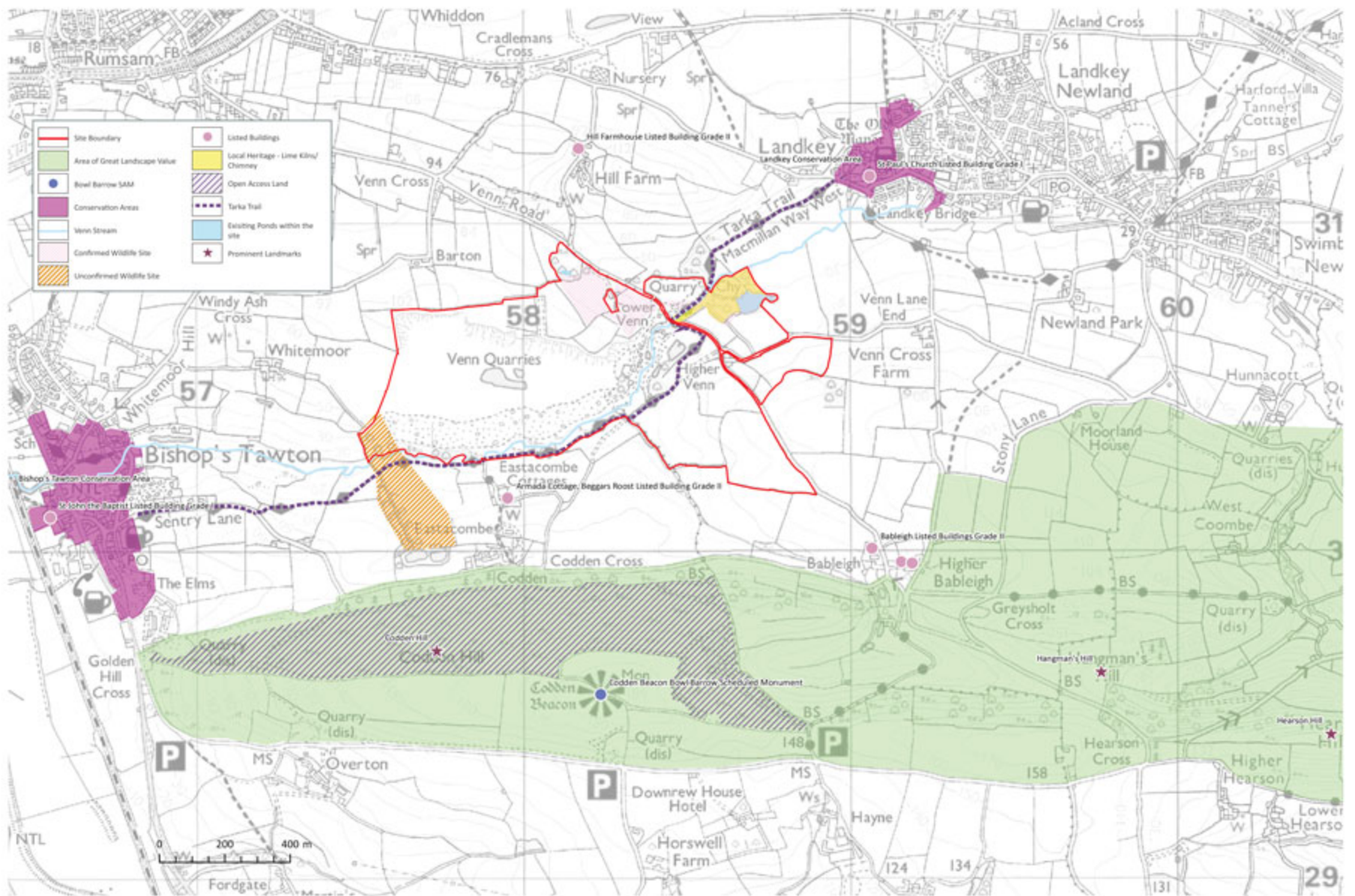


# ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT



There has been extensive research, survey and analysis of the site's ecology, heritage, landscape and access. This work has led to an iterative design process to create a proposal that responds to its context.

## ECOLOGY

The site is located with the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve where conservation and sustainable development should go hand in hand. Whilst nearly half of the site has been subject to intensive quarrying activity, the wooded and pastoral landscape that surrounds the quarried areas are characteristic of the wider Biosphere Reserve landscape. The principal habitat is the wooded Venn Stream corridor. This supports species including Otter, Dormouse, bats, reptiles and various

breeding birds. All key areas of ecological importance have been identified in consultation with the County Council Biosphere Reserve team, Natural England and the Devon Wildlife Trust.

## HERITAGE

Research and site investigations have revealed a range of heritage features within the site, and the need to protect the setting of the Bowl Barrow Scheduled Monument on Codden Hill.

## LANDSCAPE

A landscape and visual appraisal has identified sensitive views and areas of the site where attention has been given to the design to ensure it can reflect the landscape characteristics of the site.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES

In keeping with the stated aims of the biosphere reserve, the scheme provides opportunities to:

- Enhance the biodiversity of the site compared with the approved restoration plan
- Establish a publicly accessible Nature Reserve
- Increase areas with public access
- Provide open spaces
- Create a stronger landscape framework
- Provide access to trails and heritage for local residents/visitors
- Contribute to Venn Stream Catchment Management objectives

# BIRCHWOOD LAKES



HABITAT FIRST