset to the local community and that the space is a place for recreation and leisure and also serves as a vital travel link between various locations around the park. In particular we understand the connection between Salisbury Village and Smallford is important, as are key access points around the park

such as Albatross Way in the east, Notcutts Garden Centre in the south west, Beech Farm in the north west and Coopers Green in the north east.

New paths and bridleways

As well as adding to the number of paths across the park during the project, three new bridleways will be constructed. These high-quality, multi use paths can be available throughout the project and will remain after completion.

As shown opposite, our plan will preserve all access points and add additional paths across the park, thereby increasing access throughout the project’s lifespan.

AT A GLANCE

- 1** Three new multi-user paths created from the outset which can remain after completion of the project
- 2** Increased walking routes and dedicated bridleways across Ellenbrook Fields at all times
- 3** Further paths can be added through consultation with the Ellenbrook Park Trust

Existing path network

Showing popular routes, tracks and key access points in the east and west of the park indicated by residents, our own field surveys and aerial photography.



Typical path network during the project

An example of paths and access points available while working a single phase of the site. Similar levels of access are preserved in every phase of the project.

For detailed path access for each phase of the project see page 18-31.



Indicative illustrations only. Final path positions may be changed in consultation with Ellenbrook Park Trust and other community groups. For detailed drawings of the site and the exact placement of plant, lagoons, bunds, clay seals etc. please visit: gateleyhamer-pi.com/en-gb/hatfield-aerodrome-appeal or hatfieldaerodromequarry.co.uk

Our plan includes an incremental work process that maximises access across the park, at all times

Although the entire project is divided into phases, work progresses in smaller stages within each phase. This allows us to keep areas ahead of us open and restore areas behind us as quickly as we can. Paths will be created as soon as each stage is finished, so people can

continue to use the park while work is ongoing. The diagram below explains our incremental work process.

[Click here to see an animation of our incremental working process.](#)



Clay seal

Fencing

Crossing

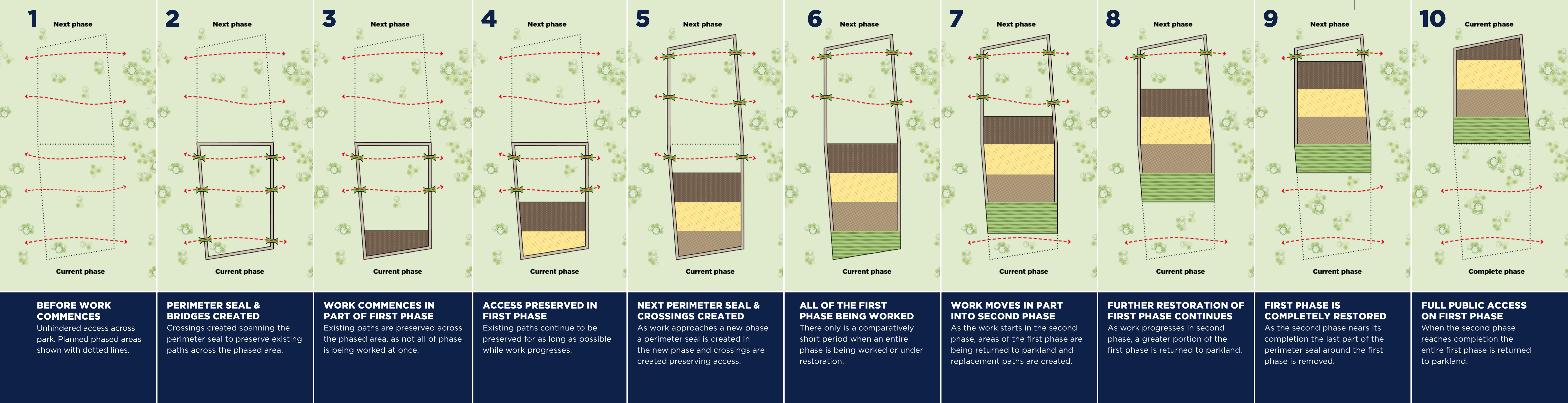
Footpaths

Upper layer removal

Mineral working

Inert filling

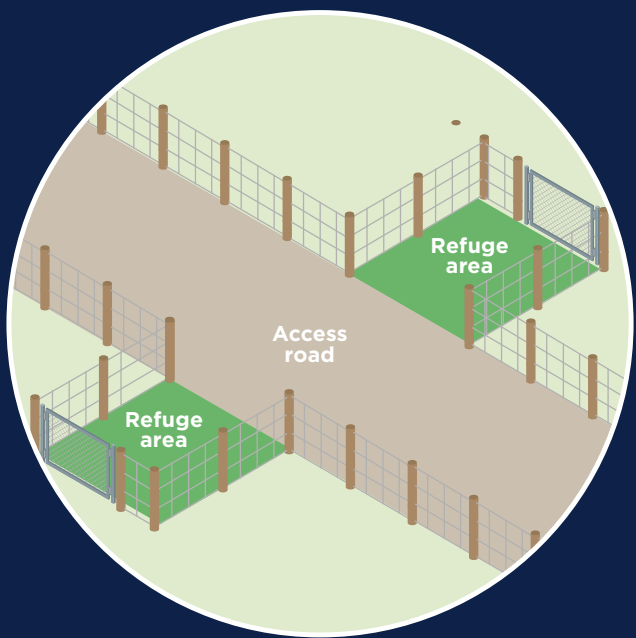
Under restoration



Wayfinding and crossings

To help users navigate the park easily **footpaths and bridleways and multi-user path will be clearly signposted**. In addition, at the start of the project and at each individual phase of working, signage will be installed providing information on the location of the working area and routes around it. When we start restoring areas as we go, additional signage will be installed to show and explain our restoration plans.

We will strike a balance between **maximising access while minimising the number of places where users of the park need to cross internal roads**. Where there are crossing points we will include traffic warning signs for the public and road signs for vehicles, and ensure there is good visibility in all directions. Crossing points will be gated and set back with a refuge area the other side of the gate and will not open directly onto internal roads.



An illustration demonstrating the concept of refuge areas



Flexibility in phasing to maximise access

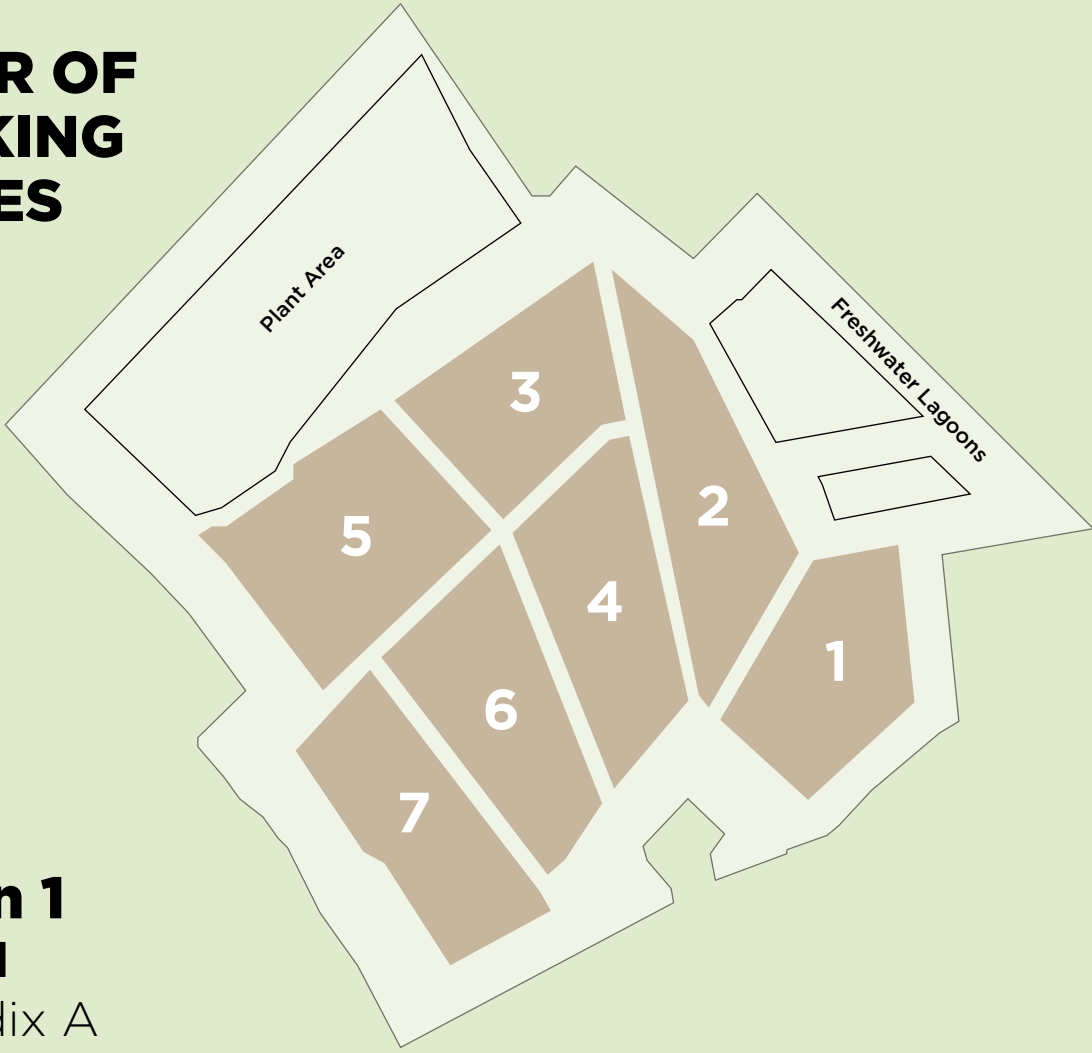
In addition to working in smaller stages within each phase, the project has been designed to be flexible in the order the phases are worked. **In consultation with the Colney Heath Group**, an alternative working sequence has been identified which **maximises access without altering the overall scale, duration or any other environmental aspect of the project**.

The alternative phasing plan is shown in **Appendix B** and is provided for illustrative purposes to demonstrate how access can be maintained and enhanced through flexible delivery of the scheme.

AT A GLANCE

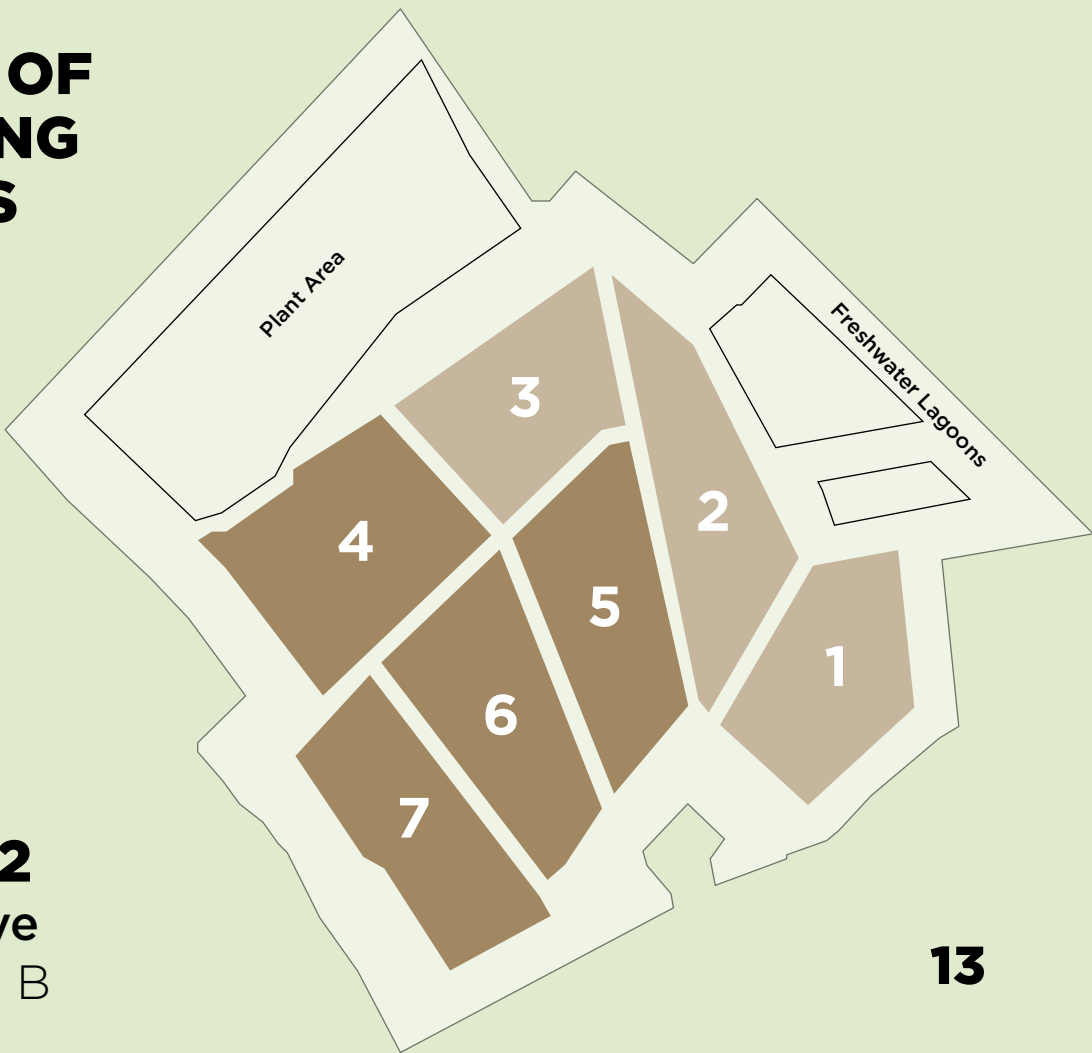
- 1** Public access in front of the work area and access across the park is maintained during the life of the project
- 2** Restoration and path creation follows the working area as we progress across phases, in a timely manner
- 3** New paths can be created in future phases following consultation

ORDER OF WORKING PHASES



Option 1
Original
Appendix A

ORDER OF WORKING PHASES



Option 2
Alternative
Appendix B

Our plan integrates the east of Ellenbrook Fields with the areas to the west, from day one and throughout the project

The clear water lagoons will be located in an area of scrubland in the east of the project. There is, at the moment, only one track in this area. Currently a livestock fence prevents free access from west to east and, because of this, movement between the eastern and western sides, as of today, is limited to two routes, one to the north and the second to south of the proposed site of the clear water lagoons.

As part of the project and **as envisaged in the 2000 Agreement**, we will **preserve these existing routes** and create **new paths** between and around the lagoons, **increasing the number of available routes from east to west** and ensuring that integration between key access points are unaffected by the project.

And because of our incremental working process **we restore parts the park immediately behind us**, meaning we **reinstate existing paths** or add new paths linking east and west in a **timely manner and as soon as the restoration takes place**.



AT A GLANCE

1 Tracks around and between the lagoons will link existing paths in the east and west of the park

2 Complete integration of unaffected east and west is planned for from the start of the project

3 Integration from access points in the east to the west of park maintained throughout the project

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The restoration, a legacy for future generations to enjoy

We believe that when the lagoons are restored to a single lake, it will become an asset to the park, increasing biodiversity and providing an area for recreation and leisure **as envisaged in the 2000 Agreement.**

More new nature reserves and wildlife habitats are created from restored quarries than any other land use. Brett has a long track record of responsibly operating and restoring its quarries to leave a positive lasting legacy.

Our experienced team have achieved more awards in recognition of the quality of our work than any other independent company in the industry, securing more than 50 awards in 50 years for outstanding restoration.

Our quarry restoration schemes have been recognised not only by UK industry organisations but also by Europe-wide organisations concerned with environmental protection and nature conservation.



*Thanington Lakes, Kent
a restored Brett quarry site*

A place of leisure, relaxation and biodiversity

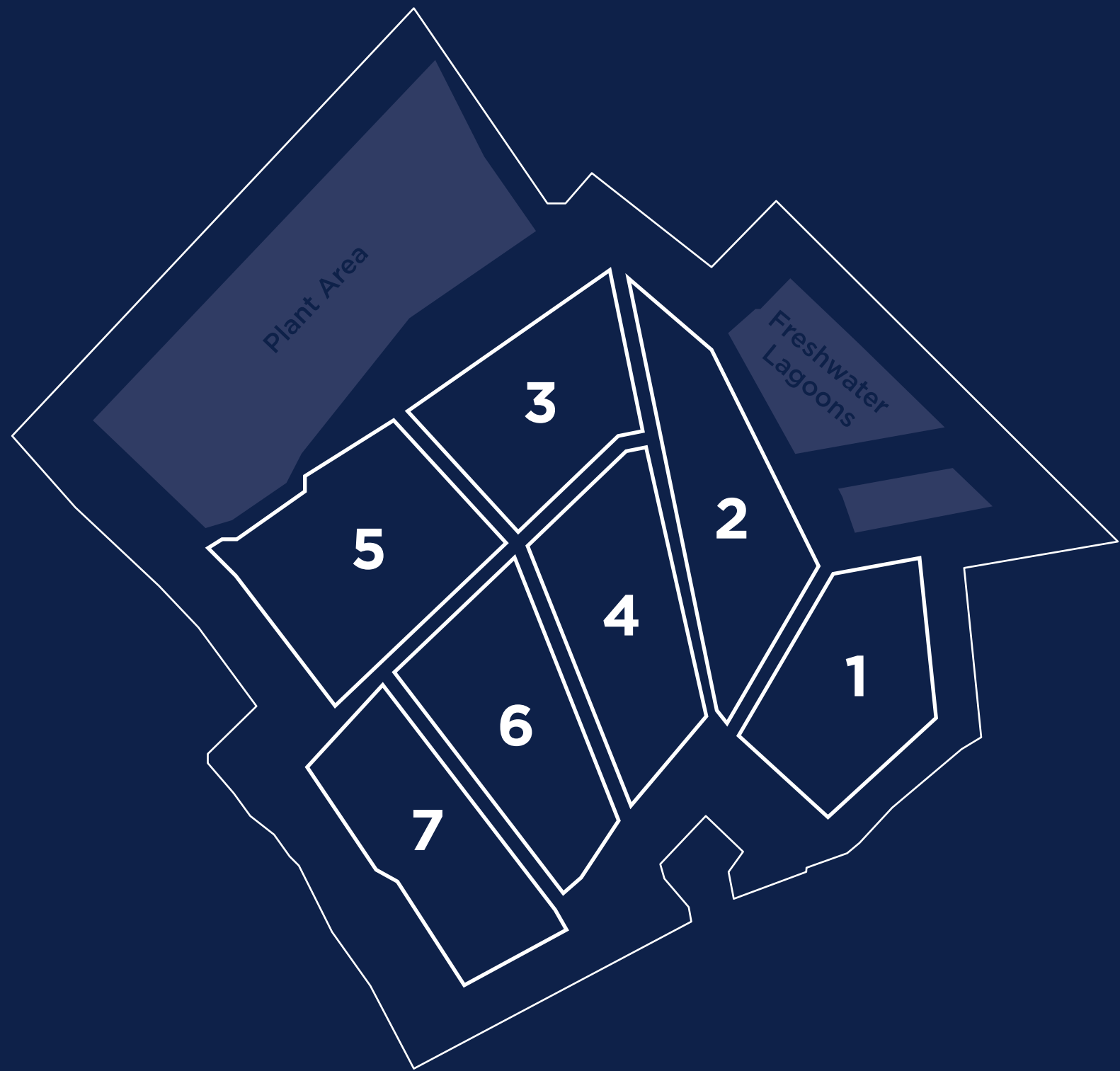
The image opposite is of Thanington Lakes, Kent, one of our many water body restorations. It has good stocks of carp, bream, tench, roach, rudd & perch, and is currently used for sports fishing. The lake contains reedbeds that provide essential nesting areas for birds and the surrounding wet woodlands supports growing populations of invertebrates and mammals. Bird species on and around the lakes include great crested grebe, little grebe, tufted duck, mute swan, green woodpecker, moorhen, coot, reed warblers and bittern.

Appendix A

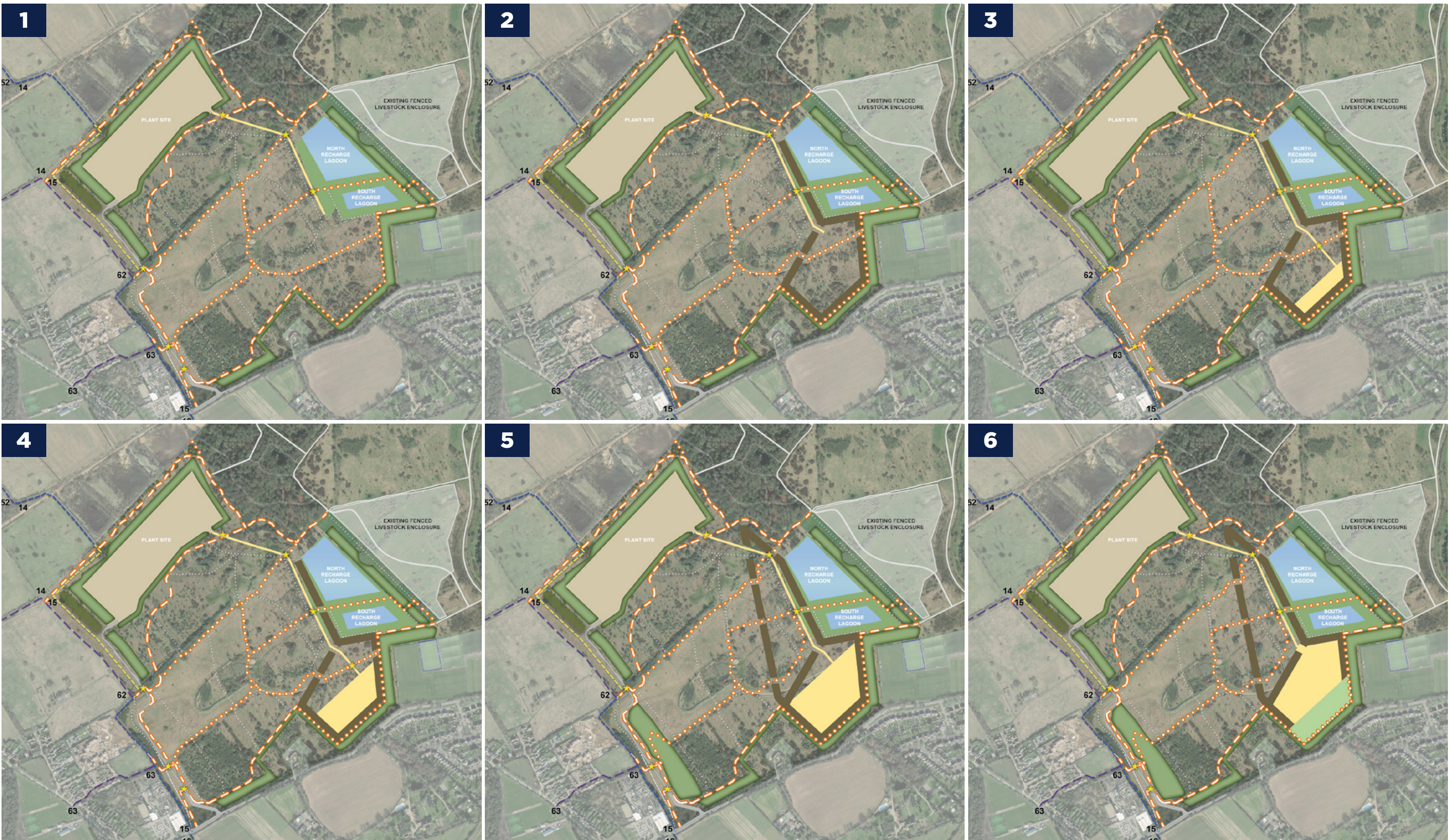
Option 1 - Original phasing plan

The following few pages are intended as an illustration of how our incremental working process keeps paths ahead of our working intact for as long as possible and how restoration is started immediately behind the working area meaning previous paths can be reinstated or new paths created in a timely manner.

All the paths shown here are indicative and the final position of these paths is settled at the start of each phase through **consultation with the Ellenbrook Park Trust.**



Click here to see an animation of how each phase will be worked through the entirety of the project



KEY

Site access

Access roads

Crossing points

Public footpath

Multi user routes

Primary routes

Secondary tracks

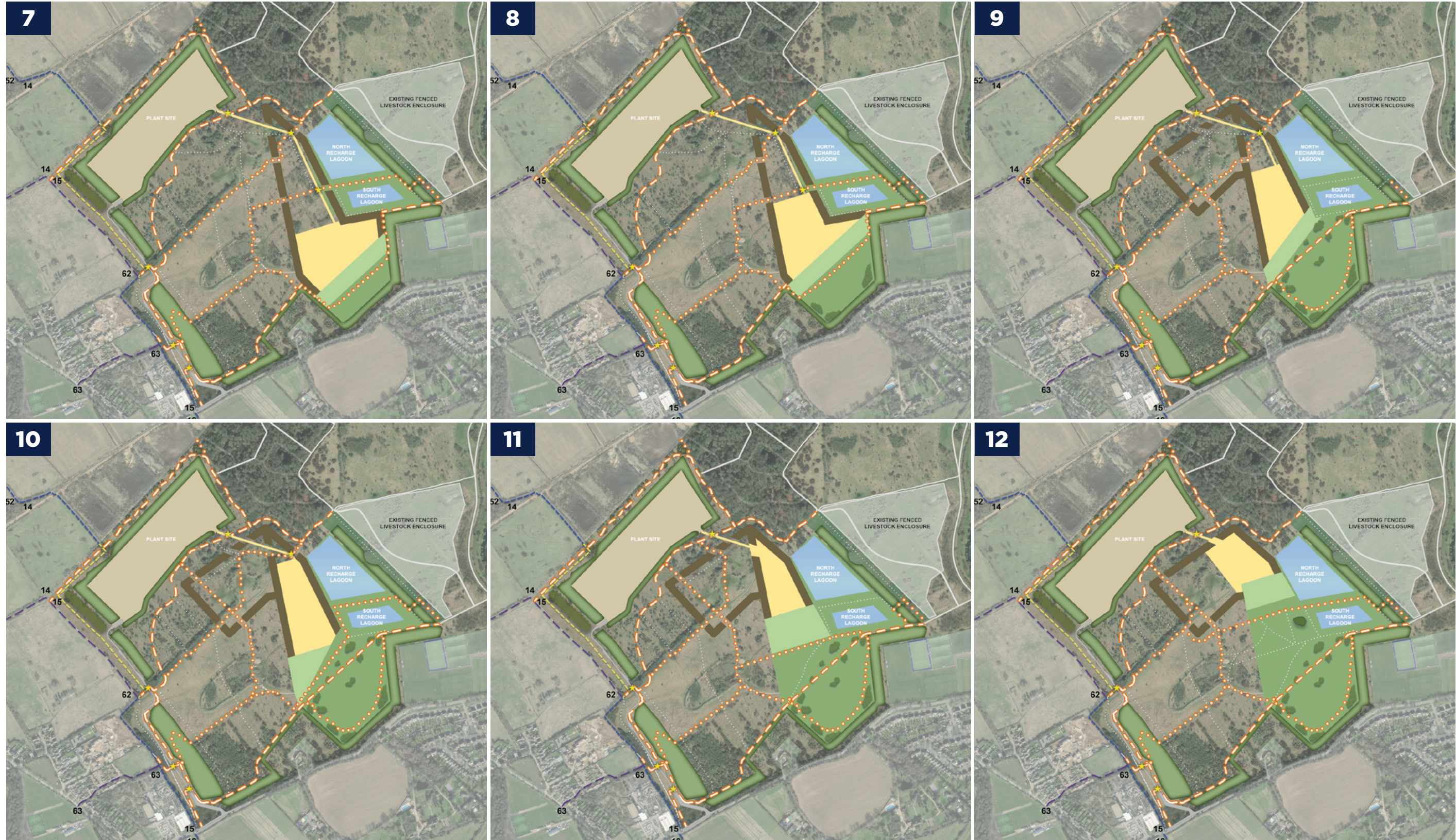
Perimeter seals

Working areas

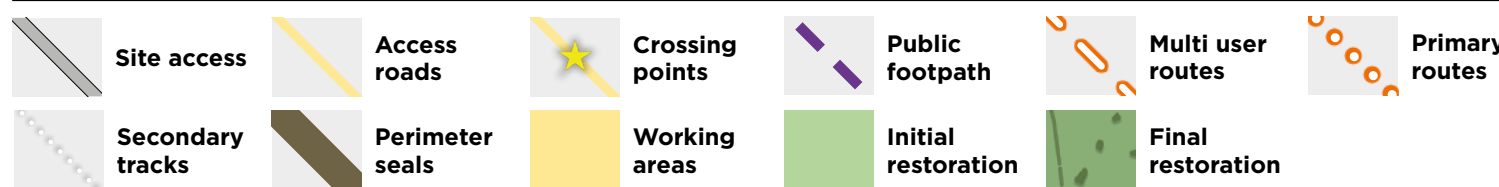
Initial restoration

Final restoration

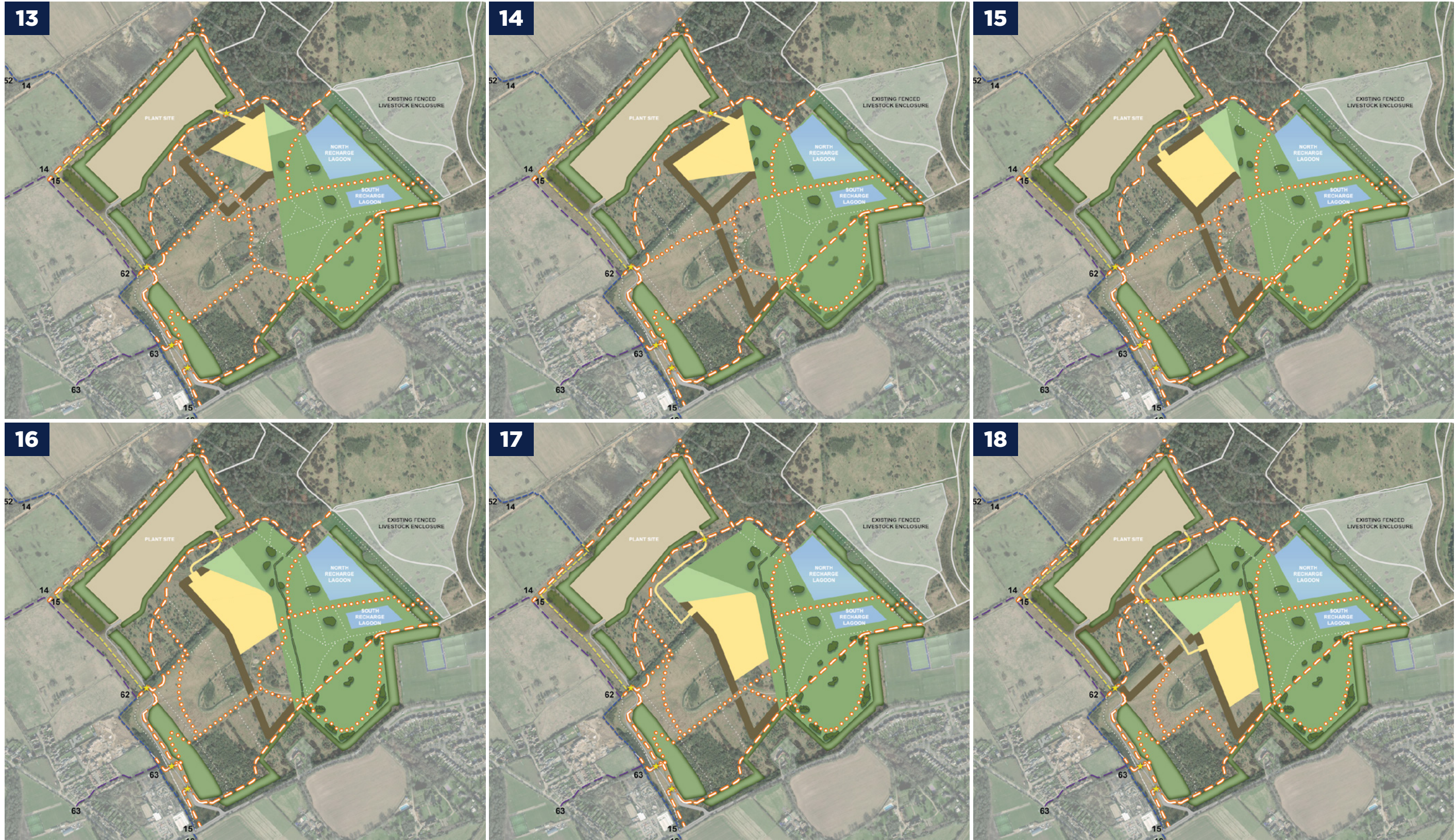
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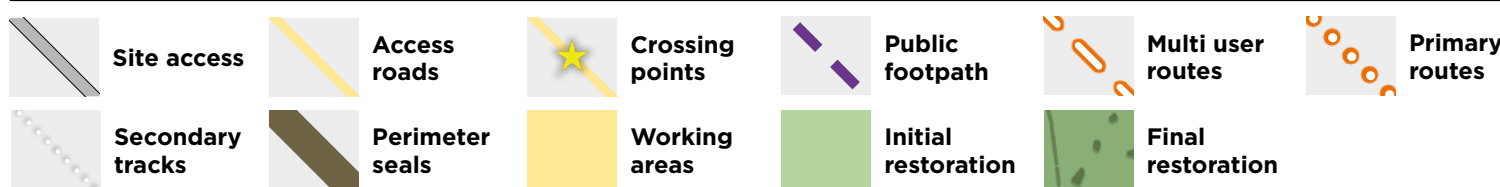
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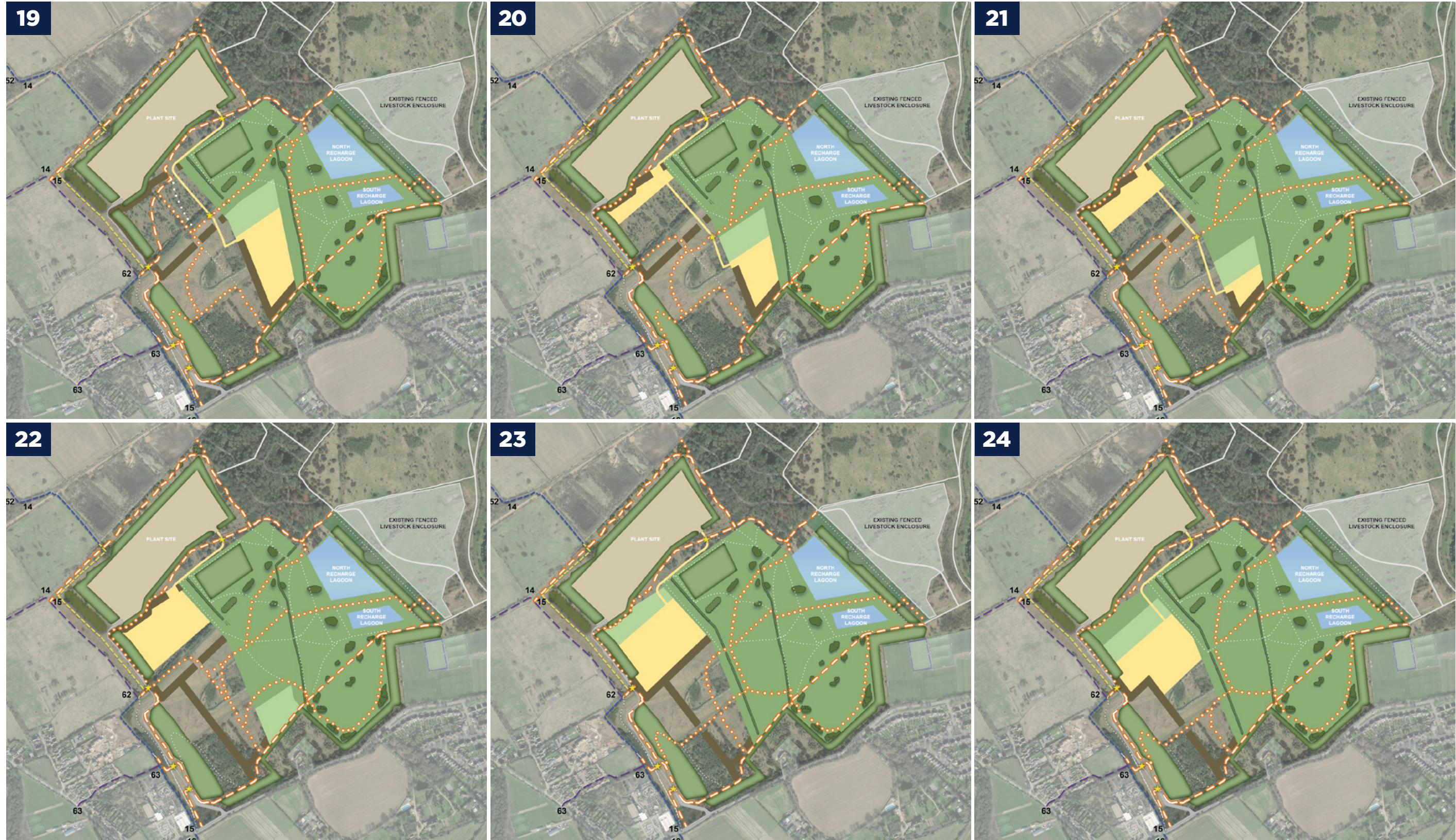
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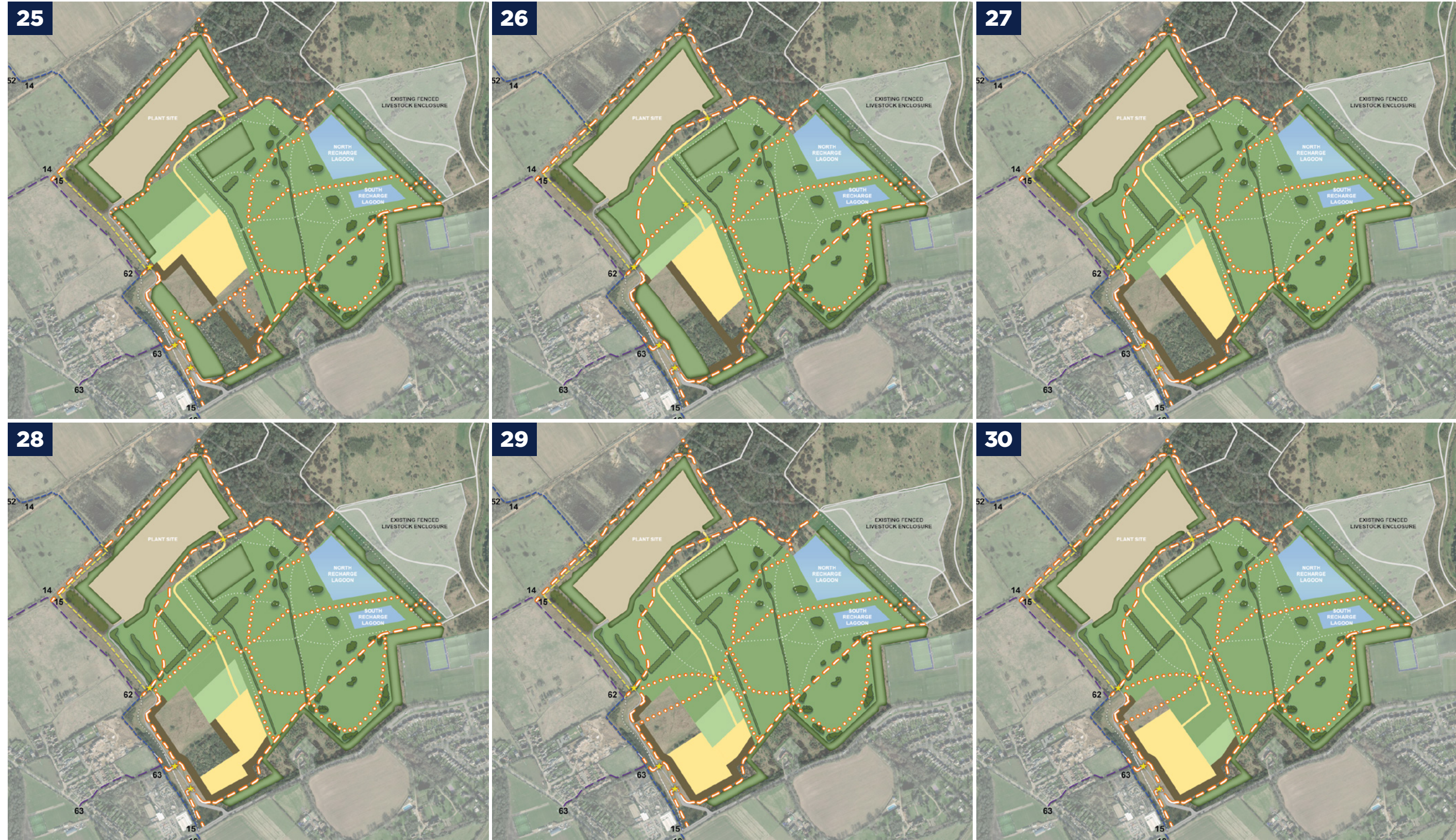
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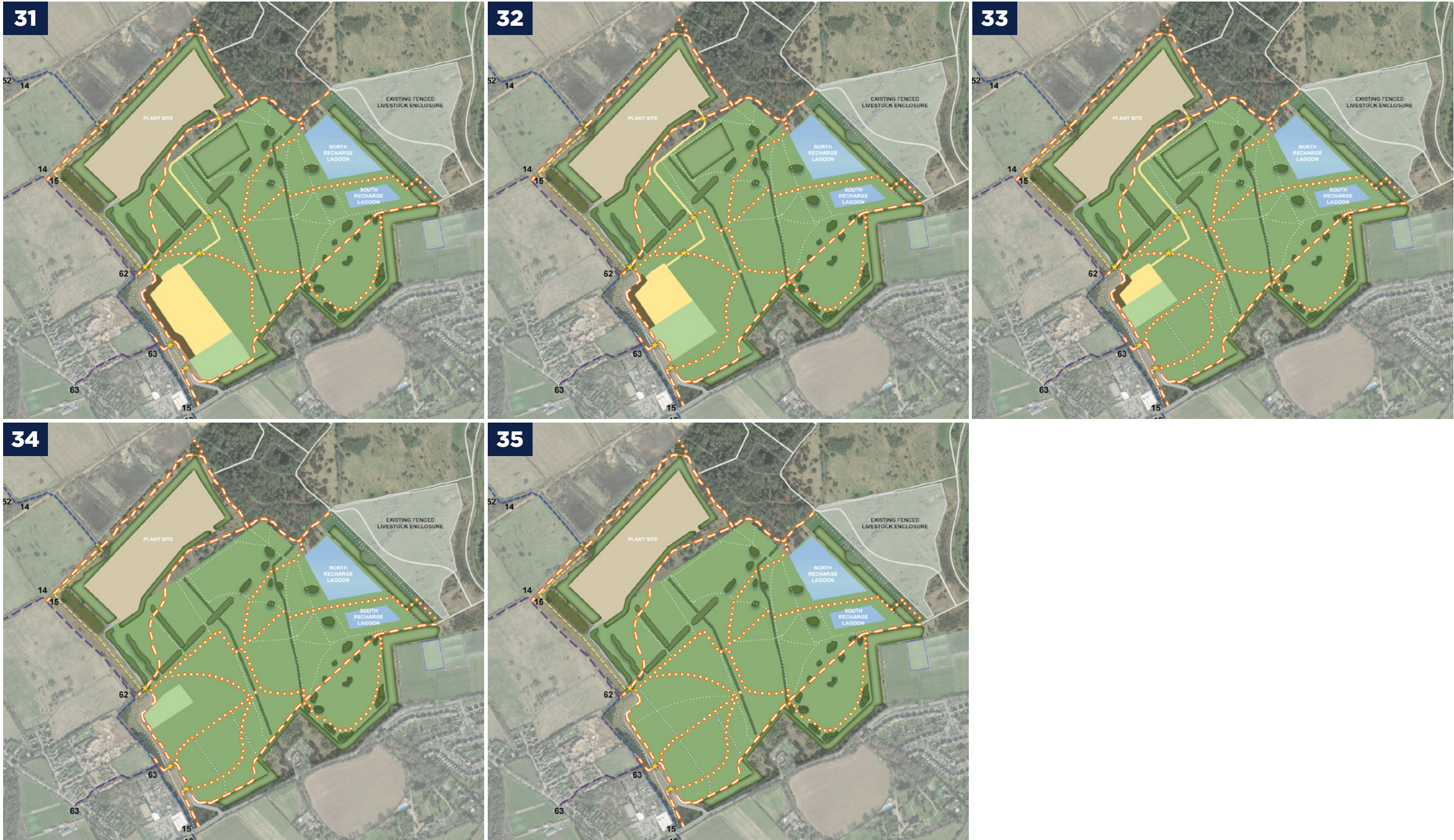
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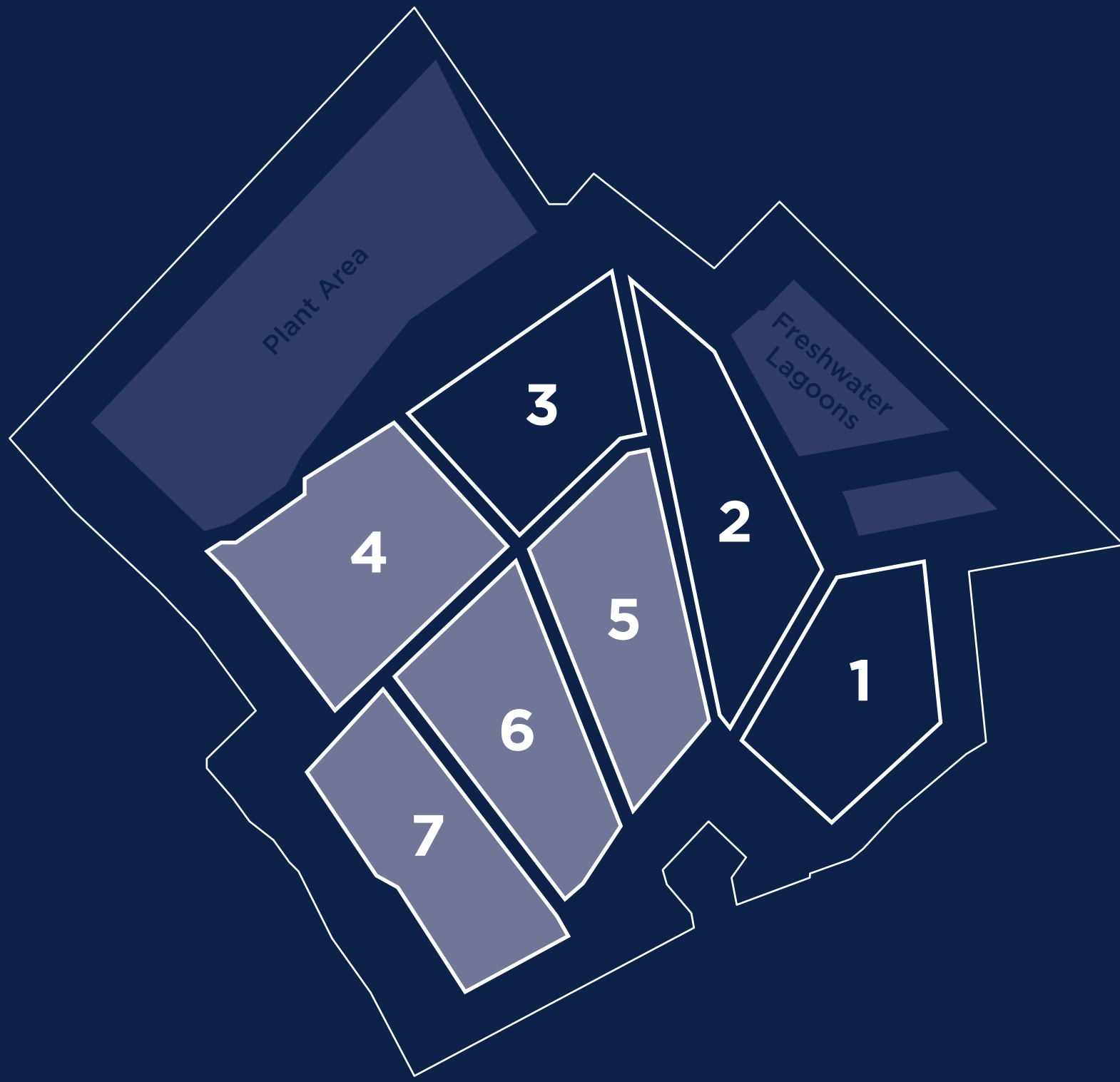
	Site access		Access roads		Crossing points		Public footpath		Multi user routes		Primary routes
	Secondary tracks		Perimeter seals		Working areas		Initial restoration		Final restoration		

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Appendix B

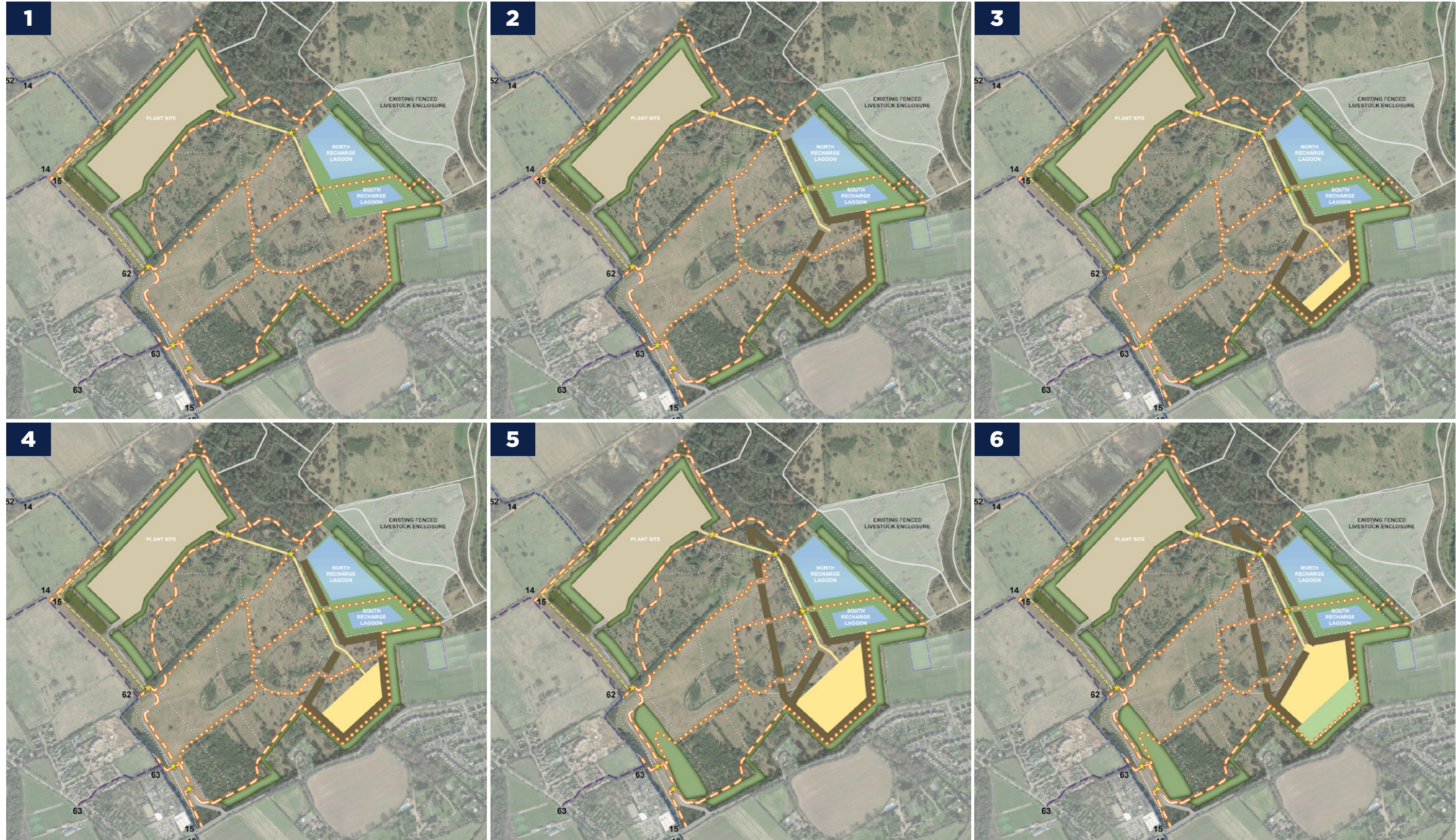
Option 2 - Alternative phasing plan (as suggested by Colney Heath Group)

The next few pages illustrate an alternative sequence of working, identified by residents that further maximises access throughout the lifespan of the project without altering the overall scale, duration or any other environmental aspect of the project.



Click here to see an animation of how each phase will be worked through the entirety of the project

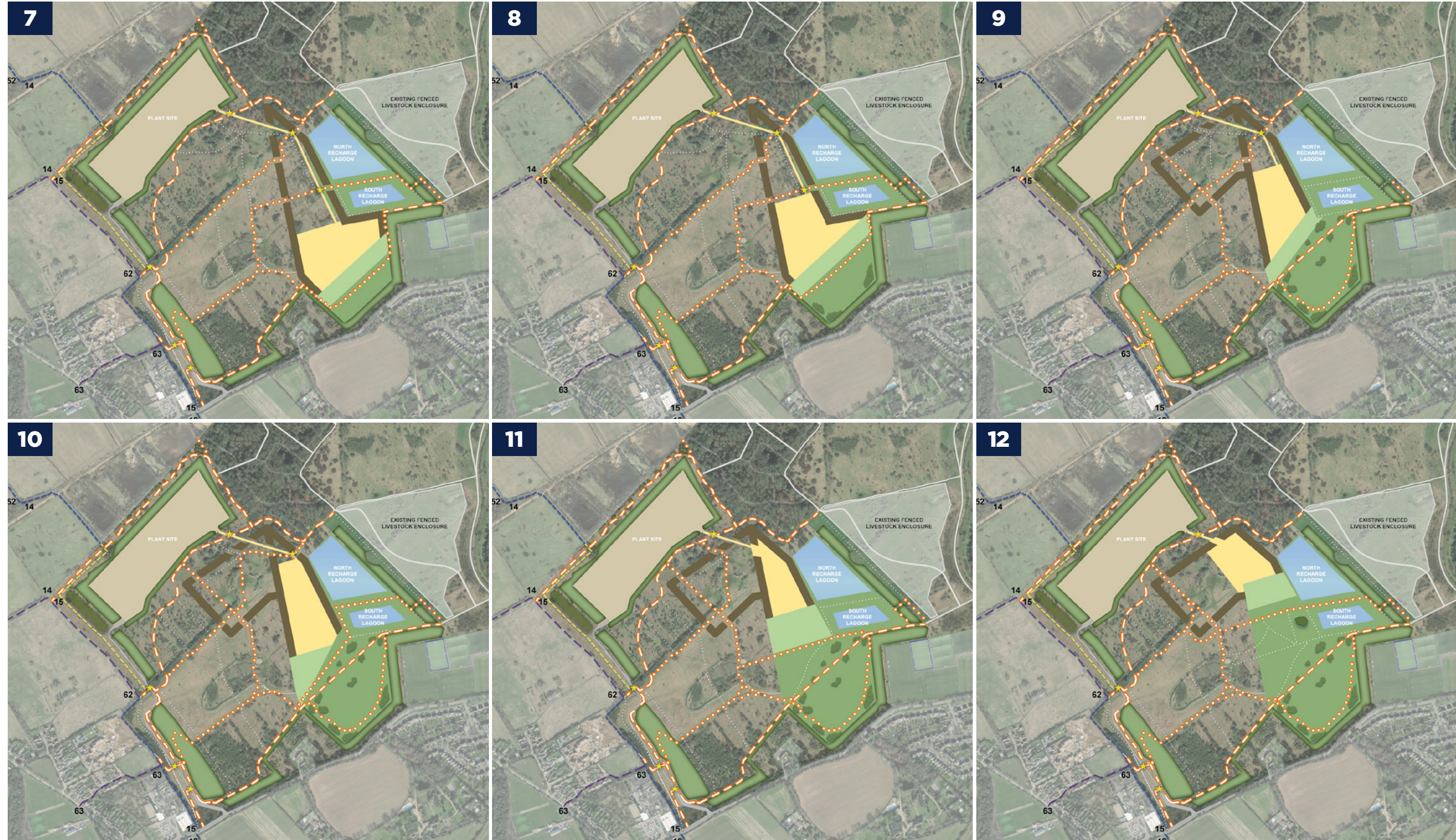




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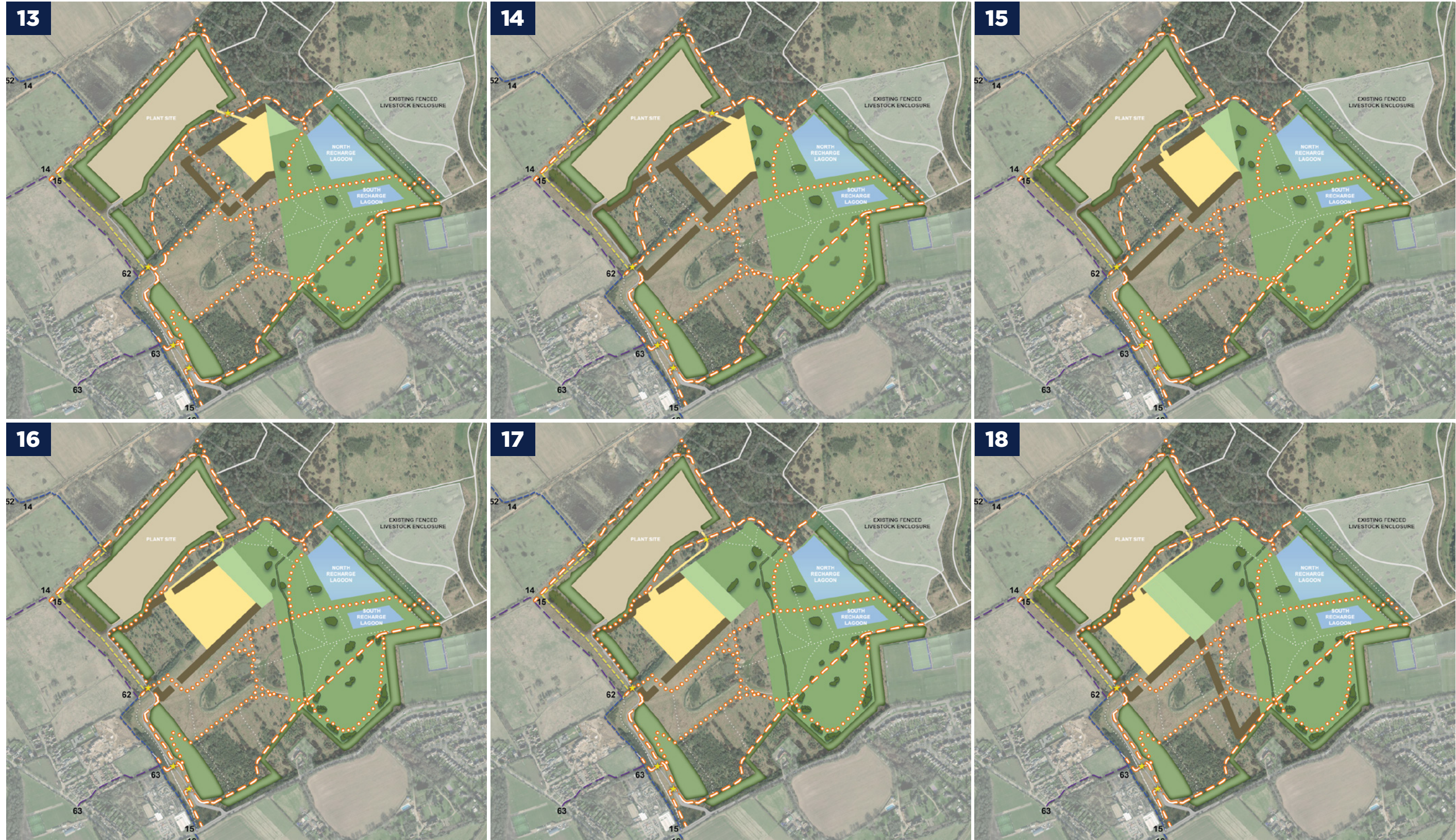
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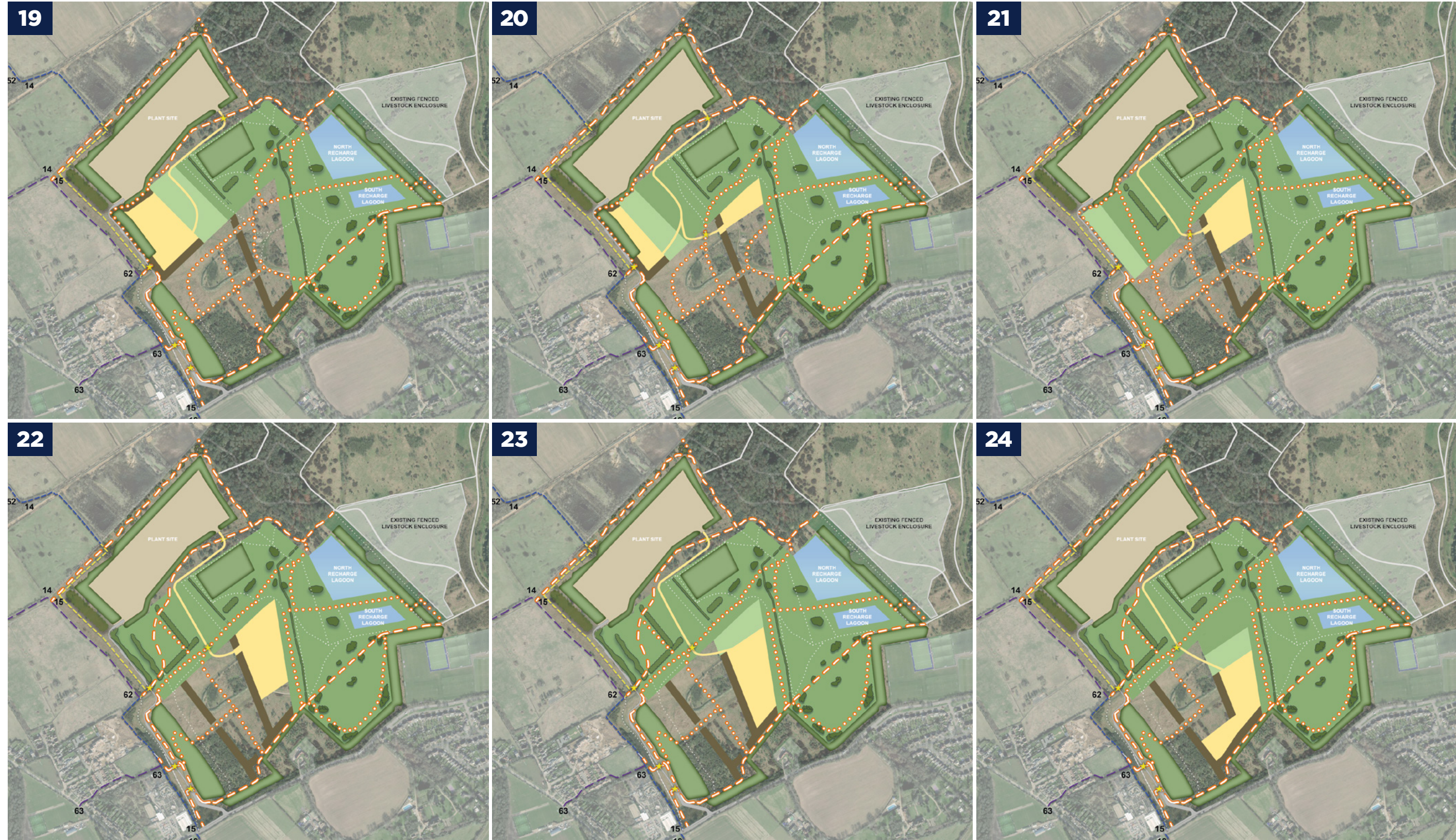
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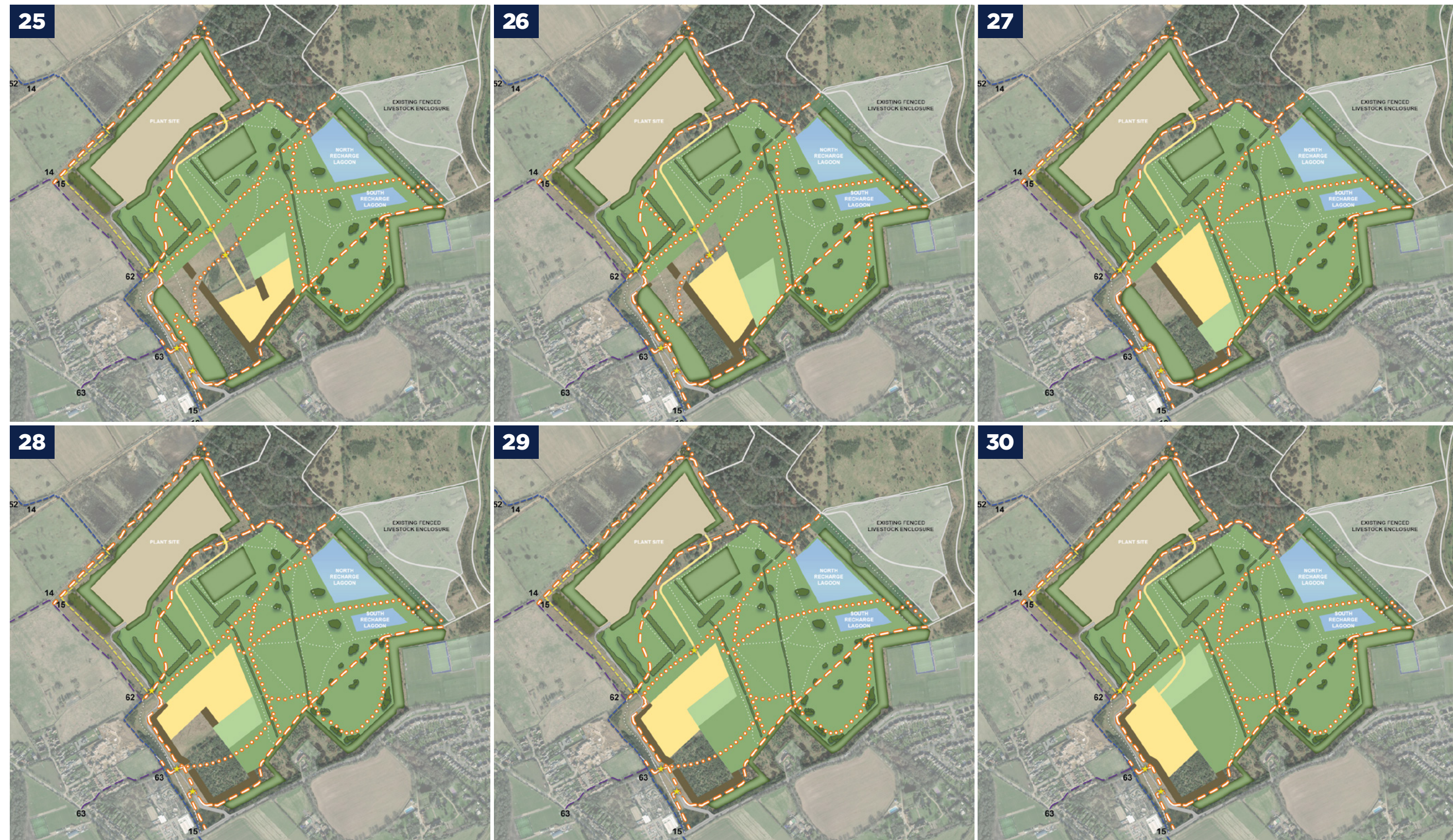
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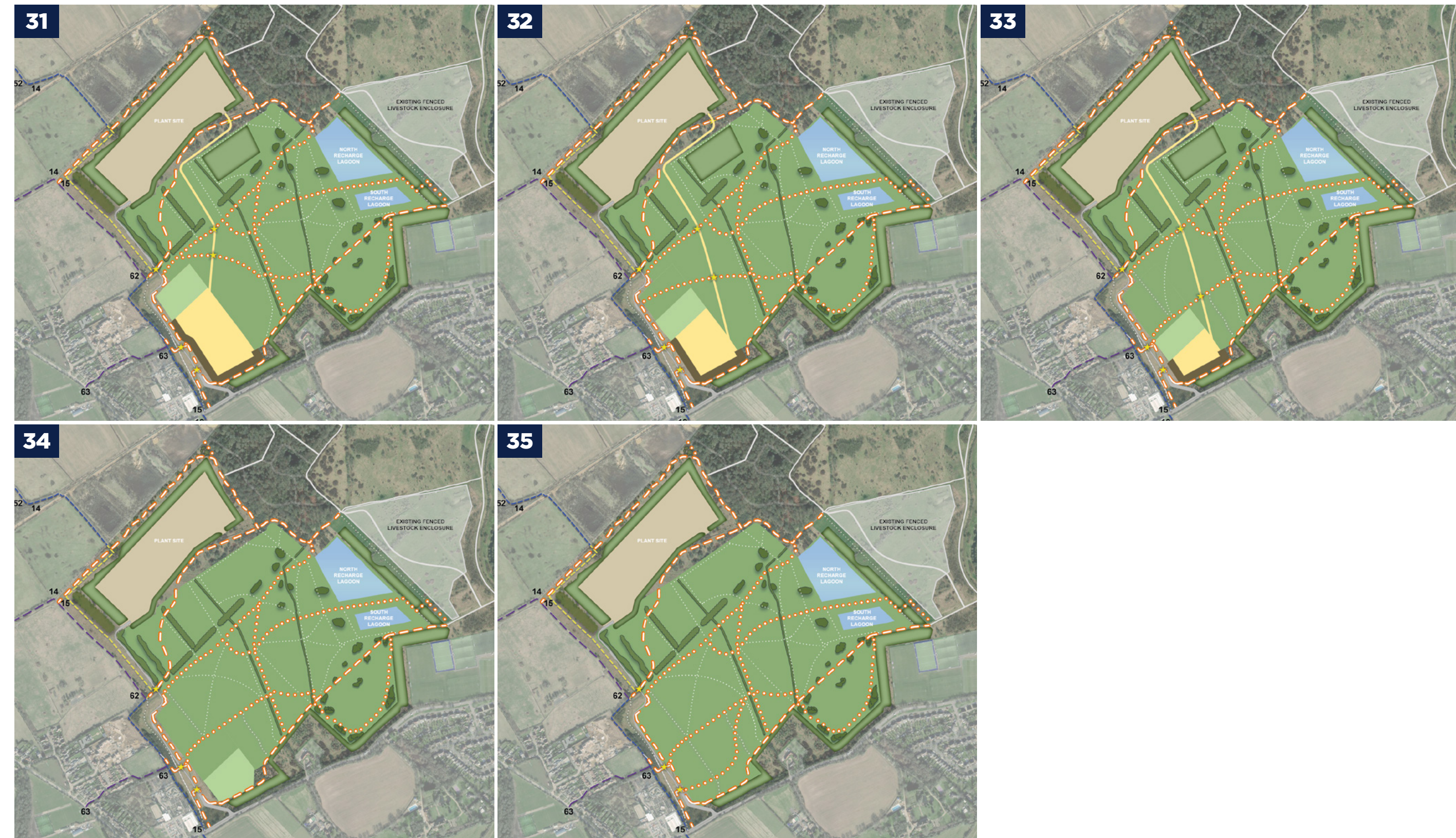
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Final restoration plan

Restoration will be undertaken progressively in line with the phased development of the site, enabling newly restored areas to be opened to the public as soon as they are sufficiently established to accommodate walkers. Once each restored sub stage of a phase reaches an appropriate level of maturity, it will be transferred to the Ellenbrook Park Trust and brought into active management as part of the wider park, rather than awaiting completion of restoration across the entire site.

This phased approach will provide early public access, maximise community benefit, and support smooth integration with the existing park landscape. In the long term, the fully restored site will form part of Ellenbrook Country Park and will be managed by the Ellenbrook Park Trust, ensuring sustained stewardship that protects and enhances the landscape, ecological value, and recreational opportunities for future generations.



About us

Brett is an independent business that has been operating for more than 115 years, working closely with the communities around us and with a long standing commitment to responsible land management. Since we were established in 1909, our focus has been on doing things the right way: by building strong relationships, caring for the environment and ensuring that the places we work remain valuable green spaces for local people.

A core part of our work is the restoration of the land we use. We plan restoration from the very beginning of each project, and in most instances carry it out alongside active quarrying. This approach has earned Brett a national reputation for high quality restoration and reflect how we operate as an independent business: when we temporarily use land for mineral extraction, **we are committed to returning it in better condition than we found it** - richer in wildlife, more accessible for the public and more resilient for the future.

- Over 50 restoration awards in 50 years from local authorities and industry bodies.
- Five wins of the Cooper Heyman Cup, the UK's highest recognition for outstanding quarry restoration.
- SSSI quality habitats created at several restored sites, demonstrating the ecological value of the work carried out.
- Industry commendations for projects such as the Great Stour Way & Hambrook Marshes in Kent, celebrated for improving biodiversity and creating public spaces used by walkers, cyclists and schools.



Our commitment to Ellenbrook Fields

We are committed to returning Ellenbrook Fields in better condition than we found it. Our plans are designed to keep **at least 85% of the park accessible throughout the project**, open up new routes as restoration progresses, and create high quality landscapes that benefit both nature and the local community long after quarrying is complete.

Contact Details

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