Best practice example:	Donor and receptor cell feature identification
Project:	Ancient woodland feature translocation
Client:	Fusion/HS2
Location:	Calvert, Buckinghamshire
Timescales:	2019 – 2020 (Feasibility study) 2020- 2021 (Translocation works)

Background

- A system was developed to identify where soils and woodland features originated from within the donor sites and where they were placed within the receptor site to assist with future monitoring and research.

Importance of feature identification

- One of the Project deliverables was for the completed receptor site to replicate conditions at the donor sites as closely as possible, while recognising that recreation of ancient woodlands is not possible.
- There were three separate donor sites that provided source material for the translocation.
- Although they were in close geographical proximity, micro conditions at each site varied according to their relative orientation and topographical arrangement. It was noted that there were differences in (i) type and abundance of different tree/ ground cover species and (ii) presence/absence of seasonally wet ditches.
- It was therefore important to create a 'map' of each site so that features and soils at the receptor site could be traced back to their original donor site/ relative positions.

Development and use of coherent identification system

- A cell ID feature identification system, based on grids, was developed by the Project engineer to identify specific 'cells' within each of the sites – see **Figures 1 & 2**. This enabled the origins and destinations of soils and features to be easily traceable and ensured consistency of record keeping across all disciplines.
- The Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) used the system to record the origin of features identified for translocation (trees, coppice stools and areas of abundant Ancient Woodland Indicator (AWI) ground species) and their destination within the receptor site. See **Figure 3** below for an example record card.
- The system was used by the supervising soil scientists to record origins and conditions of Ancient woodland soils at both the donor and receptor areas – see **Figure 4**.
- The Surveying engineers used the system to take accurate GPS records of all translocated soils and features as identified by the soil scientists and ECoW's as they were removed and translocated.

Benefits

- Regular arboricultural, NVC and soil monitoring of the receptor site will take place during the establishment phase, up to Year 50.
- By using the cell feature ID system, very detailed temporary works and As Built drawings were produced.
- Both drawings will provide an accurate reference point to allow meaningful comparisons to be made between ongoing survey outputs and the original conditions noted at the time of completion of works.
- In turn this will enable useful information to be made available to add to the body of literature concerning Ancient Woodland translocations.
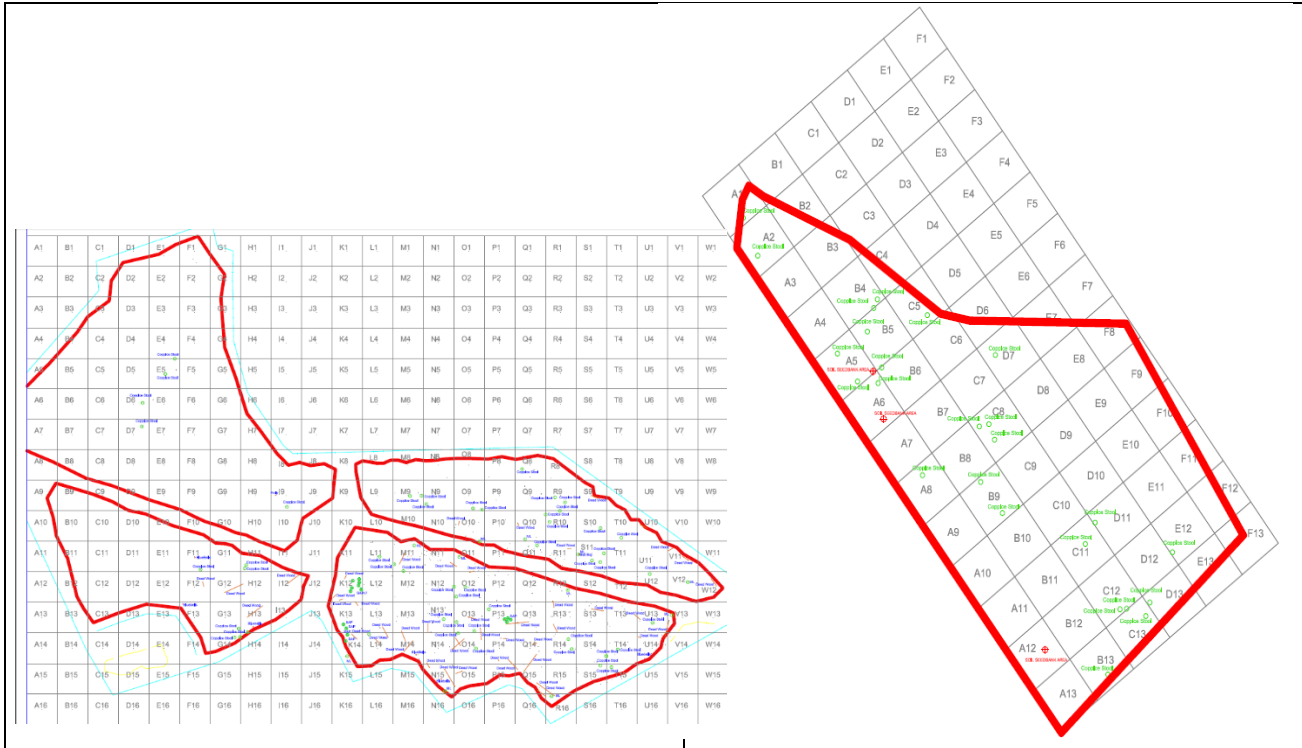
Figure 1: Receptor site Cell ID system, showing recording of feature positioning as works progress
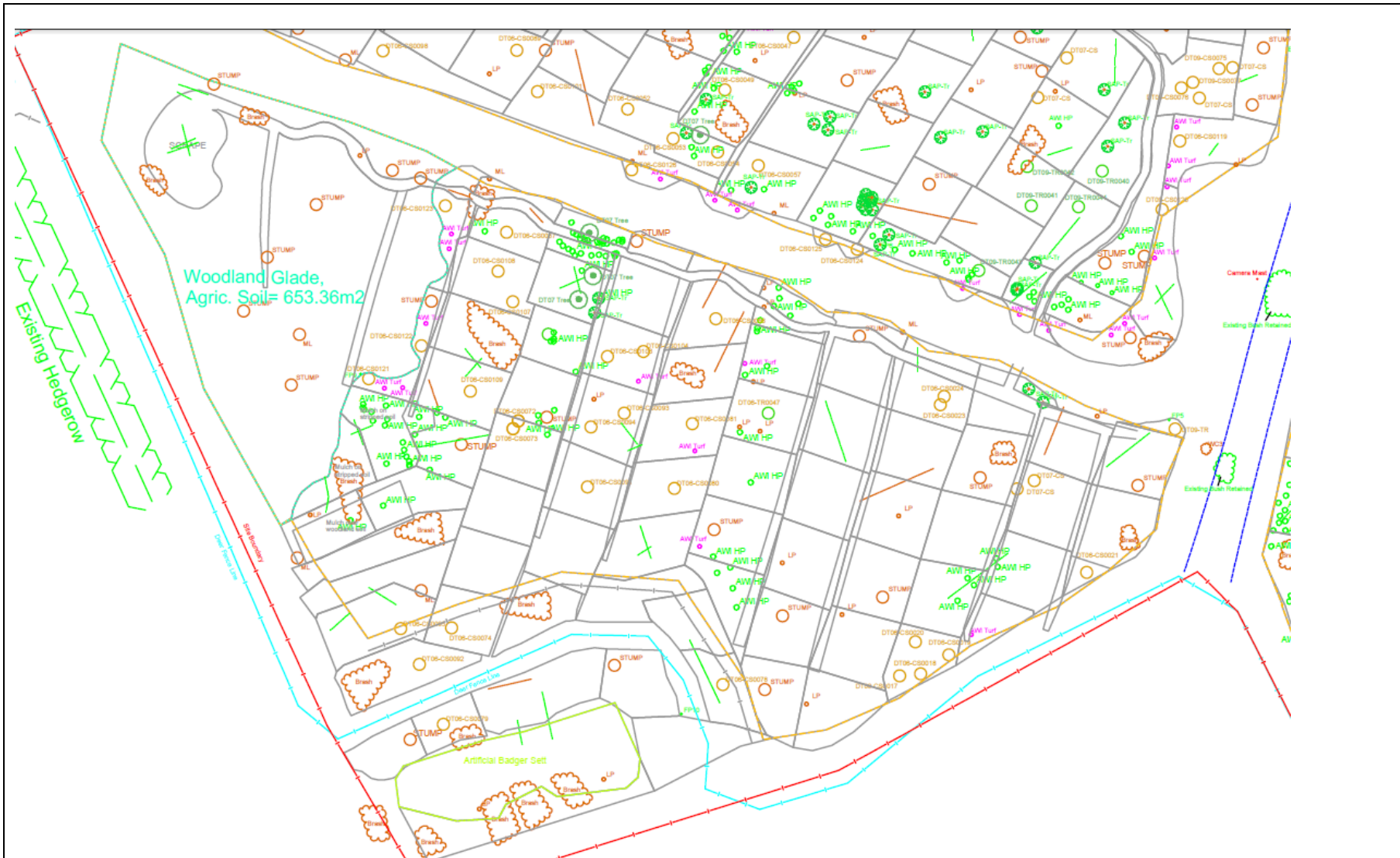

Figure 2: Donor Site Cell ID system showing features identified for translocation

Figure 3: Excerpt from ECoW donor site record card showing features identified for translocation and other AWI species present within cell

Figure 4: Soil receptor site record card showing origin of donor Ancient Woodland soils and their position at the receptor site

Figure 5: Extract from As Built drawing showing spatial distribution of translocated trees, coppice stools, ground cover plants and deadwood in relation to other receptor site features –woodland rides, glades, ditches, artificial badger sett, deer fencing and existing hedgerows and other features.