



**MINTO BIODIVERSITY PROJECT**  
NATURAL CAPITAL PROSPECTUS

**Galbraith**



## MINTO BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

The Minto Biodiversity Project will generate almost 700 Biodiversity Units.

This will be achieved by enhancing and creating habitat such as hedgerow, wetland and woodland within a landscape regeneratively farmed for sustainable food production.

The project is seeking a sponsoring partner to deliver the Minto Biodiversity Project and ensure it delivers benefit to wildlife, people, community, economy and soil for the long term.

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**373**  
HECTARE  
PROJECT

**14**  
HECTARES  
WETLAND  
CREATION

**ALMOST**  
**700**  
BIODIVERSITY  
UNITS

**OVER**  
**100,000**  
TREES  
PLANTED

**OVER**  
**15,000**  
WOODLAND  
CARBON  
UNITS

**26**  
KILOMETRES  
NEW  
HEDGEROW



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Minto covers 373 hectares of arable, pasture and woodland, between Hawick and Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders and next to the village of Minto. It has been owned and managed by the same family for over 300 years. The Minto Biodiversity Project has been developed by the family in recognition of Minto's important role in a changing world. The project will enable Minto to maximise its contribution to tackling global biodiversity decline; while ensuring Minto's resilience as a producer of high-quality food in the face of climate change.



## 2. THE PROJECT

### 2.1 RESTORING NATURE

The Minto Biodiversity Project will implement a suite of practical and effective measures to enhance habitat within the landscape.

This will include:

- Creating more space for nature through re-meandering streams; protecting waterways; creating beetle banks, ponds and hedgerows; and expanding woodland;
- Enhancing botanically rich grassland, through measures such as carefully managed grazing;
- Enhancing ecological condition of mature woodland, for example by removing of invasive species;
- Enhancing ancient wood pasture by protecting trees and planting more;
- Creating new regenerative food production opportunities such as traditional orchards, smart grazing management, and low-impact cultivation.

### 2.2 PRODUCING FOOD AND MATERIALS

The Minto is a mixed farm producing beef, lamb, cereals, and other crops, as well as small amounts of timber.

Sustainable provisioning is important to meet human needs. Ceasing production risks pushing demand onto other land, elsewhere in the world, which could unintentionally result in a worse biodiversity outcome.

Minto Biodiversity Project has been designed to retain the most productive land for farming, and to maximise the regenerative productivity of the land. For example, managed 'mob' grazing of livestock in smaller paddocks separated by hedgerows can increase both the biodiversity and the meat production of pasture. Woodland managed through careful thinning can produce more timber while also developing a better ecological condition.

### 2.3 A PLACE FOR PEOPLE

Minto village lies at the western end of the site, where there is a golf course and easy public access. Significant biodiversity enhancement will take place on the golf course itself, and a biodiverse community orchard will be established on a nearby field, creating a range of new amenities for the village.





### 3. BIODIVERSITY UNITS

#### 3.1 BIODIVERSITY METRIC ASSESSMENT

A specialist ecology firm were employed to carry out a baseline survey using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. This calculated 1,330 Biodiversity Units on the site at present.

A restoration scenario was designed in consultation with the ecologists and the farm operation. The Biodiversity Units associated with this scenario were calculated at 2,026 units. This means that projected biodiversity uplift from the project is calculated at 696 units.

#### 3.2 DELIVERY

The aim is to begin the new habitat creation and implement new management plans during 2026. Highly regenerative methods will be implemented in the retained farming. This work will be led by Galbraith on behalf of the landowner.

#### 3.3 MONITORING, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION

A second ecological survey will be undertaken at year 5, once capital works have been undertaken and habitat has had time to mature, to provide independent assurance that the project is on track to achieve target condition. Thereafter, ecological surveys will be conducted regularly to demonstrate habitat has been maintained and is achieving target condition.

In addition to reports of the ecological surveys, the sponsor will be provided with a regular project report. This will include:

- Photographs of developing habitat
- Wildlife update, potentially including audio monitoring of bird populations
- Farm update on regenerative provisioning
- Community engagement update

#### 3.4 ONGOING MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

Minto will enter into a contract with the sponsoring partner to ensure maintenance of the Biodiversity Units for the duration of the contract.

There is scope to explore additional partnership opportunities during this period, for example hosting corporate events or volunteering, or developing additional environmental or social projects.

### 4. CARBON

The carbon captured in over 100,000 newly planted trees will be validated using the Woodland Carbon Code. This is estimated to yield over 15,000 Woodland Carbon Units.

Carbon increase as a result of the project could also be measured using alternative techniques such as remote sensing, which can measure a wider range of carbon stores on a more frequent timescale.

### 5. FIND OUT MORE

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a sponsorship partner of Minto Biodiversity Project, please contact:

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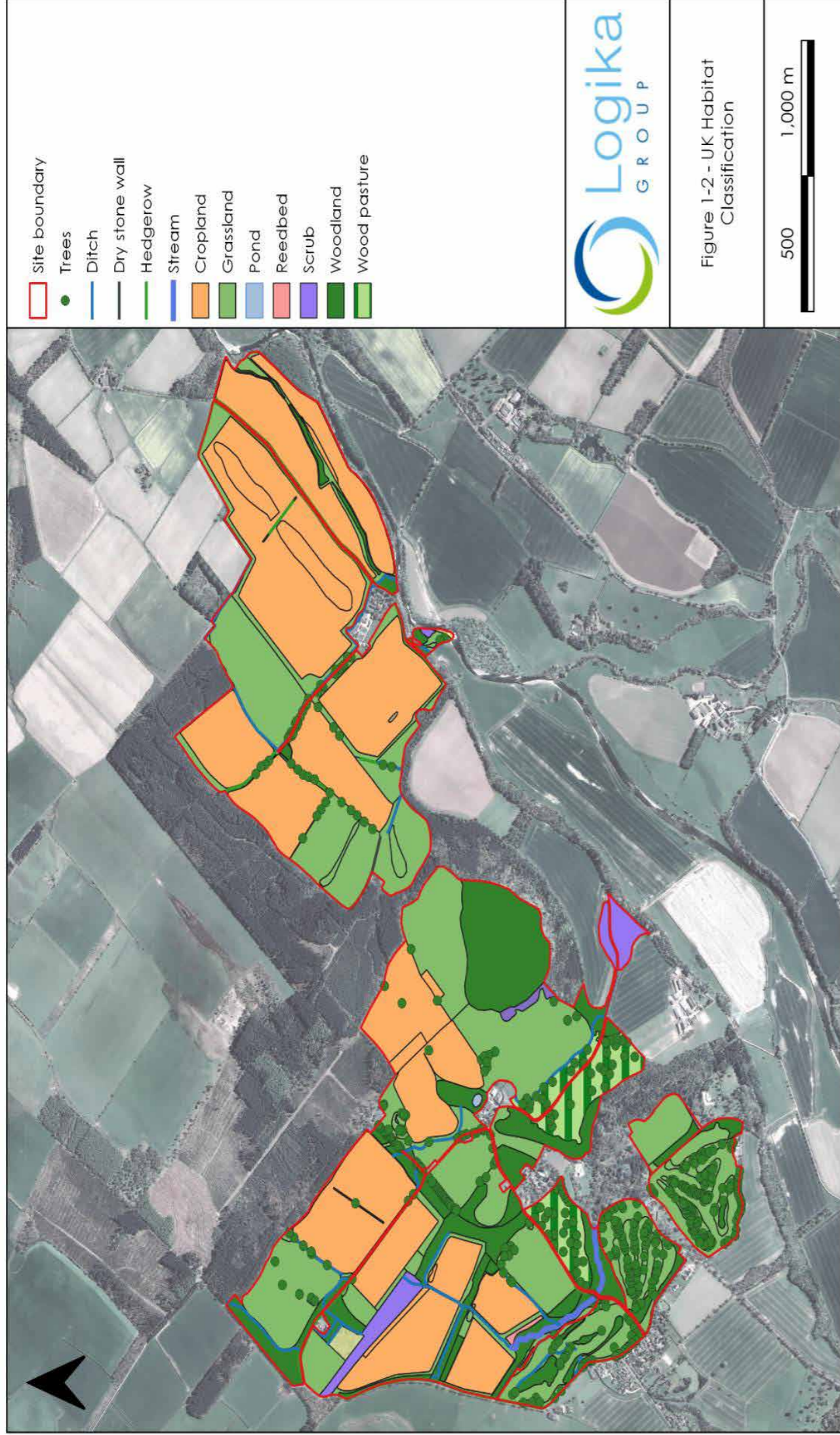
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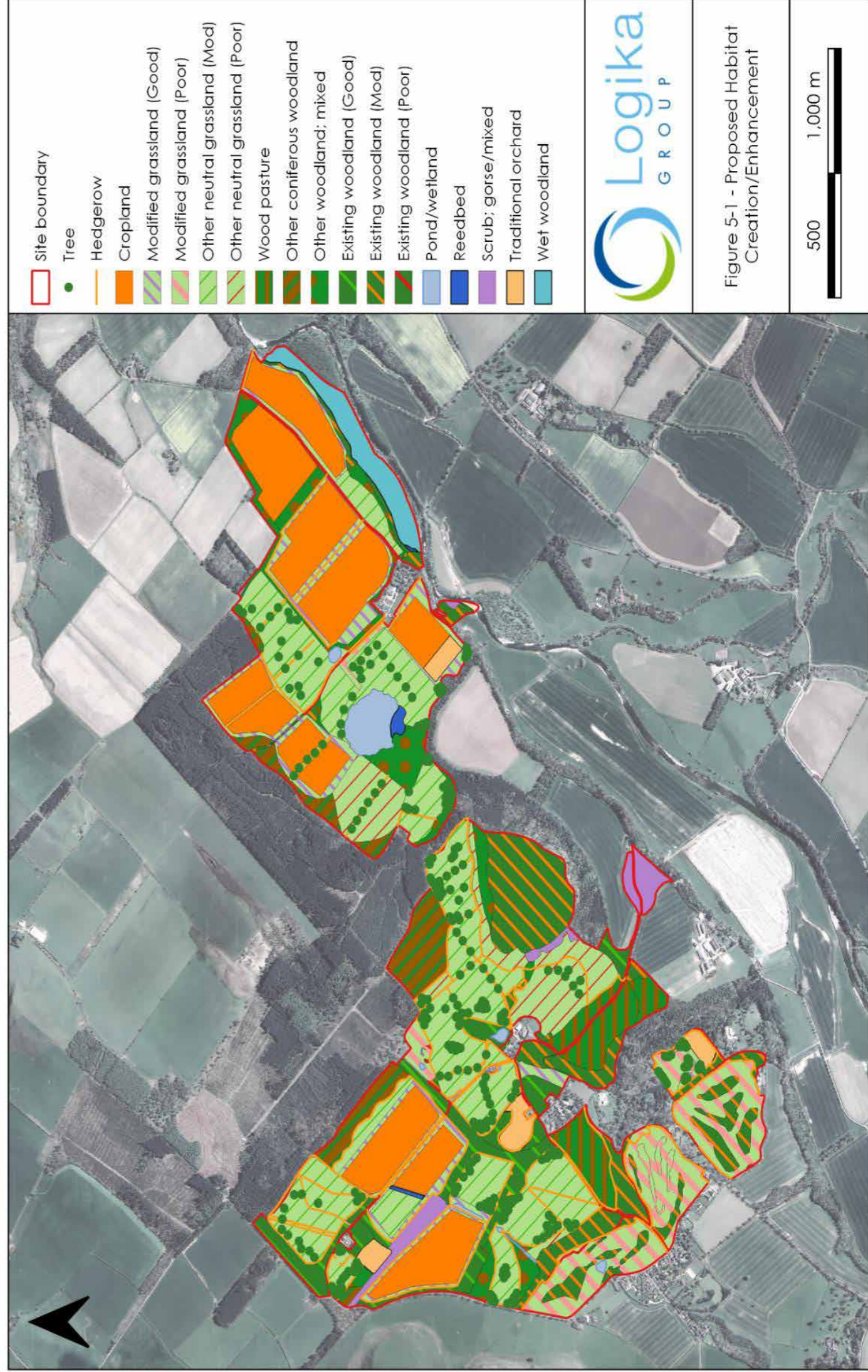
The medieval Fatlips Castle overlooking Minto is surrounded by SSSI Ancient Woodland which will be restored as part of the project.



UK HABITAT CLASSIFICATION



PROPOSED HABITAT CREATION/ENHANCEMENT











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