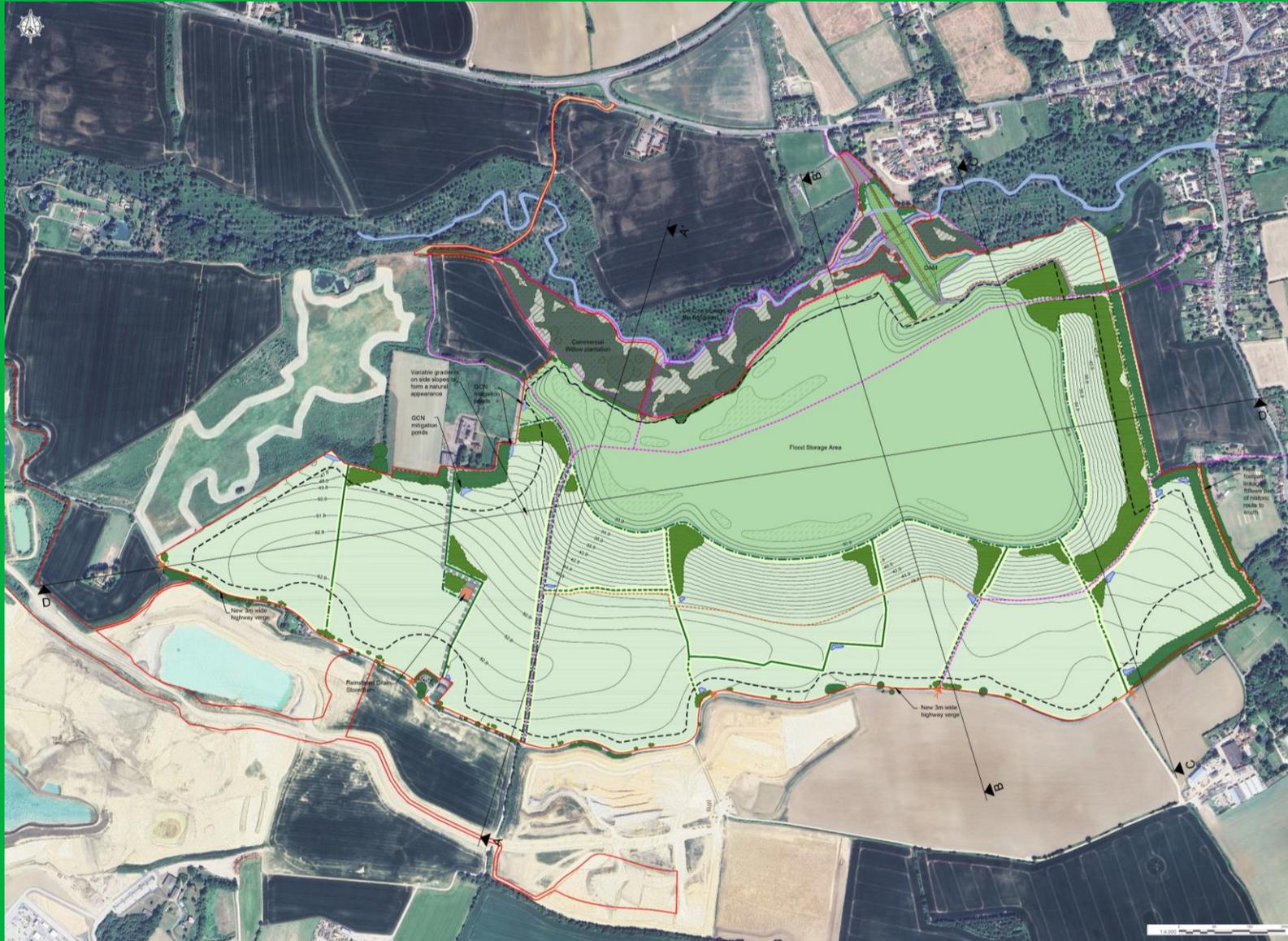


Coggeshall, Feering and Kelvedon Flood Alleviation Scheme



The proposed flood alleviation scheme combines the construction of a dam across the River Blackwater with the creation of an extended floodplain within the Blackwater valley, to form a flood storage area next to the river.

In the future the flood storage area will be restored as a native floodplain grassland, including shallow scrapes that will form a biodiverse seasonal wetland habitat which would attract wildlife. During a significant flood event, the dam and flood storage area is expected to hold over 3 million m³ upstream. Water depths across the flood storage area would be up to a maximum 2.5m. Following the flood event, the water that is held back to protect the villages would steadily drain back to the river over several days.

Key elements of the proposed scheme are as follows:

- a dam across the River Blackwater, to hold water back within the natural floodplain and flood storage area, during a flood event;
- a passive control structure, comprising a culvert within the dam, that will limit flow through the dam during a flood event, in order to reduce flooding downstream of the dam but maintaining the effective use of the natural floodplain downstream;
- a controlled overflow spillway, to allow safe over-topping of the dam if the flood storage area is full (i.e. during an event of higher magnitude than the design flood event);
- realignment of the river channel immediately upstream and downstream of the dam, which will locally divert the River Blackwater through the dam's culvert; and,
- a flood storage area which will be created to the south of the River Blackwater, upstream of the dam. The flood storage area essentially provides an extension to the natural floodplain upstream of the dam and will hold flood water within the Blackwater valley.

